

[Okinawa Zoo & Museum](#), originally uploaded by [okimamas&papas](#).

## CONTRIBUTED BY MEREDITH NOVARIO

It's worth the 2000 yen to get a season pass here. Okay, so the animals [don't have the fancy habitats](#) that you might find back in the States. On the bright side though, the walk through the zoo is much shorter since the animals' quarters are on the small side. In ten good strides you can take in hippos, chimps, lions, tigers and giraffes. All the big name animals are right there for your kids to call out to. Even a raccoon, like the one you might see in your garbage can back home. Or the enormous bats that keep watch over the humid Okinawan nights.

The walking loop by the animals is steep. If you prefer traveling [downhill](#) then start at the top, otherwise take the elevator to the bottom and work your way up. I find it steep for pushing a stroller up but my friend says the same about going down. Whatever tickles you.

There is also a train, carousel, and a bumper car track. These are separate fees and range between 100 and 200 yen. And there is a man-made pond with pedal boats and food for the ducks and fish. And, wow, [these carp](#) can open wide.

For an additional 200 yen (on top of the 500 yen admission fee to the zoo), you can explore the Wonder Museum. Most exhibits are interactive and hands-on even for toddlers. Here's a [PEEK](#), and [ANOTHER](#), and [ONE](#) more. The museum is often balmy so dress accordingly.

The admission information is available [HERE](#) for those of you with incredible vision. Or for the rest of you there's a [website](#) with lots of pictures and Japanese. Or how about I just summarize.

- The park opens at 9:30 and closes between 5:30 and 6:00 depending on the time of year
- It is closed every Tuesday
- Admission for adults is 500 yen unless you're in a group of 20 or more. If that's the case then you pay 400 yen.
- Junior high & High school students pay 200 yen or 150 yen if in a group.
- 4 year olds through elementary school students pay 100 yen or 150 yen in a group.
- Everyone under 4 is free everywhere!
- The Wonder Museum is 200 yen for adults AND is in addition to the zoo admission price.

### Getting there:

Straight out Kadena Gate 2. Cross straight over the 330 intersection. You will pass Koza Junior High School on your right and Koza Baptist Church on your left. There will be a sign overhead written in English indicating a right turn about a mile after the 330 intersection. It comes up suddenly and right before a steep-ish downhill. At this intersection is a groovy red and yellow mural, perhaps graffiti, on a tall stone wall. Continue on this road for less than half a mile. You will see the parking lot on your left.

*[edited from user comments]*: From Camp Foster: -Take a LEFT coming out of the Exchange gate so that you are heading up 330 towards Kadena. Take a RIGHT at the Awase Meadows Golf Course intersection onto 22. (There will be a blue sign overhead before the turn lane pointing out the roads.) Take a LEFT at the 2nd light. Take a RIGHT at the 3rd light directly into the zoo parking lot.