



★ Principal U.S. military facilities in Japan

- ★ Yokota Air Base
- ★ Naval Air Facility Atsugi
- ★ U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka

Okinawa's location, area, population, etc.

Okinawa Prefecture is to the east of the Asian Continent and on the western edge of the Japanese archipelago.

The prefecture consists of 160 large and small islands (49 inhabited) dotting a vast ocean stretching about 1,000 km (approx. 621 miles) from east to west and about 400 km (approx. 249 miles) from north to south. The islands are located in a subtropical oceanic climate and have an amazing natural environment that includes beautiful coral reefs and precious wildlife.

Historically, for 450 years after the establishment of the Ryukyu Kingdom in 1429 until Okinawa's incorporation as a prefecture of Japan in 1879, the Ryukyuan kings governed the islands of Okinawa, during which a unique culture developed through trade and exchange with China and Southeast Asian countries.

Okinawa's current land area is approximately 563,647 acres (0.6% of Japan's total land area) that is home to a population of approximately 1,440 million. The prefecture has continued enjoying significant development mainly through tourism which is leading industry in the prefecture, and approximately 8.77 million tourists visited the islands in JFY 2016.

It is in this context that, of the entire area exclusively used by U.S. forces throughout all Japan, 70.4% is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture.

Okinawa Prefecture
Population: 1.44 million

