

## **Aze Prince Beach Seaside Park**

Aze Prince Beach stretches for 1.5 kilometers along the northeast coast of Tokunoshima. As with much of the island's coastline, the waters of the beach are encircled by a barrier reef, creating ideal conditions for snorkeling, with clear, shallow water extending up to 200 meters from the shore. Visitors might see yellowtail clownfish, pearl-spot chromis, seahorses, and starfish. The pristine sand is formed from coral and is quite coarse. (Sandals or similar footwear are recommended.)

The name of the beach dates from a visit in 1972 by then Crown Prince Akihito (the 125th emperor of Japan, who reigned from 1989 to 2019) and his wife, Princess Michiko. The royal couple enjoyed the unspoiled coastline, and after their tour, the beach became known as Prince Beach.

In the park there are shaded spots to take a break from the sun, including the type of pavilions found in traditional Japanese gardens. Changing rooms, toilets, and shower facilities are all accessible at no charge. A lookout provides views of the surrounding scenery and Kakeroma Island in the distance.

The free seaside campsite can be booked through Tokunoshima Town Hall, and a covered cooking area, toilets, and showers are provided in the recreation area.

In 2017 the beach was designated part of Amami Gunto National Park, which stretches across the Amami Islands.