

## **Accessory-making Workshop**

Visitors can make a business-card case using Matsuemon canvas. Takasago-born businessman and inventor Kuraku Matsuemon (1743–1812) is credited with making this tough cotton material using a loom of his own invention. The weaving method uses extra-thick cotton yarn to achieve the strength and durability that made the material popular nationwide during the Edo period (1603–1867). Today Matsuemon canvas, which has been adapted for the modern day, is used not only for sails, but also to make bags and other items, due to its durability and lightness.

This 30-minute workshop is held on the premises of weaving and sewing atelier Mikageya, which sells bags and accessories made of Matsuemon canvas. All Matsuemon canvas items on display have been handmade in the workshop at the back of the store by artisans who are among those who guide visitors in the workshop activity.

Although the instruction is in Japanese, it is easy to follow along. The canvas material is precut, so one simply has to hammer in rivets to hold the sides of the card case together. The workshop can accommodate up to six people at a time; children age three and above may participate if supervised by an adult. The fee is ¥500 per person, and participants are able to take home their card holder. Reservations are required. To join a workshop, send an email to [work\\_shop@takasago-tavb.com](mailto:work_shop@takasago-tavb.com), or apply through the Takasago City Tourism and Visitors Bureau website.