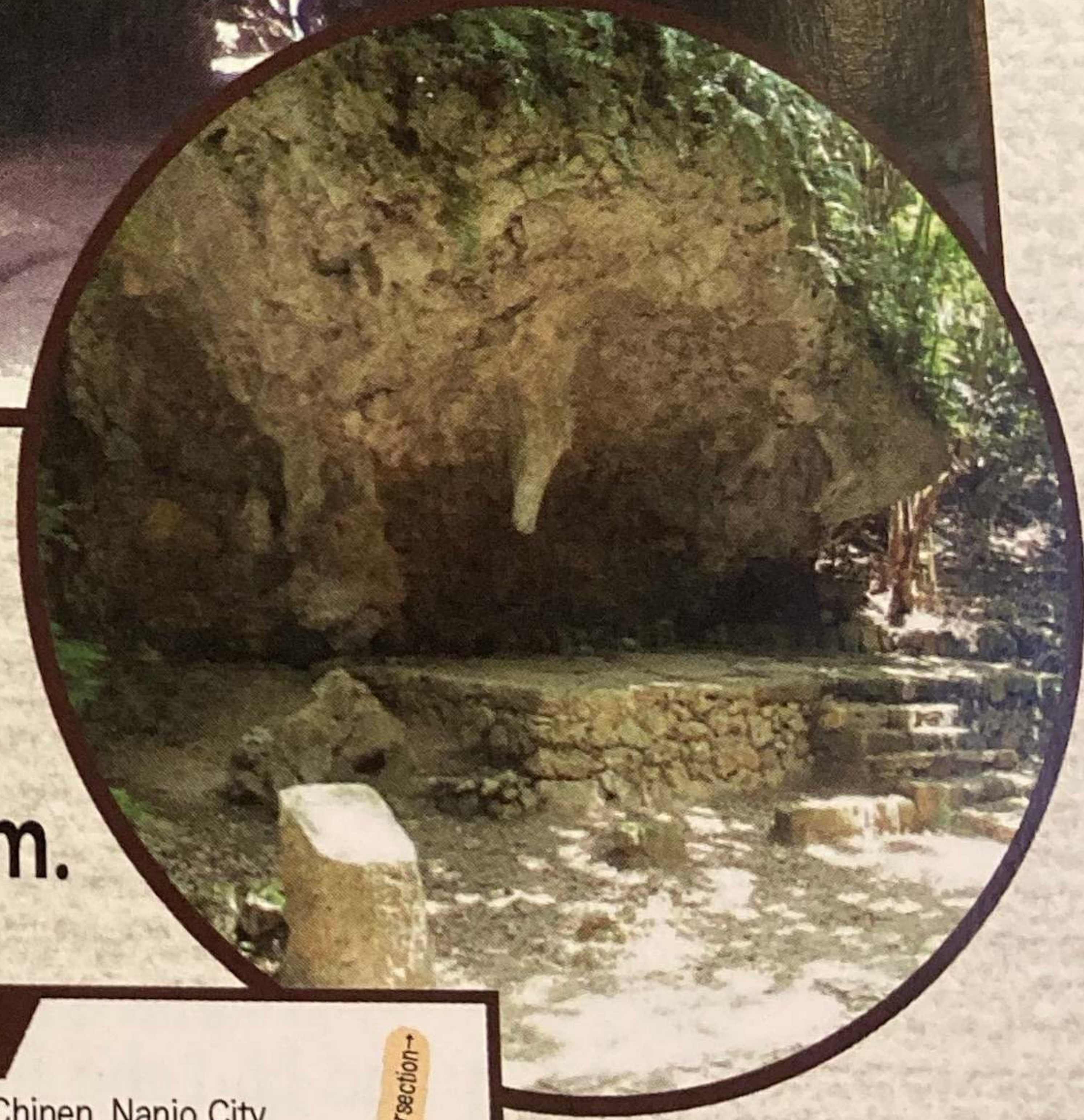
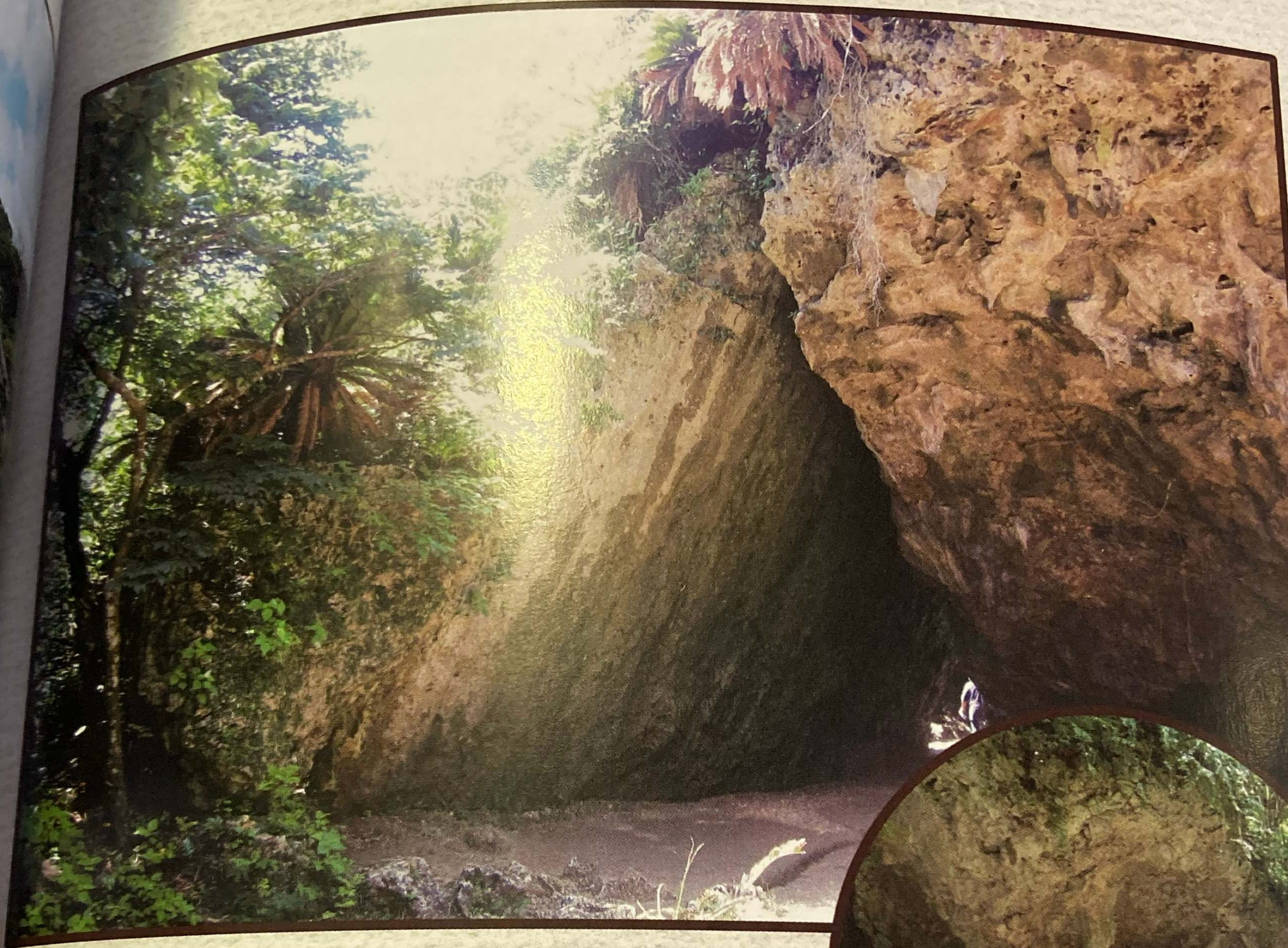


Seifa-Utaki

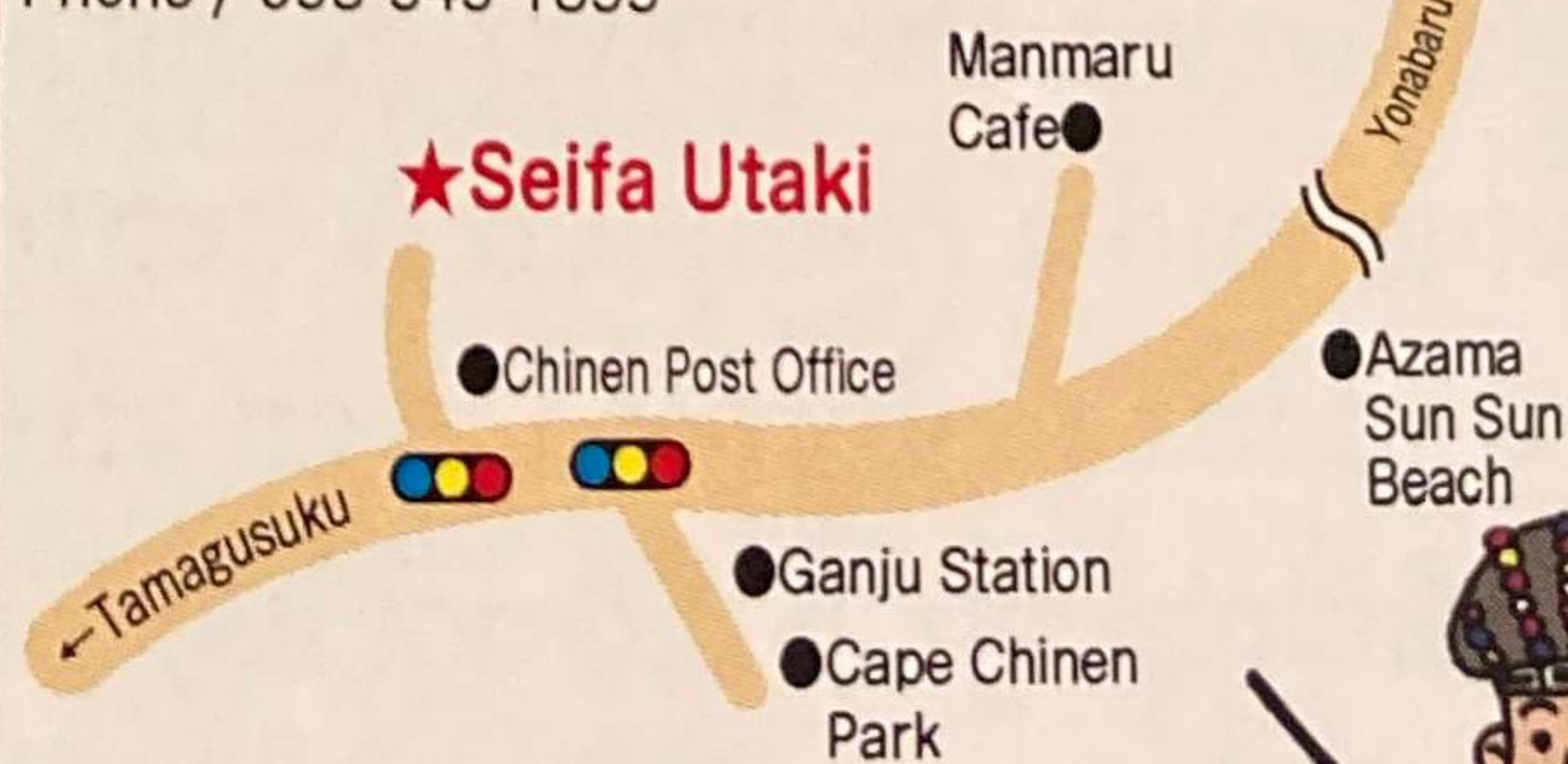


A worship spot facing Kudaka Island, "the Island of Gods". It was also the most important sacred place in the Ryukyu Kingdom.

Seifa-Utaki is located in the southern part of Okinawa Island. It is a sacred place where Amamikiyo, the founding god of the Ryukyu Islands, is said to have descended to Earth. There are six sanctuaries called "Ibi," and the names of three of them, "Ufugui," "Yuinchi," and "Sangui," are the same as the names for rooms at the Shuri Castle.

Seifa Utaki

Location / 539 Kudeken, Chinen, Nanjo City
Phone / 098-949-1899



Head north for Nago from Naha Airport. Turn right at the Asahibashi intersection and go straight for about 10 km. Go straight through the Yonabaru intersection and travel for about 14 km toward Chinen in Nanjo City. The site will be on the right side after passing Cape Chinen.



232594734*71

Please input this map code into your car navigation system to be guided to the location.



The Nine World Heritage sites of Okinawa

World heritage

Shikinaen



A park with a mixture of Chinese and Japanese garden styles in which visitors were warmly welcomed.

Shikinaen gardens and palace were built to welcome and entertain envoys from China. It was also a place of the second residence of the royal families. It is said that Chinese envoys admired this unique Ryukyu-style garden, in which both Japanese and Chinese styles are intertwined.



Head north from Naha Airport towards Nago. Turn right at the Asahibashi intersection and drive for about 5km toward Yonabaru. Turn left at the Kamima intersection, go up the slope and turn left at the Arakawa intersection. After 50 meters, climb the overpass on the left hand side and proceed for about 1 km, the site will be on the left side.

33130089*45
Please input this map code into your car navigation system to be guided to the location.



Invasion of Ryukyu by Satsuma (being under the control of Satsuma domain)

In the beginning of 17th century, the Shimazu clan of Satsuma domain landed at Unten Port in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa in 1609, and first attacked Nakijin Castle. After that, the Satsuma army went south and laid siege to Shuri. The circumstances in Ryukyu around that time were not very favorable, and trade with neighboring countries, which was one of the centers of the economy, gradually withered and with it the kingdom's power was also declining. Therefore, Shuri Castle fell without resistance by the Ryukyuan army. King Sho Nei decided to surrender Shuri Castle and withdrew from it.

The Ryukyu Kingdom, whose main economic pillar was trade with southern countries such as China, saw its politics and society gradually change after the invasion by Satsuma as taxes were forcefully levied and profits from China trade were taken away.



Disposition of Ryukyu (The abolition of the han (domains) system)

In 1875 (8th year of Meiji era), the Meiji government decided to dispose of "Ryukyu" and enforced its policy. The government urged the Ryukyu Domain to dismantle the Ryukyu kingdom system and to replace it by Okinawa Prefecture belonging to Japan. In the same year, it dispatched Michiyuki Matsuda as the disposition officer, and issued the following four orders.

1. To abolish the envoy exchange and tributary relationship with the Qing dynasty and cut ties with China.
2. To commission young officials to study the new system and sciences.
3. To reform the political system in line with other prefectures of Japan.
4. To set up a garrison branch (military facility) to implement these reforms without disorder.

Based on this order, the Ryukyu Domain disappeared in 1879. It was decided that Ryukyu was to belong to Japan. The Ryukyu Kingdom, which lasted for about 450 years, came to an end.



Disposition officer
Michiyuki Matsuda

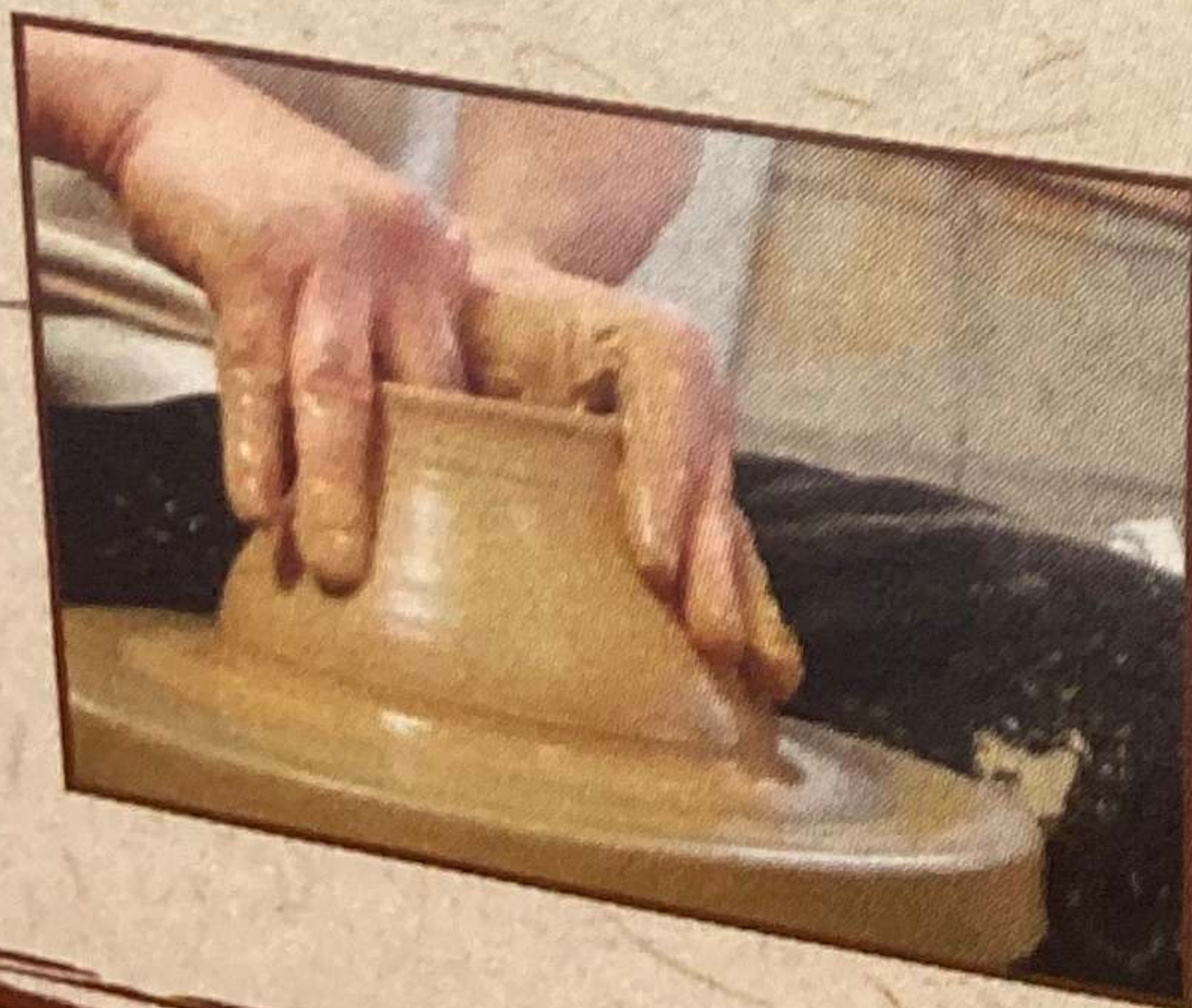
Ceramics

It is said that the art of ceramics was introduced to Okinawa about 500 years ago. At that time, Okinawa was a kingdom named Ryukyu whose trade with China and other Southeast Asian countries was flourishing.

After the invasion by Satsuma in 1609, while receiving influence of Korean techniques, the art of ceramics produced using the Ryukyu traditional manufacturing method was firmly established.

Later the "Tsuboya-yaki" pottery style was born in a Shuri royal government-led process of concentrating pottery workshops scattered around Okinawa in the area called Tsuboya in Naha.

Nowadays, besides "Tsuboya-yaki", various styles of pottery are also actively practiced in different parts of the island such as Yomitan Village, and many modern designs are being born.

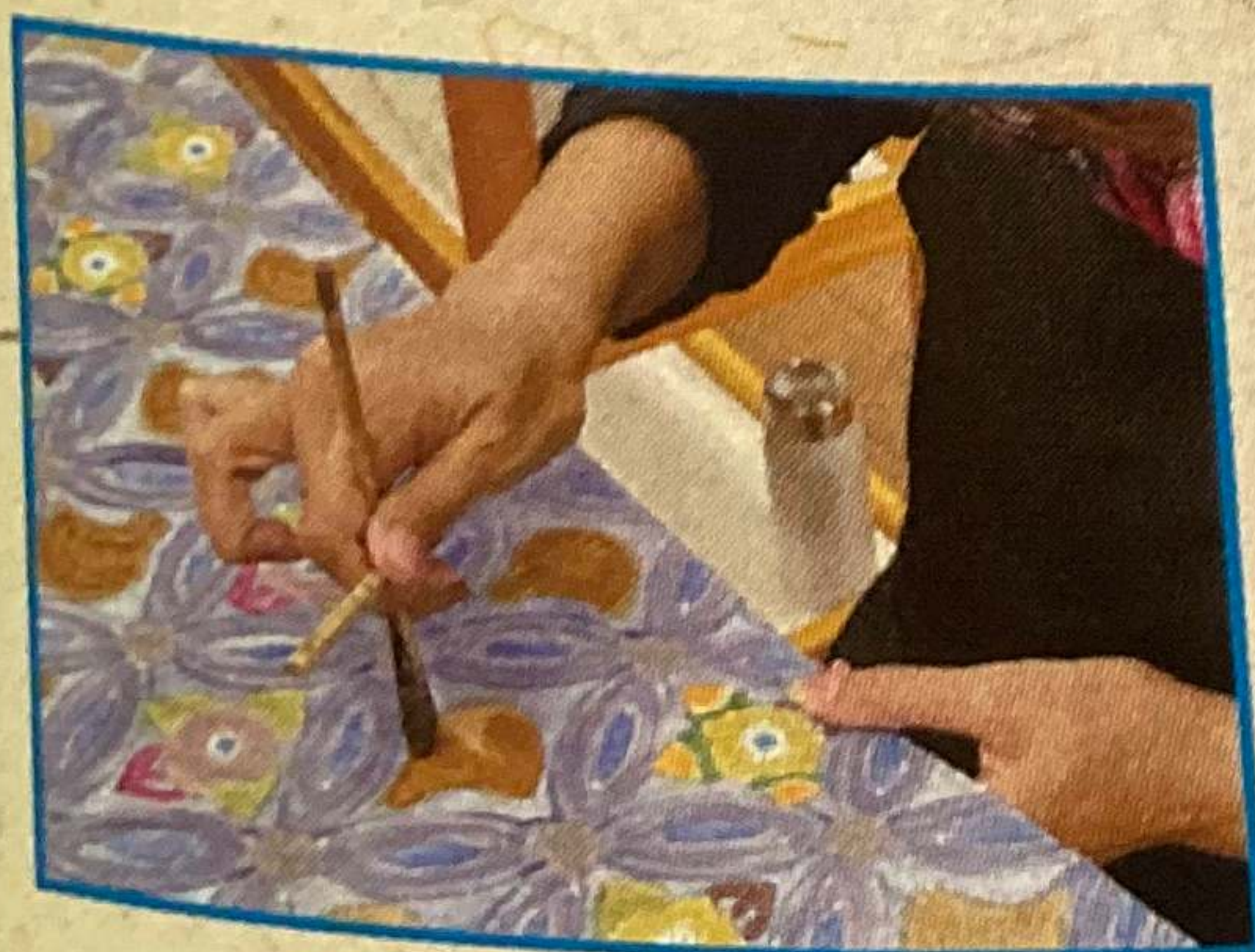


Provided materials : Shuutoubou

Dyed fabrics

Trade with China and Southeast Asia was flourishing from 14th until 16th centuries and the Ryukyu Kingdom prospered. It is said that the products of dyeing and weaving techniques were typical goods for trade.

In particular, dyed products has been influenced by the Chinese calico and Japanese yuzen styles and developed as a Ryukyu traditional style. It is undeniable that the development of the art of dyeing and weaving was protected by the Shuri royal government, but "bingata" is a craft that is highly valued worldwide and is recognized in the field of folkloristics. Okinawa's dyeing and weaving techniques will continue to be refined which will lead to even more beautiful and attractive items appearing in the future.



Provide materials : Ryukyu bingata cooperative
Naha traditional weaving cooperative

Lacquerware

It is said that lacquerware techniques were introduced to Okinawa from China around 14th and 15th centuries. Since lacquerware production in the latter half of the 16th century was under the control of the Ryukyu government, craftsmen were required to improve their skills and level of production. In the 18th century, when the golden age of Ryukyu lacquerware began, many decorative techniques were born. One of the most representative of them is the decoration technique called "Tsuikin". Ryukyu lacquerware products were much valued as gifts to the emperor of China and to the shogun of Edo. The "Ryukyu lacquerware" inherited from the Ryukyu dynasty continues



Provided materials : Kakuman Lacquerware Co., Ltd