





As of December 2023, there were more than 25,000 foreign residents in Okinawa Prefecture, a number that is only expected to increase.

To enjoy a peaceful life in a different culture, it is important to understand the rules and customs of that country or region.

Living in Okinawa serves as a guide providing information to help foreign residents enjoy a safe, secure, and independent life in Okinawa Prefecture. We hope you will find this information useful in your daily life.

#### March 2025

## Okinawa Prefectural Government

\*URLs and QR codes in this guidebook are current as of March 2025, but may have been subsequently modified or changed, making some links inaccessible.

\*Links provide access to websites of relevant organizations and municipalities in Okinawa Prefecture. If you need a website translated into another language, please use the translation feature available on the website or another translation service.

#### \*Disclaimer:

Please note that we assume no responsibility for any damages that may arise from use of information in this pamphlet.



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# 1. Life in Japan

#### (1) Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals

Immigration Services Agency

Available here →

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/index.html



Helpful information is available for foreign nationals living in Japan and people assisting foreign nationals.

#### (2) Guidebook on Living and Working

Immigration Services Agency

Available here →

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/guidebook\_all.html



The guidebook contains information about rules, customs, and other practices that will help you feel more confident as you live and work in Japan.

#### 2. Disaster Prevention

Japan is prone to natural disasters.

These include earthquakes, heavy rains, typhoons, tsunamis, and other natural occurrences. It is best to prepare now the things that you will need to take with you so you are ready when disaster strikes. Also, be sure to have a family discussion about where you will evacuate to when there is an actual disaster.

(1) Disaster Prevention Pamphlet for Foreign Residents in Okinawa Prefecture
Disaster Prevention & Crisis Management Section, Governor's Office,
Okinawa Prefecture

Available here →

https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/bosaianzen/bosai/1003555/1003560.html



#### (2) Disaster Prevention Handbook for Foreigners

Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation (OIHF)

Available here →

https://kokusai.oihf.or.jp/project/saigaisapport/handbook/



#### (3) Things to Prepare (Emergency Supplies)

- ①Food (ready-to-eat) and water
- 2 Medicine (anything you take or use regularly)
- ③Hygiene products (toothbrush, feminine hygiene items, diapers, etc.)
- 4 Valuables (money, ATM card, bankbook, personal seal, residence card, passport, etc.)
- **5**Flashlight
- **6** Mobile phone
- Mobile phone charger and battery
- ®Portable radio (battery-operated)
- Spare batteries
- 10 Disinfectant & masks
- 11)Towels & tissues
- 12)Underwear & socks



#### (4) Natural Disasters Information

When a natural disaster is likely to occur, information and announcements are provided according to five levels specifying what to do and what to be alert for.

How dangerous	Alert level	What to do
Very dangerous	Level 5	Urgently get to safety (your life is in danger) Take immediate action to protect your life.
	Level 4	Evacuation ordered (evacuate immediately) Go immediately to an evacuation site (shelter).
	Level 3	Evacuation of elderly & other vulnerable people (elderly and others should evacuate) Elderly people, people with disabilities, and people with babies or infants should immediately evacuate.
	Level 2	Check warnings (be alert to rain, wind, waves, and other conditions) Check evacuation sites and ready items to take with you.
Not so dangerous	Level 1	Check early advisories (start taking precautions early) Stay alert.

#### (5) Emergency Evacuation Sites

Places to go when in danger
Pages 13 through 15 provide a list of disaster prevention websites for municipalities.

#### (6) Emergency Phone Numbers (Toll-Free)



# Medical Emergency, Injury, and Fire.

- When you cannot get to a hospital by yourself
- When someone nearby is sick or injured
- · When there is a fire





**2** 110

#### Crimes & Accidents

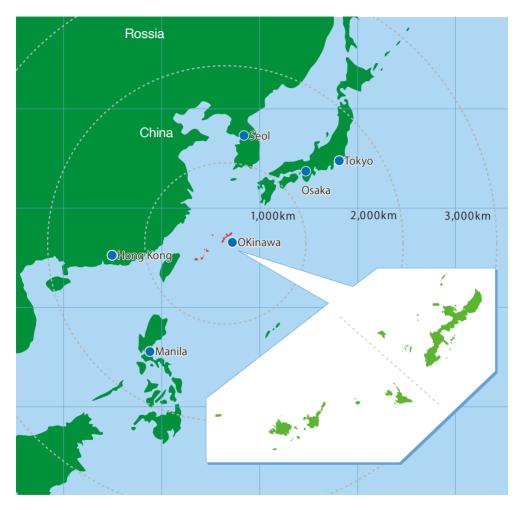
- •When money or other valuables are stolen
- · When involved in a traffic accident
- When you see a burglar
- \* Burglar is someone who enters someone else's home or building to steal something.





## 3. Living in Okinawa

# Okinawa Prefecture's Location Within the Japanese Islands Okinawa Prefecture is located southwest of the Japanese Archipelago.



Okinawa Prefecture's Many Islands The main Okinawa Island (Honto) is the largest island in Okinawa Prefecture.

#### **Climate of Okinawa**

Okinawa has a subtropical maritime climate with high temperatures and high humidity. The temperature is moderate throughout the year, and it does not snow.

#### (1) Who Needs to Register as a Resident?

Anyone who will live in Okinawa for three months or longer is required to register as a resident.

- ★ What can you do once you register?
  - → You can obtain a residence certificate.
  - → You can receive services from your municipality, such as garbage collection.
  - →The municipality will let you know what your My Number is.

#### (2) Where Can You Register?

- You may register at the municipal office in the town or city where you live.
- There are different types of municipal offices in Okinawa:
- 1 City office (Shiyakusho)
- 2 Town office (Choyakuba)
- ③ Village office (Sonyakuba)

#### (3) Two Types of Resident Registration

1 Moving into a Municipality



Туре	When	Who	By when	Necessary documents
ipality	When you start to live in a mu- nicipality-for the first time	People registering their residency for the first time	Within 14 days of moving in	Submit one of the following documents:  ① Residence card (or passport if you havent received a residence card yet) ② Special permanent resident certificate
Moving into a municipality	When moving from another municipality in Japan	People who have already registered as a resident and are moving from another municipality	Within 14 days of moving in	Submit documents ③ and ④ along with either document ① or ②:  ① Residence card ② Special permanent resident certificate ③ Certificate of change of address ④ My Number card (required if you have one)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Depending on your personal or family circumstances, the municipal office may ask for documents in addition to those listed above.

## 2 Change of Residence Within the Same Municipality & Moving Out of a Municipality

				Necessary documents
Туре	When	Who	By when	Be sure to ask your local municipal office what documents you need to present.
Change of residence within the same municipality	When your address chan- ges in the same munici- pality	People who are already registered as residents and are changing their address within the same municipality	Within 14 days of moving in	Submit documents ③ and ④ along with either document ① or ②: ① Residence card ② Spcial permanent resident certificate ③ My number card(required if you have one) ④ National health insurance card (required if you have one)
Moving into a municipality	People who are moving out of a another municipality	People who are already registered as residents and moving to another municipality	Within 14 days before or after you move	Submit documents ③ and ④ along with either document ① or ②:  ① Residence card ② Spcial permanent resident certificate ③ My number card(required if you have one) ④ National health insurance card (required if you have one)
Moving into	When you depart from Japan	People who are leaving Japan	Within 14 days of your depar- ture date	Submit documents ③ and ④ along with either document ① or ②:  ① Residence card ② Spcial permanent resident certificate ③ My number card(required if you have one) ④ National health insurance card (required if you have one)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Depending on your personal or family circumstances, the municipal office may ask for documents in addition to those listed above.

## (4) Marriage & Divorce Procedures

	Туре	When	Necessary documents *Be sure to ask your local municipal office what documents you need to present.
	Marriage	When you get married  (1) Marriage Registration Form (2) Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage (please check with your embassy or consulate) (Note) Be sure to check with your embassy or consulate whe your country of nationality recognizes Japan's marriage registed as documentation that two people are married.	
Divorce divorced (No			Divorce Registration Form     (Note) Be sure to check with your embassy or consulate whether your country of nationality recognizes Japan's divorce registration as documentation that two people are divorced.

# (5) Procedure When a Family or Household Member Passes Away

Туре	When	Necessary documents  *Be sure to ask your local municipal office what documents you need to present.
Death	Within 7 days of learning of the person's death	Death Registration Form     Death Certificate     (Note 1) These documents are submitted to either:

# (6) Personal Seal (Inkan) Registration Procedure

Туре	When	Necessary documents  *Be sure to ask your local municipal office what documents you need to present.
ration		Personal seal (inkan) (the one that you use)     Personal Seal Registration Application Form
Personal seal registration	When you enter into an important contract, such as for buying (or selling) a house or car	<ul> <li>(Note 1) These documents are submitted to the municipal office where you live.</li> <li>(Note 2) A registered personal seal is called a jitsuin (official seal). Please keep your jitsuin in a safe place, and make sure no one else uses it.</li> <li>(Note 3) Once you have completed procedures ① and ② above, you will receive a personal seal registration card. This card is very important. Make sure no one else uses your card.</li> <li>(Note 4) Bring your personal seal registration card with you when you want to obtain a personal seal registration certificate at your local municipal office.</li> </ul>

#### (7) My Number

Once you have completed the move-in procedures at your local municipal office, you will receive your My Number (individual 12-digit number) by mail.

When to use it	Where to use it
When obtaining a residence certificate, personal seal registration certificate, or other such document at a convenience store (*)	
Procedures for social security (system where the government collects money from workers and companies to help people in need)	Your local municipal office
Tax procedures	

<sup>(\*)</sup> Check with your local municipal office to find out which documents may be obtained at a convenience store.

#### ★If you want to learn more about My Number

Check here → Information About the My Number System & My Number Card for All Foreign Nationals

https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/hpsv/wpmng/assets/pdf/download/pamphlet-jp.pdf



#### My Number system and other questions

TEL:0120-0178-26

English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Nepali

Weekdays 9:30am~8:00pm

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays 9:30 am ~ 5:30 pm (Closed over New Year's holidays)

#### (8) How to Open & Use a Bank Account

Check here → Living in Japan: How to Open a Bank Account and Send Money for foreign nationals planning to stay in Japan for a long time

https://www.fsa.go.jp/user/livinginjapan.html



#### (9) When Looking for & Living in Housing

Check here → Guidebook on Living and Working

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004715.pdf



This website has important information available in various languages for when you are looking for and living in a home.

#### (10) Rules for Daily Life

- 1) How to Dispose of Garbage
- Separate your garbage into the different types (called "bunbetsu")
- Check the day, place, and time for disposing of garbage
- Use garbage bags designated by your local municipal office



No.	Туре
	Burnable garbage (moyasu gomi)
1	Burnable garbage (moeru gomi)
	Burnable garbage (kanen gomi)
	Non-burnable garbage (moyasanai gomi)
2	Non-burnable garbage (moenai gomi)
	Non-burnable garbage (funen gomi)
3	Recyclable garbage (shigen gomi)
4	Oversized garbage (sodai gomi)

- (\*1) Disposing of No. 4 oversized garbage requires a fee.
- (\*2) If you have questions, ask your local municipal office about garbage disposal rules.

Pages 14 and 16 provide a list of municipal websites with information about garbage disposal.

② Other Rules for Daily Life Be sure to properly read through this website.

Check here → Guidebook on Living and Working

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004716.pdf



### (11) Transportation in Okinawa

- Cars
- Buses
- Monorail
- Motorcycles
- Bicycles



#### **★Important Things to Remember**

- 1 Driving a Car
- Never drive after drinking alcohol!
- ·Always carry your driver's license.
- ·Drive on the left side of the road.

Both drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts.

•Bus lane restrictions are in effect weekday mornings and evenings.

Morning 7:30 am~ 9:00am Evening 5:30 pm ~7:00pm

Information about bus lane restrictions (roads/lanes only for buses)

Available here → https://www.police.pref.okinawa.jp/docs/2015030300110/



International driver's license procedures

Okinawa Prefectural Police Driver's License Center and branch offices (Central, Northern, Miyako, and Yaeyama)

Available here → <a href="https://www.police.pref.okinawa.jp/docs/2015030100246/">https://www.police.pref.okinawa.jp/docs/2015030100246/</a>



Check out this website for information about car insurance, etc. Guidebook on Living and Working

Available here → <a href="https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004437.pdf">https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004437.pdf</a>



#### ②Riding Buses

- ●Four Bus Types
  - •Naha Bus → <a href="https://daiichibus.co.jp/company/naha-bus/">https://daiichibus.co.jp/company/naha-bus/</a>



•Ryukyu Bus → <a href="https://daiichibus.co.jp/company/naha-bus/">https://daiichibus.co.jp/company/naha-bus/</a>



Okinawa Bus → https://okinawabus.com/wp/



•Toyo Bus → <a href="https://toyo-bus.com/">https://toyo-bus.com/</a>



- Buses whose fares you pay when boarding
  - → Naha Bus

Ryukyu Bus: No. 105



Bus No.	Route	Bus No.	Route
1	Shuri-Makishi Route 首 里 牧 志 線	11	Yasuoka-Uebaru Route 安 岡 宇 栄 原 線
2	Shikina-Kainan Route 識 名 開 南 線	13	Ishimine-Omoromachi Route 石嶺おもろまち線
3	Matsugawa -Shintoshin Route 松 川 新 都 心 線	14	Makishi-Kainan Loop Route 牧 志 開 南 循 環 線
4	Arakawa-Omoromachi Route 新川おもろまち線	15	Samukawa Route 寒    川   線
5	Shikina-Makishi Route 識 名 牧 志 線	16	Arakawa-Ishimine Route 新 川 石 嶺 線
6	Naha-Omoromachi Route 那覇おもろまち線	17	Ishimine(Kainan) Route 石 嶺 ( 開 南 ) 線
7	Shuri-Jokamachi Route 首 里 城 下 町 線	19	Shuri Station Loop Route 首 里 駅 循 環 線
8	Shuri-Jokamachi Route 首 里 城 下 町 線	105	Tomigusuku City Circular Route 豊 見 城 市 内 一 周 線
9	Oroku-Ishimine Route 小 禄 石 嶺 線		

- Buses whose fares you pay when getting off
- $\rightarrow$  Ryukyu Bus, Okinawa Bus, and Toyo Bus
- •When riding buses
  - Talk quietly
  - ·Remain seated
  - ·Wait until you get off the bus to use your phone
  - ·Wait until you get off the bus to eat
  - •Check bus routes serving your area
- 3 Riding the Monorail
- ·Check the route map, timetable, and fares

Available here → <a href="https://www.yui-rail.co.jp/routemap/">https://www.yui-rail.co.jp/routemap/</a>



- ④ Riding Motorcycles & Bicycles
- ★Bicycle riders are safer when wearing a helmet.

Available here → <a href="https://www.police.pref.okinawa.jp/docs/2023042400025/file\_contents/R5\_leaflet.pdf">https://www.police.pref.okinawa.jp/docs/2023042400025/file\_contents/R5\_leaflet.pdf</a>



Available here  $\rightarrow$  https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004437.pdf



# (12) Other Information

ter news	<ul> <li>Ministry of Foreign Affairs         https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/index.html     </li> </ul>	
Everyday life & disaster news	Okinawa Prefectural Government <a href="https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/">https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/</a>	
Everyday	• NHK WORLD-JAPAN  https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/ja/	
Consultations	International Exchange Division, Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation(OIHF TEL:098-942-9215  Online Application Form "General/Legal Consultation Service for Foreign Nationals"  → https://kokusai.oihf.or.jp/project/soudan/form/  Japan Legal Support Center "Houterasu"  *Houterasu is a comprehensive information center established by the Japanese government to help resolve legal problems. Phone consultation and foreign language support are available.	
Crimes & concerns	<ul> <li>Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department's Telephone Consultations for Foreign Nationals TEL:03-3503-8484</li> <li>Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Help Desk TEL:#9110/03-3501-0110</li> <li>YORISOI Helpline for Foreign People https://www.since2011.net/yorisoi/</li> <li>TEL:0120-279-338</li> </ul>	
Residency questions	<ul> <li>Immigration Information Center, Immigration Services Agency TEL:0570-013904</li> <li>Naha Branch, Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau TEL:098-832-4186</li> </ul>	

# List of Emergency Evacuation Sites and Garbage Disposal Information for Municipalities in Okinawa Prefecture

No.	Municipality	Emergency Evacuation Site URL	
1	Naha City	https://www.city.naha.okinawa.jp/safety/saigai/hinannbasho.html	
2	Ginowan City	https://www.city.ginowan.lg.jp/soshiki/somu/4/1/2468.html	0.000
3	Ishigaki City	https://www.city.ishigaki.okinawa.jp/material/files/group/3/6-siteikinnkyuuhinanbasho.pdf https://www.city.ishigaki.okinawa.jp/kurashi_gyosei/kurashi/bousaimap/4700.html	
4	Urasoe City	https://www.city.urasoe.lg.jp/doc/609e7d333d59ae2434bfed1d/file_contents/karute.pdf	
5	Nago City	https://www.city.nago.okinawa.jp/kurashi/2018071900677/	
6	Itoman City	https://www.city.itoman.lg.jp/site/bousai-itoman/2196.html	
7	Okinawa City	https://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/k010-004/shiseijouhou/dashboard/shiteikinnkyuuhinan.html	
8	Tomigusuku City	https://www.city.tomigusuku.lg.jp/kurashi_tetsuzuki/anshin_anzen/1/2/3816.html	
9	Uruma City	https://www.city.uruma.lg.jp/documents/2695/h28129.pdf	
10	Miyakojima City	https://www.city.miyakojima.lg.jp/kurashi/bousai/bousaijyouhou/2021-0707-1933-26.html	
11	Nanjo City	https://www.bousai-nanjo.jp/hazard_map/hazardmap/	
12	Kunigami Village	http://www.vill.kunigami.okinawa.jp/bousai/	
13	Ogimi Village	https://www.vill.ogimi.okinawa.jp/soshiki/somu/gyomu/anzen_anshin/bosai/322.html	
14	Higashi Village	https://www.vill.higashi.okinawa.jp/material/files/group/2/h28bousai-front.pdf	
15	Nakijin Village	https://www.nakijin.jp/pagtop/kakuka/somuka/4/5/611.html	
16	Motobu Town	https://www.town.motobu.okinawa.jp/doc/2023103000034/	
17	Onna Village	https://www.vill.onna.okinawa.jp/living/disaster/webbousaimap/	
18	Ginoza Village	http://www.vill.ginoza.okinawa.jp/bousai	
19	Kin Town	https://www.town.kin.okinawa.jp/kurashi_tetsuzuki/anzen_anshin/bosai/1/816.html	
20	le Village	https://www.iejima.org/category/bunya/bosai/bosai-saigai/	=

- ★Websites are in Japanese.
- ★Read the website using the translation feature.
- ★ If you don't understand or have any questions, ask your local municipal office.

Garbage Disposal URL	
https://www.city.naha.okinawa.jp/kurasitetuduki/gomirisaikuru/gomi/katei/gomi5.html	
https://www.city.ginowan.lg.jp/kurashi_tetsuzuki/sumai/1/3589.html	
https://www.city.ishigaki.okinawa.jp/soshiki/kankyo/1_1/5912.html	
https://www.city.urasoe.lg.jp/doc/61c1758f19e07b69c6d47df4/	0 0 7
https://www.city.nago.okinawa.jp/kurashi/2018071900929/#	
https://www.city.itoman.lg.jp/soshiki/11/1648.html	
https://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/kurashi/gomi/index.html	•
https://www.city.tomigusuku.lg.jp/soshiki/2/1012/gyomuannai/1/2/615.html#	
https://www.city.uruma.lg.jp/kurashitetsuzuki/gomirecycle/shuushuu/index.html	
https://www.city.miyakojima.lg.jp/kurashi/seikatsu/gomi/dashikata.html	
https://www.city.nanjo.okinawa.jp/kurashi/gomi_kankyo/gomi/1578886215/	
http://www.vill.kunigami.okinawa.jp/kunigami-village/wp-content/themes/kunigamison/images/gominodashikata01.pdf	
https://www.vill.ogimi.okinawa.jp/kurashi/gomi/index.html	
https://www.vill.higashi.okinawa.jp/kurashi_tetsuzuki/gomi_recycle/index.html	
https://www.nakijin.jp/pagtop/kakuka/juminka/6/2/2/479.html#	
https://www.town.motobu.okinawa.jp/doc/2023111300034/#	
https://www.vill.onna.okinawa.jp/sp/living/eco/1484716763/1589349107/	
http://www.vill.ginoza.okinawa.jp/gyousei/soshiki/seikatu/http://www.vill.ginoza.okinawa.jp/gyousei/soshiki/seikatu/	
https://www.town.kin.okinawa.jp/kurashi_tetsuzuki/gomi_recycle/index.html	
https://www.iejima.org/category/bunya/kurashi/gomi/	

No.	Municipality	Emergency Evacuation Site URL	
21	Yomitan Village	https://www.vill.yomitan.okinawa.jp/soshiki/somu/gyomu/anzen_anshin/bosai/map/5167.html	
22	Kadena Town	https://map.town.kadena.okinawa.jp/	
23	Chatan Town	https://www.chatan.jp/seikatsuguide/anshin_anzen/taisaku/bousai_map.html	
24	Kita nakagusuku Village	https://www.vill.kitanakagusuku.lg.jp/sonsei/bousai/661.html#	
25	Nakagusuku Village	https://www.vill.nakagusuku.okinawa.jp/menulndex.jsp?id=53415&menuid=11674&funcid=28	
26	Nishihara Town	https://www.town.nishihara.okinawa.jp/link/bousai.html	
27	Yonabaru Town	https://www.town.yonabaru.okinawa.jp/soshiki/8/132.html	
28	Haebaru Town	https://www.town.haebaru.lg.jp/docs/2013031100012/	
29	Tokashiki Village	https://www.vill.tokashiki.okinawa.jp/soshiki/somu/6/8/1/186.html	
30	Zamami Village	https://www.vill.zamami.okinawa.jp/disaster/m/2024/05/post-3.php	
31	Aguni Village	https://www.vill.aguni.okinawa.jp/sonsei/keikaku/618.html	
32	Tonaki Village	http://www.vill.tonaki.okinawa.jp/UserFiles/File/img/bousaimap2020.pdf	
33	Minami daito Village	http://www.vill.minamidaito.okinawa.jp/book/pageindices/index153.html#page=153	
34	Kitadaito Village	https://vill.kitadaito.okinawa.jp/bosai/bosai_map.html	
35	Iheya Village	https://www.vill.iheya.okinawa.jp/soshiki/2/1068.html	
36	Izena Village	https://vill.izena.okinawa.jp/bousai/bousai_map/	
37	Kumejima Town	https://www.town.kumejima.okinawa.jp/docs/2023031000021/	
38	Yaese Town	https://www.town.yaese.lg.jp/docs/2014042500044/	
39	Tarama Village	https://www.vill.tarama.okinawa.jp/bousai_anzen/bousai_map/	
40	Taketomi Town	https://www.town.taketomi.lg.jp/bousai/bousaimap	
41	Yonaguni Town	https://www.town.yonaguni.okinawa.jp/docs/2024081500011//	

Garbage Disposal URL	
https://www.vill.yomitan.okinawa.jp/kurashi/gomi/index.html	
https://www.town.kadena.okinawa.jp/life/kur2121.html	
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https://www.vill.kitanakagusuku.lg.jp/bamen/711.html	
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https://www.town.nishihara.okinawa.jp/goven-service/10/gomi.html	
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Ask the municipal office directly TEL:09802-2-2001	
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