

Furano

Ski Season

November to March

Average Snowfall

9 metres

Snow

Light and dry

Accommodation

Ski-in/ski-out, slopeside, lodges & hotels

Top Tip

Check both zones' operating hours before planning your day, Furano Zone and Kitanomine Zone may run on different schedules. – Kate Livingstone



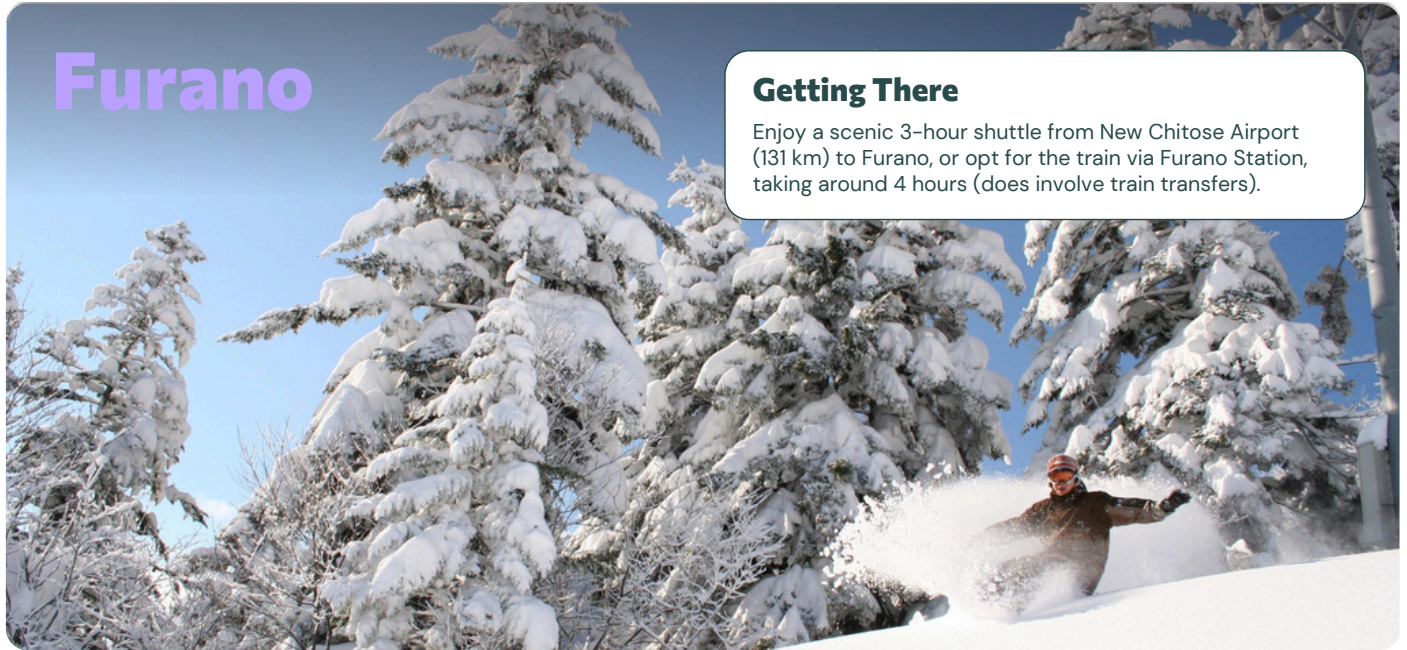
Quick Guide

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Getting There

Enjoy a scenic 3-hour shuttle from New Chitose Airport (131 km) to Furano, or opt for the train via Furano Station, taking around 4 hours (does involve train transfers).



A Powder Skiing Mecca

Nestled in Hokkaido, Furano Ski Resort is a haven for powder hounds, offering light, dry snow and clear blue skies more often than many other Japan resorts thanks to its inland location. With two main areas, Furano and Kitanomine, the resort caters to all levels, from wide, groomed beginner runs to challenging, steep off-piste terrain that's hosted FIS World Cup events, cementing its reputation among serious skiers.

Beyond skiing, Furano's charming town exudes authentic Japanese hospitality. After a day on the slopes, stroll the peaceful streets and sample the local cuisine, blending traditional flavours with global influences, plus melon and dairy specialties the wider Furano region is famous for. The Furano Snow Festival, featuring fireworks and family fun, adds to the magic, making this less-crowded gem the ultimate winter destination.

Mountain Stats

Annual Snowfall 9 metres	Ski Runs 28
Skiable Terrain 480 acres	Lifts/Gondolas 9
Ability Level Beg: 40% Int: 40% Adv: 20%	Max Altitude 1,209 metres (3,967 feet)
Vertical Drop 964 metres	Terrain Park Yes

Top Tip

Furano's Ningle Terrace is pure magic – tiny wooden cottages tucked in the trees, twinkling lights, and local crafts that make perfect souvenirs. It's a charming winter stroll you won't forget! – Rhiannon Grieve

Scan Me



trail map

Top Reasons to Visit

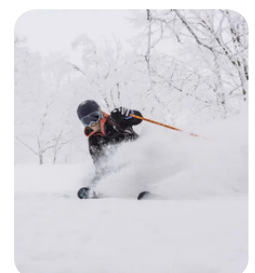
Serious Advanced Terrain

Furano's Downhill Course has hosted FIS World Cup races and remains one of Japan's most technical marked runs. Add tight, demanding tree skiing and looser backcountry runs than Niseko, and it's a genuine playground for experienced skiers wanting real challenge.



A Unique Kind of Japow

Furano trades some snowfall volume for exceptional quality: cold, dry, inland powder and noticeably more bluebird days than Hokkaido's coastal resorts. It's less about chasing the next storm, and more about consistently excellent snow under clear skies.



Authentically Japanese

Furano remains predominantly local, with most visitors Japanese rather than international. English is less common, the dining scene is proper local izakaya and ramen, and the pace is slower, offering a genuinely immersive alternative to other resorts' international bustle.



Town Access

Furano plugs into an actual working Japanese city, with easy access to supermarkets, temples and everyday local life alongside the skiing. It feels less like a purpose-built resort and more like a genuine town that happens to have exceptional snow on its doorstep.

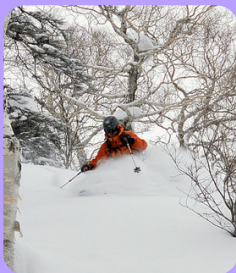


Zones of Furano

Two distinct areas, connected by a complimentary shuttle

Furano

The bigger, steeper of Furano's two areas, Furano Zone is home to the World Cup Downhill Course, one of Japan's most technical marked runs, plus the Furano Ropeway to the summit. It runs the longer season, late November to early May, and offers the resort's best mix of groomers, moguls and off-piste terrain.



Kitanomine

Smaller and more local in feel, Kitanomine Zone sits closest to Furano town, making it easy to duck out for lunch or head straight to dinner after the lifts close. It typically runs mid-December through late March, offers night skiing, and suits families and those wanting a shorter, more relaxed day on snow.



Winter Experiences

Furano Snow Land

Furano Snow Land is a purpose-built snow playground for families, offering snow rafting, banana boat rides, snowmobiling and snowshoeing. It's an easy way to fill a non-ski afternoon, suited to all ages and skill levels, and requires zero prior snow experience.



Snowmobiling

Rip through Hokkaido's backcountry on your own snowmobile, with guided routes through forest and open snowfields around Furano. It's available for all ages at Furano Snow Land, making it a genuinely accessible thrill for families, couples or anyone wanting a break from the slopes.



Dog Sledding

Held at Furano Kan Kan Mura, the resort's illuminated snow village, dog sledding here comes with a magical, storybook backdrop of over 60,000 lights and ice sculptures. It's a memorable, low-effort activity suited to all ages, and pairs perfectly with a warm drink at the Ice Café.



Other Activities

tubing, cross-country skiing, Ningle Terrace, onsens, ropeway tours to the summit, banana boat sledding and more.



Furano's Unique Microclimate

Furano's location sets it apart from Hokkaido's coastal resorts. Sitting well inland, away from the Sea of Japan, it misses some of the moisture-heavy storm systems that dump such huge volumes on resorts like Niseko, so seasonal snowfall runs lighter, around 8-9 metres compared to Niseko's 14-15 metres. What Furano trades in volume, though, it gains in quality and consistency. Cold air settles firmly inland, keeping the snow exceptionally light and dry, while clearer skies mean noticeably more bluebird days and fewer storm closures on the upper mountain. The result is a different kind of Japow experience altogether, less about chasing the next big dump, and more about reliably excellent, cold, dry powder under clear Hokkaido skies almost every day you're on the mountain.



Chat to a snow holiday expert

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