THE OKINAWA PEACE HALL
沖縄平和祈念堂

■ Admissin opening hour 9:00-17:00 (open all the year round)

Adults (Twnty persons or more)	junior & high (Twnty persons or more)	Elementary school pupils or under
¥450 (¥350)	¥350 (¥250)	Free

※ June 23, August 15 Free

The Okinawa Foundation

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Peace Prayer Statue & Artist Shinzan Yamada

Peace Prayer Statue & Artist Shinzan Yamada who lost his oldest and third sons in the Battle of Okinawa. In 1957 he announced his long-cherished wish that he would start making the Peace Statue so that people should never have war again. The seated Statue, which is approximately 12m high and 8m wide, is a symbol of praying human beings. The hands put flat together expresses people's commemoration of the war dead and wish for world peace, transcending religions, ideology, politics, races and nations.

Shinzan Yamada (1885-1977)
The artist Yamada entered Tokyo Art School in 1906 and majored in sculpture and Japanese-style painting. After graduation in 1910 he went to Beijing as an instructor at an art college. After two years in China he came back to Japan and was active in the front line and left a great mark on the Japanese art circles. His masterpieces are stored in the collection of the Meiji Shrine Memorial Art Museum.

Major events

May 5th
Children's Festival

June
Requiem Concert

June 22nd
The Okinawa Memorial Day Eve Service

December 31st to January 1st
Mabuni Fire and Bell Festival

A Group of Stars(Muribushi)
over the head of the statue. crystal glass twinkles like a group of stars, which makes it look like mysterious statue in infinite cosmic space.

The Peace Prayer Statue
The Statue was made with the traditional lacquer were techniques called Tsuikin, a relief applique Method unique to the Ryukyus. three-dimension-al Statue in lacqer alone.

Peace Stones from all over the world
From the bleife that the wish for peace is universal. the artist YAMADA thought that the statue should be erected on the spiritual basis common to the whole world. He therefore collected small consecrated stones from all over the world and kept them under the pedestal of the statue.

The Okinawa Peace Hall
In the second World war, the last fierce battle took place in Okinawa. Man and woman of all ages were tossed into the war and more than 200,000 precious lives of soldiers and civilians were lost. With the Okinawan people's inteense wish of 'No more war' the Okinawa peace Hall was opened on Oct, 1, 1978. The Hall stands on the Hill of Mabuni where history bears testimony to the futility of war and the value of peace. The Hall has a regular polygonal roof with septilateral pyramid, which expresses seven seas and the shape of hands jioned in prayers. Transcending race nationality, ideology and religion, the Hall has been sending peace messagees all over the world. Height:45m

Keiyu Nishimura
A series of twenty paintings 'War and Peace' were painted by The artist Keiyu Nishimura, who first visited Okinawa in 1978. He saw the both sides of Okinawa, the dark past of Okinawa ravaged by the war and bright side of Okinawan culture, beautiful nature and people's warm personality , and he paintings represent Okinawan people's earnest wish for peace.

Art Gallery
The airtist, who were active in the front line of the western painting circles in Japan, concurred with the purpose of the peace Hall, and contributed their best works to the Hall. The art gallery that opened in 1981 was then the first of its kind and it still plays a big part in promotion of arts in Okinawa as the Hall of Peace and beauty

The Bell OF Peace
Lions Clubs International District 337 donated the Bell of Peace. The Bell is rung on the memorial occasions of praying for world peace. You'll read an inscription of 'Calm the souls of the war dead, Swear the permanent peace of the world.

Boy Statue : Produced by Churyo Sato (Bronze statue with a height of 1.6m)
Many promising boy students were killed inthe battle of Okinawa. A bronze statue 'Boy' was erected, to remember the boys and girls who died in the battle and to send a peace massage to the world.

Butterflies Paradise
Ogomadara, the largest butterflies in Japan,are reised here. they hatch out of mysterious golden pupae;and the wings reach 13cm in full stretch. butterfly meaning 'soul' in Greek welcome all the visitors and tell them how precious life and peace are.

We are also actively cooperating with peace study and the screening of documentary films.

As a place for peace learning and memorial events With a capacity of 330 people seated, the hall is used for peace talks during school trips, peace studies, memorial events and concerts by various groups.

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