Niseko

Ski Season
November to April

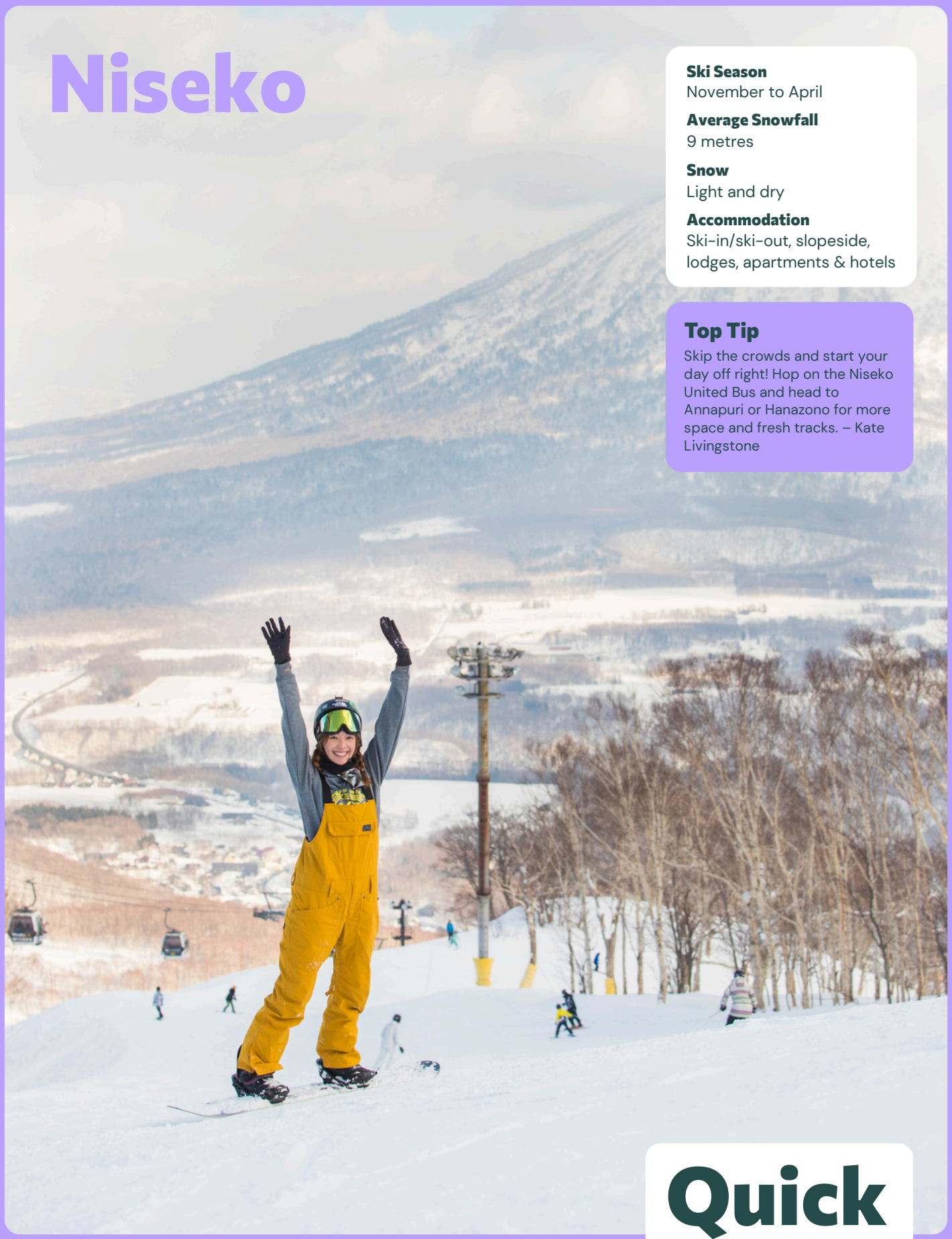
Average Snowfall
9 metres

Snow
Light and dry

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

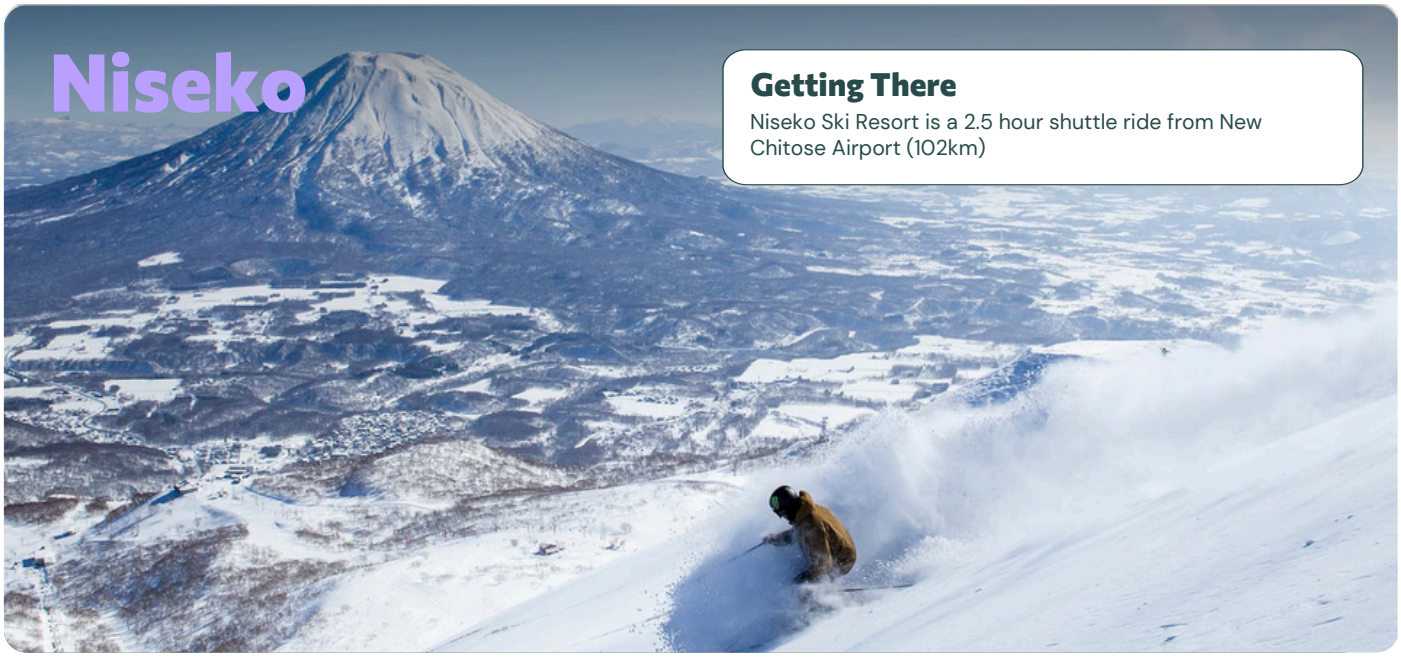
Top Tip

Skip the crowds and start your day off right! Hop on the Niseko United Bus and head to Annapuri or Hanazono for more space and fresh tracks. – Kate Livingstone



Quick Guide

Travel & Co



Niseko

Getting There

Niseko Ski Resort is a 2.5 hour shuttle ride from New Chitose Airport (102km)

Unleash the Powder at Japan's #1 Ski Resort

Niseko, on Hokkaido's northern island, is a powder lover's paradise, known for its deep, dry snow and consistent 15-metre winter snowfall. With four interlinked zones: Grand Hirafu, Hanazono, Niseko Village, and Annupuri, offering terrain for all levels, including thrilling tree skiing in its iconic powder-filled glades.

Beyond the slopes, Niseko blends Japanese charm with global flair. After a day on the mountain, relax in natural onsen baths, savour fresh Hokkaido seafood, or explore Hirafu's izakayas and cafés. The après-ski scene is laidback, with hot springs, sake, and fireside chats in stylish bars. Whether chasing powder or enjoying family-friendly snow days, Niseko's world-class skiing, serene culture, and warm hospitality make it a destination that keeps you coming back.

Mountain Stats

Annual Snowfall 15 metres
Skiable Terrain 2,195 acres
Ability Level Beg: 30% | Int: 40% | Adv: 30%
Vertical Drop 1,009 metres
Ski Runs 61
Lifts/Gondolas 38
Max Altitude 1,200 metres (3,937 feet)
Terrain Park Yes

Top Tip

Fresh produce, meat, wine and everyday basics are all close by, so self-contained apartments actually earn their kitchens. Handy for family stays, big groups, or anyone keen on a night off restaurants - Laura Henderson.

Scan Me

trail map

IKON PASS

Niseko Village

Niseko Village sits quieter than Hirafu, and we love it. This area offers award-winning hotels with spa and onsen facilities, a dining and retail hub and the snow school. Eight lifts serve 25 runs, headlined by the 2,660m Niseko Gondola, the longest in the area. Ski Superstition after a dump, or duck the Mizuno no Sawa gate for untouched powder.



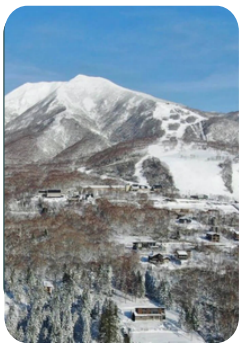
Niseko Grand Hirafu

Grand Hirafu is Niseko's biggest, buzziest base, and the energy shows. Twelve lifts, including the King and Ace gondolas, reach 22 runs. Take the pizza-box King Lift #4 for bragging rights, or carve the 2,000m Holiday Run after dinner under lights. Restaurants, bars and hotels keep the vibes going till late. The unofficial hub of the resort.



Niseko Annupuri

Annupuri is Niseko's quiet, local place to properly slow down. Six lifts serve mellow, wide-open terrain that suits beginners and families. Ride the Annupuri Gondola for sweeping, uninterrupted Mt Yotei views, then duck into Gate 8 for easy backcountry powder access. In the village there are a couple of quiet bars, a dozen restaurants and eight onsens.



Hanazono Resort

Hanazono is Niseko's family-friendly, tree-skiing gem, right next door to Hirafu. Four lifts include the after-dark Symphony Gondola, one of the only night-skiing options on the mountain. Strawberry Fields delivers some of Niseko's best glade skiing, while a dedicated kids' zone and terrain park make it a genuine all-ages base.



Top Reasons to Visit

JaPOW

Niseko's powder reputation isn't marketing spin, it's geography. Cold, dry air builds over Siberia through winter, then crosses the Sea of Japan, picking up huge amounts of moisture along the way. It hits Hokkaido's mountains, cools fast, and dumps that moisture as snow, right on Niseko's doorstep. Because the air stays cold the whole way, the snow lands light and dry, not the heavier stuff found elsewhere. This pattern repeats constantly through the season, which is why Niseko averages a genuine 10-15m of snowfall, and why the mountain resets every few days, not every few weeks.



Endless Options

Four linked resorts, one lift pass, no faffing with transfers. It's ideal for a two-week stay, with easy day trips to Rusutsu, Sapporo, or a soak in a Hokkaido onsen when you want a change of scene. Everything you need sits within easy reach, so less time planning, more time on snow.



Genuinely International, Genuinely Japan

Ski schools, gentle beginner terrain and English-speaking instructors make it easy for all ages and abilities, while self-contained apartments and village activities keep everyone happy off the mountain too. English is everywhere, from menus to lift staff, yet Niseko stays deeply Japanese: onsen, izakaya, and snow-draped shrines right on your doorstep.



Winter Experiences

Iwanui Cat Skiing

A VIP Cat Skiing experience with 650m elevation per run and spectacular views of the sea of Japan.

Snowmobile Tours

Rip through backcountry powder fields on your own snowmobile, guided through forest, farmland and untouched snow.

Onsen Tours

Soak in traditional hot springs after a day on the mountain, steam rising against snow-draped forest and mountain views.

Rusutsu Day Trip

With one of the largest available lift access ski areas, Rusutsu is a favourite of the locals. Discover why with a day spent in this powder paradise

Heli-Skiing

Chase untracked powder in remote Hokkaido terrain, dropped by helicopter onto runs no lift or gondola can reach.

Other Activities

Snowshoeing, fat biking, ice fishing, snow drifting, cooking and pottery experiences and more



Chat to a snow holiday expert

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