

# ENJOY! JAP<sup>OW</sup> HOKKAIDO

-JAPAN POWDER SNOW HOKKAIDO-



# Hokkaido: A World-Class Skiing and Snowboarding Destination

Hokkaido, the northernmost island in Japan, is a skiing and snowboarding mecca thanks to abundant snowfall of exceptional quality. The island is home to a multitude of world-class slopes covered in powder snow.





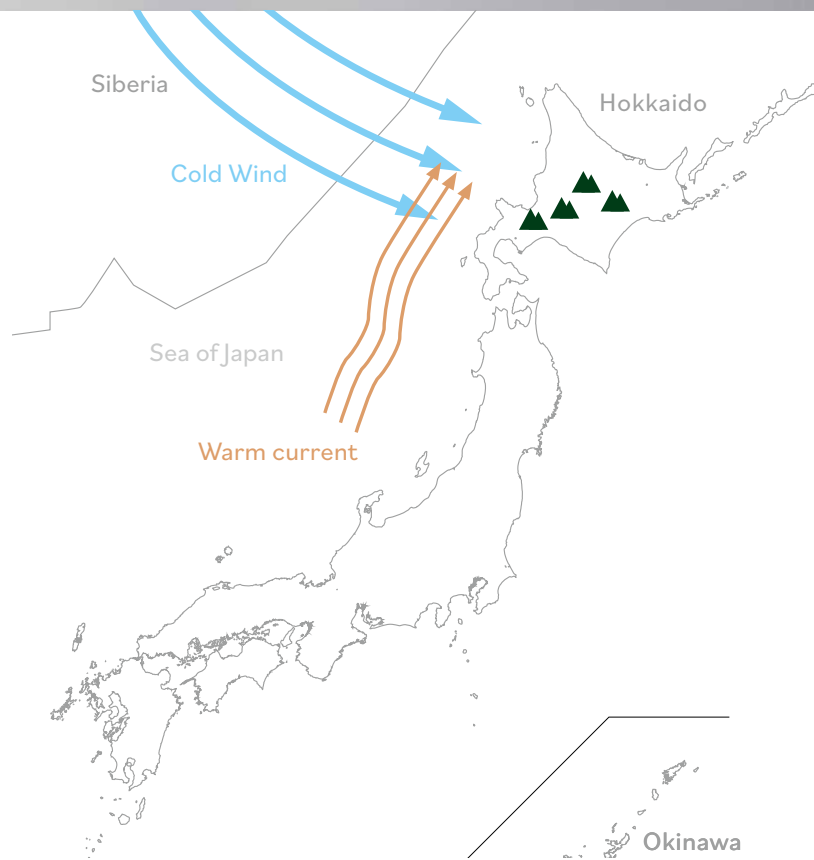
# World-Class Powder Snow

## The Secret to Hokkaido's Powder Snow

Hokkaido's powder snow comes from cold winds blowing down from Siberia that become a monsoon as they pick up large amounts of moisture on their way across the Sea of Japan. These winds create dense clouds that bring massive amounts of snowfall to the west coast of the island. The remaining dry air is then carried to inland lowlands where it climbs the slopes of nearby mountains, dropping in temperature dramatically and reforming into clouds that bring more snowfall. This is how Hokkaido gets powder snow of the highest quality.

## Abundant Snowfall

Hokkaido gets some of the heaviest snowfall in Japan. It is particularly heavy in Niseko and other areas in the west and center of the island.



DEEPEST  
SNOW DEPTH

5.3m

Deepest snow depth for the  
2018-2019 season in Niseko  
Hokkaido.

AVERAGE  
SNOWFALL

12-16m

Average snowfall for the  
2018-2019 season in Niseko  
Hokkaido.

AVERAGE TOTAL NO.  
OF SNOWFALL DAYS

80to100+DAYS

Average total No. of snowfall  
days for the 2018-2019 season  
in Niseko Hokkaido.



## Thirteen Major Hokkaido Ski Resorts

Hokkaido's famous ski resorts are located throughout the Sapporo area as well as western and central Hokkaido and are all excellent places to glide through the highest quality powder snow.

### SAPPORO AREA

Sapporo Teine

Sapporo Bankei Ski Area

Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area

### WESTERN HOKKAIDO

Kiroro Resort

Niseko Hanazono Resort

Niseko Annupuri International Ski Area

Niseko Village Ski Resort

Niseko MT. Resort Grand Hirahu

Rusutsu Resort

### CENTRAL HOKKAIDO

Kamui Ski Links

Asahikawa Airport

Sapporo

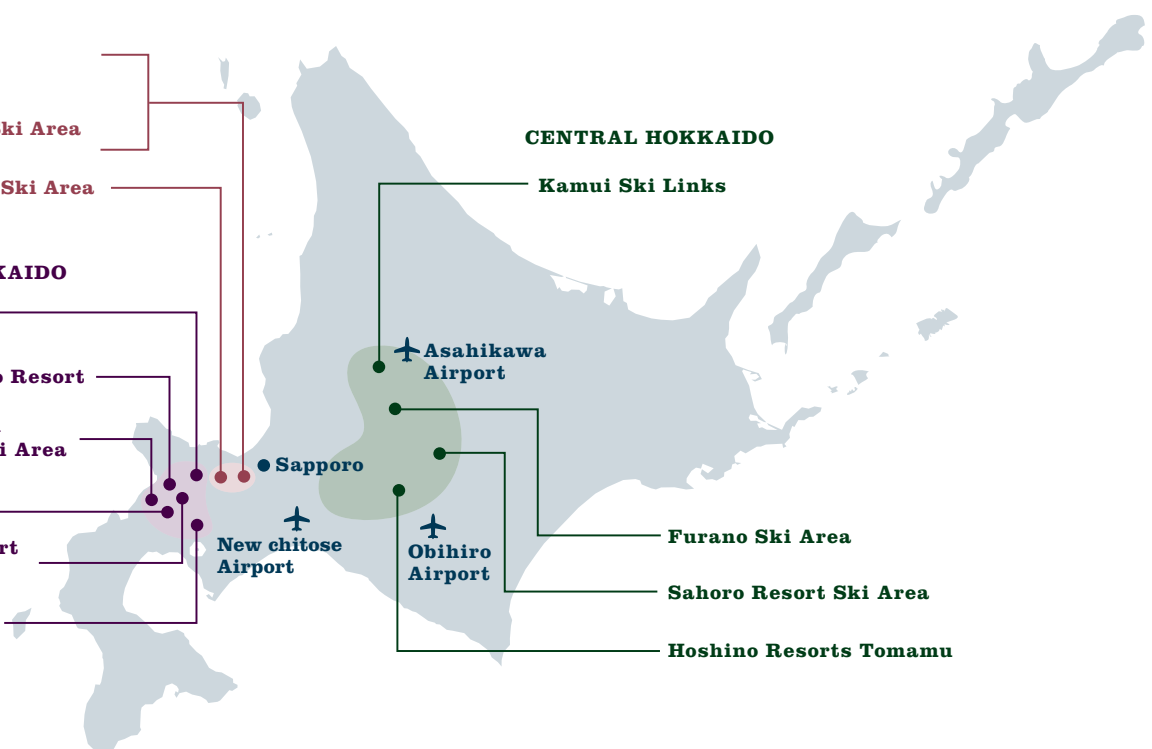
New Chitose Airport

Obihiro Airport

Furano Ski Area

Sahoro Resort Ski Area

Hoshino Resorts Tomamu



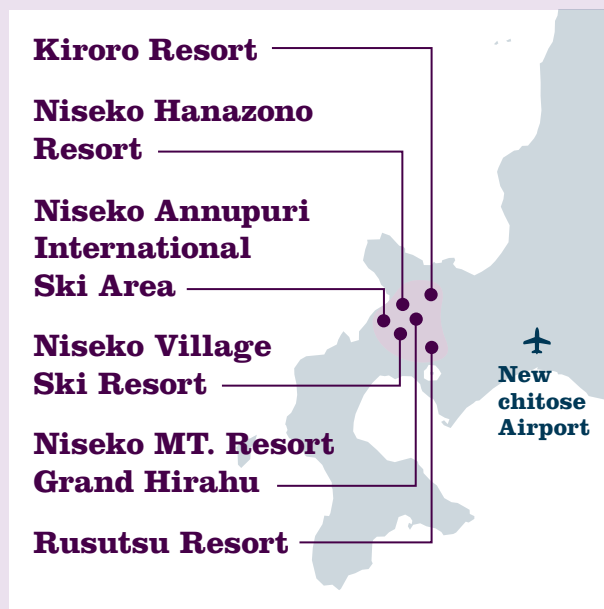
# **WESTEN**

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# **HOKKAIDO**

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Skiers and snowboarders from around the world flock to locations such as Niseko, Rusutsu and Kiroro. At these resorts, you'll find the highest quality powder snow, premium accommodations and a diverse range of hot springs.





Niseko HANAZONO Resort

# Take a Trip to Snowy Hokkaido to Play in JAPOW !

Picture this. The international borders are open, you've got limited time and you want the best powder experience money can buy.

You've come to the right place. The northern island of Japan, Hokkaido. Home to the powder capital of Niseko, the hidden gem of Kiroro ski resort, the quirky fun of Rusutsu and the bright lights of Sapporo. You'll be safe knowing that all Hokkaido resorts are operating with COVID-19 Safe Operating Plans in place, and resort towns offer appropriate social distancing.

Now throw in a ton of onsens, cool cocktail bars and Japan whisky, Hokkaido's famous milk puff and cheese tarts, sake and so much more, and you've got a truly unique ski and snowboard destination that hits the mark every time.

But first, the grand dame of Japan powder, Niseko.



## Aaron Jamieson

My name is Aaron Jamieson, an Australian photographer who arrived on the island of Hokkaido in 2006. Immediately finding a connection to the people, wild seasons and uncharted frontiers, I have been exploring all corners of the island ever since.

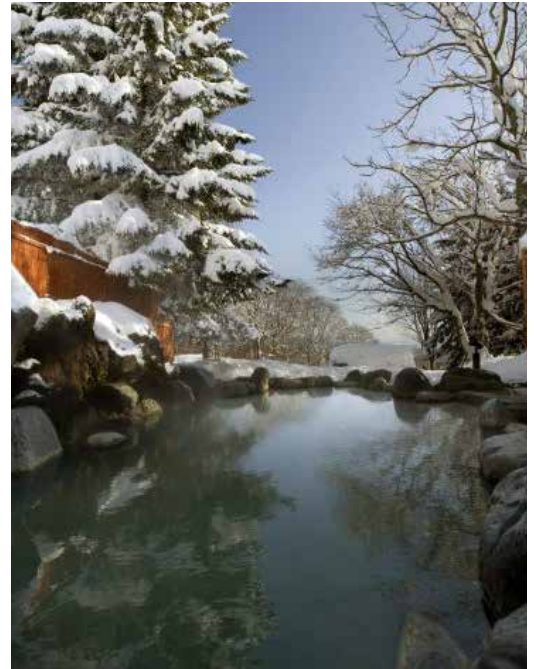
Drawn to unique landscapes, my photographic exploration also includes the cold and remote mountain regions of Australia, Iceland, Greenland and Patagonia. For all of this exploration, Hokkaido's endless intrigue makes it a lifelong expedition - the reason I call this island home.

I am based in Niseko and spend my time between my gallery, AJ Gallery in my home village of Hirafu, and leading photographic workshops across Hokkaido.

<http://aaronjamieson.com/>



Niseko's golden light



Niseko Village Green Leaf Onsen

## Niseko's Internationally Renowned Ski Resorts

Niseko is the unofficial capital of powder-filled Japan: it boasts big snowfalls over 16 metres a season (thanks to Siberian weather systems across the Japan Sea), a huge range of delicious, modern restaurants and bars ranging from quirky to heritage or contemporary plus plenty of on and off-piste adventures. Trust us, you'll be hooked.

Fly into Sapporo's New Chitose Airport and rent a car or get one of the many transport options direct to Niseko by train, coach or private transfer. The resort is just a two hour drive from Sapporo.

Then get ready to explore four integrated Niseko United resorts - Hirafu, Niseko Village, Annupuri and Hanazono. There are endless spots to discover on the mountain, with plenty of powder to go around. Your lift pass will also allow you to explore all interconnected ski areas, with enough terrain here to keep your whole crew smiling in powder-filled white rooms for days.

Looking for more gentle groomed slopes with wider runs? Head to **Niseko Annupuri**, the perfect spot for beginners and intermediates to improve their skills, with some off piste terrain to keep the advanced in your group happy. On a clear day you can enjoy pristine ski runs with a view of the famous Mt Yotei volcano that dominates the Niseko skyline.





Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve

**Niseko Village** is perhaps most famous for skiers and winter sports lovers for its steep, well-groomed trails and fabulous off-piste powder area. Of particular note is an area called Mizuno no Sawa, and extreme “Avalanche Control Operation Area,” which for advanced skiers consists one of the Niseko’s best top-to-bottom runs.

If a quieter vibe is more your scene, it’s not a bad idea to settle yourself over the mountain in the Niseko Village, home to four ski-in, ski-out hotels offering a variety of accommodation offerings from budget to luxe with onsens and roof top bars. You can play where you stay or venture 15 minutes away for more action.

The base of Niseko Village resort is centred around Hilton Niseko Hotel, a carefully curated shopping and dining hub offering traditional Japanese cuisine, izakayas, teppanyaki, premium sports products, local artisans’ goods and more. Bed down in a Kasara Niseko Village townhouse, wake to views of Mount Yotei from your exclusive apartment in Hinode Hills Niseko Village, or check in to the contemporary The Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village.

Feeling fancy? The newest accommodation offering is the seriously high end Higashiyama Reserve, a Ritz Carlton Reserve hotel, the first of its kind in Japan.







Niseko Mt. Resort Grand HIRAFU

**Niseko Grand HIRAFU** offers skiers an opportunity to enjoy some of the best snow in Japan, as well as the opportunity to relax in style afterwards in one of the resort's many hot springs, swimming pools or massage facilities.

This resort has some of the largest slopes in Niseko, as well as six ungroomed courses for advanced skiers and snowboarders to enjoy easy access to the powder. What's more, the season here is lengthy, making it a great option for spring skiing. This year it is scheduled to be open until May 5 - so although we can't yet travel ourselves, we can keep living vicariously through snowy images, dreaming of spring 2022!

At Niseko Grand HIRAFU, you can also purchase lift tickets online, saving you time at the ticket counter and making it quicker to start your day on the slopes! Here you also have the option to rent a unique variety of advanced skis and snowboards, some of which are designed specifically for powder skiing. There is also a Japan "Brand Corner" which offers high-spec skis and snowboards, made right here in Japan and designed to give advanced skiers the best possible time in that famous Japow!





**HANAZONO** is one of the 4 resorts of Niseko United sharing Mt. Annupuri, Niseko's main peak, and it keeps its famous powder snow all day long by being on the north eastern side of the mountain.



The development continues with the complete new gondola and current Hana 1 lift being replaced by 6 heater seaters coming up in 21-22 season, after the recently opened Park Hyatt Niseko HANAZONO, a masterpiece 5 star ski-in ski-out hotel offering a modern comfort and a wide range of restaurants at the base of the resort.



As part of the many activities available in the resort, the area's only resort operated back country tours, HANAZONO Powder Guides (HPG) and CAT tour, are not to be missed for those who are after experiencing the best of its terrains covered by the powder snow.

HPG offers the first track in the resort and then tours out of the resort boundaries, while CAT tour takes the guests to have the whole mountain called Weiss Horn to themselves, giving a good chance to experience the back country debutants to experience the powder terrain.

Non-skiers will also have a notable variety of things to do. HANAZONO has all photogenic Snowmobile, Snow Rafting, Snowshoe tours to have the best snow experience, as well as Tubing park and Indoor activity "Galaxy o Kids" providing great facility for children to enjoy the time in the resort.

## Niseko Highlights and Attractions

While snowboarders and skiers will take delight in the snowy slopes, Niseko also has many highlights that will appeal to a foodie's sensibilities.

### Takahashi Farm (Milk Kobo)

A must-see for many visitors to Niseko, Takahashi Farm, or 'Niseko Milk Kobo,' is sure to please children and the young-at-heart. The farm produces delicious cheese tarts and famous choux à la crème (cream puffs) as well as chocolate, drinking yogurt, ice cream, cheese tarts, and many other tasty dairy treats, all from its own homemade milk. Located on the road leading up to Niseko Village, Takahashi Farm has become a famous icon of the Niseko area and expanded to include gift shops, restaurants, and a cheese factory complete with a pizza restaurant.



888-1, Soga, Niseko-Cho, Abuta-Gun, Hokkaido  
TEL:0136-44-3734

### Niseko Konbu Onsen Tsuruga Bessou (Moku no Sho)

Nestled in a nook below a tumbling waterfall, Moku no Sho is a hidden onsen retreat in the quieter Niseko resort area of Moiwa. The hotel entrance has a striking Ainu-inspired (indigenous Hokkaido people) design to welcome visitors and an adjoining restaurant and lounge area centered on a cozy fireplace. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, some with a private onsen looking out to the waterfall alongside the hotel. Moku no Sho is a truly luxurious escape away from the hustle and bustle of the busier, central Niseko resort area.



393, Niseko, Niseko-Cho, Abuta-Gun, Hokkaido  
TEL:0136-59-2323



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## Ebisutei: Hokkaido Izakaya

Iconic eatery Ebisutei is one of Hirafu's most popular izakayas. An izakaya, considered the Japanese alternative to an English pub or bar, is a lively, laid-back space for socialising, drinking and eating – a great option for anyone looking for the local après-ski experience. Ebisutei is one of the best we've experienced, demonstrated by its popularity with both locals and visitors. Signature dishes include zangi on a hot iron plate, Kutchan potato salad. Hokke (whole grilled fish) and sashimi, as well as spicy buffalo chicken wings!



155-132, Aza-Yamada, Kutchan-Cho, Abuta-Gun, Hokkaido  
TEL:0136-22-6544

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## Toshiro's Bar

Stop by Hirafu's hidden gem Toshiro's Bar to wind down. Tucked away in the Hirafutei hotel on the ground floor overlooking the ski slopes, pick a whisky from some of Japan's rarest bottles while you overlook the ski slopes lit up like a fairy tale for night skiing; or sample the Tingling Penicillin, a smoked whisky drink spiced with Sichuan pepper.



Niseko Prince Hotel Hirafutei LB, 204, Aza-Yamada, Kutchan-Cho, Abuta-Gun, Hokkaido  
TEL:0136-23-3377





Photo credit: Mint Tours

## Kiroro Powder Secret

Kiroro Resort, in Akaigawa, is about an hour and 15 minutes from Sapporo. And coming from Niseko, it only takes about an hour to get there. Despite being so close, you won't find any crowds hunting the snow in Kiroro; in fact, the powder's in pristine quality and your legs will be burning from maximum time shredding, minimum time standing in lift lines.

The entire resort is nestled in a beautiful valley surrounded by forests and pristine nature. The resort's lift system serves two peaks, also providing access to groomed terrain for all levels of skiers. But we know you're here for the pow – and the backcountry access from the resort is world-class, managed by a system designed to encourage safe backcountry skiing for all advanced riders.

Night life's a little quieter in these parts, but that's not to say there's nothing to do once the lifts stop spinning. The three hotels in Kiroro (The Sheraton, the Tribute Portfolio Hotel and Yu Kiroro) are closely connected and each have extensive dining, shopping and onsen options. So you can ski and board hard by day, eat, onsen and recover by night.



The gorgeously lit lobby of Kiroro resort's Yu Kiroro condominium.



## Rusutsu, a Powderhound Playground

Just 90 minutes' drive from Sapporo and New Chitose Airport, Rusutsu is one of Hokkaido's best resorts. It's a little less well known than neighbouring Niseko and as a result enjoys far quieter slopes throughout the season.

The ski area spans three peaks, with 14 lifts and 4 gondolas (trust us, you'll be glad of these on those seriously cold, snowy days). The snow stats don't disappoint either – Rusutsu is said to receive an incredible 13 metres average snowfall annually, with a huge variety of terrain across which to enjoy it. Whether you want to experience Rusutsu's famous tree skiing, ease into some gentle powder fields or take on steeper challenges, there's something for everyone.

Indeed, though Rusutsu's main draw is undoubtedly the powder, this is also great resort for those who might not want to spend all their time off the piste. 37 pisted runs are available, all impeccably groomed and catering to all levels of skiers, with night skiing available too!



In Rusutsu you've also got the opportunity to experience the powder in a different way, with a range of alternative activities including snowmobile adventures. Whether you're an experienced driver wanting to fly through untracked powder, or a beginner just looking for a little adrenaline, snowmobiling is an incredibly fun way to experience these magical winter landscapes.



Off the snow, Rusutsu is incredibly well facilitated, with the several hotels and facilities that make up the resort offering a number of dining opportunities, shopping and onsen options.

|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>NISEKO VILLAGE Ski Resort</b>  | <b>Address</b> | Higashiyama, Niseko-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido hot spring, 048-1592 |
| <a href="https://www.niseko-village.com/en/">https://www.niseko-village.com/en/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 136-44-2211   |

**Explore the mountains of Niseko in a powder snow heaven overlooking Mt. Yotei**

The slopes weave through untouched forests, connecting to four resort hotels, and are exactly what you'd expect from a mountain resort. Enjoy one of the longest powder snow runs in Japan, and fill your days with skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and even snowshoeing! Explore the magnificent mountains of Niseko in a powder snow heaven overlooking Mt. Yotei.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 1, 2020 to Apr. 4 (Expected schedule), 2021 8:30~16:30  
 Night Skiing operation: Dec.19, 2020 to Mar.7, 2021 16:30~20:00  
 \*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 3 hours)**  
 [JR] New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→Bus or Taxi  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 150 minutes)**  
 [JR] Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→Bus or Taxi  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>NISEKO Mt.RESORT Grand HIRAFU</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 204 Yamada, Kutchan-Cho, Abuta-Gun, Hokkaido, Japan 044-0081 |
| <a href="https://www.grand-hirafu.jp/winter/en/">https://www.grand-hirafu.jp/winter/en/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 136-22-0109  |

**A winter resort of the largest scale in Japan with the highest quality snow**

The lift runs a distance of 940 meters from top to bottom. Jetting down the mountain as powder snow flies in your wake is a feeling that's impossible to match. In addition to being one of Japan's largest resorts and the incredible quality of the snow, the resort features two ski centers, high-speed 8-seat gondolas and other facilities. After a day on the slopes, relax and rest up at a variety of accommodations, restaurants and nearby quality hot springs at the town at the foot of the mountain.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 5, 2020 to May 5, 2021 8:30~16:30  
 Night Skiing operation: Dec.19, 2020 to Mar.7, 2021 16:30~20:00  
 \*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 3 hours)**  
 [JR] New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→Bus or Taxi  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 150 minutes)**  
 [JR] Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→Bus or Taxi  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Niseko Hanazono Resort</b>   | <b>Address</b> | 328-36, Iwaobetsu, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, Japan 044-0082                  |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 136-23-0103 General Inquiry / +81 136-21-6688 Booking for lessons and activities |
| <a href="https://hanazononiseko.com/en">https://hanazononiseko.com/en</a> |                |  |

**Hanazono has something for all ages, from beginners to powder enthusiasts**

This ski resort faces the northeastern side of Mt. Niseko-Annupuri. If you take a ride up all three high-speed lifts, you'll be greeted by an incredible view of Mt. Yotei, with the magnificent summit of Annupuri on the other side. There are a variety of slopes, from long groomed trails, to ungroomed tree runs. The jump is the main event at the park, so it's a great spot for catching some air or flowing with the movement of the terrain.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 5, 2020 to Mar.28, 2021 8:30~17:00  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 3 hours)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→10 min by Taxi  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 150 minutes)**  
[JR]Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Kutchan Sta.→10 min by Taxi  
**From Hirafu (Approx. 20 minutes)**  
Free Hanazono Shuttle Bus

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Niseko Annupuri International Ski Area</b>   | <b>Address</b> | 485 Niseko Niseko-Cho Abuta-Gun Hokkaido, Japan 048-1511 |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 136-58-2080  |
| <a href="https://annupuri.info/winter/english/">https://annupuri.info/winter/english/</a> |                |  |

**Enjoy the highest quality powder snow at a serene winter resort**

Niseko is a destination for skiers from all across Japan and the world, and you'll find plenty of runs designed for beginners and family fun as well as off-piste runs for those looking for more of a challenge. The slopes are known for being incredibly well maintained, and are especially magnificent on clear days, when you can gaze out at Mt. Yotei as you cruise down trails of up to 4,000 meters.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Nov. 28, 2020 to May 5, 2021 8:30-16:30  
Night Skiing operation: Dec. 19, 2020 to Mar. 7, 2021 16:30-20:00  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 3 hours)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Niseko Sta.→10 min by Taxi or Bus  
[Bus] Direct Bus is available.  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 150 minutes)**  
[JR]Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Niseko Sta.→10 min by Taxi or Bus  
[Bus] Direct Bus is available.



# NISEKO Rules

Niseko used to have the highest number of fatal avalanche accidents in all of Japan.

The Niseko Rules were implemented in order to reduce and prevent accidents backcountry areas. Our community respects your freedom to ski/snowboard, but we are also deeply concerned about your safety. All resort users must obey the following rules for the safety of everyone.

- 1. Always use gates when entering backcountry areas.**
- 2. Do not duck boundary ropes.**
- 3. Everyone skiing/snowboarding in backcountry areas should wear a helmet and carry an avalanche beacon.**
- 4. Backcountry skiing/snowboarding is prohibited when gates are closed.**
- 5. Never enter off-limits areas at any time (except for official rescue and research operations).**
- 6. Elementary school children are not allowed in backcountry areas unless accompanied by an elder companion.**

## SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION

- 1. A minimum of ¥100,000 will be charged for search and rescue operations in backcountry areas.**
- 2. Rules violators may be banned from using the resort facilities by having their lift-pass confiscated and/or refused to reissue a new pass.**
- 3. Many past accidents have occurred during bad weather conditions. Always be cautious and never overestimate your self or equipment. Make sure to obey the ski patrol's instructions. Beware of crevasses and trees. Mountains are never 100% safe.**
- 4. The Niseko Avalanche Information is the area's official information. The hazard level is estimated using systems and methods developed by the Niseko Avalanche Institute.**
- 5. Carrying an avalanche beacon, a probe and a shovel is very highly recommended. This equipment may save not only your life but your buddy's too.**

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Rusutsu Resort</b>   | <b>Address</b> | 13 Izumikawa, Rusutsu-mura, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 048-1711 |
| <a href="https://rusutsu.com/en/">https://rusutsu.com/en/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 136-46-3111  |

### Hokkaido's largest winter resort features 37 runs

Hokkaido's largest winter resort features 37 trails across three mountains, Mt. West, Mt. East and Mt. Isola, for a combined 42 kilometers of skiing. There are plenty of trails to explore, from the wide groomed berms perfect for beginners to Freedom Park, a run for intermediate to advanced skiers, and even the natural terrain of the ungroomed back-country. Enjoy winter in Hokkaido at Rutsutsu Resort for the highest quality powder snow, incredible locales and a feast of Hokkaido cuisine.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 4, 2020 to Apr. 4(Expected schedule), 2021 9:00~17:00  
Night Skiing operation: Dec.10, 2020 to Mar.31, 2021 16:00~20:00  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access** **From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 2 hours)**  
[Bus] Direct Bus (reservation and payment required )  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 2 hours)**  
[Bus] Free Shuttle Bus (reservation required)

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>KIRORO RESORT</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 128-1 Tokiwa Akaigawa-Mura Yoichi-Gun Hokkaido, Japan 046-0593 |
| <a href="https://www.kiroro.co.jp/">https://www.kiroro.co.jp/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 135-34-7111  |

### A dynamic winter resort that's only an hour from Sapporo and open until May!

Everyone from beginners to experts will love the dynamic range of 23 massive runs and 14 off-piste areas at this winter resort, spread across the two mountains of Asari and Nagamine. On days with heavy snowfall, accumulation exceeds five meters of world-class powder. In addition to skiing and snowboarding, you'll also find tons of fun winter activities like banana boat rides. The resort is only about 90 minutes from the New Chitose Airport, the gateway to Hokkaido, or about an hour from Sapporo.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Nov. 28, 2020 to Mar. 31, 2021 9:00~16:00/Apr. 1, 2021 to May 5, 2021 9:00~15:00  
Night Skiing operation: Dec. 2020 to Jan. 2021 16:00~19:00(It has already been closed by the end of January.)  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access** **From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 90 minutes)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Otaru Chikko Sta.→Taxi  
[Bus] Direct Bus (reservation and payment required )  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 1 hour)**  
[JR]Sapporo Sta.→Otaru Sta.→Taxi  
[Bus] Direct Bus (reservation and payment required )

# **THE** **SAPPORO** **AREA**

Despite being a major city, Sapporo boasts incredible snow quality.

There are places to ski only 20 to 60 minutes from the city center, making it easy to enjoy everything that both the slopes and the city have to offer.





## **Sapporo: There are Three Places for Skiing Nearby, and It's Full of Fun!**

Once you've finished up in Rusutsu, it's just 90 minutes to return to the city of Sapporo, where you can do some exploring (and shopping) before heading back home. Sapporo is the capital of Hokkaido Prefecture and by far its most famous city. Here you can enjoy some of the freshest seafood, best powder snow slopes, and most unique traditional culture of anywhere in the world.



## Sapporo Kokusai Ski Resort

Sapporo Kokusai Ski Resort is one of the ski resorts that is easily accessible from the centre of Sapporo and is a recommended destination. It is a bit smaller in size than other snow resorts in Hokkaido, but it offers everything you would want to experience on a ski trip in Japan. It boasts spacious slopes, less crowded lifts, and days of untracked snow, making it an attractive place for many skiers.

With excellent facilities off the slopes, including a state-of-the-art lift system and an excellent ski school, Sapporo Kokusai is, in our opinion, is the hidden gem of Hokkaido. For beginner skiers, there are a variety of well-developed areas for practice and for more advanced skiers, there is an abundance of excellent powder snow to enjoy.





## Sapporo Bankei Ski Area

You can ski until 10:00PM at Sapporo Bankei Ski Area. Skiers and riders enjoy a total of 17 courses, from gentle slopes suitable for families to advanced courses such as FIS certified moguls and half pipes. The night view of the city is a must-see.

The expanded Snow Park is a snow playground with sledding, tubing, etc., where tourists and children can play safely. A great alternative for those not looking to hit the slopes skiing or riding. The resort is only a 20-minute drive from the center of Sapporo.

## Sapporo Teine Ski Resort

Sapporo Teine is conveniently located only about 40 minutes by car from downtown Sapporo! It is a full-scale ski resort at an altitude of more than 1,000 meters above sea level, spread out on the Mt. Teine-yama, where the 1972 Sapporo Olympics were held.

The 15 slopes offer a wide variety of terrain with the best powder for beginners to advanced skiers. There is also not only a wide range of attractions including a Dinosaur Kids Park, a terrain park and a beginner snow-cross course but also a ski school and a restaurant, so you can feel at ease with your family and friends.

If the weather is good, you can see not only the city of Sapporo, but also Ishikari Bay, the Mashike Mountains, and even the Taisetsu-zan Mountains.



## Eat Local food

Forget the heavy meats and cheese you might be used to after a day on the slopes, in Hokkaido you can enjoy delicious fresh seafood and exciting sushi restaurants of the highest quality. Trust us when we say any thoughts of cheese or bread will be quickly forgotten.

The chefs here have mastered their specialities over many years, developing complex flavour pairings and unique cooking styles. Most recommended is the famous Jingsukan, a Japanese grilled mutton dish prepared on a convex metal skillet or grill. It allows for a highly enjoyable cook-your-own style dining experience, where fresh meat is brought to your table and prepared to perfection on the grill right before your eyes. We'd recommend enjoying with a cold beer in hand after a great day's skiing, there's really no better way to wind down!



## Visit Nijo Market

Still wanting more of that fishy goodness? Don't miss Nijo fish Market, a hub of local activity and the place to go for the freshest fish in Sapporo. The market has been a feature of life here for over 100 years, with many the current shops and vendors having played an integral part in developing its character over the years.

The market is attractive, authentic and energetic, providing a unique sightseeing experience as you sample the many tastes on offer from the market restaurants and those in the surrounding streets. Don't miss the famous local seafood speciality of Hokkaido King Crab – a delicious delicacy you can have packed in ice to take home, or prepared for you to eat right there at the market!





## Rest and Rejuvenate at Jozankei Onsen

Soothe those weary ski-resort muscles at your second day trip, Jozankei Onsen, located inside Shikotsu-Toya National Park between the high cliffs of the Toyohira River. People have been flocking here to beat the cold since the Meiji Era (in the 19th century), when a monk discovered the waters and decided to open a healing spa. It's thought that the mineral-rich waters can have therapeutic effects for a wide range of health conditions.

To this day it remains one of the most popular and easily accessible onsen spots from Sapporo. It boasts dozens of traditional Japanese ryokan inns with their own baths. Public baths and free foot spas are also dotted around town. Day entry to a ryokan's bath typically costs from 500 to 2,000 yen, but for the full luxury experience, consider staying overnight in a traditional tatami room.

Once you're feeling all nice and Zen, head out for a walk around town to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the valley. You'll spot steaming water bubbling up through the rocks all over the place, from the 56 different springs which feed the baths of the ryokan.

Hokkaido is an other-worldly experience that's rich with Japanese culture, history, traditions, fun, and lots of JAPOW. Hokkaido is the place to visit, once the pandemic is over!





|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Sapporo Kokusai Skiing Resort</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 937, Jozankei, Minami-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido, 061-2301 |
| <a href="https://www.sapporo-kokusai.jp/en/">https://www.sapporo-kokusai.jp/en/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 11-598-4511   |

**Slopes with natural, abundant snow during a long winter season**

This ski resort is only 1.5 hours from central Sapporo, making it easy to get to via local buses that run throughout the season. The resort features some of Hokkaido's highest-quality snow and large-scale runs. The longest slope runs an incredible 3.6 kilometers and is perfect for everyone from beginners to experts, and even families. There are even beginner lessons in English! Make sure to check out the view from the 1,100 meter-high summit.



**Hours** Early Season: Nov. 20, 2020 to Nov. 30, 2021 9:00~15:20/Regular Season: Dec.1, 2020 to Mar.31, 2021 9:00~17:00/Spring Season: Apr.1, 2021 to May 9, 2021 9:00~16:30  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 100 minutes)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Bus→Sapporo Kokusai Ski Resort  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 1 hour)**  
[Bus]  
Fixed Route Bus  
Reservation Tour Bus

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>SAPPORO BANKEI SKI AREA</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 410 Bankei, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 064-0945 |
| <a href="https://www.bankei.co.jp/rental/#english-lesson">https://www.bankei.co.jp/rental/#english-lesson</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 11-641-0071  |

**A ski area with night skiing until 10 pm and multilingual staff**

This ski area is just a 20-minute drive from central Sapporo and open until 10 pm daily, so it's easy to hit the slopes after a day of sightseeing. The 17 trails feature a variety of terrain, from gentle slopes perfect for families to runs that are used in international competitions. The multilingual Welcome Team is on hand to help our international visitors.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 18, 2020 to Mar. 31, 2021 9:00~22:00  
Night Skiing operation: Dec.25, 2020 to Mar.31, 2021 16:00~22:00  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 1 hour)**  
[JR/Subway]JR New Chitose Airport Sta.→JR Sapporo Sta.→Subway Sapporo Sta.→Each Sta. \*See“From Sapporo”for details.  
**From Sapporo** [Fixed Route Bus]/From Subway Tozai Line“Maruyama Koen Sta.”(Approx. 15 minutes)  
From Subway Tozai Line“Hassamu minami Sta.”(Approx. 20 minutes)  
From Subway Nanboku Line“Makomanai Sta.”(Approx. 25 minutes)

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>SAPPORO TEINE</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 593 Teinehoncho, Teine-Ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan 006-0029 |
| <a href="https://sapporo-teine.com/snow/lang/en/">https://sapporo-teine.com/snow/lang/en/</a> | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 11-682-6000  |

**A full-scale resort and Olympic venue inside the city of Sapporo**

Conveniently located about 40 minutes by car from central Sapporo, this historic ski area with incredible powder snow was the Olympic venue for alpine skiing. The summit is over 1,000 meters above sea level, and boasts an incredible view that extends from the city of Sapporo to Ishikari Bay. The steep north face of the mountain, KITA KABE, is untouched by grooming vehicles and is some of the most challenging skiing in Japan. Terrain Park is a dynamic run equipped with jumps and jibs that can be enjoyed by everyone from beginners to experts. Beginner and family lessons are available in both English and Chinese.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Nov. 21, 2020 to May 5, 2021 9:00~17:00  
 Night Skiing operation: Dec. 5, 2020 to Mar. 28, 2021 16:00~21:00  
 \*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access** **From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 1 hour)**  
 [[JR]]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Teine Sta.→Bus  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 40 minutes)**  
 [[JR]]Sapporo Sta.→Teine Sta.→Bus  
 \*Reserved buses are available from downtown Sapporo bound to Ski Resort”



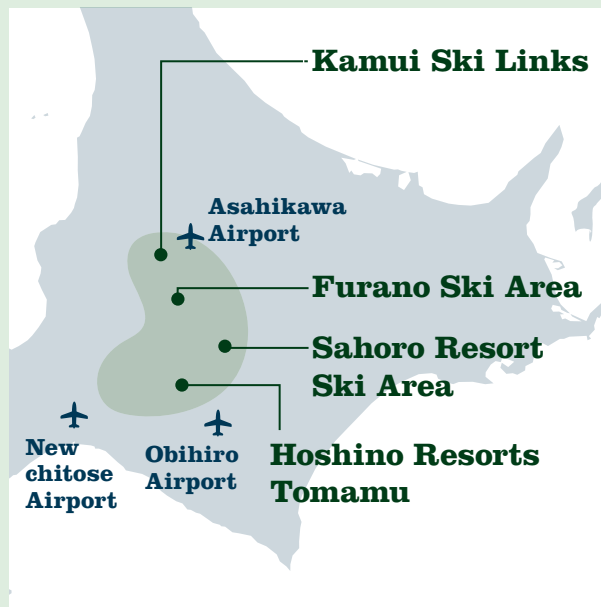
# **CENTRAL**

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# **HOKKAIDO**

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In Central Hokkaido, as well, you'll find resorts blessed with abundant powder snow. The slopes of Furano, Asahikawa, Tomamu and Sahoro are all highly regarded by both skiers and snowboarders.



# The Joy of Japow – Explore Hokkaido’s Hidden Gems

Even after having lived in Japan for a little over two years, some corners of this fascinating country still seem distant and unknown to me. Until recently, Hokkaido was one of those places — a land of powdered slopes, amazing food, and unique culture, which I’d heard stories about from snow sports lovers the world over. Needless to say, I jumped at my chance to get right in the middle of it — quite literally. My gateway to this ancient isle was Asahikawa, in central Hokkaido. Being right at the heart of the area puts you within striking distance of some of the best ski slopes in the world, the most varied Hokkaido cuisine, and the most outstanding natural beauty.

Even better, Hokkaido’s second city and its surroundings are still largely off most foreign tourists’ radar. That kind of unspoiled authenticity is a rare thing these days and makes for a far more Japanese experience than you’ll find pretty much anywhere else.

Let’s take a look at some of the best slopes and sights this amazing pocket of Japan has to offer.



## Callum Howe

I’m a freelance writer from sunny Scotland with a love of literature and techno. It’s been around 7 years since my first trip to Japan and life hasn’t been quite the same since. For the past 2 years I’ve been living and working in Tokyo. Through my writing I like to share my fascination for the art, nature, and culture of Japan, old and new.

<https://www.callumhowe.com/>



Kamui Ski Links

## Asahikawa City: Hokkaido’s Ski and Snowboard Hub

Arriving right in the middle of December, I had worried that I might be a little early to see any heavy snowfall — how naive I was. On the journey from the airport to the hotel, you’ll be greeted with mounds of said powder piled up meters high along the side of the road and a complete blanket of white over everything in sight.

Asahikawa city is celebrated in Japan as a ski and snowboard hub, and it’s easy to see why.

Asahikawa and the surrounding region actually have better geography for powder snow in Hokkaido than the more famous Sapporo. That’s because it’s much further inland than the prefectural capital, meaning that the snow’s moisture level is significantly lower. Aside from the simple meteorological benefits, the city also has some great infrastructure, making it a perfect base camp for skiing in Hokkaido. Trains and buses connect it to over half a dozen quality ski areas within a 40-minute to two-hour range.

As for the city itself, the activity, nightlife, and dining options offer plenty to fill up your evenings (and any rest days for aching legs). Think sake bars, craft beer bars, onsen hot spring baths, ancient little hole-in-the-wall eateries, nightclubs on the weekend, and so much more.

# Overnight Stay in Asahikawa at Hoshino Resorts OMO7 Asahikawa



9 Rokujo, Asahikawa-shi, Hokkaido  
TEL.0166-29-2666

My base for all of that action was Hoshino Resorts OMO7 Asahikawa, a newly renovated hotel housed inside a large red brick building near the city's central train station. As far as first impressions go, it doesn't get much better than this; the lobby is a vast, chic chill-out space with the cafe bar area adjacent, where an outstanding buffet breakfast is served each morning.

You'll also find a ski shop and wax bar on the first floor, stocked with 30 kinds of wax which can be chosen according to the day's specific conditions. The map in the lobby of all the ski resorts with free bus links directly from the hotel will set any powder hunter's heart aflutter.

Hoshino Resorts OMO7 Asahikawa is part of the prestigious Hoshino Resorts group, but this is one of their more casual properties. The focus is very much on fun-packed adventure vacations. They offer suite rooms, twin rooms, double rooms, and family rooms with five single beds. These five-bedrooms would be perfect for a group of friends looking to slash the cost of their trip.

The rooms have a modern Japanese vibe, split between a carpeted area and an elevated platform with a seating area and beds. After settling into my lovely modern double room, I had just enough time to catch a dip in the hotel's in-house sauna bath before heading out on the town.

I wasn't flying blind however, and I didn't even have to trudge through a single Google Maps review all night! That's because Hoshino Resorts OMO7 Asahikawa offers a fantastic nighttime service: the OMO Rangers. These are a group of highly-knowledgeable local expert guides clad in color-coded jackets.



At 6 PM each evening, guests can meet them in the lobby to head off on a guided tour of the city center to discover the famous spots and hidden gems within walking distance of the hotel. The colored jackets aren't just a fashion statement either; each represents a different kind of tour. Green is for izakaya bars and other watering holes, yellow is for ramen, blue is for the tiny off-the-beaten-track streets where only locals tend to tread, and purple is for sightseeing. Needless to say, I went with green. More on that later, but for now it suffices to say that plenty of sake was involved.

It's social touches like this, alongside the fantastic snow sports services, which I believe put this hotel right at the vanguard of opening up Asahikawa to an international audience.

But enough about the city, we came for the skiing (or snowboarding, in my case). Let's take a look at exactly what kind of snow sport opportunities central Hokkaido has to offer. In my short time there, I was lucky enough to visit five different ski areas, proving just how spoiled for choice you'll be when choosing where to ski in Hokkaido.



The right side of Kamui Ski Links is mostly dedicated to leisurely beginner runs and the left side with more advanced hills.

## Best Ski Resort for Beginners: Kamui Ski Links

Kamui Ski Links is the most accessible of all the ski areas around Asahikawa, at just a 40-minute shuttle bus journey from the city center. The season starts here, as in most places in Central Hokkaido, in early December. By the time I arrived on the 17th, the official snow depth readings were 65 centimeters (and counting).



The name Kamui is the word for “god” in the language of the Ainu — the native people of Hokkaido. This area to the west of Asahikawa was extremely significant to them as a place where many gods lived. I’m no expert on Ainu myths, but I can confirm that the god of fine powder gave me his blessing that day.

Despite my shaky first-of-the-season legs and some overcast skies, the slopes here made for some fantastic rides. The map’s right side is mostly given over to leisurely beginner runs, while the left side has some high-level blacks and reds, including un-groomed tree runs. All in all, there are just short of a dozen runs, one gondola, and 5 chair lifts. It may not be the biggest ski area, but the quality is undeniable.

## Best Ski Resort for Advanced Skills: Asahidake, Hokkaido's Tallest Mountain



Hokkaido's tallest mountain, Asahidake, is the optimal skiing destination for advanced skiers and snowboarders. | Photo by Andrew Deck.

The second place I visited is an absolute giant on the snow sports map, quite literally. This was Hokkaido's tallest mountain, Asahidake, another sacred spot for the Ainu set inside the Daisetsuzan national park. Now, I have to confess that I didn't actually snowboard here. That's because this resort is reserved exclusively for very high-level skiers and boarders.

None of the runs are groomed, and the whole place is one big off-piste playground. Needless to say, this is not a place to practice your beginner snow-plough technique. For those braver and more skilled than me, however, the mountain is one of a kind. It's a powder chaser's dream, which makes up for a relative lack of development with heaps of adventure — a contender for best powder snow in Japan, if not the entire world.

Even if you're not willing to risk life and limb on the slopes, the national park is still worth a visit. The ropeway from the visitor's center takes you up for stunning views of the volcanic terrain. The center itself has a small museum space dedicated to the park's nature and a 3D map of the many challenging hiking trails running through the mountains. Just be sure to rent some snowshoes from the front desk if you plan on tackling any in winter!



## Best Ski Resort for Mixed-Abilities and Extra Snow Activities: Furano Ski Resort

This is one of the bigger-name resorts within close range of Asahikawa. The Prince Hotels stand at the bottom of the two connected ski areas serve as the base stations for the day. The Shin Furano Prince Hotel is a ski-in/ski-out hotel and is also a great place to spend a night if you plan on making the trip down here.



The Shin Furano Prince Hotel one of the newest bigger-name resorts near Asahikawa.

They have a classy bar on the 12th floor overlooking the night skiing slopes; an indoor and outdoor onsen bath; a snow playground area with snowmobiling, snow rafting, and much more. Ningle Terrace, a picturesque village of wooden cabins housing workshops and craft stores, sells everything from silver jewelry to traditional wooden toys – many with the running theme of ‘nature’ in their items.



Ningle Terrace, a picturesque village of wooden cabins housing craft stores, sells everything from silver jewelry to traditional wooden toys.

As for the skiing, they have plenty of runs to choose from, as the lift pass covers both of the mountain zones. With 7 lifts, 1 ropeway, 1 gondola, and 28 runs across the range of abilities, there’s plenty to fill a whole vacation here.







## Best Ski Resort for Extra Activities and Families: Hoshino Resorts TOMAMU Ski Area

Another Hoshino property, the Hoshino Resorts TOMAMU is dominated by four giant towers comprising two separate hotels. The two hotels are connected by a tunnel leading to the huge dining hall and an above-ground dining street with a wealth of dining options housed inside modern lodge-style buildings.

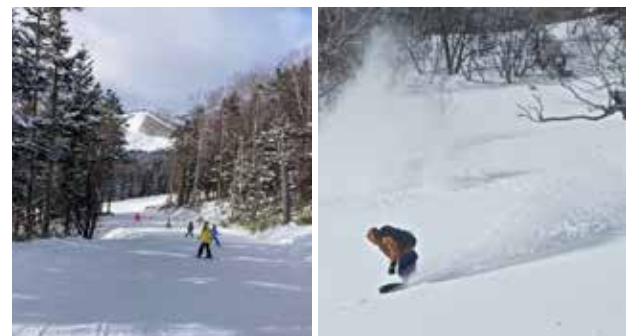


Ice Village

To cover all of the activities and facilities available in this outstanding resort would take an entire article in itself, so I'll be brief. Giant indoor swimming pool; suite rooms with hot tub baths overlooking the forests; mountaintop viewing terraces; ice village with a bar, hotel, wedding chapel; and huge adventure area with snowmobiling and more. The list goes on and on. I'd argue this must be the best ski resort in Japan when it comes to extra activities.

The ski slopes themselves are equally impressive. The 29 trails across two mountains offer stunning views and fantastic variety, with long greens snaking down the mountains and through the forests and steep un-groomed blacks packed with powder.

But it's the unique features of Tomamu which make it uniquely suited to mixed-ability groups and families. After watching a short safety demonstration, visitors can get an armband that allows them access to special ungroomed areas that break off of the main trails. This means that while the beginners are edging down the greens, the pros can join them for a while before breaking off to hurtle between the trees on clouds of fresh snow.



In addition, they also have two Adventure Mountain areas, with skiing challenges for kids (although adults can join in too for a bit of fun). All of this excellent variety makes Tomamu the ideal place for a thoroughly jam-packed vacation or day trip.

## Side trip: Tokachi Sahoro Resort

Get off the beaten track and hit up Hokkaido's cute as a button boutique Tokachi Sahoro Resort. Well worth a side day trip from Furano or Tomamu, or bed down in the ski in and ski out Sahoro Resort hotel for early morning first tracks. There is also a Club Med on site for those looking for an all inclusive week long holiday.

Mt Sahoro offers views of the Tokachi Plains while skiing down the 21 runs. Ideal for beginners and intermediates with some off piste for the more advanced and guided backcountry tours for powder lovers. Add night snow mobile rides under the stars, snow shoe tour and ice cave fishing for added fun.



## What Else to Do in Asahikawa

So you've finished your day of world-class powder chasing and made it back to Hoshino Resorts OMO7 Asahikawa in one piece. While those staying at the small-time resorts will be thinking about settling in for an early night, you'll still have plenty of adventure ahead. Here's a rundown of all my top experience in central Hokkaido besides the powder itself.

Remember the OMO Ranger from earlier on? Well, the tour he took me on gave me a pretty good insight into some of the best spots for dining and drinking in Asahikawa.

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### Ueda-ya

First up was Ueda-ya, a sake shop specialising in sake varieties from the local area, with a chic standing bar hidden away around the back, where visitors can sample the sake and receive recommendations from staff. A well kept secret, with a warm, friendly atmosphere that's very popular with locals.



8-1703-91, 4 Jodori, Asahikawa-shi, Hokkaido  
TEL: 0166-25-8222

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### Robata no Yukara

eateries, bars, and shops. We decided to stop off at Seafood Izakaya Yuuichirou Shouten, to sample some unbelievably fresh sashimi, out-there dishes like deep-fried shirako, and delicious hot sake. This was where our guide for the evening left us, but by this point, he had already set us up perfectly for a great evening.



1Chome,4Jodori, Asahikawa-shi, Hokkaido  
TEL: 0166-23-1114

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### Freehouse THE YEAST

We finished up at Freehouse: The Yeast, a craft beer bar near the hotel with bottles from all around Hokkaido and Japan at large (as well as a damn good fish and chips for any seafood fans not adventurous enough to try sashimi and shirako).



37-5, 8Chome, 4 Jodori, Asahikawa-shi, Hokkaido  
TEL:0166-85-6565

## Attractions in Asahikawa

If you find yourself worn out from all that powder chasing and sake sipping, then maybe a rest day is on the cards. Luckily Asahikawa has some nice places to spend an afternoon. Asahiya Zoo is a popular attraction that many visitors to Sapporo make the day trip over for. It's a top-tier zoo with great facilities and excellent viewing areas.

If you need a break from skiing, but not drinking, then consider heading along to Otokoyama Sake Brewery. This is one of the oldest sake breweries in Japan, which once brewed sake for the shogun before it was relocated to Asahikawa. Their brewery has a retro feel, and is a great place to watch the brewing process at work, and sample their award-winning brews from across the whole spectrum from super-dry to ultra-sweet.

After all of those amazing experiences, everything I had heard about Hokkaido was confirmed to be true. Starting my Hokkaido journey in Asahikawa made for a much more uniquely Japanese experience than simply going to one famous resort, so if you're looking to go skiing in Japan I can't recommend it enough. For the genuine powder seekers out there looking to get ahead of the game, central Hokkaido really cannot be beaten.

Suffice to say, from now on, I'll be the one telling the stories.



|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>KAMUI SKI LINKS</b>  | <b>Address</b> | 112, Nishioka, KamuiCho, Asahikawa City, Hokkaido, Japan 074-1181 |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 166-72-2311   |
| <a href="https://www.kamui-skilinks.com/en/">https://www.kamui-skilinks.com/en/</a> |                |   |

**Twenty-five trails span one of Hokkaido's largest ski areas, with conditions updated online every morning**

This ski area is one of the largest in Hokkaido, and includes three FIS accredited trails as well as a massive tree run. The 25 trails include an over 4,000 meter cruise and a slope that's 150 meters wide! All the ski racks are fat ski compatible, so you can get your fill of the famous powder snow on your favorite pair! Make sure to check out the latest snow conditions, which are updated on our official website and Facebook page every morning at 7:30.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 12, 2020 to Mar. 31, 2021 9:00~17:00  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access** **From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 3 hours)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Sapporo Sta.→Asahikawa Sta.→Bus  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 2 hours)** [JR]Sapporo Sta.→Asahikawa Sta.→Bus  
**From Asahikawa Airport (Approx. 1 hour)** [Bus]Asahikawa Airport→Asahikawa Sta.→Bus  
\*Direct Bus or Taxi available (this is part of the package of the affiliated travel agency)

|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Furano Ski Resort</b>  | <b>Address</b> | Nakagoryo, Furano-shi, Hokkaido, Japan 076-8511 |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 167-22-1111                                 |
| <a href="https://www.princehotels.com/en/ski/furano/index.html">https://www.princehotels.com/en/ski/furano/index.html</a> |                |   |

**Enjoy Furano's unique powder snow on a massive 194 hectare slope**

Furano is located in central Hokkaido and has a lower average winter temperature than Sapporo, which makes for quality powder snow. The 28 trails spread across a massive 194 hectares feature a maximum run length of 4,000 meters. The area is divided into the Furano Zone and the Kitanomine Zone. Both have trails for advanced skiers with powder snow galore. The slopes are only 10 minutes by taxi from Furano Station.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Nov. 26, 2020 to May 5, 2021 8:30~16:30(Mar.22, 2021 to May 5, 2021 9:00~16:00)  
Night Skiing operation: Dec.19, 2020 to Mar.20, 2021 16:30~19:30  
\*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access** **From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 130 minutes)**  
[JR]New Chitose Airport Sta.→Furano Sta.→10 min by Taxi  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 2 hours)**  
[JR]Sapporo Sta.→Takikawa Sta.→Furano Sta.→10 min by Taxi  
**From Asahikawa Airport (Approx. 1 hour)**  
[Bus]Furano Bus{Lavender}

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <b>Hoshino Resorts TOMAMU</b>   | <b>Address</b> | Nakatamamu, Shimukappu-mura, Yufutsu-Gun, Hokkaido, Japan 079-2204 |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 167-58-1111  |
| <a href="https://www.snowtomamu.jp/winter/en/">https://www.snowtomamu.jp/winter/en/</a> |                |  |

**Enjoy untouched natural beauty in Hokkaido's largest combination accommodations and ski resort**

Surrounded by about 1,000 hectares of natural wilderness, this is Hokkaido's largest combination accommodations and ski resort. The resort spans two mountains, Tower Mountain and Tomamu Mountain, with six lifts and 29 trails. Many days reach temperatures lower than -10, but you'll still see happy skiers gliding down the mountain through powder snow. The Winter Mountain Declaration of Liberty was created based on the desire for every skier to experience untouched natural beauty, leading to a resort filled with everything from vast gentle slopes, sheer runs in fresh snow and the perfect intermediate trails.



**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec. 1, 2020 to Apr. 4, 2021 9:00~16:00  
 Night Skiing operation: Dec.26, 2020 to Mar.31, 2021 16:00~18:00  
 \*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 90 minutes)**  
 [JR] New Chitose Airport Sta. → Minami Chitose Sta. → Tomamu Sta. → Bus  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 100 minutes)**  
 [JR] Sapporo Sta. → Tomamu Sta. → Bus  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.

|   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| <b>SAHORO SKI RESORT</b>  | <b>Address</b> | Karikachi Kogen, Shintoku-Cho, Kamikawa-Gun, Hokkaido, Japan 081-0039 |
|   | <b>TEL</b>     | +81 156-64-4121   |
| <a href="https://sahoro.co.jp/winter?lang=en">https://sahoro.co.jp/winter?lang=en</a> |                |   |

**Enjoy the light, fluffy Sahoro powder snow against a backdrop of the Tokachi Plain**

The SAHORO SKI RESORT, located in Tokachi, Hokkaido, boasts many clear days, so you'll catch excellent views of the Tokachi Plain as you ski down from the summit. The high altitude and low temperature create Sahoro powder snow that's light and soft as a feather. The resort's five trails are all ungroomed and intended for advanced skiers. Enjoy winter sports surrounded by blue sky, white snow and a sweeping view of the Tokachi Plain.



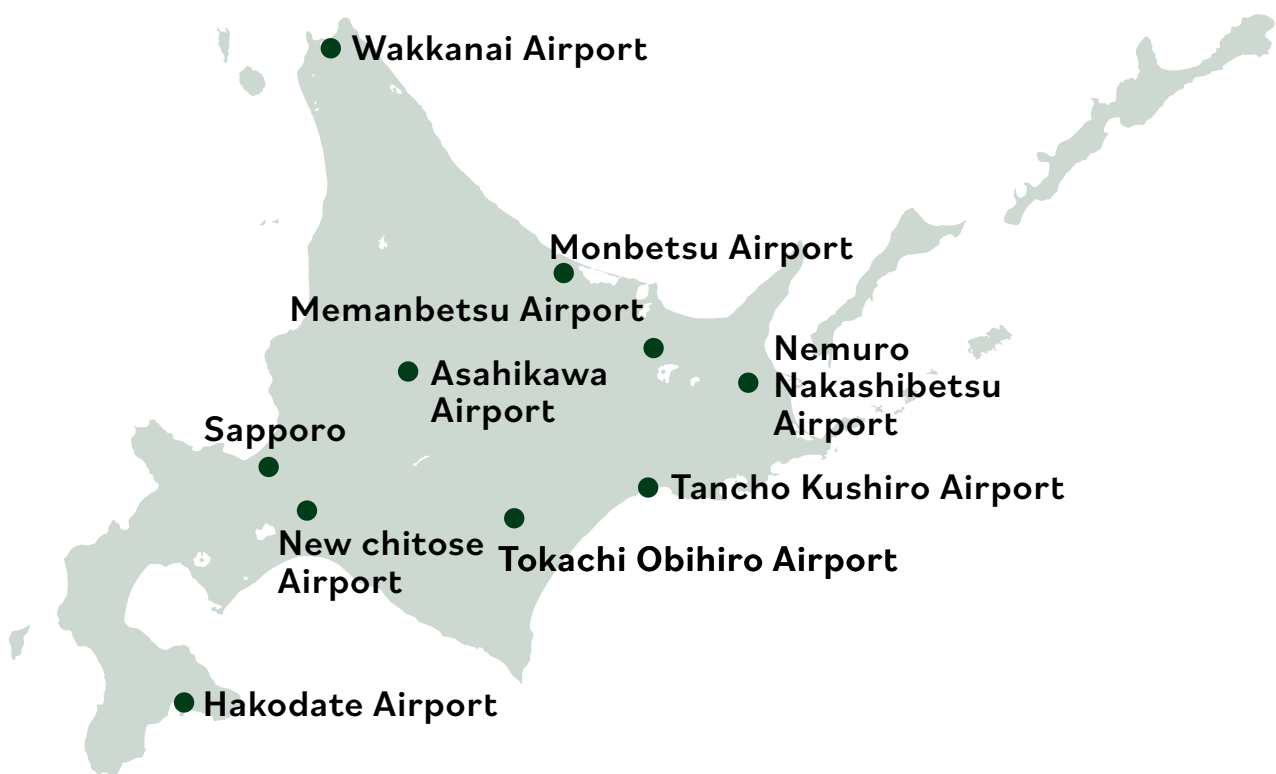
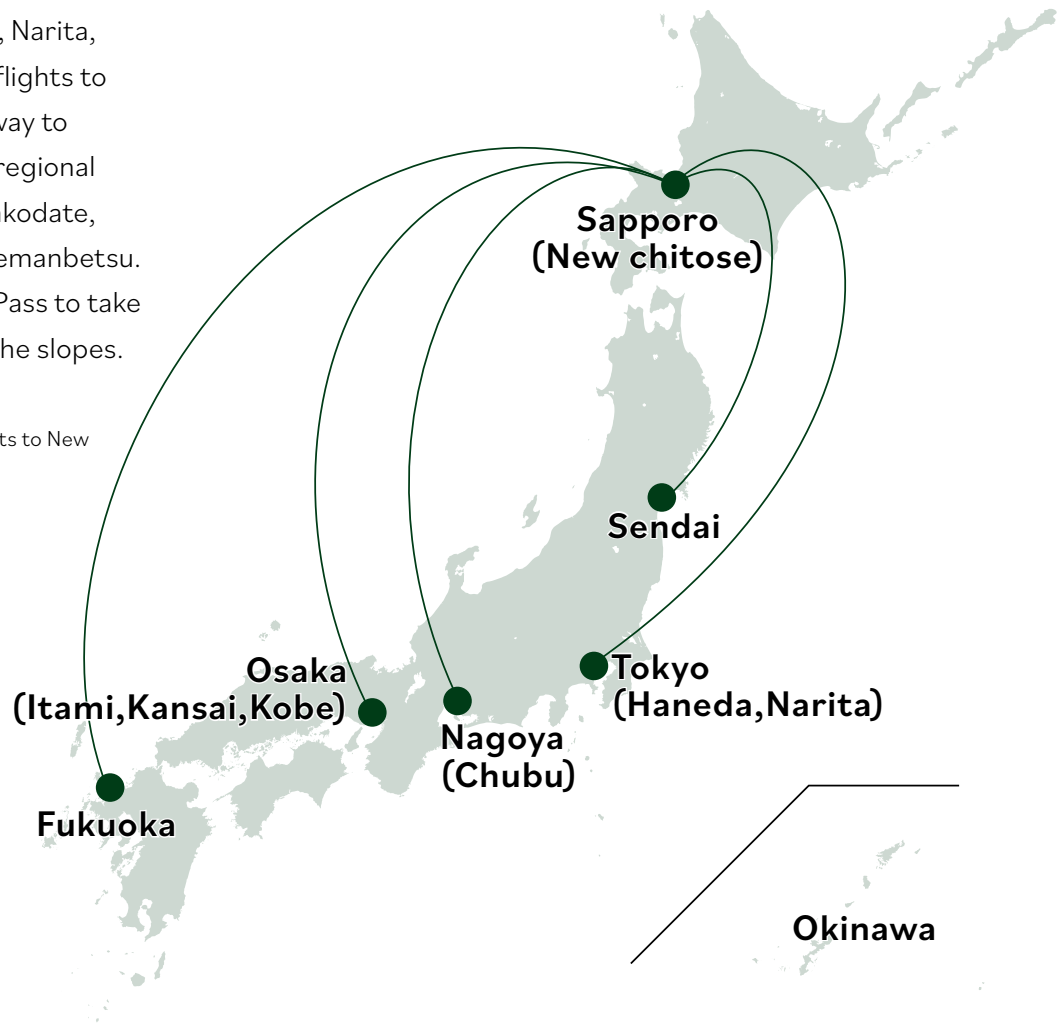
**Hours** Hours of operation: Dec.12, 2020 to Mar. 31(Expected schedule), 2021 9:00~18:00  
 \*Please check the website for details as it depends on the period and weather.

**Access From New Chitose Airport (Approx. 2 hours)**  
 [JR] New Chitose Airport Sta. → Shintoku Sta. → Shuttle Bus  
 [Bus] Direct Bus is available.  
**From Sapporo (Approx. 3 hours)**  
 [JR] Sapporo Sta. → Shintoku Sta. → Shuttle Bus

# Fast, Easy Access by Air or Rail

Japan's major airports (Haneda, Narita, Kansai, etc.) all offer domestic flights to New Chitose Airport, the gateway to Hokkaido, as well as to smaller regional airports, such as Asahikawa, Hakodate, Obihiro, Tancho Kushiro and Memanbetsu. You can also use the Japan Rail Pass to take the Shinkansen from Tokyo to the slopes.

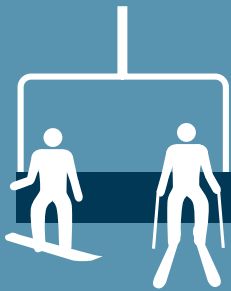
\*Due to the spread of COVID-19, there are currently no international flights to New Chitose Airport.



# Hokkaido is taking extensive measures to stop the spread of COVID-19.

We ask visitors to ski areas and accommodations to maintain social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands often and refrain from speaking in loud voices.

We ask for your cooperation in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.



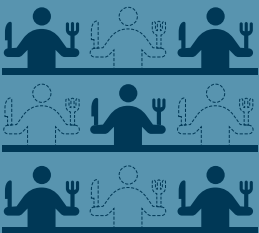
## Social Distancing on Lifts, etc.

Avoid close contact and maintain social distancing when using lifts and gondolas.



## Increased Ventilation and Airflow

Avoid close contact and maintain social distancing when using lifts and gondolas.



## Allow Extra Time for Dining

Seating is spread out at dining establishments. Please consider shifting the timing of your dining plans to avoid busy periods.



## Hygiene and Sanitation

Facilities are kept sterile and well-ventilated to ensure a clean environment. We ask for your cooperation in helping keep these areas clean and safe.

Additional measures are in place to limit the number of people and ensure social distancing at ticket offices, locker rooms, during lessons, etc.

For more information, please visit the homepage of each ski resort.