

## **Maejima Island Tombolo**

### **Wave-formed link between two islands**

Naru Island is only reachable by one of the ferries that pass by the small island of Maejima on their way to the island's main port. Connecting Maejima to the even smaller Suetsushima Island is a 300-meter-long tombolo, a neck of gravel that is only completely visible at low tide. Tombolos are formed by the natural accumulation of material on the lee side of an island. This builds up over time until it grows long enough to attach to an offshore island (in this case, Suetsushima Island), which then becomes what is known as a tied island.

Tombolos are uncommon, and can be destroyed by erosion. This tombolo is made up mostly of gravel, not sand, so eroded rock must be continuously carried here from the surrounding islands for the tombolo to exist. This tombolo has an especially graceful shape, and has been designated an environmental conservation area by Nagasaki Prefecture.