

BC Skiing in Sapporo Suburbs with a unique mountain ski culture



At the very beginning, Ski was introduced as a tool for means of transportation on snow not for leisure purposes. Yet, due to great environment with mountains and snow quality in Sapporo, Back Country Skiing occurred and developed with its unique history. It is said that Hans Koller, a German language instructor who was assigned to Sapporo Agricultural College in 1908, introduced skiing to Sapporo for the first time. He used skies as a tool for communication with students. In 1912, Lieutenant Colonel Lerch, an Austrian soldier, introduced how to ski to Sapporo citizens.

Since then, the mountains near Sapporo, which boast good quality and rich in snowfall, have become popular as a field for winter mountaineering on skiing which now we call Back Country Skiing. Although the mountains are relatively gentle and around 1,000 meters high, the strong northwesterly winds blowing from the Sea of Japan provide abundant powder snow for months at a time. In the 1960s, many huts were built in mountains of Sapporo suburbs, and a unique style of Back Country skiing was established. Hikers began wearing skies with heel lifted bindings and traversing the mountains while staying at mountain huts.

Although the number of huts has been reduced by half since then, still this unique ski culture of Sapporo suburbs attracts many mountain skiing enthusiasts.

Highlights:

- To experience Hokkaido's "mountain skiing" culture developed by the introduction of ski gear by Europeans and mountainous environment in Sapporo
- To experience winter mountains which are only accessible in snow season
- To enjoy nicely spaced out tree runs in the forest with Hokkaido native trees
- To experience a unique form of mountain ski travelling by staying in historic and unmanned mountain huts
- To stay at Jozankei ONSEN famous for good quality of hot springs
- To visit the Ainu museum after skiing in mountains where are sacred for the Ainu

Location:

As the largest two million populated city, Sapporo is located in Hokkaido, the northernmost main island of Japan. As the capital of Hokkaido, it plays a significant role as the cultural, economic, and political center the region. It is a very unique metropolis with a great nature in its suburbs. 1hr by train or bus from New Chitose Airport.

Main Activity:	Back Country Skiing	
Difficulty:	4	
Tour Dates:	January - March	
Pax:	Minimum 1	Maximum 4
Price:	JPY280,000 (2~4pax)	

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

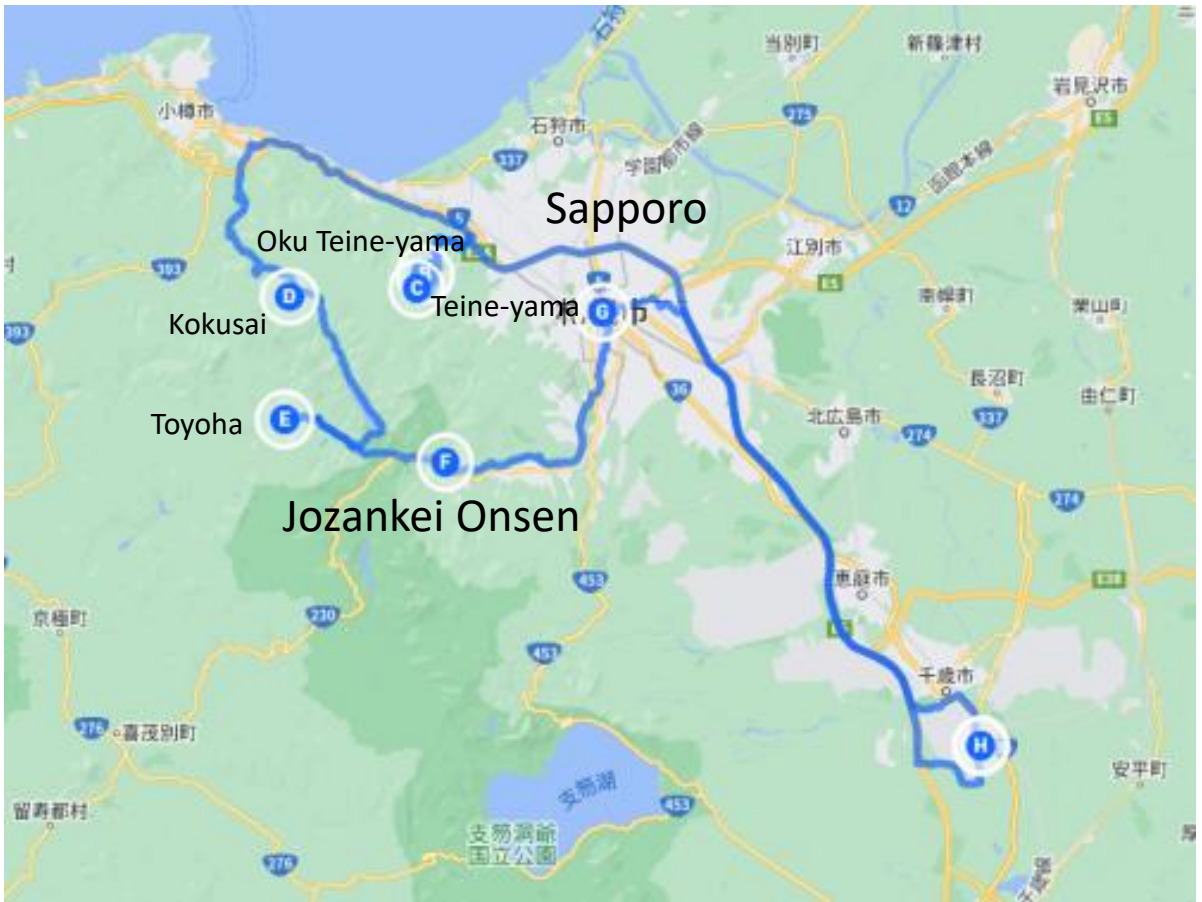
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Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - Traveling from Airport to Sapporo

You meet a guide at New Chitose Airport that connects to Tokyo Haneda airport or other airports with considerable number of daily flights. About 1hr drive with a private van will take you to Sapporo, the largest metropolis in Hokkaido. Enjoy dinner in downtown of Sapporo and relax at Hotel after.

Activity – Traveling Time 1hour

Accommodation – Sapporo | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Dinner at a local restaurant in Sapporo

Day 2 - Guided BC Ski Traversing From Mt. Teine To Mt. Oku-Teine Hut

After breakfast at HTL, we depart for Mt. Teine by driving 30-40min from Sapporo downtown. Taking a chair lift, we access from Teine Ski Resort where 1972 Sapporo Olympics were held and start from the summit of Mt. Teine to backcountry area. We ski on the steep slope of the rock wall zone around the ridge and reach to the open slope with few trees. We traverse to Mt. Oku-Teine Hut “Yama no Ie” and enjoy ski around the hut, a property of Hokkaido University yet open for mountain ski enthusiasts. Enjoy the time at this historic hut with the warmth & lights of coal stoves.

Activity – BC Skiing (6hrs)

Accommodation – Mt.Oku-Teine Hut “Yama no Ie” | No bedded | Shared Toilet

Included meals – Breakfast at HTL | Dinner prepared by your Guide

Activity: BC Skiing (6hrs) / Staying overnight at Mountain Hut

Difficulty: 4



Day 3 - Guided BC Ski Traversing From Mt. Oku-Teine To Mt. Harukayama

After Breakfast prepared by your guide, we depart from the “Yama no Ie” hut to the peak of Mt. Oku-Teine (948m). On the way, we pass through the ruins of Mt. Haruka Hut “Ginreisou” closed in March 2022 due to deterioration of the building. “Ginreisou Hut” was also a lively amount ski enthusiasts. After the hut, We ski from the peak of Mt. Haruka (906m) on the south face and then head to Route 1 through the trail for foresters. We arrive at Sapporo Kokusai Ski Resort and head to Jozankei Onsen to stay overnight.

Activity – BC Skiing (6hrs)

Accommodation –HTL in Jozankei Onsen | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast prepared by your Guide | Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (6hrs)

Difficulty: 4

Day 4 - Guided BC Skiing at Senjaku Highland & Visiting Ainu Cultural Center

Starting from the Toyoha Mine, we follow a sparsely forested ridge to the Senjaku Highlands (1,150m) and enjoy skiing along several ridges derived from the main ridge to the north(approx. 5 hours). After skiing, we visit the Sapporo Ainu Culture Exchange Center (Sapporo “Pirikakotan”) in Koganeyu, the South District, Sapporo.

Activity – BC Skiing (6hrs)

Accommodation –HTL in Jozankei Onsen | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (5hrs) & Visiting the Ainu Cultural Center

Difficulty: 4



Day 5 - Traveling from Sapporo Downtown To New Chitose Airport

After breakfast at HTL, We depart from Sapporo City to New Chitose Airport by a private van. 1hr driving.

Activity –Traveling Time 1hr

Included meals – Breakfast at HTL

Food & Accommodation

Accommodations

Day	Location	Type	Room	Spa
1	Sapporo	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
2	*Mt. Oku Teine	Mountain Hut	Sleeping Bag & Mat	NIL
3	Jouzankei Onsen	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
4	Jouzankei Onsen	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen

Mt. Oku Teine “Yama no Ie” Hut

- Mountain Hut without hut keepers (weekdays)
- No Bed : Need to Carry Sleeping Bag & Mat
- Toilet : Yes but not Flush Toilet
- Water: Yes but need to purify or boil the water coming from a creek near the hut
- Electricity: Power generated from Solar Panel, Not stable all the time
- Heater: Coal Stove available in the hut

Breakfast & Dinner

All breakfasts and dinners on this tour are included. While staying at HTL, both will be served as a set menu or a buffet, it depends on the day and subject to an accommodation. In many cases, it will mainly be served basically ‘Washoku’, Japanese cuisine, and some other dishes like Western or Chinese cuisines may also be included. Any kind of dietary requirements will happily be accepted, or if it’s not, the proper substitutes must be provided, so please feel free to tell us your requirements in advance.

While staying at Mountain Hut, your guide will prepare for dinner & breakfast including drinks like tea and coffee.

Food & Snacks for BC Skiing

Winter outdoor, we shouldn't take a time for eating a packed lunch or similar, because, the air temperature is normally around zero degree or less even in the daytime. So, you'd better take high energy food regularly also quickly, whichever you're hungry or not. You have a time to buy something at a local convenience store like Seicomart, which has wide range of foods and beverages such as cooked sandwiches, chocolates, energy bars, high caloric snacks, mixed nuts, sports drinks etc. Please buy them and pack it in your backpack.



The Airport

Guide will await at or send you to New Chitose Airport (CTS), one of the busiest airports in Japan. The distance from CTS to Sapporo is approximately 50 km and it takes about 1 hour on road. Sufficient number of flights from/to Tokyo, Haneda airport are daily operated, as well as flights for other domestic / international airports are also available. Tell us your flight details in advance.

What's included

- 4 nights accommodation with 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- All transportations as described in the itinerary
- English speaking Japanese guide, assistants and porters upon group size
- Entree Fee for Ainu Cultural Center

Not included

- lunches & Drinks and personal expenses
- Equipment for BC skiing ; skis with tour bindings, boots, climbing skins, couteaus, ski poles, and other suitable items for backcountry skiing

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- First aid kit
- Safety equipment and maps

What to bring

Essentials

- Skis with alpine touring bindings (with heel free function)
- Ski boots, climbing skins, coueteaus/mountings, ski poles
- *Avalanche beacon, probe and shovel (Available for rentals)
- Gore Tex jacket and pants suitable for mid winter
- Base layers top and bottom
- Thermal layers top and bottom
- Fleece or down jacket
- Woolen gloves and windproof outer gloves
- Balaclava or Bienne, neck warmer
- Sun glasses and sun screen
- Ski goggles
- Water bottle of more than 1 L
- Quick dry hand towel
- Toiletries
- Personal Medications
- Backpack suitable for all items
- Sleeping Bag for Winter (Recommended -10~15 degrees/Down)
- Sleeping Pads
- Rations/Lunches (Able to buy them at local shops)
- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Cash in JPY (Some places don't accept credit cards.)

Recommended items

- Cell phone chargers
- Sleeping Bag Cover
- Dry bags
- Extra snacks/energy bars
- Camera

About us

Nomad

Nomad Co Ltd established in 1987 in Sapporo, the principal city of Hokkaido Prefecture in Japan. We've been dealing various types of nature related tours over 35 years and now ended up had various experiences and useful knowledge those all provided from our valued guests and nature.

Initially, we were dealing various kinds of travel related products and materials such as air tickets , hotel bookings, train/bus/rent-a-car bookings, visas, group tours for academic conventions, travel arrangements for inbound groups/individual into Hokkaido, and many more. That is, we dealt everything for personal needs to travel.

Many periods so far, we have been producing nature relating tours, such as trekking/hiking tours and mountaineering tours. Having had a mountain guiding section called 'Alpine Guide Nomad', we have been guiding mainly Japanese hikers, trekkers and climbers to various mountains in domestic and overseas. However, due to covid19 pandemic, we suspended overseas tours and become focusing our home ground Hokkaido since March 2020.

We let recognized how our home Hokkaido is beautiful and abundant with amazing nature. There are still many unknown places to explore, and also those places are relatively accessible easily. We set our next mission is to invite nature lovers from all over the world and to take them into genuine and deep Hokkaido's nature, and also to provide them a great opportunity with memorable experiences through unique adventurous activities.

Why don't you visit and explore the genuine nature of Hokkaido?
We provide you such a great adventure in Hokkaido's Nature.
See you in Hokkaido!

Guides

Yu SATO “YOU”



‘YOU’ was born in a small village at eastern Hokkaido, as a family member of a big farm producing various crops and local specialties. He grew up in an ideal nature-filling environment of the eastern foot of a great mountain group called Hidaka Mountain Range, a magnificent huge uplift with a total length of 150 km, also considered as a backbone of Hokkaido. He have learned how to deal with nature or how to walk in a dense forest as well as how to avoid an unexpected encounter with a wild bear through his daily life. He moved to Sapporo at his age of 18th to learn outdoor guiding. He started working at Nomad and brushed up his guiding skill. He has been guiding our guests to various locations in and outside Hokkaido, also to the mountains abroad such as Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Annapurna Sanctuary in Nepal, and many more. Now he has his own guiding office ‘Your Time’ to provide clients various adventures.

HMGA official Mountaineering Guide Stage-1 and Ski Guide Stage-2, Hokkaido official Outdoor Guide (All seasons)

Micuhiko AOKI “Michiko”



“Michiko”, born in Sapporo, has started skiing from her early age. After she studied the international development at the University of Calgary, AB, Canada, had worked as a park-ranger at Daisetsuzan N. P. in Hokkaido and also spent two year experience in the Republic of Kenya as a JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer. After returning to Japan, she became an aspirant mountain guide in Hokkaido and also back to Canada to acquire higher guiding skill at the mountaineering course in Yamnuska Mountaineering School, Canmore, AB. In 2014, she set her own mountain climbing guide office “Mountain Flow”, and has been guiding a lot of domestic and international clients. The certainty of her guiding is undisputed, but more than that her cheerful personality and mindfulness attracts all the customers coming from any location of the world.

HMGA official Hiking Guide Stage-2 and Ski Guide Stage-1, CAA ATS Level-2, JAN Level-1, Wilderness First Aid, International Mountain Leader

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

If you have dietary restrictions, please fill out the pre-departure questionnaire. At restaurants, hotels and deli in Japan, you may find difficulties to find gluten-free products and meals which do not contain any meat nor fish products. Especially at Japanese restaurant, it is very few menus for vegetarians/vegans to find a full meal. We will arrange the meal at restaurant or hotel according to your dietary requirement. If you found still difficulties to eat, we do our best to get you satisfied and keep your health at the best condition for your trip in Hokkaido.

Emergency Response Plan

All of our guides equip first aid kit as must items and also they are qualified as first aid responders with licenses given by the Japan Mountain Guide Association (JMGA) or Hokkaido Outdoor guide Qualification (HMGA). Also, for winter activities in snow, our guides are fully trained for Avalanche Search and Rescues. Our tours deal activities in outdoors. Unexpected cases could be happened due to the nature including weather which humans cannot control. Yet guides always care of the safety first and make judgement for the best. Guides carry a satellite phone or radios to call an emergency rescue in a remote area.

Weather Conditions

Hokkaido's winter is beautiful, yet it is also cold and snows a lot in most of areas in Hokkaido. The land of Hokkaido is located at 41 –45 North Latitude. Despite being at the northern tip of Japan, Sapporo(N43) is located on similar latitudes to major American and European cities e.g. Toronto (Canada), Milwaukee (USA) and Marseille (France). In general, a winter season in Hokkaido is from the mid of December to the beg of March. Yet, in high mountains in Hokkaido such as Daisetsuzan mountain range, snow season last from October to May. Weather in mid winter (Jan& Feb) is subject to typical winter-type pressure distribution and strong northwesterly winds. This type of winter storm makes snow falls a lot and windy especially at north-west, but southeast area could be sunny and calm. The temperature in mid-winter could be minus 15 to 25 degrees Celsius. In a recent years, due to climate change, weather cannot be predicted; we may have very warm days and rainy days in Feb or on the next day after the warmness, temperature could drop to minus. Please prepare for clothes which you can take and add its layers easily.

“ONSEN” = Natural Hot Springs

“ONSEN” is one of the best experiences in Japan. Due to volcanic mountains, there are many ONSENS with different types of hot springs and variety of styles in terms of buildings and views from ONSENS in Hokkaido. More than 10 obvious active volcanoes exist in Hokkaido. Even though in mid-winter, you enjoy ONSENS at most of places where you visit and some places are opened from morning. That is an unignorable advantage for us as winter mountain lovers spending all day long for outdoor activities in cold air.

To enjoy Onsen, here are some tips you'd better know in advance;

1. No swimwear is required (some allows wearing swimwear in a mixed type of ONSEN)
2. Use Locker or Basket to keep your clothes.
3. Bring Small Towel to Onsen area and Keep Big Towel at changing room
4. Before Jumping into ONSEN tub, clean your body and rinse soap off at a shower booth
5. To keep hot springs clean, do not soak your towel into the bath
6. No drinking Alcohol in Onsen
7. Wipe your body with small towel before back to the changing room

NOTE

- Some ONSENS do not prepare for Shampoo, Conditioner nor Body soap
- Some ONSENS do not allow you to use any soap due to the matter of onsen minerals

“RYOKAN”= ONSEN Hotel

Accommodations situated at Onsen resort are commonly called Onsen Hotel or “RYOKAN” (旅館). The guestrooms are usually traditional Japanese “TATAMI” style on the floor, you sleep in a “FUTON” mattress on the floor instead of a bed. Yet, the western style bed rooms are also widely facilitated these days. Despite both room types, “YUKATA” a traditional Japanese night robe looking like a simple kimono are prepared for you to relax in your room. You can go with wearing “YUKATA” wherever inside of the facility and at the dining room.



Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Booking

When we receive your reservation request, we will ask for your contact details and personal information such as your height and dietary requirements etc., in order for us to adequately organize and arrange the tour service. Once the Registration Form is completed, you will be taken to the payment (Deposit/Full) to secure the booking.

Payment Methods

We require the Deposit of 50,000 yen or Full Payment to secure your booking. The Deposit is treated as a part of the Tour Price. You will receive an email reminder about payment of the balance, which is generally due 30 days prior to the tour departure date. We accept payment by credit card in our local currency, Japanese yen. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, we will give you our bank details and the amount of bank fees that should be added to the Tour Price.

Cancellation

If you wish to cancel a tour reservation, please notify us in writing. Our Cancellation Policy is as follows.

- Cancelled more than 31 days prior to departure : zero fees
- Canceled between 30 and 15 days prior to departure : 20% of the Tour Price
- Canceled between 14 and 8 days prior to departure : 30% of the Tour Price
- Canceled between 7 and 3 days prior to departure : 50% of the Tour Price
- Canceled 2 days prior to departure or later : 100% of the Tour Price
- No refunds will be given after the tour has commenced

Tour Operator / Contact

Nomad Co.

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Tel : 011-261-2039

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