

Junior High School and High School

Great

“Journey through the islands”

9th Grade, Irabu Junior High School by Yuki Nagahama

There are 39 islands in Okinawa with inhabitants and 15 islands are uninhabited. There are 12 islands that have airports besides Okinawa Main Island.

On Irabujima Island where I live, there is a pilot training airfield called Shimojishima Airfield. It is currently not used for civil aviation, but there is a discussion of how it should be utilized in the near future, and different opinions are exchanged. If there is a sightseeing route by air, linking the scattered islands of Okinawa on the beautiful ocean, people will be more attracted by the charms of Okinawa. This is my suggestion.

From the sky, the emerald green colored sea can be seen. Different forms of islands and reef surround the crystal clear ocean of the island. I have heard from people that they cannot forget the excitement and beauty seen from the low-altitude flight.

If you look at the map, the islands of Okinawa continuously elongate from north to south and form the Ryukyu Islands. Including the language and dialect spoken, each island has its own culture and history and natural environment.

For example, there is an island near the border close to Taiwan rather than Okinawa Main Land; far away from Okinawa, an island on which the people share the culture of the Ryukyu Kingdom; an island rather than the culture of the Ryukyus, the Japanese traditional culture is passed on; an island which manufactures a liquor called "the sake of the illusion"; an island that makes you imagine the mystery of history and the ruins under the sea; an island with a mysterious slope that a ball rolls uphill; an island that the tones of three lines can be heard when it is night; an island that

Southern Cross shines when you looked up in the night sky; an island that migratory birds which are international protected birds come to rest their wings; an island that globally rare insects were discovered; an island that has many popular diving spots; an island that lines houses of red tile roofs; an island with remains of old-fashioned stone wall; island that you can see colorful tropical fish closely; an island on which original pottery is made; an island that okura, carrot and pumpkin fields spread; an island on which the plant that can only be found blooms; an island that there is a beach with sand in the shape of stars.

When you search further, the charms of the islands come out everywhere. I think there is an “only one” story for each island. Also, if you do not actually go to the island, there is something such as the untouched nature that you do not know.

Therefore, I would like to make a tourist route that allows visitors to meet the story of the island. I think a trip to go around the islands of Okinawa, from one to another; can be an interesting plan with dreams.

My dream plan is to create a station at Shimojishima Airport. From there, I propose to extend the route and make a flight route that connects with 15 islands to the airports. Then, the route can be extended to the 39 islands with inhabitants and 15 uninhabited islands by boat. The station at Shimojishima Airport, the guide corners for each island will be installed and they can serve to introduce all the islands of Okinawa. After that, tourists will be able to plan a combination of traveling different islands themselves.

When you cross the sea to visit an island, I think each island has its own way of life is waiting for you. From there, you may be able to meet some chance to think about the history of an island that there is even no record of it. I think you will certainly experience the plain side of an island and the untouched nature.

Just walking down the roads on the island, visitors and tourists may feel the unhurried rhythm of lives of people on the island, and have a peaceful feeling. One’s heart may be healed by the tenderness of the island while seeing the rustic smiles of the elderly. You may feel the power of nature by touching the soil of the field with hands and walking on the beach barefoot.

The blue ocean, the spacious sky and the islands have their connection of power with each other. I think a wonderful journey that you cannot express by words will be fulfilled. What do you think?