

# Miyagi's Specialties

Miyagi Prefecture produces distinguished crafts that have been handed down through a long history, harnessing the local resources found in this environmentally-rich prefecture. The prefecture is also a great granary in Japan with abundant water resources. There is a lot of food that takes advantage of the local climate. The traditional tastes produced in the life of common people are valued and kept.



## Sendai Shiro (god of luck)

仙台四郎  
This is a person who really lived in Sendai in the late 19th century. It was said that any store he went into would become prosperous, so people believed that he was a god of luck. His figure is made into various goods, such as ornamental objects and votive tablets.



## Wakayanagi fabrics

若柳地織  
Cotton fabrics widely used mainly in Wakayanagi, Kurihara City, in the late 19th century and early 20th century. They are characterized by the unique, deep blue and stripes. They are used not only for room wear but also small items such as ties and card boxes.



## Kokeshi (wooden doll)

こけし  
Kokeshi has a simple and lovely face. There are several styles of kokeshi dolls in this prefecture: Naruko, Togata, Yajiro, Sakunami, Hijiori.



## Matsukawa daruma and Sendai hariko

松川だるま-仙台孫子  
These items were made by samurai in lower ranks as their side work in the feudal age. Hariko (paper mache) products include masks and toys in the form of tigers, cows and horses, made with care.



## Tamamushinuri lacquerware

玉虫塗  
This is a craft product that was originally devised in the middle of the 20th century. They are characterized by delicate pictures on a lacquer finish. Silver powder is laid under the lacquer to show an iridescence like the wings of a jewel beetle (tamamushi).



## Tsutsumi doll

堤人形  
This is a clay doll with a simple figure created by samurai in lower ranks as their side work. They are designed with a kabuki play and Ukiyoe woodblock print motif and with an elegant flavor.



## Ogatsu inkstone

雄勝硯  
The Ogatsu area in Ishinomaki City is the production center for stones called genshoseki (black clay slate). The processing of such stones into inkstones has a history of about 600 years. It has been designated as a National Traditional Craft.



## Sendai tansu (chest)

仙台箪笥  
This is a fine chest produced by craftsmen, using a kiuro lacquering technique to enhance the beautiful grains of the wood and with embossed iron and metal fittings. It is as sturdy as it is elegant.



## Matsukasa wind-bell

松笠風鈴  
This was originally presented to the lord of the Sendai domain in the 1780s, who wanted a wind-bell that made good sounds. It is a casting with a rough surface and a limitless number of patterns with unique, beautiful, lingering sounds.

## Sendai Tsuishu lacquerware

仙台堆朱  
Sendai Tsuishu is an engraved lacquerware made by repeated lacquering in vermilion. Sophisticated, complicated designs give the products a profound and classy feeling. Excellent heat and water resistance.



## Sake (rice wine)

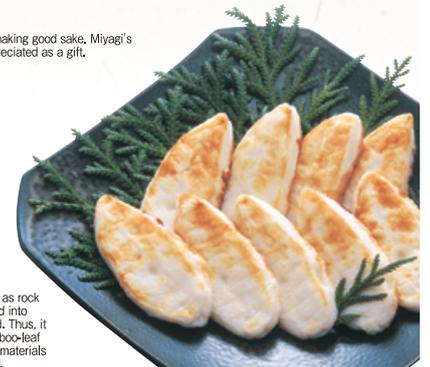
日本酒  
Good quality rice and water are essential to making good sake. Miyagi's sake is famous for its exquisite taste and appreciated as a gift.

## Zunda-mochi (rice cake)

ずんだ餅  
This is a specialty of Sendai made by boiling and grinding young soybeans into a paste called zunda, and putting it on mochi (rice cake). It has a unique taste with a well-balanced combination of the flavorful soybeans and sweetness.

## Sasakamaboko

笹かま  
High grade white fish meat such as rock fish or flatfish are minced, shaped into bamboo leaves (sasa) and grilled. Thus, it was named sasakamaboko (bamboo-leaf shaped grilled fish paste). Fresh materials are carefully selected and grilled.



## Sendai dagashi (commoner's confectionery)

仙台駄菓子  
Various kinds and shapes of colorful confectionery were created by commoners. Children enjoy these sweets made by hand and from the heart using natural ingredients.