

travel&co. | Our quick guide to

Ski/board Japan

& ski/board

Japan offers a unique cultural experience alongside legendary soft, dry powder snow and epic valley and backcountry skiing. It has an extensive choice of over 500 ski resorts, amazing amenities, thousands of onsens, impressive ice villages and authentic Japanese experiences.

TOP REASONS TO VISIT



Powder Snow

Japan is regarded as having some of the best and lightest powder in the world. This light, dry fluffy powder makes for premium conditions with an annual snowfall of 10-15 metres. Tree skiing is also a highlight in Japan with the trees laden with so much snow they are known as "snow monsters".

Resorts

With over 500 resorts in Japan there's plenty of choice for beginners to experts - groomed slopes to tree skiing or backcountry skiing.

Cuisine

Japan offers an extensive choice and style of restaurants, bars and traditional cuisine. From sushi, sake, steaming rice noodles and Japanese curry. Some resorts offer more western styled options.

Snow, Ice & Fire Festivals

Snow, ice and fire festivals are highlights of a trip to Japan. Time your ski holiday around one of the many festivals in Japan during the winter season. But we advise to book early for some as tickets are limited.

Onsens | Japanese Hot Springs

The waters are said to have healing properties. What could be better for your tired muscles after a day skiing.

Backcountry Skiing

Deep, dry powder. Experience untouched wilderness powder with a backcountry ski experience in Japan.

Family Experiences

Japan has a selection of ski resorts providing ski holiday experiences the whole family can enjoy: Niseko, Rusutsu, Sahoro, Tomamu and Naeba.

ACCOMMODATION

Ski-in, ski-out | Slopeside | Village

Visitors have an extensive choice of ski accommodation from apartments with a more western style, to authentic Japanese-styled and village lodgings and hotels.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

From unwinding after a day on the slopes in natural hot springs, exploring villages, and amazing off-slope adventures or working up an appetite with traditional culinary adventures, Japan is a unique destination.

- Snow Monkey Tours
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoe Tours
- Snow Tubing*
- Temple Tours
- Fire Festivals
- Dog Sledding*
- Heli-Skiing
- Ice Fishing
- Ice Skating*
- Ice/Snow Festivals
- Onsens

*Limited resorts



WHEN TO GO

Late December to early April
Snow: Light, dry powder
Annual Snowfall: 10-15 metres

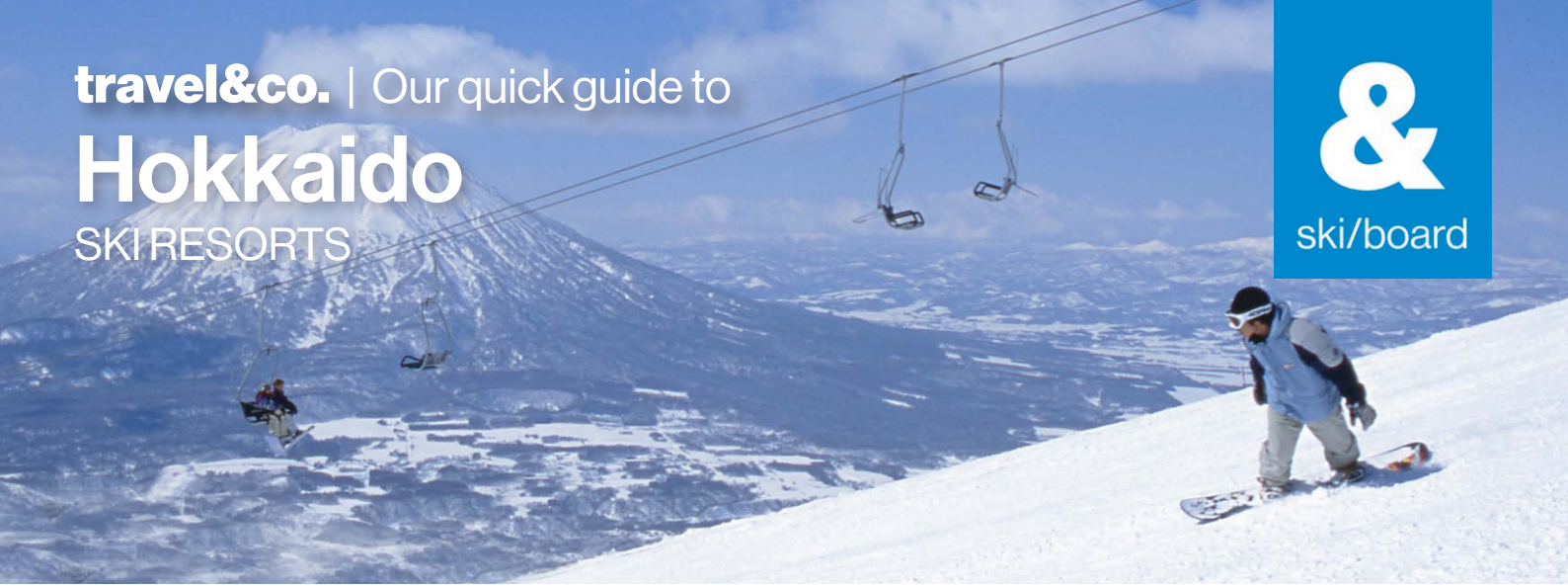
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Hokkaido

SKI RESORTS

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RESORTS IN HOKKAIDO

The second largest and most northern of the four main islands, Hokkaido is a popular destination for ski and snowboard experiences. Hokkaido's mountains are huge powder magnets as cold snaps come off the Sea of Japan and Siberia bringing massive powder dumps to the ski areas. A destination with a reputation for powder combined with Japanese cultural experiences.



1 Furano

Referred to as a powder skiing mecca, Furano is located in central Hokkaido. It is one of the most famous ski resorts in Japan and renowned for its relaxed atmosphere. Varied terrain for all levels, this ski destination is an all-rounder with ski and snowboard terrain, off-piste riding and quality Hokkaido powder.

Average Snowfall: 9m
Lifts/Gondolas: 13
Runs: 23





1 Furano
2 Niseko
3 Rusutsu
4 Sahoro
5 Tomamu
New Chitose Airport



2 Niseko

Famous for its wide open powder bowls, tree runs and also offers snowmobiling, heli and cat-skiing. Niseko has an abundance of onsens, traditional experiences, cafes and restaurants, and is also a great option for families. Located 2.5 hours drive from Chitose Airport.

Average Snowfall: 15m
Interlinked Resorts: 4
Lifts/Gondolas: 38
Runs: 61



3 Rusutsu

From riding deep powder to uncrowded groomed runs, Rusutsu offers some of the best tree skiing, superb backcountry options and is regarded as having the best powder in Japan. Onsens, dog sledding, snowmobiling experiences and heli-skiing all on offer here. A resort for everyone & well-suited to families from Chitose Airport.

Average Snowfall: 12m
Lifts/Gondolas: 23
Runs: 37



4 Sahoro

Located in the southern part of central Hokkaido, Sahoro has uncrowded slopes and is perfect for all abilities. It's family friendly with on-mountain accommodation. Sohoro features kids clubs, bars and restaurants, evening shows, snowshoe tours and snowrafting (behind a snowmobile).

Average Snowfall: 8m
Interlinked Resorts: 8
Runs: 37
All-Inclusive Resort available



5 Tomamu

This ski resort is ideal for all: beginners to experts. Just an hour's train ride from Sapporo, Tomamu has 358 acres of alpine skiing and a streamlined lift system. The backcountry is a major highlight to the area as is the off-piste skiing. Resort activities include kids clubs, the ice village, ice skating and a wave pool. A hassle-free ski holiday.

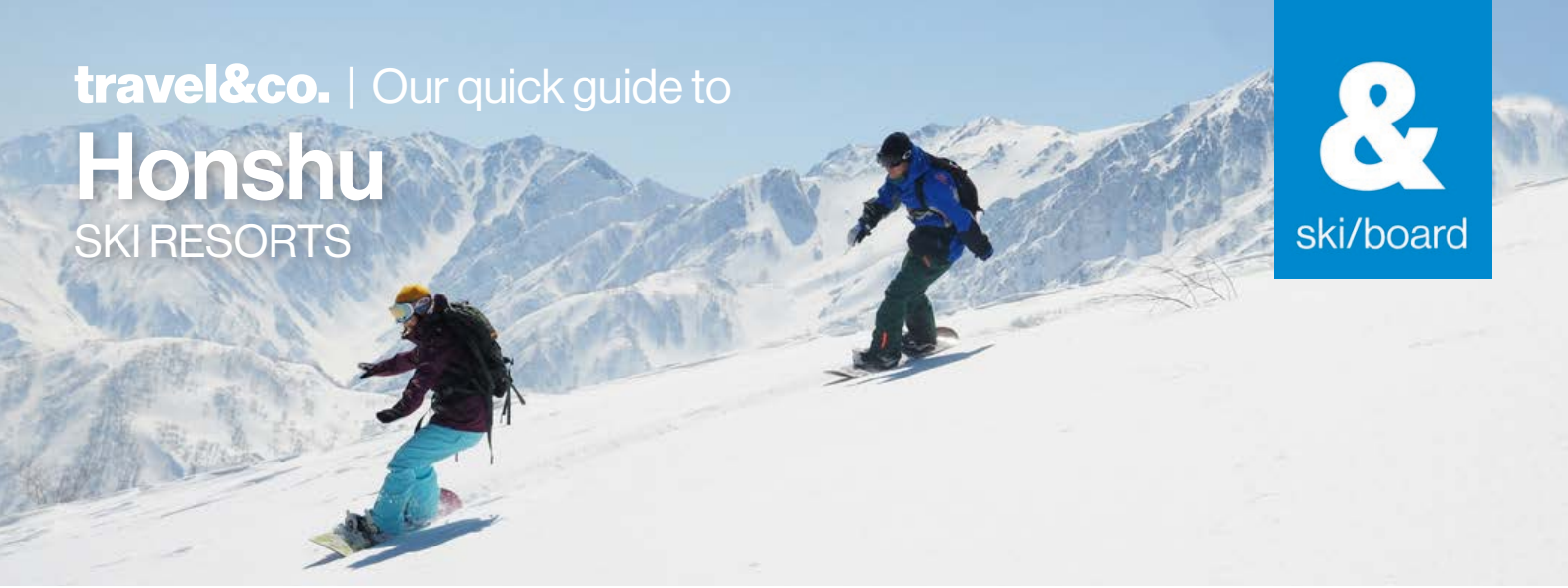
Average Snowfall: 9m
Lifts/Gondolas: 12
Runs: 29
All-Inclusive Resort available

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Honshu

SKI RESORTS

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RESORTS IN HONSHU

Honshu is Japan's main and largest island. Most ski resorts are situated on the east coast, a 3-4 hour train or shuttle ride from Tokyo, with more in the north. The Japanese Alps of Honshu are home to ski resorts with well-developed facilities and an abundance of activities off the slopes. The area boasts over 1,600 ski lifts, and more than 2,300km of slopes and is an ideal destination for those looking for a combination of ski/board adventures and authentic Japanese experiences.

6 Appi Kogen

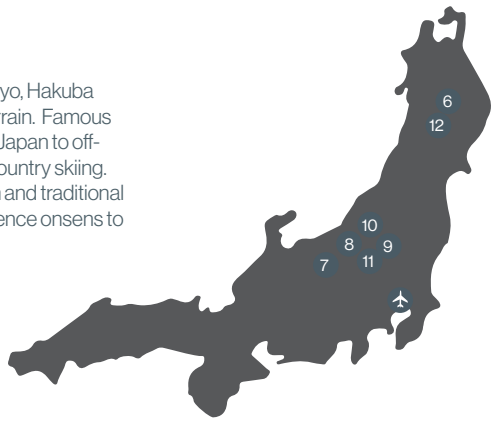
Renowned as one of the best quality ski resorts and features superior hotels, facilities and services. Appi Kogen boasts 700 acres of ski terrain with the longest run covering 5.5km. Groomed runs are the resort's forte but also offers fantastic powder riding. Less traditional more modern culture.

Average Snowfall: : 8m
Lifts/Gondolas: 16
Runs: 21

7 Hakuba

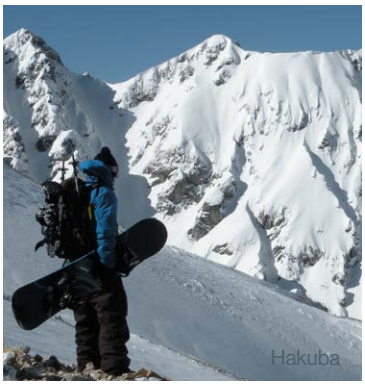
Just three hours from Tokyo, Hakuba offers a huge variety of terrain. Famous for the longest vertical in Japan to off-piste tree runs and backcountry skiing. A combination of western and traditional Japanese culture. Experience onsens to snow monkey tours.

Average Snowfall: 11m
Resorts: 11
Lifts/Gondolas: 143
Runs: 200





6 Appi Kogen
7 Hakuba
8 Myoko Kogen
9 Naeba
10 Nozawa Onsen
11 Shiga Kogen
12 Shizukuishi
Tokyo Airport


Hakuba

8 Myoko Kogen

One for the powderhounds! Myoko Kogen is group of ski resorts located one hour north of Nagano and scores highly in the powder stakes. Famous for plenty of snow with a long and rich cultural history for true Japanese-styled ski holidays. Experience onsens to snow monkey tours.

Average Snowfall: 13m
Lifts: 55
Runs: 83


Naeba

9 Naeba

Just 2.5 hours from Tokyo, Naeba is interlinked with the slopes of Kagura Ski Resort by Japan's longest gondola, the 8-person Dragondola. The entire area is called Mt Naeba and consists of four ski areas. Both ski areas offer terrain perfect for all abilities with high quality and impressive facilities.

Average Snowfall: 6m
Lifts: 13
Runs: 21

10 Nozawa Onsen

Nozawa Onsen has an authentic character and its slopes feature beginner and intermediate runs to advanced off-piste, powder bowls and snow parks. Off the slopes this resort offers high quality accommodation with a traditional Japanese charm, plenty of hot spring baths, snow monkey and temple tours.

Average Snowfall: 11m
Lifts/Gondolas: 21
Runs: 36


Shiga Kogen

11 Shiga Kogen

One of Japan's largest ski areas with 19 interlinked ski areas that uses an interlinked lift pass system accessing beginner slopes, challenging moguls, long cruisers and powder bowls. A destination rich in Japanese tradition and close to cultural sites. The second highest ski resort in Japan.

Average Snowfall: 11m
Resorts: 21
Lifts/Gondolas: 65
Runs: 95

12 Shizukuishi

Located in northern Honshu, Shizukuishi Ski Resort is 560km north of Tokyo and famous for its spectacular view of Mt. Iwate, the highest mountain in the Iwate prefecture. The snow quality is superb on the scenic trails across the 160 acres of skiable terrain and features cat-skiing. Great for intermediate skiers and nice side-country skiing.

Average Snowfall: 5m
Lifts: 6
Runs: 11

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Tokyo, Osaka & Beyond

Winter Experiences

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Tokyo Disneyland & Disneysea

From $325 per person* | Duration: 2 days

Two of the most popular theme parks in Japan, located right outside of Tokyo in Urayasu-city, Chiba prefecture. They seem like there is no off-season, and the parks are filled with people throughout the year. There are 7 themed areas at Tokyo Disneyland and DisneySea. The two day passes include entry into Tokyo Disneyland on the first day and Tokyo Disneysea on the second day.

Tokyo Grand Tour

From $175 per person* | Duration: 1 day

There is much to see in bustling Tokyo and this full-day tour is the perfect introduction to the city's sights. Your guide will escort you to Tokyo Tower, Meiji Shrine, Japan's most famous Shinto Shrine, the Imperial Palace East Garden. After driving through Ginza district, you will have a Japanese style lunch. In the afternoon, visit Hama Rikyu Garden, embark on a cruise on Tokyo's Sumida River and visit Asakusa Temple, the oldest and most beloved temple in Tokyo, where you are introduced to the influences of Buddhism and Shintoism in Japanese culture.

Mt Fuji & Hakone Tour

From $250 per person* | Duration: 1 day

On your full day trip from Tokyo, drive up to Mt Fuji's fifth station at 2,305metres. Mt Fuji is Japan's highest mountain and rarely on clear days, Fujisan's perfectly shaped volcano slopes can be seen from Tokyo and Yokohama. Enjoy Japanese styled lunch and ride the Ropeway in Hakone. The tour also includes a cruise on Lake Ashi, and return bus trip to Tokyo.

Ghibli Museum & Film Bus Tour

From $255 per person* | Duration: 1 day

Visit Hotel Gajoen Tokyo where you can take a commemorative photo and enjoy a buffet lunch at a spectacular, historical hotel said to be the inspiration for a famous Ghibli film. Visit the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum and the Ghibli Museum.

Sushi Making & Tsukiji Fish Market Morning Tour

From $205 per person* | Duration: 4.5 hours

Enjoy the perfect sushi-lover's experience during this visit to the world-famous Tsukiji Fish Market, followed by a sushi-making class led by master instructor, and lunch. Explore the labyrinth of seafood stalls with your guide at the world's largest seafood market, then head to your cooking workshop, where you'll learn to make sushi favorites, rolls to nigiri, alongside your class of Tokyo locals.

Universal Studios 1 Day Pass

From $215 per person* | Duration: 1 day

One of the most popular theme parks in Japan, located about 15 minutes from Osaka Station by train. Eight areas and 23 attractions themed by American famous movies.

Tokyo Go-Kart Street Tour Adventure

From $135 per person* | Duration: 2 hours

Explore Akihabara in a go-kart dressed as a character of your choice - from comics to games with your guide to leading the way. See multiple sites in a short space of time: Rainbow Bridge, Asakusa, Tokyo Dome, Imperial Palace, Sky Tree, and much more.

Kyoto Tea Ceremony with Tea Master

From $135 per person* | Duration: 1 hour

Experience the traditions of Japan with a 1hour tea ceremony in Kyoto and learn the origins of this ancient practice, hosted in a machiya (typical wooden house).

Tokyo Sumo Wrestling Tournament + Dinner

From $210 per person* | Duration: 5 hours

One of Japan's most iconic cultural expressions at an exhilarating sumo tournament in Tokyo. Set the scene before the tournament by visiting the informative Sumo Museum to see fascinating collections of memorabilia then feel the energizing pre-match atmosphere on the subway as you ride to the 'kokugikan' (sumo amphitheater) to see a selection of atmospheric sumo matches. Enhance your experience by upgrading to include a delicious dinner of traditional Japanese dishes at a local restaurant.



Active Travel Expert, Tammy in Tokyo

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Temples to Ski Tours

Winter Experiences

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Snow Monkey, Hot Springs & Zenkoji Temple Tour

From $195 per adult / $135 per child* | Duration: 1 day

Led by your guide, visit the world-famous Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park. Explore Zenko-ji, one of Japan's oldest and most important Buddhist temples - home to the first known Buddhist statue to be brought to Japan. Enjoy lunch and experience Nagano's renowned food culture and try 'sake' with a tasting experience. Tours are from Hakuba.

Nozawa Onsen Fire Festival

From $195 per person* | Set Date: 15th January (Book early)

A traditional festival to pray for a plentiful harvest, health and good fortune during the year to come. The village's 25 & 42 year old men (so called the unlucky ones), follow the custom to construct an 18 metre shaden (shrine). Festival includes a "fire-setting battle" and is an exciting, even crazy, occasion and a real treat to experience.

Hakuba Backcountry Tour

From $1,025 per group* (up to 5 people per group)
Duration: 1 day

Hakuba not only has the biggest and steepest mountains in Japan but it also has a fantastic variety of easy access tree skiing with terrain to accommodate all ability levels. Whether you are advanced back country skiers or first timers who want to start with some side country they can make it happen for you!

Myoko Kogen Backcountry Tour

From $1,025 per group* | Duration: 1 day

Myoko is one of the snowiest places in Japan and has an amazing array of resorts to give you options to get the pow you're after, whatever the weather dishes out! Myoko Kogen is less crowded than some of the more well known areas and offers a truly unique Japanese cultural experience.

Niseko Heli-Skiing

From $2,410 per person* | Duration: 1 day

Daily heli-skiing trips from Niseko to the 1,107 meter Shiribetsu-Dake volcano in the beautiful town of Kimobetsu, famous for fresh powder lines and steep ridges covered in a beautiful birch forest. All packages include professional guiding and safety instruction, along with snow safety equipment, including backpack, avalanche beacon and probe.

Niseko Cat-Skiing

From $2,645 per person* | Duration: 2 days/2 nights | Jan - Mar

Get ready to ride untouched powder on the Karibayama mountain range near the Sea of Japan. The season is limited to 10 weeks, 24 guests (2 cats) per trip - weather permitting. Stay in the sleepy, coastal village of Shimamaki, famous for big mountains, trophy salmon fishing, and abundant seafood. Located two hours southwest of Niseko, Shimamaki is a cultural experience and more than just skiing.



Nozawa Onsen Fire Festival



Contact our Active Travel Experts for more experiences including:

Nozawa Onsen : Zipline & Snowshoeing
Sapporo: Ice Festival
Niseko: Cooking Courses & Snowmobile Tours

Note above options are **not pre-bookable** but are activities that can be done in resort

*Terms & conditions apply to all experiences. Prices are correct at time of release and subject to change and availability.

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