

Hoshino Resorts Banta Cafe Opening on May 20th, 2020

Hoshino Resorts Banta Cafe, a seaside cafe in Yomitan, Okinawa with breathtaking scenery and scale, will open on May 20th, 2020. The area features seating of various shapes and sizes, made using the natural contours of the coastline, so visitors can enjoy looking out over the vast ocean. Visitors can find their preferred spot to sit, whether it is the terraced seating close to the shoreline or the sofas where people can relax and gaze at the sea, and enjoy refreshing food and drinks made with classic Okinawa ingredients like mango and hibiscus.



Banta Cafe stands on a cliff overlooking the sea

Banta Cafe is located on the western shore of Yomitan, in the western region of central Okinawa. It is about one hour drive from Naha Airport.

Banta means “cliff” in the Okinawa dialect, and the large cliffs and rocks that people climb to see the shadows of fish in the water are called *Iyumibanta* (cliff for looking at fish). This cafe sits atop an *iyumibanta* facing the sea, so it was named Banta Cafe. From the fairly high cliff, visitors can look out over the ocean extending as far as the eye can see, and from the bottom of the cliff, one can enjoy the sensation of the waves lapping against their feet. By making the most of the *iyumibanta* on the natural shoreline, this seaside cafe provides breathtaking views of the vast ocean from up close.



Features of Banta Cafe

1. An extraordinary space surrounded by rocks, and incredible scenery from up close

Banta Cafe is located in the center of an inlet surrounded by large rocks. By constructing the building to fit the contour of the inlet, they created an extraordinary space completely separated from the outside world. In front of the building is a rich sea filled with coral, and the bright blue sky. When dusk falls, the sunset over the ocean creates a dramatic sight.



2. Four distinctive types of seating, for a different experience every visit

Banta Cafe features four distinctive types of seating, so visitors can enjoy different experiences depending on their mood. In the center of the building on top of the cliff is the semi-outdoor floor seating that faces out to the sea. It creates a feeling of floating, as if one was on a stage extending out over the sea, and visitors can enjoy the ocean views in front of them, and the incredible sight of the large rocks scattered around the area. The second type are the sofas placed inside the building. To allow guests to relax while they enjoy looking at the ocean, there are long, flat sofas set up along the windows. Outside, there are two types of terraced seating: the Seaside Terrace, which is close to the sea and creates a feeling of freedom; and the Rocky Terrace, a private space surrounded by large rocks and plants.

3. Vibrant cafe menu filled with the flavors of Okinawa

The cafe menu is filled with vibrant drinks and foods perfectly suited to the Okinawa scenery. Bubbly Jelly Soda, with its characteristic bubbly foam and colorful polka dot appearance, was inspired by “bubbly tea,” which has been a beloved drink in Okinawa for generations. The polka dots floating in the soda are made of jelly containing things like mango and hibiscus, and it has a distinctly tropical taste. There are also snacks like Pizza Toast, made with bitter melon to spice it up, and freshly made Pork & Egg Onigiri.



Bubbly Jelly Soda



Pizza Toast



Pork & Egg Onigiri

■ Architectural Design

Hoshino Resorts wanted to create a place that everyone would want to visit when they came to Okinawa. Visitors to Banta Cafe are always met by the beautiful sea and skies of Yomitan. The large roof partitions the scenery, and the wings on both sides extend to match the terrain, approaching the sea. The sea breeze blows into the building, the scenery is constantly changing color, and guests can enjoy a beer while gazing at the sunset over the sea.

■ Environmental Design

The cafe is placed right in the middle of an inlet surrounded by large rocks. The greenery growing on the slopes below, the mysterious spaces between the rocks carved out by the sea, the white beach, the emerald green reefs, and the blue sky. Every element in the environment come together to create a private little world closed off from its surroundings. The Seashore Terrace and the Rocky Terrace are built so as to be a part of the greenery and the rocks, making this world into a cohesive entity, providing routes to travel throughout the world, and making use of their unique characteristics to create a relaxing place surrounded by nature.

“Hoshino Resorts Banta Cafe” at a glance

Name: Hoshino Resorts Banta Cafe
Location: 560 Gima, Yomitanson, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa Prefecture
Who can visit: Hotel residents and non-residents are allowed
Capacity: Approx. 170 seats
Opening date: May 20th, 2020
Access: Approx. 1 hour by car from Naha Airport
Website: <https://banta-cafe.com/>

