

Shiga Kogen

Honshu, Japan



Shiga Kogen, the second-highest ski region with its top elevation measuring at 2,305 metres, is also one of the largest and most well-known winter destinations in Japan. You'll be spoilt for choice at Shiga Kogen with 18, mostly interlinked resorts and over 48 lifts providing access to the slopes and a variety of snow terrain for snowboarders and skiers of all abilities. Explore the local enchanting Japanese culture by skiing the wide trails in between the villages; a truly unique experience, unlike any other Japanese resort. Finding a snow adventure for everyone will be easy at Shiga Kogen.

Equipped with a well-developed lift network, your days will be filled with skiing and boarding bliss. Because of the high elevation, you can expect to see high-quality snow and longer ski seasons. Shiga Kogen offers some of the best ski-in, ski-out accommodation in Japan. From beginner cruisers to challenging bowls and stunning backcountry excursions, Shiga Kogen caters to everyone.

Interlinked Ski Resorts: 18

Annual Snowfall: 11 metres.

Skiable Terrain: 1,000 acres

Ski Runs: 85 **Lifts:** 48

Beginner: 30% | **Intermediate** 40%

Advanced: 30%



As Shiga Kogen is so vast, the best way to get around is to use the shuttle buses, which are free to use as long as you have a lift pass with you. There are shuttle buses that run between the villages during the day and limited services in the evening

The Japow

Known for its "Japow" (Japan + Powder), Shiga Kogen ski resorts receive an average of 11 meters of snow annually. The weather in this region brings heavy snowfalls, and thanks to the high elevation, skiers can expect exceptional snow quality.

Onsen, Cultural sites, Snow Monkeys

Onsen: Visit a neighbouring 1300-year-old hot spring village of Shibu Onsen which is a small, quaint and ancient village known for the healing properties from its many hot springs. Get the most out of staying in the closest ski field to the famous Snow Monkey Park and observe these Japanese macaques warming up their bodies by bathing in hot springs.

Embark on some unique sight-seeing at the Zenko-Ji Temple or the Matsushiro Kaizu castle. This skiing region is not only rich in fresh powder, but also in Japanese culture. Travelling to this historic getaway is only a three to four hour trip from Tokyo by either bus, train, or taxi

When to go:

Dec: Christmas and New Year's Eve festivities. Book early!

Jan/Feb: Peak snowfall. Great snow and powder.

March: Typically lighter snowfall and late season deals.

Nearest Airport

International: Narita, Tokyo (342 km)

Haneda, Tokyo (298 km)

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5 ski areas - 18 ski resorts

Shiga Kogen is made up of 18 ski resorts and can be divided into five areas: Okushiga Kogen, Yakebitaiyama, Yokoteyama/Shibutoge, Central and Kumanoyu.

All-mountain lift pass covers all five areas. One can physically ski between all the Shiga resorts meaning it's truly interconnected. Doing so in a single day certainly would be an achievement though. Around 50% of the runs can be rated as easy - so great for beginners and interm.

Okushiga Kogen

Offering a variety of slopes to suit every skill level, this ski resort features 100% natural snow and stunning views of Mt. Iwasuge and Mt. Naeba. Located at the far end of Shiga Kogen and facing north, it is renowned for its "Japow" (Japan + Powder). Ideal for beginners and intermediates, the resort also includes a kid's park.

Yakebitaiyama

As the largest of the 18 ski resorts in Shiga Kogen, this resort offers a wide variety of trails, including an Olympic course, ungroomed powder slopes, and scenic forest runs. The resort features two gondolas, a free kid's park, and accommodation conveniently located at the base.

Kumanoyu

This ski resort is shaped like an amphitheater and with north facing slopes, naturally accumulates snow on its slopes. From the summit, you can take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and the resort's layout. The hotels in the area offer soothing onsens for relaxation.

Central

With 13 ski resorts to explore, this region offers a wealth of family-friendly slopes, including the Maruike Kid's Park, where children can enjoy a range of activities. At Terakoya, skiers and riders are treated to breathtaking views of the Five Mountain areas (on a clear day), along with a 6km run from summit to base. The Ichinose Family Ski Resort adds to the appeal with its convenient proximity to a variety of dining options, perfect for unwinding after a day on the slopes.



Yokoteyama/Shibutoge

This ski resort is the highest in Japan, at an impressive 2,307 meters. So it's not surprising it is renowned for its breathtaking views from the summit and high-quality snow. Take time to stop at the Manten View Terrace at the top of the mountain and admire the view. It caters to everyone, from beginners to ski racers, with its 3km trail designed by one of Japan's top competitive skiers.

It's easy to transfer between resorts using the lifts, gondola rides and shuttle buses.



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