



## ● Precious wildlife in Yambaru

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



Okinawa Rail



Okinawa Woodpecker



Yambaru Long-Armed Scarab Beetle



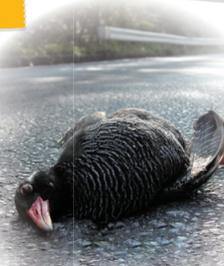
Namie's Frog



## Protect Yambaru forest CAUTION!

### 1 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.



### 2 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.

### 3 Do not discard your pets

Not only the mongoose but also abandoned pets such as cats and dogs that have gone wild are threatening the native species of the Yambaru forest. You should be responsible for your pets and it's thoughtless humans who are to blame for this problem.



## ● Facility Information

Opening hours : 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

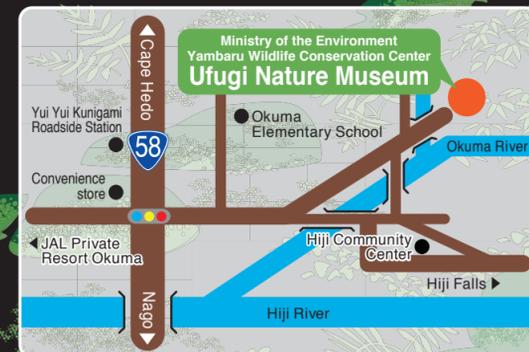
Closed : Mondays

National holidays

(except Greenery Day and Children's Day)

Memorial Day (June 23), Year end/New Year holidays

Admission : Free



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

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Kunigami District, Okinawa  
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<http://www.ufugi-yambaru.com/>



○ About 100km  
from NAHA  
(About 2hours)

○ About 30km  
from NAGO  
(About 40 minutes)

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Ministry of the Environment  
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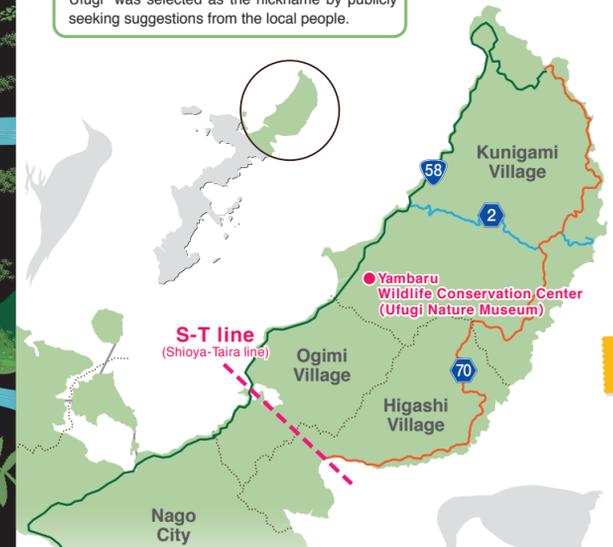
Ministry of the Environment



## Welcome to "Ufugi Nature Museum"!

The beautiful Yambaru forest that exist here among all places in the world 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 publicly 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.

# Guide to the Facility



Exhibitions in Ufugi Nature Museum are roughly divided into 4 sections. Various ideas have been introduced in each section so that visitors can understand Yambaru's attractive rich nature more enjoyably, easily, and deeply. Now, let's go on a "journey of discovery" of the forests of Yambaru!

## The lively forests at night

Creatures that are completely unlike those that appear during the daytime give lively performances in the forests during the nighttime. Let's shine flashlights on the creatures in the forests at night!



A forest at night

## 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.



Nature and Creatures of Yambaru



About endemic species



Connection Cards

## Getting a Feeling of Yambaru while Chatting

The section titled The story of "Bountiful Nature of Yambaru" introduces various relationships between Yambaru's nature and the livelihood of the people of the local communities. In the Yuntaku Space (Lounge corner), visitors can leisurely browse through many books and material that teach them about the joy of nature. Try to get a deeper experience of the charms of Yambaru.



Yuntaku Space (Lounge corner)



The story of "Bountiful Nature of Yambaru"



Seasonal Changes in Yambaru

## Visual Experiences through a Large Screen

Original video clips including "The Forests of Yambaru" (about 18 minutes long) that introduce Yambaru's nature and its attractiveness are played back. The room can also be used for special exhibitions, conferences, and lectures.



Video & Lecture Room

## 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

Let's bring together information about discovery of creatures.

## What is Yambaru?

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



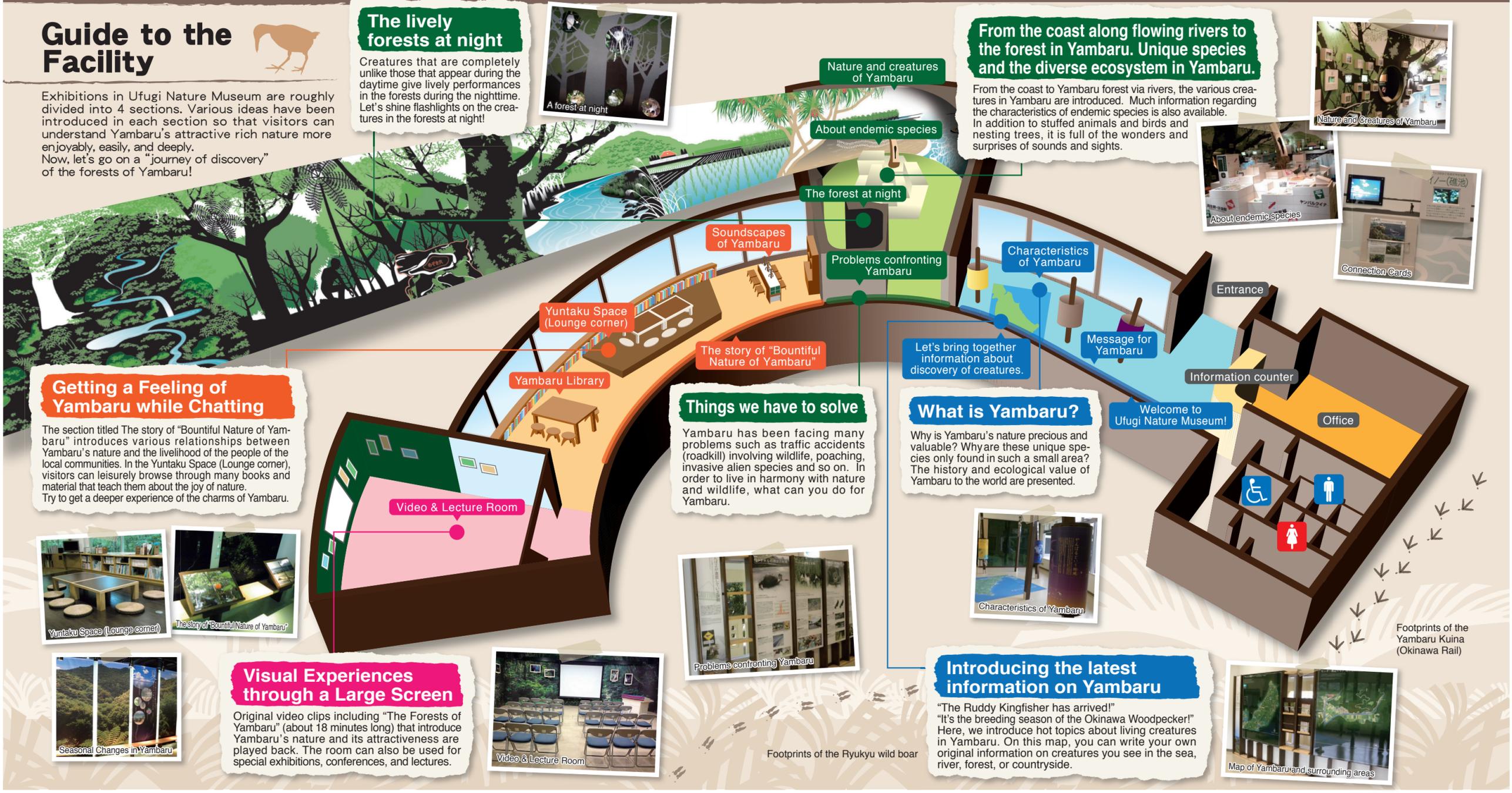
Characteristics of Yambaru

## Introducing the latest information on 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.



Map of Yambaru and surrounding areas



Footprints of the Yambaru Kuina (Okinawa Rail)

Footprints of the Ryukyu wild boar