

Visiting historic sites in Nishihara

During the Ryukyu Kingdom era, Nishihara Town was a territory directly under the Shuri Royal Government. Why not explore the cultural heritage sites scattered throughout the town and discover the history of Nishihara?



内間御殿 Uchima Udun

National Historic Site



This site is a religious complex centered around a shrine built on the former residence of King Shō En (Kanamaru), the first monarch of the Second Shō Dynasty of the Ryukyu Kingdom. About 190 years after his death, the Ryukyu Kingdom developed the area as a sacred site. It consisted of two shrines — Agari Udun (Eastern Palace) and Iri Udun (Western Palace) — and each has been managed by caretakers known as Udun Mui. However, the buildings were destroyed during the Battle of Okinawa. In 2011, the site was designated as a National Cultural Property, and research and preservation efforts are ongoing today.



Address: 51-1 Kadokaru, Nishihara



The Sawa Fuji (Sagaribana), which is in front of the gate of the Uchima Palace, is one of the oldest trees in the prefecture, which is said to be more than 400 years old. In recent years, the cosmos field opposite the Uchima Palace has also been popular, and it is best seen around late January every year.

What you should know! Uchima Udun

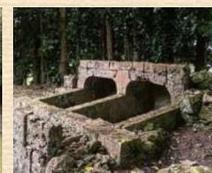
- 1 A historically significant shrine built on the former residence site of King Shō En, the founder of the Second Shō Dynasty of the Ryukyu Kingdom, before he ascended the throne.
- 2 The Uchima Udun, which was destroyed in the war, was lovingly rebuilt by local residents and has long been cherished by the community.
- 3 The site is filled with traces of history, including remains that survived the Battle of Okinawa and a giant sagaribana tree said to be over 400 years old.
- 4 The Agari Udun (Eastern Shrine), located on the southern side of the site, is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2032.

棚原ノロ殿内 Tanabaru Noro Dunchi



This sacred site is mentioned in 18th-century records as a place where local religious rituals were performed. Inside the worship hall stands an altar dedicated to the deity Miruku (Maitreya). In front of the hall are a well, used for ritual purification, and a large natural stone said to have been used by a noro (priestess) as a stepping stone when mounting her horse.

Address: 141 Tanabaru, Nishihara



棚原旧宮里家屋敷跡／ウーフール Site of Former Miyazato Family Residence / Uwafuru

On the site where the foundation of the residence forest centered on Fukugi and the residence site remains, there is also a pigshed "Uwafuru" that doubles as a toilet.

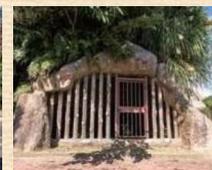
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ペリー探検隊野営地 Perry Expedition Camp Site

The expedition sent by Admiral Perry to camp behind the Kobashigawa Community Center is described in the sketch of William Heine, an accompanying painter.

Address: Kobashigawa, Nishihara



西原の塔／旧西原村役場壕 Nishihara War Memorial / Former Nishihara Village Office Shelter

In the tower of Nishihara, there are more than 7,000 pillars of villagers who died in the war from Nishihara Village (now Nishihara Town). The former Nishihara Village Town Hall cave, dug in 1944 to store important government documents, is also open for viewing.

Address: Onaga, Nishihara



製糖記念小公園 Sugar Manufacturing Memorial Mini Park

Established in 2011 as part of Shinchu Sugar Industry Co., Ltd.'s 50th anniversary commemorative project, this facility preserves the historical legacy of sugar production left behind in Nishihara Town and serves as a place to wish for the future development of sugar production.

Address: 117 Kadokaru, Nishihara



Let's visit sites connected to Nishihara's musical heritage!

Monuments of Songs in Nishihara

The Ryukyuan folk song "Ume no Kaori" ("Scent of Plum Blossoms") was released in 1939 by musician Yoshinori Arakawa, who was born in Nishihara. Another song, "Getto," was written and composed in 1982 by Yutaka Umisedo. Known as a song that prays for peace, it has long been loved by people both inside and outside Okinawa.



Monument of "Getto"



Monument of "The Scent of Plum Blossoms"