

AKIU



Traditional Craft Village

秋保^[あきう]工芸の里 | ガイド



Crafting, performing, sculpting, creating.
Just another day at Akiu Onsen Village.



Gangan Kokeshi Store

Sendai Kokeshi, (which are Sakunami style, also known as Enakichi Kokeshi) are made from whittling down a piece of wood and painting it with black and red creating a simple and modern design. This shop has spanned three generations and traditional kokeshi continue to be made, but the shop also produces cute, small kokeshi that are completely original designs. Be sure to visit this traditional shop and get a feel for a place that has been handed down through the generations while still remaining relevant today.



 **Kokeshi Maker** | Akira Suzuki

Akira Suzuki is a kokeshi maker born in Sendai in 1960. He inherited the shop from his grandfather Kiyoshi and decided to make traditional style designs and also use the new idea of kawaii (cute), and made new dolls while preserving the old ways. He won the Prime Minister's Award in the All Japan Kokeshi Contest (2015).



Address: 54-20 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2673 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Every Tuesday
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Onkomaya Hiroi Store

The origins of the Edo Koma (spinning top) was the Kyokugoma, a top for doing tricks, which was popular mainly in Tokyo (known as Edo) during the late 17th century. It gradually changed form into the Zashiki Koma and was widely favored by the people. This store's authentic traditional skills have been passed down from previous generations and delight customers through refined, stylish, and humorous styles. Each of the various works has a trick inside, and it is fascinating to listen to those descriptions. Onkomaya Store is a wonderland where even adults can immediately relive their childhood.

 **Edo Koma Craftsman** | Michiaki Hiroi

Michiaki Hiroi is an Edo Koma craftsman born in Tokyo in 1933. He came from an Edo Koma craftsman family around for generations and moved to Sendai after WWII. He continues the rare Edo Koma tradition with his younger brother Masaaki who lives in Yokohama. He currently runs a studio in Akiu Traditional Craft Village, pursuing and developing the art with his apprentices.



Address: 54-22 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2770 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Kobokusya Store

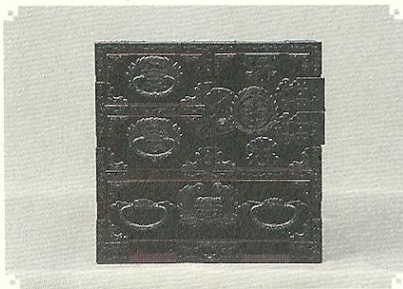
Takashi Kawashima has been engaged in Sashimono crafting (a kind of woodworking that doesn't use nails) for more than 60 years. His work depends on the wood material that is used for the Sashimono crafts, and the best wood is carefully selected ahead of time. Crafting requires a long and steady process to enhance the natural wood grain and bring the craft to life. Instead of chemical adhesives he only uses traditional glue. His handmade works include items for daily life, such as desks, tables, shelves, even sets of green tea utensils. His works are displayed in the main building room, which requires previous day reservations to visit.

 **Green Tea Utensil Artisan** | Takashi Kawashima

Takashi Kawashima is a green tea utensil artisan born in Sendai in 1953. He started his Sashimono career at 19 years old by studying under his father Yoshio. He is particular about the traditional craftsmanship and pursues genuine Sashimono crafts. Although Yoshio passed away in 2000, Takashi has inherited the skills and maintained the tradition.



Address: 54-23 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2954 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Not available



Kumanodo Store

Sendai Tansu are solid wooden chests made from zelkova wood. By preserving the wood grain with an unique wax technique, these chests have represented Sendai as a traditional craft for hundreds of years. Traditionally these drawers held Japanese clothing and swords, but these days the majestic drawers continue to be loved and store whatever the owner desires. The metal fittings, including the distinct front metal fitting, are hand shaped. Akira Kumano's is a real craft, with techniques that blend woodworking, lacquer painting and metal working, all of which are done by hand, the authentic way and passed on to him from his great-grandfather. The real heart that lies in the Kumanodo Store is the ability to make items that can be passed down through the generations.

 **Sendai Tansu Craftsman** Akira Kumano

Akira Kumano is a Sendai Tansu craftsman born in Sendai in 1957. He studied under his father, Hiroshi, and carried on the tradition of making the entire chest by hand. He works hard on the craft he inherited and continues to create and innovate Japanese traditional techniques. He was also in the international spotlight in 2014 when he participated in an exhibition in Barcelona, Spain.




Address: 54-24 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2661 | Hours of Operation: 8 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Hirano Craft Store

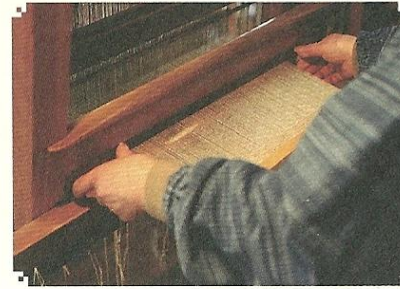
Using only the finest materials, this woodworker breathes life into over 50 varieties of carefully selected wood to create truly unique pieces. He uses a technique called *ichiboku zsukuri* that has him look at each piece of wood as a whole and study it carefully before planning out what to carve. Yoshinao's father, Goro, used to say 'trees take so much longer to grow up than humans and showing that growth is your job.' Yoshinao's motto is 'the mystery of nature' and continues to work that idea into his crafts. Please come and see pieces that are unique and unlike no other on earth.

 **Woodworker** Yoshinao Hirano

Yoshinao Hirano is a woodworker born in Sendai in 1965. In 2014 he took over the business after his father Goro passed away and took his father's words to heart as he continued to work as hard as he could. "I want to keep creating," was something that Yoshinao's father said at his last moment and Mr. Hirano's work continues his father's love for the craft as he works hard to make and create beautiful new works.



Address: 54-25 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2958 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Dyeing and Weaving Atelier Tsuru

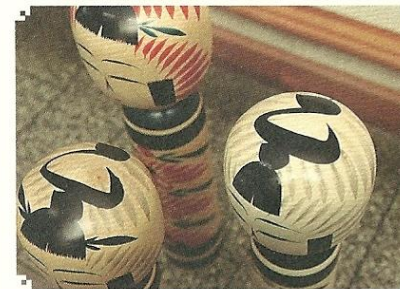
Tsuruko Watanabe moved to this Craft Village to fulfill her desire to dye items in a better condition and set a large Aigame (dyeing vat) in her studio. Every day in the studio she pursues perfect, rich colors with care. She communes with nature in Akiu, labors to make a unique shade every time, colors the yarn with natural dyes and takes time to weave it into a work. Her dedication to her handiwork such as collecting and raising the materials by hand and weaving them carefully, creates superior cloth that seems to get better the more you use it.

 **Dyeing and Weaving Artisan** Tsuruko Watanabe

Tsuruko Watanabe is a dyeing and weaving artisan born in Sendai in 1944. She studied under Yoshitaka Yanagi and Rikizo Munehiro. She has a strong commitment in making colors from her selection of plants without using chemical substances. She is also active in promoting traditional dyeing and weaving skills and is passionate in carrying on the culture both inside and outside Japan.



Address: 54-27 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-397-3181 | Hours of Operation: 10 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Sato Kokeshi Store

Akiu Kokeshi dolls have the unique characteristic of having the Japanese character "Z" (otsu) on their heads. A long time ago, a feudal lord had two kokeshi dolls made to ward off evil and gave one to his child and threw the other one into the Natori River to avoid misfortune for his family. This story shows the love of a parent and their prayers for the healthy growth of their child and is embodied in the kokeshi's cute expression. This skill, passed down from grandfather Sanzo, continues to carry on the kokeshi craft for three generations. They continue to challenge themselves by not only carrying on and preserving traditional techniques, but by also developing new and exciting crafts.

 **Kokeshi Makers** Kazuo and Takenao Sato

Kazuo Sato is a kokeshi maker born in Akiu in 1942. After he graduated from middle school he apprenticed in Togatta Town at a shop called Komuro under Yukio Sasaki and studied wood working. In 1961 he went back to his home and began to study painting from his father Takeo. Born and raised in Akiu, he carries on the tradition of making kokeshi with his son Takenao.



Address: 54-29 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiumachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2627 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Umoregi Store

Umoregi (bogwood) is a carbonized craft material found from the lignite layer in the Aobayama and Yagiya areas in Sendai City. These days it cannot be collected anymore; therefore, *Umoregi-zaiiku* (bogwood craft) is known to be an incredibly rare Japanese traditional craft. Using the traditional *Kurimono* (hollowing) technique, the shape is hollowed out from one piece of bogwood, and a *Fuki-Urushi* (rubbing in Japanese lacquer) process is applied for many layers to highlight the beautiful wood grain. The carefully made works embrace a deep grace and brim with the craftsman's confidence.



Bogwood Craft Artisan | Takashi Kotake

Takashi Kotake is a bogwood craft artisan born in Sendai in 1944. Regarded as the last stronghold among the bogwood craftsmen, he is leading Sendai's traditional craft. He was awarded many prizes including the 24th Japan Kogei Association East Japan Chapter Prize for New Traditional Craftworks (1984), and Miyagi Prefecture Art Encouragement Prize (1986).



Address: 54-30 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiomachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2803 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)



Wagatsuma Kokeshi Store

The father of Satoshi Wagatsuma, Kichisuke was the leading maker of *kokeshi* in the Togatta style and his son and grandson make up the third and second generation of Wagatsuma Kokeshi Store owners. Traditional *kokeshi* are usually made with wood lathes, but this shop uses this traditional lathe method to also make wooden dishes and toys. The natural wood projects a warmth and distinct feeling into every item. The artisans use the particular colors and characteristics of the wood that include Sendai's famous zelkova, Japanese pagoda, mulberry, and castor-aralia. They use their long years of experience to make the same beautiful item over and over again.



Kokeshi Maker | Satoshi Wagatsuma

Satoshi Wagatsuma is a kokeshi maker born in Sendai in 1950 Satoshi apprenticed under his father, Kichisuke, who was the leading maker of Togatta Style kokeshi dolls. He began making kokeshi that were based on Togatta style made in the Sato Matsunoshin way. He tries to capture a 'simplified beauty' and besides kokeshi they make bowls and dishes, serving trays, chopsticks and other wooden goods.

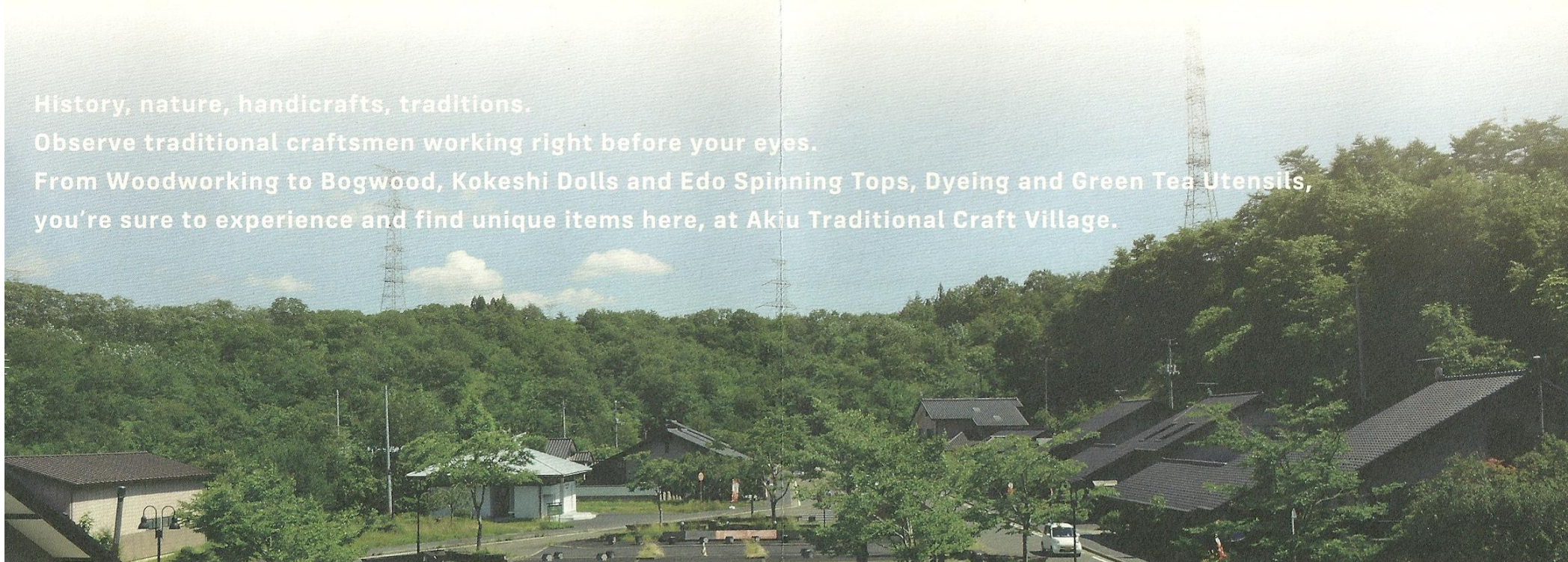


Address: 54-31 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiomachi | Phone Number: 022-398-2327 | Hours of Operation: 9 am-5 pm | Closed: Irregular Holidays
Hands-on Workshop: Those who wish to participate should contact the shop. (Advanced reservations are required.)

History, nature, handicrafts, traditions.

Observe traditional craftsmen working right before your eyes.

From Woodworking to Bogwood, Kokeshi Dolls and Edo Spinning Tops, Dyeing and Green Tea Utensils, you're sure to experience and find unique items here, at Akiu Traditional Craft Village.



Access

From Sendai City Center

By Car

Approx. 30 min. taking the National Route 48 (Sendai Nishi Road) via Prefecture Road 132 | Approx. 15 min. from Sendai-minami Exit

By Bus

Takeya Kotsu <Akiu / Kawasaki Sendai Seibu Liner>

Take the bus from Sendai Station Bus Stop 63, bound for 'Kawasaki-machi'. | Approx. 40 min. → Get off at 'Akiu Kogei-no-Sato'. One-way fare: Adults 770 yen

*** Reservations required during winter season. Tel: 0224-86-5525**

Miyagi Kotsu <Nishi Road Express *Only operated once a day on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays>

Take the bus from Sendai Station West Exit Bus Pool Bus Stop 8, bound for 'Akiu Onsen'. | Approx. 30 min. → Get off at 'Akiu Onsen Yumoto' → Approx. 20 min. walk

One-way fare: Adults 800 yen

Miyagi Kotsu <via Nagamachi Station, Nagamachi-minami Station, Nishitaga >

Take the bus from Sendai Station West Exit Bus Pool Bus Stop 8, bound for 'Akiu Onsen'. | Approx. 60 min. → Get off at 'Akiu Onsen Yumoto' → Approx. 20 min. walk

One-way fare: Adults 800 yen

From Sendai Airport

Sendai Airport Access Line

Approx. 20 min. to Nagamachi Station /

Approx. 25 min. to Sendai Station

Take the Miyagi Kotsu Bus from Nagamachi Station or Sendai Station bound for 'Akiu Onsen'.

If you are using public transportation from Sendai Airport to Akiu Onsen:

'Sendai Marugoto Pass' is the best value for your money!

<Sendai Marugoto Pass>

This pass is valid for two full days of rides on selected JR Lines, Sendai City Buses and Subways, Miyagi Kotsu Lines bound for Akiu, and the Sendai Airport Access Line.

Adults: 2,670 yen, Children 1,330 yen

Validity Period: 2 days

*** Buy it at Sendai Station, Sendai Airport, JR View Plazas and travel agencies.**

This information was current as of April 2016.

Please note that bus timetables are subject to change based on the season or day of the week.

Winter season is from December to March.

Map



Information

Akiu Traditional Craft Village

Address: 54-20 Aza Uehara, Yumoto, Akiu-machi, Taihaku-ku, Sendai 982-0241

Phone Number: 022-398-2673

(Representative: Akira Suzuki)

Issued by:

Tourism Section, Culture and Tourism Bureau, City of Sendai

Address: 3-7-1 Kokubuncho, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8671

Phone Number: 022-214-8259