



# Enjoying IRIOMOTE ISLAND

## Urauchigawa Kanko

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## Urauchi River

On Iriomote Island, there are several rivers that have mangrove forests at their estuaries, but with a length of 19 km, the Urauchi River is the largest river in Okinawa prefecture as well the widest (200m) and deepest (15m).

Generally unknown is the fact that the Urauchi River is home to the by far largest number of fish species inhabiting a river in Japan with more than 400 kinds recorded. This equals to 10 percent of all fish species existing in Japan and the river can be considered as the most diverse river in Japan in terms of fish varieties. Similar to the wild Iriomote Cat, 24 kinds of fish inhabiting the waters are red listed, critically endangered species, comprising 35% of the critically endangered fish kinds in Japan. It goes without saying

that judging from fish fauna, the Urauchi River is a very precious river.

If you are very lucky, you can witness the appearance of an Iriomote Cat swimming across the river. Since our cruise boats navigate daily up the river, the Urauchi River is probably, even in Iriomote, the only location where you can observe a cat crossing the water. Chances are as high as a lottery, but you might be able to spot the scene from one of our cruising boats.

From the river mouth to the middle of the river, mangroves spread out, whereas further up the river, subtropical forests create an actual jungle. Being a large river, from the upstream waterfalls to the sunset at the river mouth, the Urauchi River will present you a magnificent and beautiful scenery regardless of the season.

This river is truly beautiful.



Visit the main power spot in Iriomote island

## 1. Mariyudu & Kanbire Waterfalls

About 3 hours for boat and trekking.

Adults 2,200yen  
Children 1,100yen

Further down from the Urauchi River's upstream boat landing spot, a well-maintained path leads to the heart of Iriomote's jungle. Emerging in the dense jungle are the Mariyudu Waterfalls, chosen as one to the top 100 waterfalls in Japan, and the Kanbire Waterfalls, the most sacred spot on Iriomote island carrying the name of 'seat for the god'. When visited calmly, you are bound to heal both body and soul through the charm of the vast nature embracing the power spot.

### Regular boat schedule:

9:00/9:30/10:30/11:30/12:00/12:30/14:00.

- ※ 9:00 departure is during the Golden Week and from July 20 to August 31.
- ※ Departure times are changeable due to the tide or weather conditions.



A comfortable way to explore the subtropical forest

## 2. Urauchi River Jungle Cruise

About 1 hour for boat.

Adults 2,200yen  
Children 1,100yen

Iriomote Island with its subtropical jungle is largely inaccessible to humans. The easier way to venture into the vastness of the jungle, is the Urauchi River's Jungle Cruise. During high tide, sea water moves 8 km upstream the Urauchi River until the boat landing spot and the flora and fauna of brackish, fresh and sea water create an ecologically rich nature. This tour is recommended to those who wish to feel the breeze and scents from the subtropical jungle in an uncomplicated manner.

### Regular boat schedule:

9:00/9:30/10:30/11:30/12:00/12:30/14:00/15:30.

- ※ 9:00 departure is during the Golden Week and from July 20 to August 31.
- ※ Departure times are changeable due to the tide or weather conditions.



Fully enjoy canoe and jungle trekking

### 3. Mariyudu Waterfalls and one-way canoe tour

About 6 hours for boat, trekking and canoe.  
Guided tour.

Adults 10,000yen  
Children 7,000yen

After a river cruise in the morning, you will explore yourself the trekking course to the Mariyudu Waterfalls. From the afternoon and following a lunch at the tent site, you can paddle down the 8 km river with your guide. You can enter the smaller river branches, exploring the jungle and observing mangroves, or on warm days, you can refresh underneath cool waterfalls. When refreshing underneath the waterfalls, you might consider staying on the island and avoid going back to daily life; please don't tell us that we didn't warn you.

This tour is a comprehensive and fulfilling one-day program, and among our guided tours the most standard course.



An exceptional scenery in the early morning  
at the start of summer

### 8. Early morning cruise and Barringtonia flowers tour

About 2 hours for boat and canoe.

Guided tour.

From June 20 to July 20.

Adults 6,500yen  
Children 4,000yen

Barringtonia: flowers that bloom during the night only for a period of roughly one month per year. After going to the Urauchi River upstream viewing point by boat, you will switch to canoes entering river branches full of Barringtonia flowers, a so-called Barringtonia tunnel.

At break of dawn, the flowers drop. An exceptional, magical or almost fairy-tale like scenery that can only be admired once a year during the early mornings at the start of the summer. Including these flowers, you can enjoy the beautiful scene of the early morning subtropical river.

Now among our tours, this tour will require you to get up most early, but it is definitely worth it.



Enjoy both the mountains and the sea in one day.

## 9. Barasu Island snorkelling and Urauchi River canoe tour

About 6 hours for boat and canoe

Guided tour.

Adults 12,000yen  
Children 7,000yen

Both the mountains and the sea of Iriomote Island are incredibly attractive.

Snorkelling around the most popular spot of Barasu island in combination with a mangroves canoe tour along the Utara river branch of the Urauchi river within one day, you will enjoy to the fullest in what is actually a bit of greedy, want-to-do-it all tour.

This is the only among our tours that allows to enjoy both the sea and the mountains.



SUP jungle cruise on the subtropical island.

## 10. SUP for beginners

About 2 hours by SUP.

Adults 6,000yen

Guided tour.

Children 4,000yen

Try your first stand up paddling at the longest river of Okinawa that is the richest in Japan in terms of fish species and the playground of small baby sharks.

Falling off the SUP board is part of the fun.

Just paddle without hesitation!

Enjoy the jungle cruise amidst the mangrove forest while standing on the SUP looking over the water or while sitting at the same level of a kayak.

This tour gives you two perspectives.

Among our guided tours this tour will train your inner muscles most!

Twice per day in the morning and in the afternoon.

# Urauchi River Trails

