

Quick facts of Tanegashima island(種子島)

Where to stay & Traveling around

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Municipalities

There are three municipalities on Tanegashima island.: Nishinoomote(西之表), Nakatane(中種子) and Minamitane(南種子). Please note that there is no city or town called Tanegashima.

Nishinoomote – It is the most populous city on the island. Hydrofoil and ferry from Kagoshima city arrive at Nishinoomote port. Most of the hotels in Tanegashima are located here. Located at the north part of the island and home of Tanegashima-yaki (Tanegashima ware) . If you can stay only 1-2 nights on the island, better to overnight here. Hydrofoil and ferry are connecting Nishinoomote port and Miyanoura port in Yakushima island too.

Nakatane – Located between Nishinoomote and Minamitane, the town is located at the middle of the island. Tanegashima airport is located here. The downtown is located at Noma district and all national major roads of the island pass this district. There are only small hotels and pensions located here but ideal place to stay if you travel to the island by plane. The biggest supermarket A-Coop Nakatane store is convenient place to buy the island's products.

Minamitane – Located at the southern part of the island, the town is famous for Tanegashima Space Center where rocket-launch site is located. Shimama port has a daily ferry connection between Yakushima island and Kuchinoerabu island. There are more hotels in Minamitane than in Nakatane. If you are staying 3 nights or more, or want to travel to Yakushima too, better to stay here for at least a night.

Traveling around the island

There are not so many options to travel around Tanegashima.

By local bus – Local bus company Daiwa bus operates buses inside the island connecting Nishinoomote and Minamitane via Nakatane, only one route connecting Space Center in Minamitane and Tanegashima high school in Nishinoomote via Nishinoomote port. Unfortunately, the frequency is not high, just 6 buses (only 5 buses to/from Space Center) per day. These buses are adjusted to arrival and departure of the

ferries and the hydrofoils. Journey time is 1 hour and 30 minutes between Nishinoomote port and Space Center. Fare is JPY 1740 between these stops and cash payment only. Please note that this bus does not call at Tanegashima airport.

By airport bus – Tanegashima airport is connected by three municipalities by airport bus. This airport bus is also operated by Daiwa bus and connects all arrival and departures from/to Kagoshima airport. There are two routes; Tanegashima airport – Nishinoomote and Tanegashima airport – Minamitane via Nakatane. The bus from/to Nishinoomote makes a call at Nishinoomote port but bus to/from Minamitane does not call at the Space Center. Journey time is 40 minutes between Minamitane and the airport, 30 minutes from Nishinoomote port to the airport. Fares are JPY 1040/730.

By taxi – Taxi is a common way to travel in Tanegashima due to lack of public transport. Taxis are available at the ports and at the airport, but no taxi stand at the Space Center. Please note that vacant taxis are not running on the island to get passengers as like in Tokyo, therefore you have to make a call or walk to the taxi company to get the ride.

By car – Car rental is available and best way to explore the island if you have the proper driving license. Major and local agencies have their offices in Nishinoomote and Tanegashima airport. Popular size of the car is compact car or smaller sedan. It is possible to rent in Nishinoomote city and return at the airport or v.v. without extra supplement.

By bicycle – You can rent a bicycle at bike rental agencies and hotels.