



沖繩空手

空手発祥の地  
沖繩

*The Essence of Karate is Here*

OKINAWA,  
*the Birthplace of Karate*

*"There is No First Attack in Karate"*



沖縄県



# History of Okinawa Karate

Although there are various theories about the origin of Karate, it is believed that it originates from the ancient martial art of the Ryukyu Kingdom, "Ti" (hand), which was systematized through deepening cultural exchanges with its neighboring countries. There are three styles of "Ti": Shui-di, Nafa-di, and Tumai-di, which all date back to the era of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The "Shui-di" is a martial art that is considered to have been inherited by successive Samure (Samurai in Okinawan) warriors in the castle town of Shuri and has been developed through the friendly rivalry among the senior and junior warriors. The "Nafa-di" has been handed down through the generations in the area where Naha Port, the gateway of the Ryukyu Kingdom, is located; while the "Tumai-di" has been inherited around the area of Tomari Port, which used to be the main port of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Additionally, Uechi-ryu was founded by Uechi Kanbun, who, after finishing his training in the city of Fuzhou, China, moved to Wakayama and began teaching and training many students, including his son, Kanei.



## History of Okinawa Karate



<http://karatekaikan.jp/history>

# Okinawa Karate Kaikan, the Hub of Okinawa Karate

In March of 2017, the Okinawa Karate Kaikan was opened as a central facility to promote "Okinawa, the birthplace of Karate" around the world, in order to preserve, pass down, and develop Okinawa karate as traditional culture. On its four-hectare site, there is a "Karate Dojo" with 4 competition courts, an "Exhibition Facility" to deepen the understanding of Okinawa karate, and a "Special Dojo" with red tile roof that symbolizes the traditional Okinawan culture. It has become a place where karate enthusiasts from all over the world can gather and interact with each other.

# Spread around the World

The foundation of "Ti" was laid down during the era of the Ryukyu Kingdom. During and after the Meiji period, it was introduced into school education by Anko Itosu and his students, such as Hanashiro Chomo and Yabu Kentsu, and became widespread among the public. In 1922, Funakoshi Gichin came to Tokyo to introduce Karate at the "First Physical Education Exhibition". After the event, he settled down in Tokyo and devoted his life to the spread of karate, especially at universities. Meanwhile, in the Kansai region, Mabuni Kenwa, Miyagi Chojun and others, likewise made efforts to popularize karate. The karate style taught by Funakoshi flourished to be known as Shotokan Ryu, while the Mabuni lineage blossomed as the Shito Ryu; both have spread throughout the world. Today, karate has grown to have 130 million karate lovers domestically and internationally and also has been adopted as one of the official events of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



# The Spirit of Karate in Pursuit of Peace

"In karate, never attack first." "Do not be hit, and do not hit. Avoiding conflict is the fundamental principle." These wise sayings left by the ancestors of Okinawa karate express manners respecting and peace seeking spirit of Okinawa karate. Training your body through rigorous training and learning the unique Okinawan spirit of valuing courtesy is the reason why karate enthusiasts around the world are fascinated by Okinawa karate.



## Okinawa Karate Kaikan

Address 854-1 Tomigusuku, Tomigusuku City, Okinawa

Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
(Reference room open until 6:00 p.m.)

Closed Wednesdays, December 30 - January 3 of the following year

TEL 098-851-1025

URL <http://karatekaikan.jp>



## Okinawa Karate Information Center

Address 854-1 Tomigusuku, Tomigusuku City, Okinawa  
(in Okinawa Karate Kaikan)

Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays, December 30 - January 3 of the following year

TEL 098-851-1088

URL <http://okic.okinawa/>

