



# MUROTO EXCHANGE GIFT GIVING & IDEAS

When invited into a Japanese home, as a friend or for an official homestay, it is customary to bring a gift, or *omiyage*.

To the Japanese, gift giving is **a way of communicating respect, friendship, and appreciation**. When meeting with a Japanese colleague or visitor for the first time, always be prepared for the gift giving ritual that has been deeply embedded in the Japanese culture for centuries.

The presentation of the gift is important too; try to avoid white and brightly coloured wrapping paper however, as white symbolizes death and bright colours are considered too flashy. Also, try to avoid giving gifts in sets of four, as the word four in Japanese is *shi*, which is also associated with the word for death. Always present your gift with two hands.

When unwrapping a gift, Japanese people may carefully remove the paper/seals and keep the paper as a compliment.

- GIFT IDEAS:



# MUROTO EXCHANGE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- BATH:
- BOWING:
- CHOPSTICKS (see separate sheet)
- EATING & DINING:
- GIFTS (see separate sheet)
- SHOES & SLIPPERS:
- SLURP & SNIFF:
- TATAMI & FUTON:
- TOILET: