Aguni Guide



Aguni Island (粟国島 *Agunijima*) is a 7.6 square kilometer island home to about 650 residents. It is a beautiful island not too far from mainland Okinawa, and famous for its salt and chalky white cliff faces of volcanic rock from when it was a volcanic island tens of thousands of years ago.

Getting to Aguni

Located approximately 60 km northwest of Naha City, Aguni can be reached by either ferry or airplane. Depending on the weather, the ferry ride can be a little rough, but it is well worth it.

- Ferry
    - While there is only one ferry crossing per day, this is a nice way to travel to the island. The ferry is large and very spacious, with regular seats on the upper floor and a sleeping room on the lower floor.

    - The ferry leaves from Naha Tomari Port at 09:30 and arrives in Aguni between 11:30 and 12:00. The return trip departs Aguni at 14:00 and arrives in Naha Tomari Port around 16:00.
    - An adult round-trip ticket for the ferry costs ¥6,480.
- Airplane
    - There are also flights available between Naha and Aguni three times a week. See this website in Japanese for more information.
    - The flight takes about 20 minutes depending on weather conditions.

Accommodations

Once on the island, there are numerous places to stay. **Puchi Isa Hotel** is located right near the port. There are, however, numerous *minshuku* (Japanese Inns) available.

Getting around Aguni

While there are buses that run through the island, other options for getting around include taxis and rentals. There are places that rent electric cars, scooters, or bicycles.

- Taxis
    - Taxis are available by request, which means you must call and make a reservation beforehand.
    - You can learn more about the bus and taxi service here: Aguni Access. (The PDF about the taxi service is only in Japanese.)

Dining

For dining, most accommodations offer a café or dining area, but if you choose to venture out, there are a few restaurants.

- Nabi
    - offers traditional Okinawan dishes.
- Marusan
    - a Chinese restaurant
- Toyoyuki Parlor
    - Perhaps the most popular restaurant, Toyoyuki Parlor is an izakaya with great food and drinks.
- Cafes/Bakery
    - There are also two cafes and a bakery. There, you can find delicious snacks and desserts to satisfy your sweet tooth.
- Paru
    - A karaoke parlor that is open from around 7:30 PM until the last customer leaves.

Activities

Aguni is home to beautiful cliffs and just as lovely a coast. You can walk along sandy beaches or rocky water edges. There are also plenty of tide pools, which form on Yahija's coast, for those who would like to swim but not in the sea.

- Hiking
    - Visit the **Mahana Observatory**, located at the highest point of Aguni. From here, you can climb to get a good view of the sea or gaze at the luminous night sky. On a

clear day, you can even see all the neighboring islands (Tonaki, Kume, Zamami, and Tokashiki).
    - Located in the northern parts of the island are several beautiful caves. These caves are directly behind the island's temple.
- Sightseeing
    - Castle Ruins
        - You can tour the ancient ruins of a castle that once stood on Aguni during the Ryukyu Kingdom.
    - Salt Factory
        - You can tour the factory where the famous Aguni salt is produced.
    - Sugar Refinery
        - Aguni produces its own kokuto, Okinawan brown sugar. The refinery is open for seasonal tours.
- Festivals
    - Dragon Boat Race
        - This race celebrates the Lunar New Year
    - Check the island's website in Japanese to find out more about events in Aguni.

No matter what you end up doing, whether it’s sightseeing, relaxing at the beach, or enjoying eisa and drinking with the locals, you’re bound to have a great time on Aguni!