

# Japan's lucky bags offer New Year surprises

## Vocabulary Match

tradition ●      outlet ●      limited-edition ●      flavours ●      coupons ●      charms ●

● tastes      ● special      ● custom      ● trinkets      ● vouchers      ● store

## Article

Japan's fukubukuro (lucky bags) are a New Year tradition, offering great deals and surprises. This year, the Häagen-Dazs lucky bag stood out, especially for ice cream lovers. Sold at the brand's Gotemba outlet store, the 2,550-yen bag included 14 mini tubs, with limited-edition flavours from 2023, like Pistachio & Cacao and Matcha Azuki. Each tub cost about half the usual price, making it an amazing deal.

Other exciting lucky bags included McDonald's, with coupons and a Big Mac lantern, and Starbucks, offering coffee, drink tickets, and stylish bottles. Muji's Fukukan featured handcrafted charms, while Family Mart's bag included socks, an Imabari towel, and a soft T-shirt. These bags make New Year shopping in Japan a treat!

## Quiz

1. What is a fukubukuro?
2. Where was the Häagen-Dazs lucky bag sold?
3. What special items were in the McDonald's lucky bag?
4. What did the Family Mart lucky bag include?

## Conversation

A: Did you see the Häagen-Dazs lucky bag this year?  
B: Yeah, I got one! So many ice cream tubs inside.  
A: I heard they had special flavors too.  
B: Yes, like Pistachio & Cacao. Delicious!  
A: I went for the McDonald's bag. Got a Big Mac lantern!  
B: That sounds fun! Maybe I'll try that next year.

## Discussion

1. Have you ever bought a surprise bag?
2. What would you like to find in a lucky bag?
3. Do you think these bags are a good deal?
4. Do you like to eat ice cream in the winter?
5. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?