

Heli & Side Country Skiing on the Powder Snow of Rusutsu & Niseko



Fully enjoy skiing in Hokkaido's powder snow area, which boasts the world's No. 1 snow quality! Powdered snow in the Rusutsu area is said to have a moisture content of about 5-7%, making it smooth and light. The other location in this tour, the Niseko area, is said to have the second highest snowfall in the world and is characterized by deep snow.

Through heli-skiing and side-country skiing in such blessed mountainous natural environment, you will experience Hokkaido's high quality snow and enjoy the benefits of the rich water brought by the snow, through food and hot springs.

Highlights:

- Experience skiing in various categories, including slopes, backcountry and heli-ski.
- Experience heli-skiing and side-country skiing in the world's highest level of powder snow
- Experience taking a hot spring bath (onsen) in Goshiki Onsen, a 100% source of natural nutrients.
- Enjoy gourmet food made from local ingredients around Mt. Yotei and its nutrients.

Location:

Hokkaido's powder snow area boasts the best snow quality in the world

The attraction of skiing and snowboarding in Hokkaido is the good quality of snow. It is said that powdered snow and powder snow, which have low water content and fall when the temperature is low, are ideal for skiing.

Powdered snow in the Rusutsu area is said to have a moisture content of about 5-7%, making it smooth and light. The other location in this tour, the Niseko area, is said to have the second highest snowfall in the world and is characterized by deep snow.

Its high quality is also called Absolute Powder (ultimate powder snow).

Especially Rusutsu and Niseko can taste the finest powder snow with high probability in the season.

Main Activity: Heli-skiing

Difficulty: 4 / 5

Tour Dates: 05 January, 2023 - 15 February, 2023

Pax: Minimum 4 Maximum 6

Price: From JPY 480,000- (per person for a group of 4 – tax included)

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

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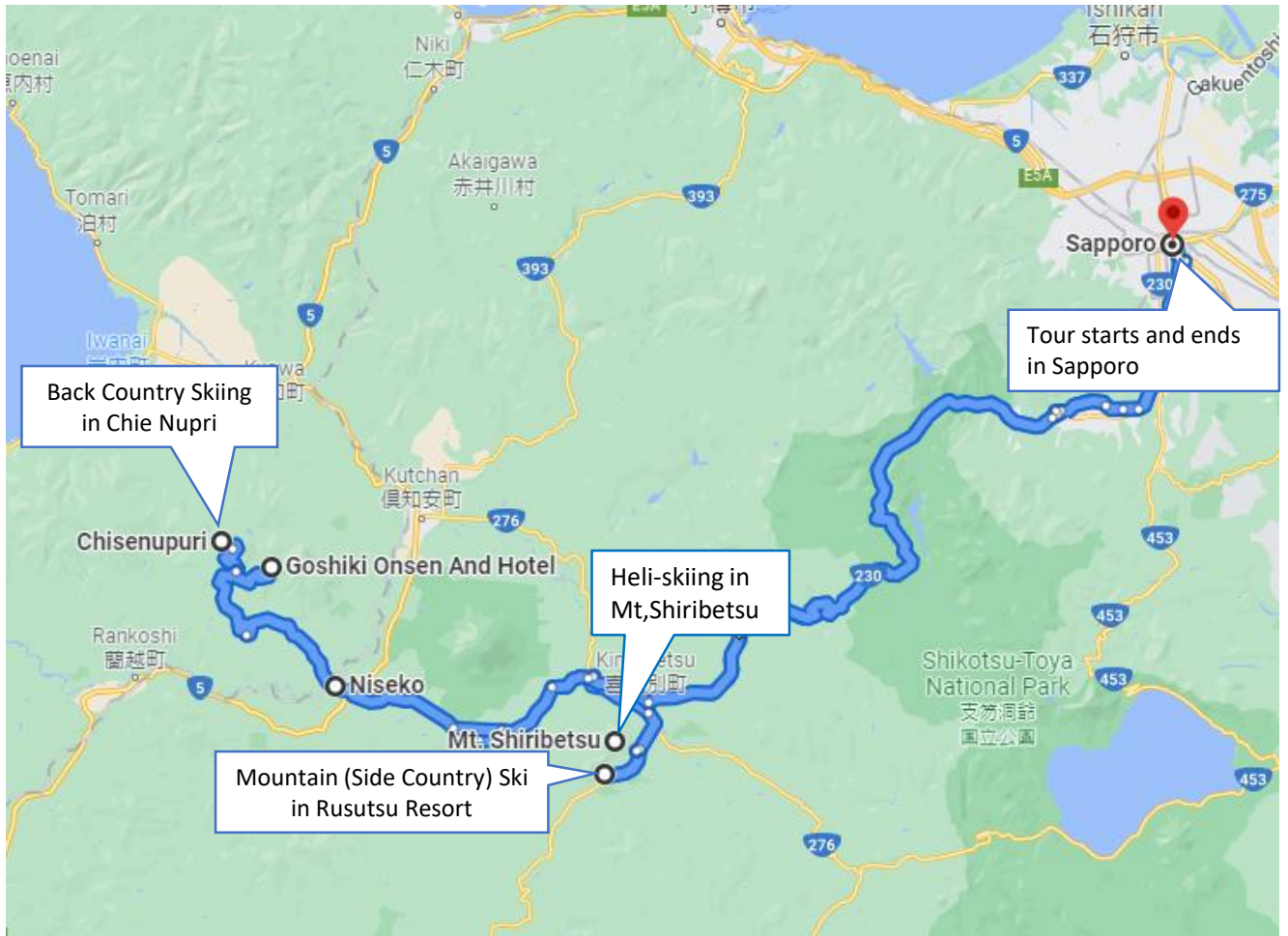
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Route Map



Day-by-day Itinerary

January 05 - Day 1 – Meet at Sapporo Station

We will meet our guide at Sapporo Station by 9am. After we meet the guide, we take a chartered coach to Rusutsu. The bus ride is about 2 hours. On the way to Rusutsu, the guide will give an introduction of this tour and we introduce ourselves.

Lunch

Before we go on an adventure, we will have lunch at a restaurant. This restaurant uses local ingredients that were grown using water rich with minerals from Mt. Yotei. This is the only place we can enjoy the vegetables and meat from the Makkari area. Sample Menu: Appetizer using local seasonal vegetables / soup / main plate using meat

After a tasty lunch, we are ready for the adventure in Rusutu! We will enjoy skiing in the slopes of Rusutsu Resort. This is one of the largest slopes in Hokkaido, with 37 courses on three mountains. The total run distance is 42km. On a clear day, we can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of Mount Yotei, Lake Toya and the Pacific Ocean from the slopes and also from the top of the mountains. Enjoy the afternoon skiing freely in these courses.

Dinner

Dinner for tonight is a delicious buffet dinner using many Hokkaido-made ingredients.

Once we are finished with dinner, our hotel for the night is at Rusutsu Resort Hotel. This hotel received the Grand Award for “World’s Best New Ski Hotel 2021”. If you are staying at Rusutsu for a ski trip, this hotel is the best one to choose !

January 06 - Day 2 – Enjoy a Full Day of Heli-Ski

We meet early in the morning, 7:50AM, to start our great adventure of Heli-ski. We board the chartered vehicle and head to the heliport, just 10 minutes away from the hotel. Once we arrive at the heliport, the guide will give an explanation on heli-ski and avalanche in the mountains. After an hour, the actual skiing starts. We will enjoy skiing 6 runs on the best lines of Mt. Shiribetsu. Hokkaido's powder snow is called "Japow", as it has a characteristic of dry, fine powder snow with low water content. In this heli-ski activity, we get the chance to enjoy this Japow! Heli-skiing offers unpressurized courses for powder skiing, tough steep slopes and slopes with rich natural terrains. This sure is one of the most challenging ski activity!

Lunch

A Pizza Set Menu will be provided for lunch. The flour used in the pizza is a Hokkaido brand flour "Haru Yutaka". Toppings used on the pizza are ingredients which are Hokkaido made as well.

Sample Menu: Pizza using home made tomato sauce and Hokkaido made potatoes.

After lunch, we will continue our heli-ski experience for 2 and a half hours. Once We will be back at the hotel around 4PM. We will have some time to freshen up before we meet again for dinner.

Dinner

As a cross-cultural experience, dinner will be at a local Izakaya restaurant. Izakaya is a Japanese style pub where local Japanese people go to eat dinner and to grab a drink. Tonight, we enjoy seafood, mountain vegetables and local sake from the surrounding area and get a chance to socialize with the locals.

Activity: Heli-skiing

Difficulty: 4 / 5



January 07 - Day 3 – Enjoy a Full Day of Mountain (Side Country) Ski

Our day starts with a buffet breakfast in the hotel. Be sure you eat enough for another adventurous day in the mountains!

Our guide will meet us at the hotel lobby at 9AM. After the guide gives instructions on this activity, we head on to the mountains. In this activity, the guide will take us through areas that are not able to access in normal ski lessons. So we are self responsive for our own skiing. The guide will search for the best powder snow area of the day and take us to non-pressured routes. The areas the guide will take us are around the Rusutsu Resort, with many tree runs and small mashes, with the maximum slope at 40 degrees.

Lunch

Lunch will be in the cafeteria in the Rusutsu Resort. The guide will take note of the time and will get us back to the building so that we won't miss lunch.

After lunch, we go back outside for more adventure into the mountains. The afternoon activity will be around 2 and a half hours, and be back at the hotel around 4PM.

Dinner

A mixture of Japanese, Western and Chinese buffet will be waiting for us for dinner. The chef arranged these recipes using local ingredients made from around the area.

Activity: Mountain (Side Country) Ski

Difficulty: 3 / 5



January 08 - Day 4 – Back Country Skiing

Rise and Shine ! Before we say our farewells, we have one last ski activity to experience. Until yesterday, we enjoyed skiing around Rusutsu area. Now, we head on our adventure into the mountains of Niseko, like Chie Nupri, Nito Nupri, Iwao Nupri, Mt. Mekunai and Mt. Yotei. The local guide will choose the best course according to the weather conditions of that day.

Lunch

After the activity, we go to “THE POW BAR” for a light lunch. The Pow Bar makes its own energy bars using 100% natural ingredients all made in Niseko, safe for everyone to eat.

The last but not least activity of this tour is taking a dip in the Goshiki Onsen. This onsen (hot spring) is popular among the locals for its therapeutic treatment purposes. Goshiki Onsen is an acidic onsen, including sulfur, magnesium, sodium, calcium, nitrate and chloride, rich with natural nutrients. Experience a dip into this onsen and enjoy the great scenery of the mountains we sled down in the mountains.

After a nice relaxing time in the onsen, we travel back on the chartered vehicle to Sapporo. The ride is 2 and a half hours, so while we are on the vehicle, we will go over and talk about memories from this trip. Our tour terminates upon arrival at Sapporo Station.

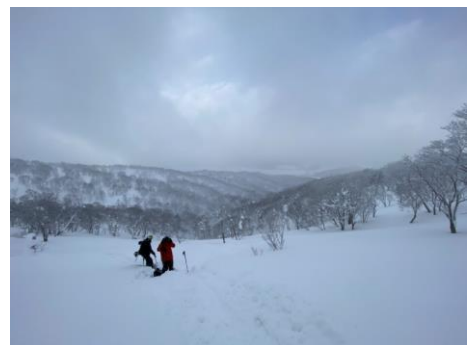
Activity: Back Country Skiing

Difficulty: 4 / 5

Accommodation:

05 January, 2023 - 15 February, 2023
: Rusutsu Resort Hotel & Convention / single occupancy

05 January, 2023 - 15 February, 2023
: Hilton Niseko Village/ single occupancy



What's included

- All of transportation as stated in the itinerary
- English speaking representative(s) and guide(s)
- Beacon, probe, shovel, backpack
- 3 night accommodation, single occupancy, those provided within the tour
- 3 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners
- Personal expense

What's not included

- Cost to/from Sapporo Station before and after the tour
- Any extra cost for drinks other than

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- First Aid Kit
- Beacon, probe, shovel, backpack
- Towel rentals for Onsen experience

What to bring

Necessities

- Several sets of comfortable clothing
- Warm clothing
- Winter shoes (water proof is better)
- Ski wear (top and bottom)
- Rain Gear (umbrellas, raincoats)
- Tools for ski (fat ski, snowboard for powder snow, poles, boots, ski seals, snow shoes, shovels, probes, transceivers)
- Gloves, knitted hats, goggles
- Reusable water bottles
- Any personal medications
- Passport (you may need to present it at the time of check-in)
- Travel Insurance
- Cash (in Yen) as many of the stores only accept cash
- Cameras (water proof is better)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen / lotion
- List of any Medical history

About us



Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido

We, Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido (NTA Hokkaido) launched business in 1994, spinning off from “Nippon Travel Agency (NTA)”, the first travel agency in Japan founded in 1905. This spin-off helped us become a specialist in all types of travel in Hokkaido, the largest prefecture of Japan, ranging from Destination Management, Outgoing Tourism, MICE Solutions to Special Interest Tours. We extended our business from the Sapporo office to 8 branch offices within Hokkaido, from Hakodate of southern Hokkaido to Kushiro of eastern Hokkaido. From our 115+ years of experience in the travel market, we are committed to offering travel services of the highest quality, combining our energy and enthusiasm. Our greatest satisfaction comes in serving large numbers of satisfied clients who have experienced the joys and inspiration of travel. If you have any questions or concerns about a trip to Japan, please feel free to contact us. Our mission is to provide the best experience on your next exciting trip to Japan !

Guides

The English speaking guide for this tour is a professional licensed guide. The guide has the experience of traveling the globe three times and visited 67 countries. Has many experience of working for foreign businesses, from private FIT tours to large incentive groups. He is fond of outdoor activities with the experience of trekking the Swiss Alps. Also, he has started to work as a fishing guide in Japan as well.

For the activity guides, we have NZMGA guide, AST level 2 avalanche certified guide and JAN certified guide to support this tour. 2 out of 3 guides are non-Japanese guides,, fluent in English. All guides will take care of the group and will balance out the courses according to the level of the group.

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

Should you have any dietary restrictions or any special requests, please let us know at the time of booking, in the Registration Form. We will work our best to match your request, but there may be time where we have to ask for your forgiveness if we cannot fulfill a request. In our years of working with overseas groups, we have been requested for Halal, gluten free and MSG free. We ask that you let us know especially for these three restrictions, as many of Japanese dish uses gluten and MSG. Halal is not penetrated much yet in Japan, especially in the countryside.

Our most desire is for you to experience Japan to the fullest, not just through activities and communicating with the locals but through food as well. As we stated above, in certain areas, especially in the countryside of Japan, it may be difficult to completely match your request. So, we would like to ask for you to try your best in challenging the local specialties. On the other hand, we strongly understand that dietary restrictions are very important and we so will try our best to meet your request. But we may need some time to arrange the meal for you so please let us know at the earliest.

Emergency Response Plan

We believe that in order to enjoy any kind of tour, we must first think of safety as the top priority. We, Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido, ask for all activity guides to be certified with the Advanced First Aid Course or any certificate of similar course (for example wilderness first aid). Other than just being certified, the guides will have a first aid kit along with them during the tour. We will also have a staff in our office to take care of any kind of trouble that may happen during the tour.

Depending on the weather conditions of that day, the guide will be giving out specific instructions to prevent any danger that may occur because of the weather condition. If the weather is unsuitable to fulfil an activity, the guide will make a decision to change the routing. In the worst case scenario, we will substitute the activity with a different activity just as enjoyable as the original activity.

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Reservation and Payment Methods

After receiving your reservation request, we will send you an email with the necessary reservation forms. Please fill in the forms and send it back to us by email. Personal questions regarding dietary restrictions, height, weight etc. are solely used to provide you with the best service, activities, and meals.

We accept payment by wire or credit card. If you wish to pay by Credit Card, please be noted that we only accept VISA or Master. Any other type of credit card company, we are afraid we can not accept them. If you wish to pay through our bank, please let us know on the reservation form, and we will send you our banking information.

We will require a deposit of JPY 50,000- or Full Payment at the time of completing your reservation form. Your deposit will be applied to the total tour fare of this tour. Final payments must be made 21 days prior your tour date. We will send you a reminder email regarding payment approximately 30 days before your tour starts.

If you wish to cancel your reservation, please let us know by email with a writing that you are cancelling the tour. Please see below for our Cancellation Charge.

Cancellation Notice is Received on:	Cancellation Charge
31 days or Before prior tour start date in Japan	No Charge
30 to 15 days prior to group arrival date in Japan	20% of total tour fare
14 to 8 day prior to tour start date in Japan	50% of total tour fare
7 to 5 day prior to tour start date in Japan	70% of total tour fare
4 day to 1 day prior to tour start date in Japan	100% of total tour fare
No show or on and after tour start date in Japan	100% of total tour fare

Disclaimer

Our tour programs are programmed under the careful consideration of your safety. The guides will pay sufficient attention to keep you away from accidents and/or injuries during the tour. However, we could not assume any responsibilities of the following incidents :

1. Accidents and/or injuries caused from bad physical conditions and/or any diseases or sickness which you already have suffered prior to the tour.
2. Accidents and/or injuries caused by your negligence to safety instructions given by your guides throughout the tour.
3. Any other accidents and/or injuries caused by your self-infliction.

At the time of filling in the Reservation Form, we will ask for you to make a signature on the disclaimer form sent with the reservation form.

Tour Operator / Contact

Nippon Travel Agency Hokkaido

Takahiro Murayama

Email: takahiro_hmurayama@nta.co.jp

Phone: (+81) 11-208-0182