◆先輩からのアドバイス◆

Experience the beauty of Okinawa

When I first arrived in Okinawa, it was April 2016. At first, I didn't know anybody and I didn't know much about the island either. For these reasons, I felt a bit lonely and homesick. I actually considered going back home.

However, after some weeks, things changed: my colleagues became my friends, I bought a car and started driving around the island, with them, but also by myself. I discovered new places, in the north of Okinawa, that now I consider my favorite places, like cape Hedo (the northern tip of Okinawa Island) or Adan beach, a beautiful beach in the north part of the east coast. I started to go diving, not only for my PhD research, but also for fun. This made me very happy, as there are some amazing locations to discover underwater, like cape Manza, closely located to Onna Village, which I now consider my favorite dive site.

My suggestion to the new people who come to Okinawa is to travel around and talk with people. Join local festivals and make new friends. Don't be afraid. Don't be shy. If you don't like to spend your time inside a mall or between concrete walls, and you love nature and the ocean, the best places to go are in the north of the island, where you can enjoy clean and warm waters, beautiful beaches, coral reefs, forests and waterfalls. Another suggestion I have is to take a ferry boat and visit the small islands around Okinawa, like the Keramas or Kudaka-jima. Finally, if you have the time, take a flight to Ishigaki and Iriomote islands, you will not be disappointed, and it is cheap if you book early.

After visiting all these beautiful places and enjoying the culture and traditions of Okinawa, your duties as a university student will be much more enjoyable!

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