

1. Yomitan textiles

From the late Meiji period to 1945, from fiber to finished garment, clothing for individual use was made entirely by hand. Every home grew banana plants from which the fiber was woven into cloth for summer wear or “basajin” (bashofu kimono). Winter wear “muminjin” (cotton kimono) was also woven in each household. Those summer and winter textiles are displayed in this area. Yomitan “hanaori” (Yuntanzan hanau), which was introduced in the early 15th century from Southeast Asia, is featured with the “uchaki” vest and “rubuku” worn in Ryukyuan dance and drama.



2. Archaeological relics

Thirty-nine historical sites in Yomitan dating to prehistoric times have been identified. Among them, Toguchi-Agaribaru site is one of the oldest dating from the early Jomon period (7,000 years ago) where nail marked pottery and sobata type pottery have been excavated. Momenbaru, where the Hakoshiki stone casket was excavated, is an important historical site. Deep in the pine grove north of the museum, the remains of Zakimi castle, which was designated as a national historical site, brings to mind the mountain castles of the early fifteenth century. In the archaeological section, excavated items from each site are displayed according to period. On December 2, 2000, to the joy of local residents, Zakimi Gusuku became a World Heritage Site as one of the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of the Ryukyud.



3. Dwellings

Before the war, only thatched and red tile roofed houses existed in Yomitan. In 1944, there were 1,845 thatched roofed houses and 1,282 red tile roofed houses in the village, most of which were destroyed during the battle of Okinawa. Post war reconstruction consisted of thatched, cement tile, or red ceramic tile roofs. But concrete house is in fashion from 1955 age, one thatch house cannot be found, either and the red tile roofs are also going to disappear soon.

Each house has a slightly different layout, but, basically consists of the first and second rooms, back room and kitchen. In the first room, there is usually an ancestral altar and an alcove. The back room near the kitchen has a open hearth.



4. Funerary objects

The Okinawan turtle back tomb has been influenced by south China (Canaan). The oldest one, built in 1687, is in Naha and belongs to the Ie family. It became popular in the rural areas during the Meiji and Taisho periods. It is said that the shape resembles the womb and that people return to the womb after death.



A replica of the turtle back tomb with the interior shelf, the “gan”, which was used to transport the deceased to the tomb, and many kinds of “zushigame” or funerary urns can be viewed. The urns, made of stone or ceramic, are cylindrical or house shaped.



5. Fishing implements

Yomitan fishing villages are Nagahama, Uza, Toya, Toguchi, etc. Fish which can be found in these waters include “taman” sea bream, “gurukun” fusilier, and “mibai” grouper. The “sabani” or traditional fishing boat is displayed with implements such as wooden oars, diving goggles, bamboo traps and nets.



6. Farming utensils

Implements for cultivating, sowing, threshing and weeding as well as paddy farming tools are displayed. In addition, a rope sling used for carrying leaves and grass and a loom for weaving mats are exhibited. Different types of carpenters' tools such as saws and planes may be seen.

