Rusutsu



Ski Season
November to April

Average Snowfall
14 metres

Snow
Light and dry

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

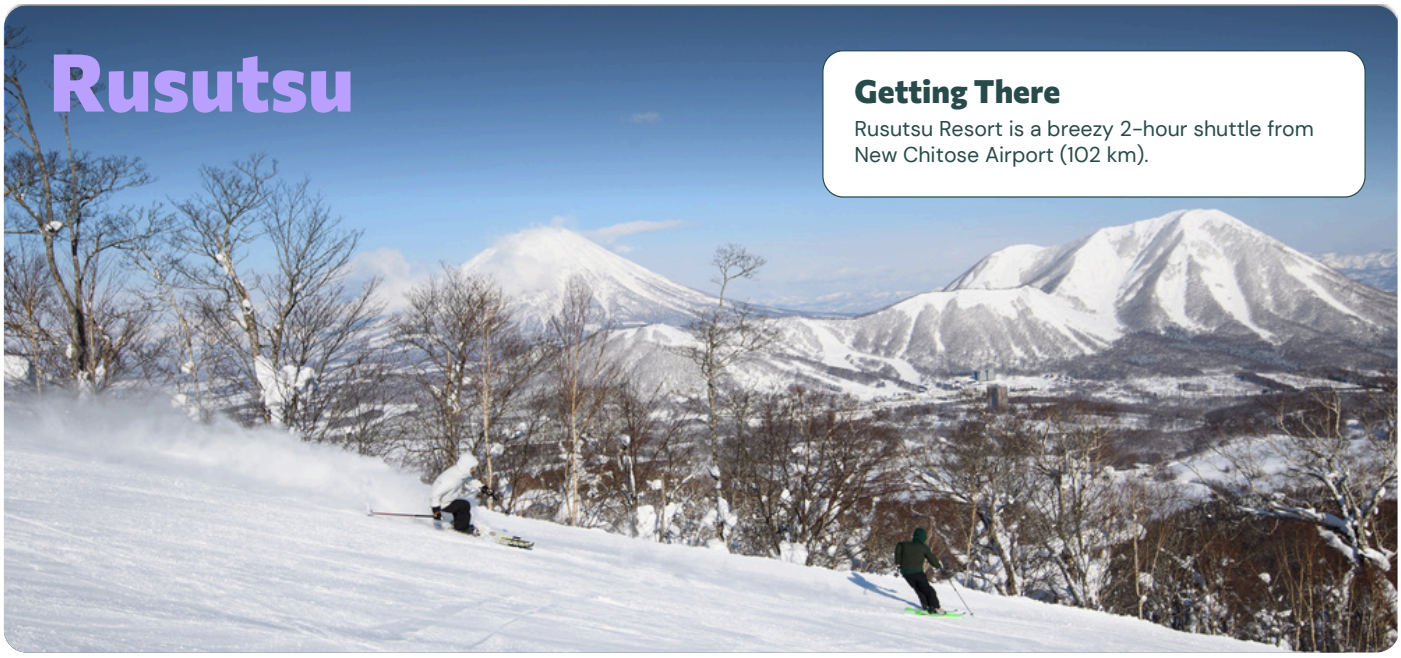
Top Tip

Book a table at Sekkatei early, its locally sourced Hokkaido cuisine is genuinely worth planning your evening around. - Laura Henderson.

Quick Guide

Travel & Co

Rusutsu



Getting There

Rusutsu Resort is a breezy 2-hour shuttle from New Chitose Airport (102 km).

Renowned for Tree Skiing

Rusutsu serves up one of Japan's most playful and powder-filled ski experiences. With three expansive mountains - West, East, and Mt. Isola - it's a dream for those who love gliding through perfectly spaced trees, cruising along silky groomers, or racking up lap after lap with barely a queue in sight. The terrain is varied and fun, making it ideal for both families and powder hounds alike, and there's genuine variety across each mountain to keep exploring day after day.

But what really sets Rusutsu apart is its delightfully quirky charm. From its retro indoor carousel and musical fountains to its colourful base village, it's got a cheerful, slightly surreal vibe you won't find anywhere else, even in the depths of winter. Add in famously consistent snow, wide-open slopes, and hot springs to soak in once the lifts stop spinning, and you've got yourself a winter wonderland that's hard to top.

Mountain Stats

Annual Snowfall 14 metres
Skiable Terrain 1,294 acres
Ability Level Beg: 30% | Int: 40% | Adv: 30%
Vertical Drop 684 metres
Ski Runs 37
Lifts/Gondolas 18
Max Altitude 994 metres (3,261 feet)
Terrain Park Yes

Top Tip

Rusutsu is a great resort to stay right at the base, but if you're based in Niseko, no worries! It's super easy to add on as a day trip and well worth it for the mellow crowds and fun terrain.
– Kate Livingstone

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Top Reasons to Visit

Three Mountains

Spread across West, East and Isola Mountains, Rusutsu offers 37 marked trails and some of the most celebrated glade skiing anywhere, with wide-open forest that's actively encouraged rather than roped off. Storm cycles off the Sea of Japan keep it topped up all winter.



Family Favourite

Beyond the slopes, Rusutsu offers tons of activities for the whole family. Whether you are looking for relaxation, creativity, adrenaline, intellectual learning or great food - it is all accessible at Rusutsu. There is something for every rest day, or a non-skiing partner, without sitting around the hotel.



Base Village

Rusutsu's hotels, restaurants, bars and even hot springs are all connected within complex, so there's no village to walk to and no shuttle to catch. There is a genuinely surreal charm, an indoor carousel, musical fountains and a whiskey bar, alongside restaurants and shops



Deep & Reliable Powder Snow

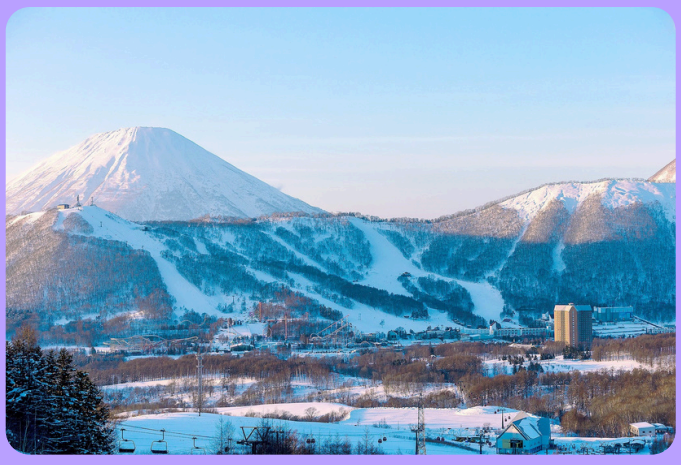
Nearby Mount Yotei shields Rusutsu from the harshest coastal winds while still allowing huge volumes of dry, inland powder to fall, often over 14 metres a season. The result is exceptionally light snow that holds up beautifully in the trees.



Rusutsu's Unique Village Base

Rusutsu's base is centered two, huge self-contained complexes with almost all the village's facilities. Step inside and you'll find a full-sized indoor carousel, arcade games, and a slow, deliberately quirky monorail that shuttles guests between hotels, more theme park than ski resort. After dark, a large-scale projection mapping show lights up the hotel's glass exterior, while whiskey bar Obrist offers a serious Japanese single malt selection in a genuinely classy setting.

It means everything sits in one place: multiple restaurants and izakaya, shops, hot springs, and ski in/ski out access to the slopes, all without stepping outside into the cold. There's a playful, slightly surreal charm to the whole place that's hard to find anywhere else in Japan, equal parts convenience and character, and it's part of what makes Rusutsu feel so distinct from every other resort in Hokkaido.



Winter Experiences

Snowmobiling

Rip across Rusutsu's untouched snowfields on your own snowmobile, guided by experienced instructors through open terrain and forest trails. Suitable for beginners and confident riders alike, it's an easy, adrenaline-filled way to explore beyond the lifts, no experience required, just a valid licence.



Snow-Drifting

Get behind the wheel on a dedicated ice course and learn genuine drift technique, or ride shotgun while a professional instructor demonstrates. From beginner lessons to advanced GT-R courses, it's a thrilling, safe way to experience snow driving unlike anywhere else.



Snow Tent Sauna

Warm up inside a wood-fired tent sauna using the traditional Finnish method, then take the plunge straight into fresh powder outside. It's an invigorating, properly Nordic experience, finished off with a soak in the hotel's hot springs to fully warm back up afterwards.



Wellness Center

Unwind in the dedicated wellness centre, designed for genuine and thorough relaxation. From fitness classes to personalised pillow fittings and skin analyses. It's a quieter, restorative side of the resort, ideal for guests wanting to properly recover between ski days or simply slow down.



Arts & Crafts

Try your hand at glasswork, cord crafts, or making your own personalised name plate in Rusutsu's hands-on workshops. It's a relaxed, creative way to spend an afternoon off the slopes, suited to all ages, and makes for a genuinely memorable souvenir of the trip.



Other Activities

Ice fishing, dog sledding, snow rafting, horse riding, nature tours, magic muesum, onsens, arcade games, indoor golf studio, climbing walls and more.



Chat to a snow holiday expert

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