



Precious wildlife in Yambaru

The Yambaru forest is the most extensive evergreen forest in Japan, and is inhabited by diverse creatures. Many endemic species also inhabit the forest, such as the Okinawa Rail, Okinawa Woodpecker, Namie's Frog, Yambaru Long-Armed Scarab Beetle etc.



Okinawa Rail



Okinawa Woodpecker



Namie's Frog



Yambaru Long-Armed Scarab Beetle

CAUTION!

Protect Yambaru forest

- **Keep to a moderate speed when driving your vehicle**
 Paved roads are convenient for humans, but are dangerous for living creatures in the wild. Many creatures besides Okinawa Rails are involved in traffic accidents. From April to June, it is the breeding season of the Okinawa Rails; therefore, car accidents involving wildlife and resulting in "roadkill" occur frequently. Please drive your vehicle at a moderate speed and calmly.
- **Do not catch animals or take plants.**
 The Yambaru forest has been devastated due to the poaching of rare species such as the Yambaru Long-armed Scarab Beetle and illegal digging or excessive picking of plants such as orchids. Please do not catch or hurt animals and plants if it is unnecessary.
- **Do not discard your pets**
 It is a fact that native species in Yambaru are threatened by feral cats and dogs, which were abandoned in Yambaru forest. You should be responsible for your pets and it's thoughtless humans who are to blame for this problem.





Facility Information



- Hours/10:00~16:30
- Close/Mondays, New Years, Part of National Holidays
- Admission/Free

Location

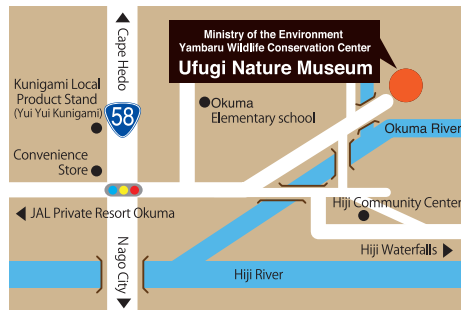


● About 100km from NAHA (About 2hours)

● About 30km from NAGO (About 40 minutes)

**Ministry of the Environment
Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center
Ufugi Nature Museum**

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Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center Ufugi Nature Museum

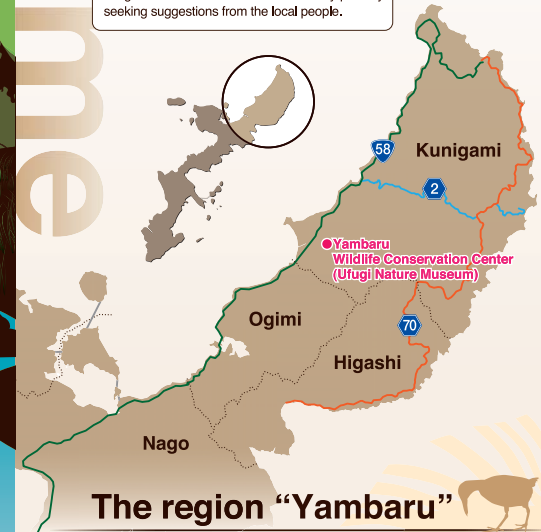


Ministry of the Environment

Welcome to “Ufugi Nature Museum”!

The beautiful Yambaru forest is a treasure we must hand down to posterity. The Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center, “Ufugi Nature Museum,” was opened in 1999 with the aim of raising public awareness so that visitors can deepen their understanding of and interest in the nature and wildlife of the Yambaru area as well as promoting projects, research and surveys for conservation of valuable natural environment and wildlife in Yambaru. In 2010, it was reopened as it renewed the exhibition, and it was also given the nickname “Ufugi Nature Museum.”

“Ufugi” means “a big tree” in the Okinawan dialect. Since the word expresses the image of Yambaru, “Ufugi” was selected as the nickname by publicity seeking suggestions from the local people.



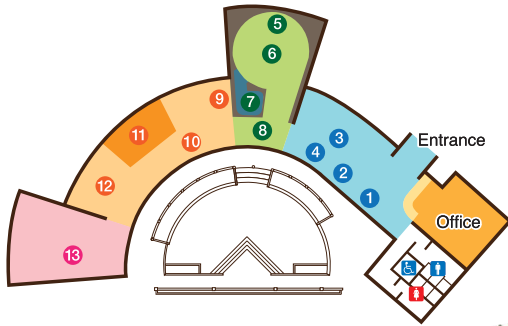
The region “Yambaru”

“Yambaru” originally meant “a region with a range of mountains and extensive forests” and referred to the area all over the northern part of Okinawa Island. Nowadays, the natural forest and its riches have gradually been reduced to a narrow area. And the dense forests, especially, which endemic species such as the Okinawa Rail, Okinawa Woodpecker etc. still inhabit, remain in only three northern villages; Kunigami, Ogimi, and Higashi village.

Facility Information

From the coast along flowing rivers to the forest in Yambaru. Unique species and the diverse ecosystem in Yambaru.

From the coast to Yambaru forest via rivers, the various creatures in Yambaru are introduced. Much information regarding the characteristics of endemic species is also available. In addition to stuffed animals and birds and nesting trees, it is full of the wonders and surprises of sounds and sights.



Lively forest at night



Area map of Yambaru



Characteristics of Yambaru

Lively forest at night

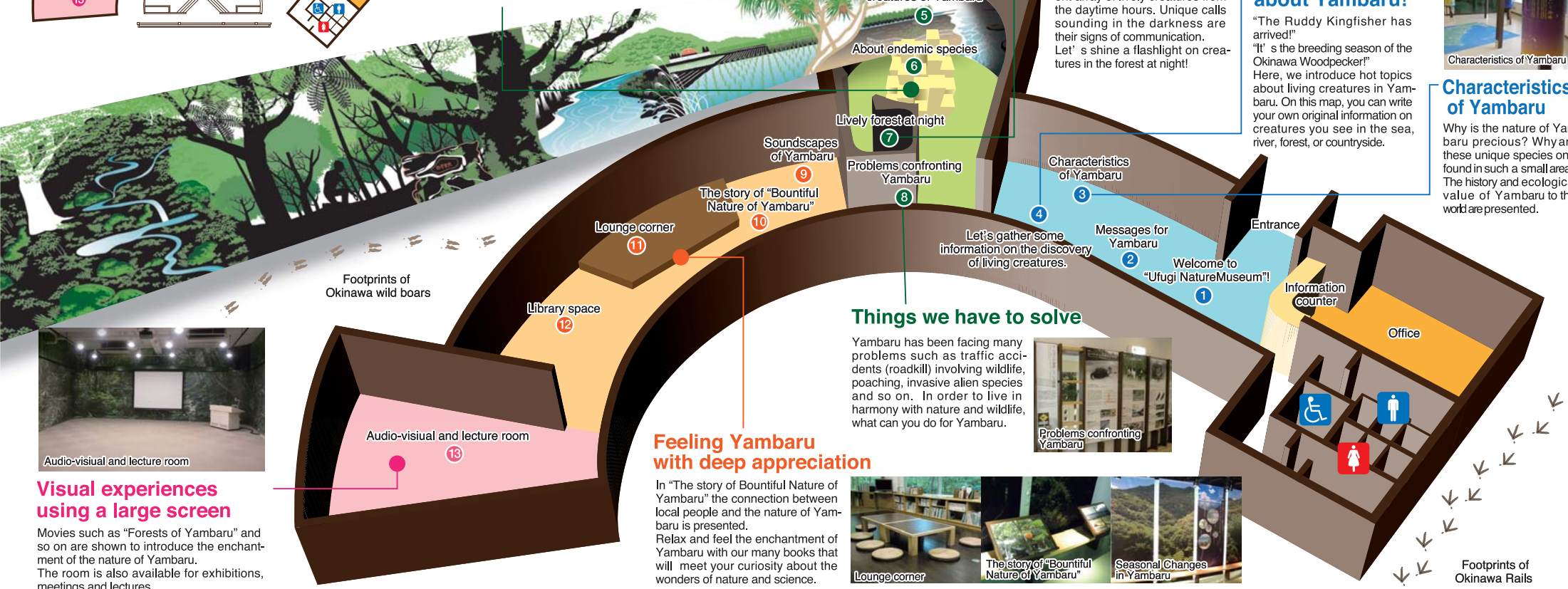
At night, the forest shows a different array of lively creatures from the daytime hours. Unique calls sounding in the darkness are their signs of communication. Let's shine a flashlight on creatures in the forest at night!

Seasonal information about Yambaru!

"The Ruddy Kingfisher has arrived!" "It's the breeding season of the Okinawa Woodpecker!" Here, we introduce hot topics about living creatures in Yambaru. On this map, you can write your own original information on creatures you see in the sea, river, forest, or countryside.

Characteristics of Yambaru

Why is the nature of Yambaru precious? Why are these unique species only found in such a small area? The history and ecological value of Yambaru to the world are presented.



Visual experiences using a large screen

Movies such as "Forests of Yambaru" and so on are shown to introduce the enchantment of the nature of Yambaru. The room is also available for exhibitions, meetings and lectures.

Things we have to solve

Yambaru has been facing many problems such as traffic accidents (roadkill) involving wildlife, poaching, invasive alien species and so on. In order to live in harmony with nature and wildlife, what can you do for Yambaru.



Problems confronting Yambaru

Feeling Yambaru with deep appreciation

In "The story of Bountiful Nature of Yambaru" the connection between local people and the nature of Yambaru is presented. Relax and feel the enchantment of Yambaru with our many books that will meet your curiosity about the wonders of nature and science.



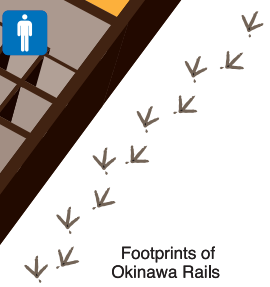
Lounge corner



The story of "Bountiful Nature of Yambaru"



Seasonal Changes in Yambaru



Footprints of Okinawa Rails