

# BC Skiing in Mt.Asahidake & Mt. Kurodake The Japanese Largest N.P. “DAISETSUZAN”

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Mt. Asahidake(2291m) and Mt. Kurodake(1984m) are symbolic mountains in DAISETSUZAN National Park located at the central Hokkaido and it is the largest national park in Japan (2024) and Mt. Asahidake is the highest mountain in Hokkaido. They are very attractive mountains among hikers not only for Japanese also for international hikers throughout seasons. Both has trams ( we call “ROPEWAY”) that takes hikers and tourists to alpine area where is full of flowers in summer and colored leaves in fall. These mountains are the great destination for Back Country Skiing the hottest spots of JAPOW (Japan Powder Snow) in winter.

As DAISETSUZAN (大雪山) means “Big Snowy Mountains”, the first snow falls at the end of September and mountains are covered by snow from the end of October and remains as the snow patches till July or even at the beg of August. The large amount of snow in DAISETSUZAN support entire ecosystem in the park also for the life of local people like drinking water and for agriculture.

Since the Daisetsuzan is located at the inland of Hokkaido, skiers enjoy “Aspirin Snow” a very light and dry feather-like snow between Jan and March. Also due to trams enable skier to repeat many runs in such powder without hiking up. As other attractive point is that Asahidake & Kurodake both have ONSEN village at the foot of mountains. It is just simply great to enjoy skiing and staying at ONSEN village without transport.

## Highlights:

- To experience BC skiing in the largest N.P. in JAPAN
- To Ski on open slopes in alpine and tree runs in ever-green forests with native trees
- To experience high quality JAPOW
- To experience ski in an active volcanic mountain (Mt. Asahidake)
- ONSEN right after Skiing
- Cultural Sightseeing related the Ainu (indigenous people of Hokkaido) in Asahikawa

## Location:

Daisetsuzan N.P. is located at the central Hokkaido. Asahikawa Airport is the gate for the area and have flights from /to Tokyo and some international lines. Access from the airport to mountains is easy taking about 1hr to Mt. Asahidake and 1.5hrs to Mt. Kurodake by driving. Also good access from Asahikawa city, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Hokkaido.

<b>Main Activity:</b>	Back Country Skiing	
<b>Difficulty:</b>	4	
<b>Tour Dates:</b>	January - March	
<b>Pax:</b>	Minimum 1	Maximum 6
<b>Price:</b>	JPY300,000 (2～4pax)	

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

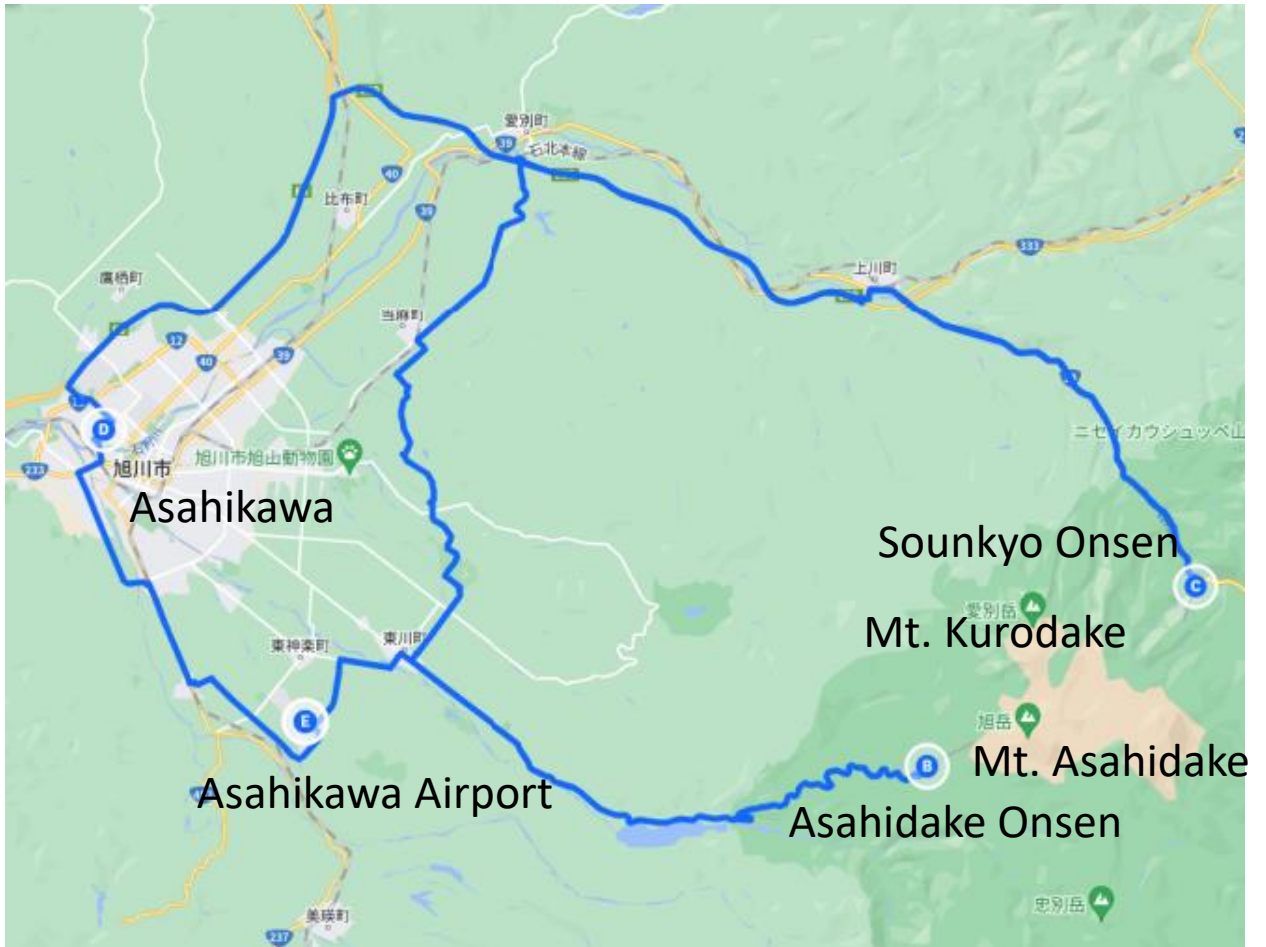
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## Route map



## Day-by-day Itinerary

### Day 1 - Traveling from Asahikawa Airport to Asahidake ONSEN village

You will meet a guide at Asahikawa 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 Asahidake ONSEN village. Since there are no shops in the Onsen village, we drop by shops to buy some snacks while you stay and ski.

Activity – Traveling Time 1hour

Accommodation – Asahidake ONSEN | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Dinner at HTL

### Day 2 - Guided Off-Piste Skiing at Mt. Asahidake

After breakfast at HTL, we head to Asahidake Ropeway (Tram) Station by walking or using shuttle from HTL. Tram takes us to the middle of Mt. Asahidake “SUGATAMI” area (1400m) where we start skiing. We repeat tree runs with powder snow or skin up for 15min to go further slopes to ski on opened slopes when good visibility.

There is a dining for lunch and kiosk for light snacks and coffee at Asahidake Ropeway Station. After Skiing, you can enjoy ONSEN and Hokkaido Beer before dinner.

Activity – Tram Access Off Piste Skiing (5hrs)

Accommodation –Mt. Asahidake ONSEN|HTL | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

**Activity:** Off Piste Skiing (5hrs) & ONSEN

**Difficulty:** 4



### Day 3 - Guided Off-Piste Skiing at Mt. Asahidake and traveling to Sounkyo

We repeat Day3 as Day2. If visibility allows we walk further up to see fumarole. Having lunch at the dining at Asahidake Ropeway Station, we keep skiing depending on snow condition. After finishing powder skiing at Mt. Asahidake, we head to the next destination, Sounkyo ONSEN village where is the base for skiing in Mt. Kurodake. 2hrs by driving from Asahidake to Sounkyo ONSEN village. There are 2 “Convenience” stores to buy your snacks and drinks for the following days.

Activity – Tramway Access Off Piste Skiing (5hrs)

Accommodation –Sounkyo ONSEN | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

**Activity:** BC Skiing (5hrs)

**Difficulty:** 4

### Day 4 - Guided Off-Piste Skiing at Mt. Kurodake

After breakfast and preparing for skiing, we head to Kurodake Ropeway (Tram) Station located in Sounkyo Gorge ONSEN village. We take tram and chair lift (walk 5min from tram station to chair lift) and ready to ski or hike up when visibility allows. The view from Mt. Kurodake is gorgeous with steep ridge and deep gorge. We ski on open slopes with alpine birches or stay in tree lines when no visibility. Lunch at the dining at the cable car station. Relax in ONSEN after skiing.

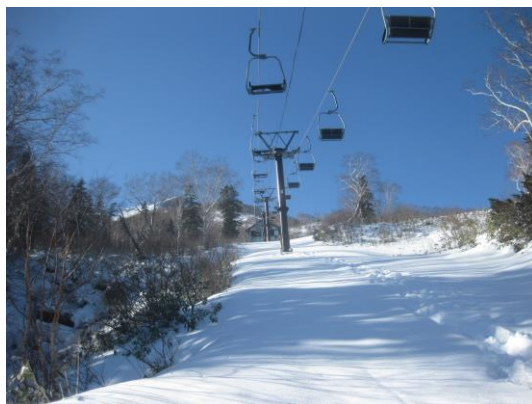
Activity – Tramway Access Off Piste Skiing (5hrs)

Accommodation –Sounkyo ONSEN | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

**Activity:** Off-Piste Skiing (5hrs)

**Difficulty:** 4



## Day 5 – Ainu Museum & Traveling to Asahikawa Airport

After breakfast at HTL, We leave for Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Museum in Asahikawa city. 1 hr driving from Sounkyo to the museum. Asahikawa has long history of the Ainu and there are many related stories about the Ainu and the Daisetsuzan. We ski and also learn the culture of the Ainu on this tour. Lunch in Asahikawa city. Transfer to Asahikawa airport by private an.

Activity – Ainu Museum

Included meals – Breakfast at HTL

## Food & Accommodation

### Accommodations

Day	Location	Type	Room	Spa
1	Asahidake ONSEN	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
2	Asahidake ONSEN	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
3	Sounkyo ONSEN	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen
4	Sounkyo ONSEN	HTL	Private room ensuit	Onsen

### 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.

## 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 Asahikawa Airport. The distance from the Airport to Asahikawa is approximately 18 km and it takes about 40min. 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
- Entree Fee for Ainu Museum

## 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, cousteaus/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
- Liner gloves and windproof outer gloves
- Balaclava or Bienne, neck warmer
- Sun glasses and sun screen
- Ski goggles
- Backpack for BC skiing
- Quick dry hand towel
- Personal Medications
- Rations ( available at shops at Asahidake Ropeway Station or shops in Souunkyou)
- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Cash in JPY (Some places don't accept credit cards. )

### Recommended items

- Cell phone chargers
- 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 has 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)

Micihiko 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

The Daisetsuzan mountain range is climatically similar to the Northern Alps in Honshu, Japan. The Daisetsuzan mountain range is a relatively low 2,000-meter-high mountain range with the highest peak, Asahidake (旭岳), at 2,291 meters above sea level. However, due to its high latitude (located in the north), climatic conditions are severe and comparable to those of the 3,000-meter peaks of Honshu (the main island of Japan).

Most of time in Winter (Dec-Mar), alpine area in Daisetsuzan mountain range is covered with clouds and it is often windy. Yet, under tree line, you find an incredibly dry and light powder snow if it falls without wind.

Temperature in Daisetsuzan mountain range is also low and could be dropped to -20° C often in Jan and Feb. It is not rare that very nice powder snow falls at the end of April. Due to climate change in recent years, weather and temperature changes extremely. Please prepare for appropriate wear and gear for harsh weather in the area.

## “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 exists 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 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.

Add: 2F Ichikoh Building, Minami 2-jo Nishi 6-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido

Tel : 011-261-2039

e-mail : [haya@hokkaido-nomad.co.jp](mailto:haya@hokkaido-nomad.co.jp)