travel&co. | Our Quick Guide to

Japan

in winter

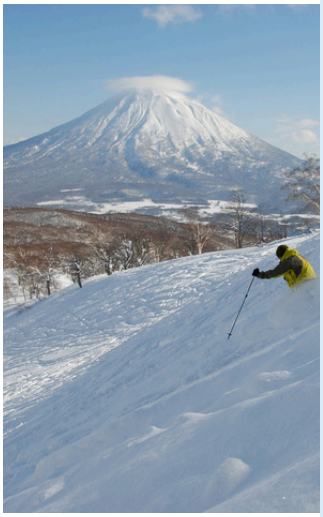


& ski/board

Japan offers a unique cultural experience alongside legendary soft, dry powder snow and epic valley and backcountry skiing. It has an extensive choice with over 500 ski resorts and its a destinations with thousands of onsens, impressive ice villages during winter, incredible ice and fire festivals plus authentic Japanese experiences.

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. Our top picks for ski resorts for families are: Niseko, Rusutsu, Sahoro, Tomamu, Furano, Kiroro, and Myoko Kogen.

ACCOMMODATION

Ski-in, ski-out | Slopeside | Village

We can advise you on the 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, to working up an appetite with traditional culinary cusines, Japan offers an array of winter activities and amazing off-slope adventures.

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

***Available at limited resorts, festivals on set date, experiences may vary from resort to resorts**



When to go

Late December to early April

Snow: Light, dry powder

Annual Snowfall: 10-15 metres

Book your next ski/board holiday to Japan with the ski travel experts at **travel&co.**



travel&co. | Our Quick Guide to

Honshu, Japan

ski resorts

& ski/board

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.

1 Appi Kogen

Awarded Japan's Best Ski Resort 2023 (World Ski Awards) this destination features superior hotels, facilities and services. Appi Kogen boasts 850 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.

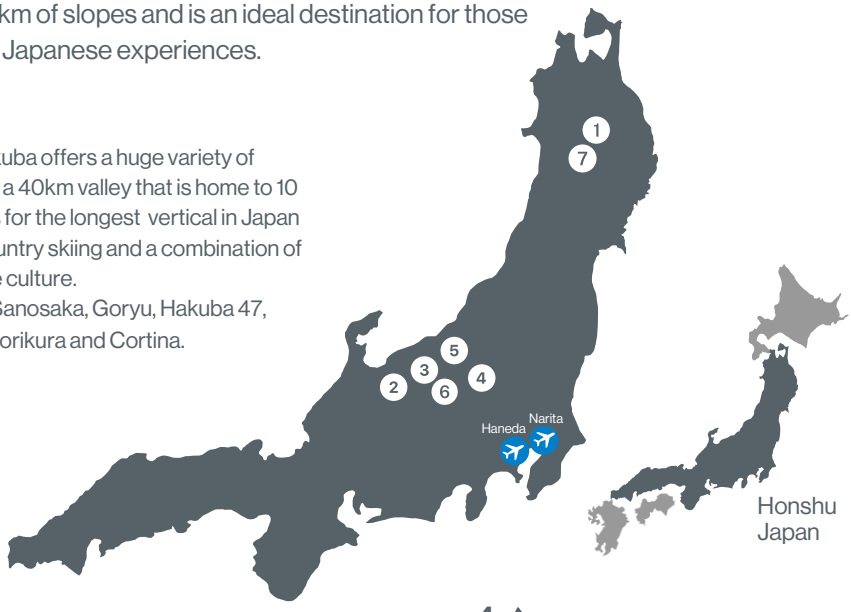
Average Snowfall: 8m
Lifts/Gondolas: 7 Runs: 21

2 Hakuba

Just three hours from Tokyo, Hakuba offers a huge variety of terrain. It is not a single resort but a 40km valley that is home to 10 resorts spread across it. Famous for the longest vertical in Japan to off-piste tree runs and backcountry skiing and a combination of western and traditional Japanese culture.

Resorts: Jigatake, Kashimayari, Sanosaka, Goryu, Hakuba 47, Happo-one, Iwatake, Tsugaike, Norikura and Cortina.

Average Snowfall: 11m
Resorts: 10
Lifts/Gondolas: 86
Runs: 200





3 Myoko Kogen

One for the powderhounds! Myoko Kogen is group of ski resorts located one hour north of Nagano / 2.5 hours from Tokyo, 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.

Average Snowfall: 14m
Lifts: 39 Runs: 72



4 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 two ski areas with terrain perfect for all abilities with high quality and impressive facilities.

Average Snowfall: 6m
Lifts: 12 Runs: 24

5 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.

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



6 Shiga Kogen

One of Japan's largest ski areas with 18 interlinked ski areas that uses an interlinked lift pass system accessing beginner slopes, challenging moguls, long cruisers and powder bowls. The second largest ski resort in Japan.

Average Snowfall: 11m
Resorts: 21 interlinked (18 on one pass)
Lifts/Gondolas: 55+
Runs: 95

7 Shizukuishi

Located in northern Honshu, and 560km north of Tokyo, this ski resort is 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. Great for intermediate skiers.

Average Snowfall: 6m
Lifts: 6 Runs: 20

travel&co. | Our Quick Guide to

Hokkaido, Japan

ski resorts



& ski/board

RESORTS IN HOKKAIDO

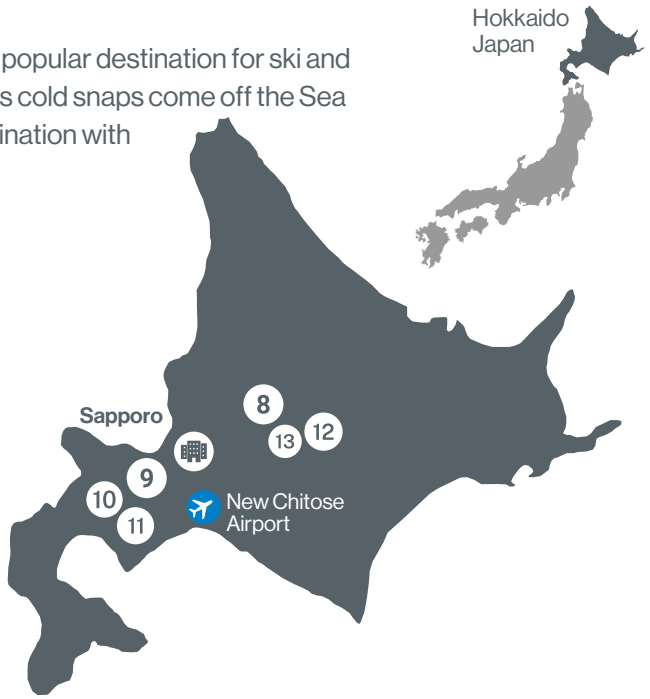
The second largest and most northern of the four main islands, Hokkaido is a popular destination for ski and snowboard experiences. Hokkaido's mountains are huge powder magnets as cold snaps come off the Sea of Japan and Siberia bringing massive powder dumps to the ski areas. A destination with a reputation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



8 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: 28



9 Kiroro

With an average snowfall of 21 metres Kiroro always has an abundance of ski-ready powder snow. This is a destination that includes upscale accommodation just steps away from the slopes and an equal amount of beginner to expert terrain.

All inclusive options: Kiroro Grand & Kiroro Peak (guests 12 & over)

Average Snowfall: 17m+
Lifts/Gondolas: 9
Runs: 23

10 Niskeo

Famous for its wide open powder bowls & tree runs , Niskeo has four interlinked-ski resorts, each with their own character and all can be skied between with ease, making it a huge mountain to explore. It's 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



11 Rusutsu

From riding deep powder to groomed runs, Rusutsu offers some of the best tree skiing, superb backcountry options and is regarded as having the best powder in Japan. A resort for everyone & well-suited to families.

Average Snowfall: 12m
Lifts/Gondolas: 18
Runs: 37



12 Sohoro

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 kids clubs, bars and restaurants, evening shows.

All inclusive option: Kids club, bars & restaurants, evening shows.

Average Snowfall: 8m
Interlinked Resorts: 8
Runs: 37



13 Tomamu

Just an hour's train ride from Sapporo, Tomamu has 358 acres of alpine skiing and a streamlined lift system. The backcountry and off-piste skiing is a major highlight, but it is ideal terrain for all levels.

All inclusive option: Kids club, bars & restaurants, evening shows.

Average Snowfall: 9m
Lifts/Gondolas: 12
Runs: 29