

Eisa - Traditional Performing Art and Okinawa's Pride

Eisa is a traditional event honoring ancestors held during the lunar Bon festival, and nowadays is one of Okinawa's main traditional performing arts. While its origins are uncertain, one theory holds that it started with a Buddhist prayer song from Shonin Taichu, who was a Buddhist priest of the Jodo sect (beginning of the 17th century). Other theories suggest the name "Eisa" comes from the Esaomoro dance in the Omorosaushi collection of old Ryukyu dances, or that it comes from the accompanying chant of "Eisa, Eisa, Hiyaruga Eisa."

Every year in Okinawa during the lunar Bon festival, groups of youths in different areas perform Eisa dances as they parade along the streets. This is called Michi Junee. Eisa dances take different forms in different areas, and while some use large Odaiko and medium-size Shimedaiko drums, others use small one-sided drums called Paranku, while still others have no drums at all and just use the hands. In recent years there are also increasing numbers of groups performing contemporary Eisa.

Eisa suddenly came into the limelight in 1956, with the holding of the Zento Eisa Competition in Okinawa City. Thereafter this transitioned to the Zento Eisa Festival, which nowadays is a major event held over 3 days and playing host to some 300,000 spectators who are transfixed by the majestic splendor of the dance performances.

The Eisa Museum serves as a source of information for this traditional performing art and source of Okinawan pride, and is engaged in the preservation and transmission of Eisa culture.



Local Bus Guide

Naha Airport Domestic Passenger Terminal Bus Terminal

123 118	23	Naha Airport Station
About 60 min. by bus	About 70 min. by bus	About 10 minutes by Yui Rail
		Asahibashi Station
		Asahibashi / Naha Bus Terminal Bus Stop
		77 112 110 90 80 77 63 27 24 21
¥1,070 each	¥920	About 60 min. by bus ... ¥830 each

Nakanomachi or Goya Bus Stop

Information is accurate as of November 2017.
Weekdays and holidays can have different schedules, so please confirm in advance.

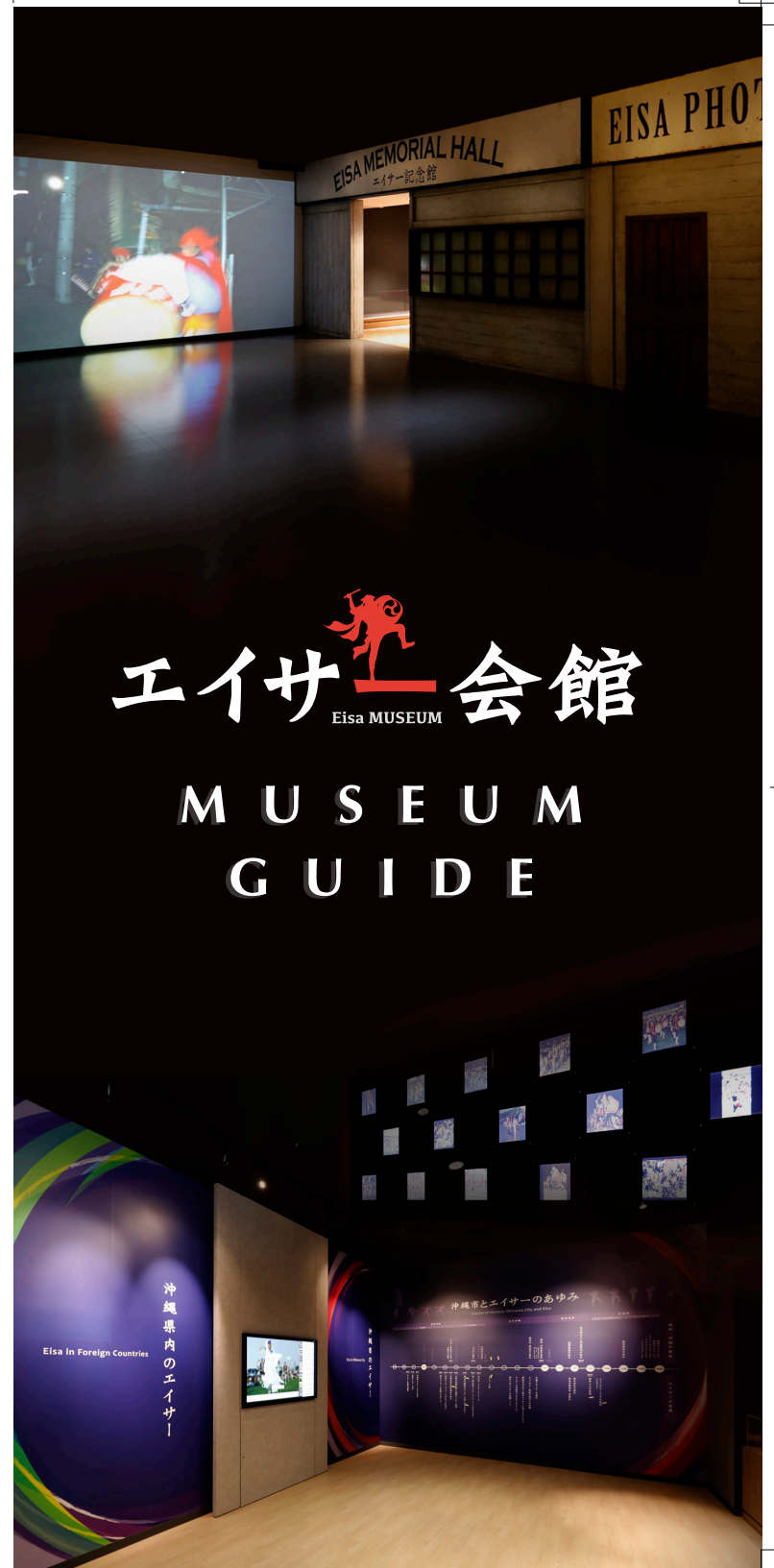
Access by car or rental car

Okinawa Expressway Naha Airport → Go straight after taking the Okinawa-minami Interchange exit. Turn left at the Sonoda intersection on National Route 330 and proceed roughly 600m. Roughly 50 minutes.	National Route 58 Head north on National Route 58. Turn right at the Kokutai-doro Entrance traffic lights in Chatan. Continue straight for 5km, and turn right at the intersection at the entrance to the Okinawa Expressway Okinawa-minami Interchange. Go straight, then turn left at the Sonoda intersection on National Route 330 and proceed roughly 600m. Roughly 60 minutes.	National Route 330 Head towards Goya Crossing on national route 330. Approximately 60 minutes.
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Open Hours	10:00 - 21:00 (Last entrance: 20:30)
Closed	Wednesday (the following weekday, if Wednesday falls on a holiday) and 31st Dec. to 1st Jan.
Entrance Fee	General: ¥300 (Groups: ¥250) Elementary, junior high School, and senior high school children: ¥100 (Groups: ¥80) Under elementary school aged children: Free
Parking Area	Discounts available for those parking in the Koza Music Town parking lot.



Eisa MUSEUM
〒904-0031
1-1-1 Uechi, Okinawa City
(Inside Koza Music Town)
TEL.098-989-5066



1F

Welcome Area Free Zone

A display of basic information relating to Eisa. Get an overview of Eisa through books and video.

• Entrance

In addition to a welcome video, this area has a display that explains basic information and an overview concerning Eisa.

1 Eisa Lounge

Browse the collection of publications relating to Eisa, and test your knowledge in the Eisa quiz. There is also a sticker photo booth where you can enjoy taking photos with our Eisa characters.

2 Eisa Shop

A variety of Eisa-related products are available to purchase.

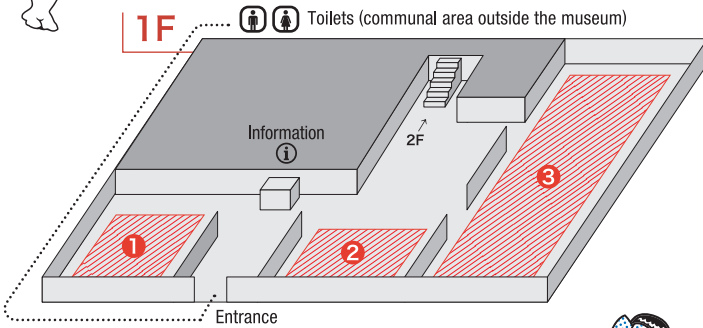


3 Event Space

Ideal for all kinds of exhibitions, lectures or seminars, the room can be partitioned, and also features a large screen projector and other equipment.



1F Toilets (communal area outside the museum)



2F

Display/Experience Area Paid Zone

In addition to displays of Eisa equipment and an introduction to Eisa music, there are also areas where you can watch Eisa performances and experience dancing and drumming in time with Eisa music. There are also the Eisa archives, where you can gain a deeper understanding concerning Eisa.

4 Large Screen Projector

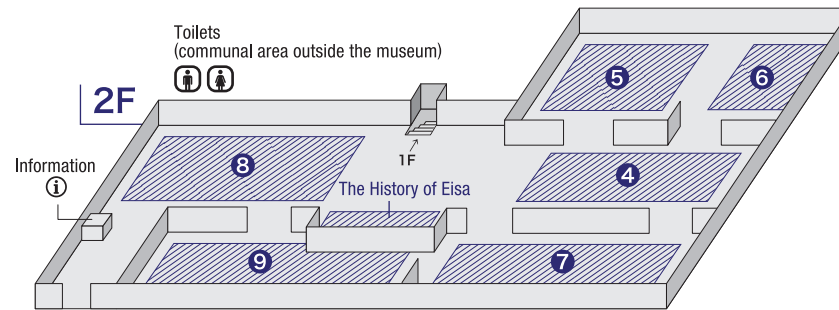
- Enjoy authentic Eisa on the impressive large screen.
- Enjoy re-creations of impressions of old Okinawa and the Okinawa City landscape.

5 Photo Area

- Take your photo in full Eisa costume or holding Eisa equipment.

6 Eisa Sounds and Equipment

- A hands-on display where you can touch and hold the equipment used in actual Eisa.
- Dance and drum in time with the rhythm as you follow along with the monitor video.
- Use the tablet devices to discover and listen to Eisa music.



7 Eisa Archives

A collection of information on Okinawan Eisa in general, as well as information concerning the Okinawa Zento Eisa Festival

8 The Okinawa Zento Eisa Festival

This area offers a video of the Okinawa Zento Eisa Festival, Okinawa Prefecture's largest Eisa event, for you to watch on large monitors, and also provides information on the successive generations of participating organizations. You can also follow the Michi Junee of Okinawa City youth groups recreated using projection mapping, and view the song lyrics and their meanings.



Experience Eisa,
Enjoy Eisa



Experience Options

Experience Eisa and Okinawan culture with the following activities.

● Simple Cardboard Eisa Drum-Making

- ◇ Use a cardboard kit to make an Eisa drum
- Price: 1,620 Capacity: 1 – 5 persons
- Time required: 45 minutes - 60 minutes

● Bingata Dying

- ◇ Add color to Eibo using Bingata stencils
- Price: 1,620 Capacity: 1 – 4 persons
- Time required: 30 minutes - 45 minutes

● Eisa Dancing *Group discount available (min. 15 people)

- ◇ Experience performing Eisa, part of Okinawa's traditional culture.
- Price: 2,700 Capacity: 1 – 14 persons Time required: 60 minutes
- *Other activities are available. All activities require reservations. Please feel free to enquire about details.



9 Eisa and Okinawa

An introduction to the history of Eisa focusing on the relationship between Eisa and Okinawa City, and also the features of the activities of each of the Okinawa City youth groups and organizations. In addition to information on Okinawa City Eisa, there is also information on Eisa inside and outside Okinawa Prefecture, and on the characteristics and appeal of the Contemporary Eisa that is becoming popular both nationally and internationally.



Eisa
Now and Then

