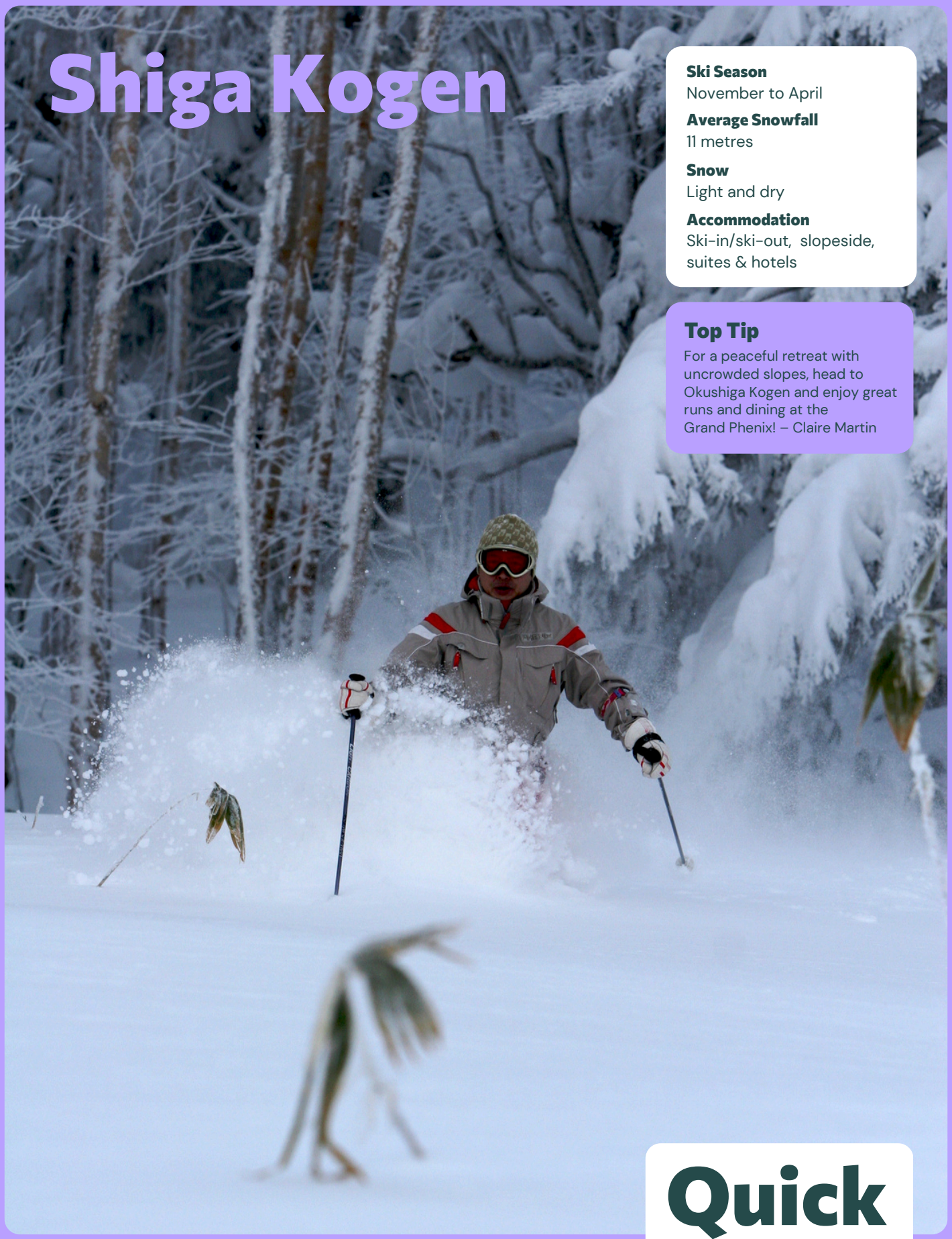
Shiga Kogen



Ski Season
November to April

Average Snowfall
11 metres

Snow
Light and dry

Accommodation
Ski-in/ski-out, slopeside, suites & hotels

Top Tip

For a peaceful retreat with uncrowded slopes, head to Okushiga Kogen and enjoy great runs and dining at the Grand Phenix! – Claire Martin

Quick Guide

Travel & Co

Shiga Kogen



Getting There

Shiga Kogen is a 2-hour journey from Tokyo via the Shinkansen to Nagano Station, followed by a 1-hour bus ride. Alternatively, take a 6-hour direct shuttle from Narita or Haneda Airports straight to the resort.

One Giant Playground of Snow

Shiga Kogen, in Nagano's Joshinetsu Kogen National Park, is Japan's largest ski resort with 18 interlinked areas covering over 80km of trails on one lift pass. Renowned for its reliable snowfall, diverse terrain, and one of the longest seasons in Japan, it's perfect for skiers and riders of all levels.

A former Winter Olympic venue, Shiga offers modern lifts, wide groomers, and excellent tree runs, especially around Yakebitaiyama and Okushiga. Getting around is easy thanks to a vast interconnected lift system and a free shuttle network linking every corner of the resort.

Ichinose Village is the resort's central hub, offering ski-in/ski-out access and a solid of dining options right on the slopes. Whether you're chasing fresh powder or soaking in a natural hot spring after a big day, Shiga Kogen blends world-class skiing with genuinely authentic Japanese charm.

Mountain Stats

Annual Snowfall 11 metres
Skiable Terrain 1,482 acres
Ability Level Beg: 30% | Int: 50% | Adv: 20%
Vertical Drop 967 metres
Ski Runs 80+
Lifts/Gondolas 54
Max Altitude 2,307 metres (7,534 feet)
Terrain Park Yes

Top Tip

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 in the evening. - Amy Moore

Scan Me

trail map

Top Reasons to Visit

Uncrowded Powder

With visitor numbers still dominated by domestic skiers, Shiga Kogen stays refreshingly quiet. Expect shorter lift lines, untracked snow well into the afternoon, and a genuinely laid-back pace that's increasingly rare at Japan's better-known resorts, even during the busiest weeks of the season.



Village to Village

There's no single base here, just 18 individual ski areas linked by slopes and a free shuttle bus. Ski straight from one cluster of hotels and restaurants into the next, discovering a different pocket of the mountain, and a new lunch spot, every single day of your stay.



Authentically Japan

Shiga Kogen has stayed staunchly local. Menus, signage and après are Japanese first, giving visitors a real, unpolished taste of Japanese ski culture, exactly as it's been enjoyed by generations of domestic skiers for over a century. And, of course, the food is incredible.



Onsens and Snow Monkeys

Shiga Kogen was a hot spring destination long before skiing arrived, with historic bathhouses in nearby Shibu Onsen still drawing visitors in yukata and geta. Just thirty minutes away, wild macaques bathe in the snow at Jigokudani, a genuinely unique sight easily paired with any Shiga Kogen stay.



Shiga Kogen's Unique Microclimate

Shiga Kogen's ski fields sit between 1,340m and 2,307m, making it the highest resort in Japan, well above Hakuba's peak at 1,831m and Nozawa Onsen's at 1,650m. Combined with its inland position, further from the sea than coastal resorts like Niseko, that altitude produces exceptionally dry, fine powder, more like sand than snow, and helps the mountain hold its base longer through the season.

The result is one of Japan's longest ski seasons. The season can run from late November through to early May, backed by a reliable average snowfall of around 12 metres. For skiers chasing spring powder after other resorts have wound down, Shiga Kogen quietly keeps delivering.



Winter Experiences

Zenko-ji Temple

One of Japan's most significant Buddhist temples, Zenko-ji sits in nearby Nagano City and dates back over 1,400 years. A rewarding half-day trip from Shiga Kogen, it pairs history and architecture with a proper taste of local city life.



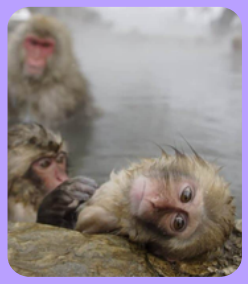
Snowdrive

Sit and steer your way downhill on a snow bike, a bicycle-style frame mounted on a single snowboard, blending the control of biking with the thrill of sliding on snow. No ski or snowboard experience needed, just balance and a sense of fun, perfect for something different.



Snow Monkey Tours

Watch wild Japanese macaques bathe in hot springs at Jigokudani Monkey Park, just 30 minutes from Shiga Kogen. A forest walk leads to the park, where snow-capped monkeys soak, a genuinely unique wildlife encounter found nowhere else in the world. Why not make it a full day tour with Temple and Sake breaks?



Onsen Tours

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.

Other Activites

Snow-hiking, kids park, snow-shoeing





Chat to a snow holiday expert

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