**Maezato Residence, Agon Village**

This beautifully restored building is the ancestral home of the Taira clan, a prominent Agon village family. Their lineage stretches back many generations to the latter part of the Edo period (1603–1867). Family members living here held positions as township and island administrators following the transfer of rule from the Ryukyu Kingdom of Okinawa to the Satsuma domain of Kyushu. As the administrative center of the area, Agon prospered. After the island became part of Japan at the beginning of the Meiji era (1868–1912), several members of the family continued to play important roles in local government.

***The Restoration***

Built in 1931, Maezato Residence is a symbol of the village’s historical prestige. It has been lovingly restored, preserving as much of its character as possible, and is now used as a social gathering place.

***A Mix of Cultures***

Note the elegant stone bridge in the garden, and the stacks of tiles used in the restoration that are piled behind the far end of the house. The massive banyan tree that stretches over the back of the grounds from a neighboring site is said to be over 300 years old. The combination of intricate Ryukyuan stone walls and an architectural style inspired by mainland Japan reflects the historically important blend of these two cultures.