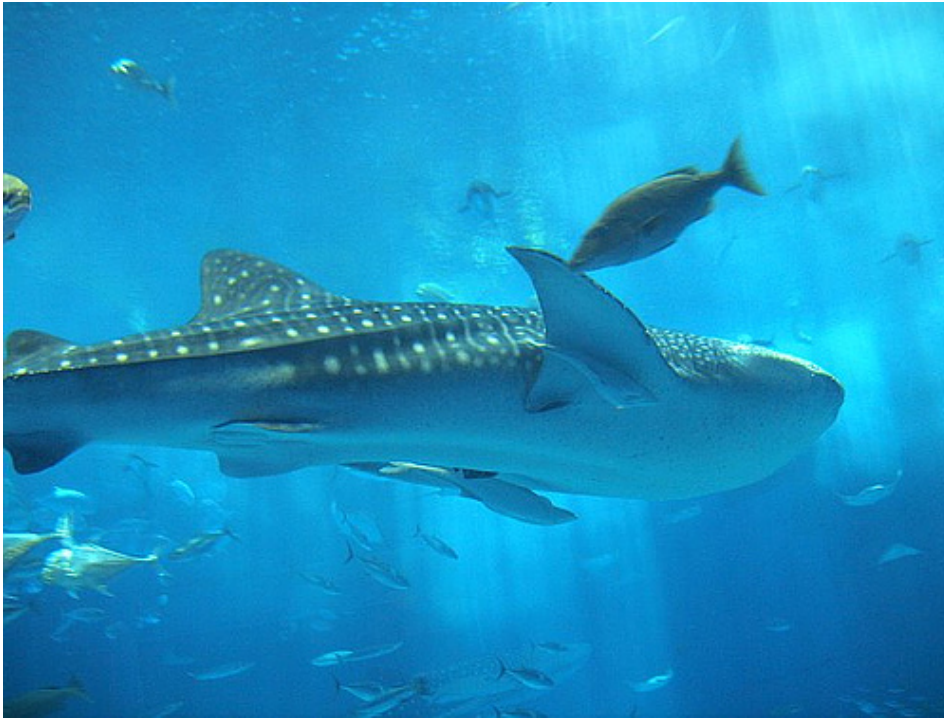


This post was originally published on www.okinawahai.com on 03/11/2007

Editor's Note: This is the original Okinawa Hai post on Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium. We published a newer post on this establishment in 2016. We've left all of your original comments in place on this post, but we thought after 9 years you might want a fresher take on the place.

CONTRIBUTED BY KAHŌ



If you're after peace of mind, this is the place to go. I never knew how peaceful the underwater world was until I went to this aquarium. As I am scared to scuba dive, I enjoy experiencing what I imagine to be under water by walking through this aquarium. The aquarium is inside the Ocean Expo Park located in Motobu, the city in the north of Okinawa. The aquarium has the world's largest acrylic glass panel which is 8.2 meters high, 22.2 meters wide and 60 cm thick. In this tank you can see three whale sharks (7 meters long) and many manta rays swimming with other fish.

It'll be fun for kids to see the "Okichan Theater" which is a fun dolphin show. Of course, there are many more attractions that the aquarium offers other than the main tank and the dolphin show.

There is an Okinawan food restaurant in a beautiful setting not so far from the aquarium called "[Ufuya \(Big House\)](#)". It is a great restaurant to go either on the way to or the way back from the aquarium.

There are also two places to eat in the aquarium. One is "Inoh", a nice restaurant with an amazing view of the East China Sea. This restaurant is located on the top floor of the aquarium where you first arrive from the parking lot. The entrance to the restaurant is on the left side of the escalator. The other is "Café Ocean Blue" which is located right next to the main tank. It is a nice place to eat and relax, but you'll be paying for the place rather than the food.

The following post was published on May 2, 2008; we've moved it into this post in order to streamline your information about the Churaumi Aquarium

CONTRIBUTED BY JOELLE YAMADA



Every time we get to the aquarium I hold my breath in hopes that the coolio looking kid's play structure might be open FINALLY. It was originally slated to be open at the end of August 07. No joy. So you can imagine my glee when we drove into the parking lot and saw REAL KIDS playing on the incredible blue climbing structure. We hadn't been up there since Christmas, so I have no clue when it opened, but it's open NOW!

There is an easier climbing area for 3-6 year olds and then a more difficult area of 6-12 year olds (3rd small pix). And it's ginormous!! Seems to go on for days. We were getting dangerously close to nap-time-crisis-mode, so we were only able to stay for about 45 minutes -- but my 2 year old was in heaven. Next time we'll plan to get our butts out of the house sooner so that we can be at the Aquarium by 10am so as to make the dolphin show at 11am and then the play structure til hunger for pizza hits... maybe we could find a place up [in the sky](#) that serves it?? :)