

BC Skiing & The History of Convict Labor and Coal Industry of Hokkaido in Sorachi



It is a journey that will leave one in awe of the labor of mankind, while at the same time reaffirming the joy of modern man's ability to enjoy the conveniences and freedom of today's life.

Since the dawn of the Ezo region in the early 19th century, the harsh nature of Hokkaido, which belongs to the subarctic zone, has caused indescribable hardship to the people who came from Honshu under orders to pioneer the region. The forced labor of prisoners that began in 1880 at Kabato Shuchikaan (the predecessor of the current Tsukigata Prison) opened up cultivated land and paved roads in the unprecedented wilderness, but it is also a symbolic historical fact in the development of Hokkaido that countless victims were born.

Another important part of Hokkaido's history is the coal industry, which was developed as a national project on a large scale, requiring many sacrifices, and then declined within a mere 100 years. Sorachi is the best place to learn about the unimaginable hardships and sacrifices of our predecessors that made Hokkaido what it is today.

Highlights:

- To visit Tsukigata Kabato Museum and other facilities to learn about the history of Hokkaido's development through the forced labor of prisoners
- To experience of the history of hardships of outdoor activities in old days with the environment of heavy snowfalls and freezing coldness
- High satisfaction through the activities with high snow quality and heavy snowfalls
- To learn the history of the development and decline of coal-producing areas due to coal mine labor
- To enjoy ONSEN with a sodium hot spring after skiing

Location:

SORACHI District in Hokkaido/Japan has an area of 5791.59km². Located at between Sapporo(West) & Asahikawa (Central), the area include 10 cities and 14 towns and is accessible to major metropolises. The area is famous for agriculture especially rice and also some wineries can be found. The area once developed due to coral industry which contributed the modernization of Japan. 1~1.5hr from New Chitose Airport to SORACHI.

Main Activity: Back Country Skiing & Cultural & Historical Learning

Difficulty: 4

Tour Dates: January - March

Pax: Minimum 1 Maximum 6

Price: JPY 290,000 (2~4pax)

[Route map](#)

[Day-by-day Itinerary](#)

[What's included](#)

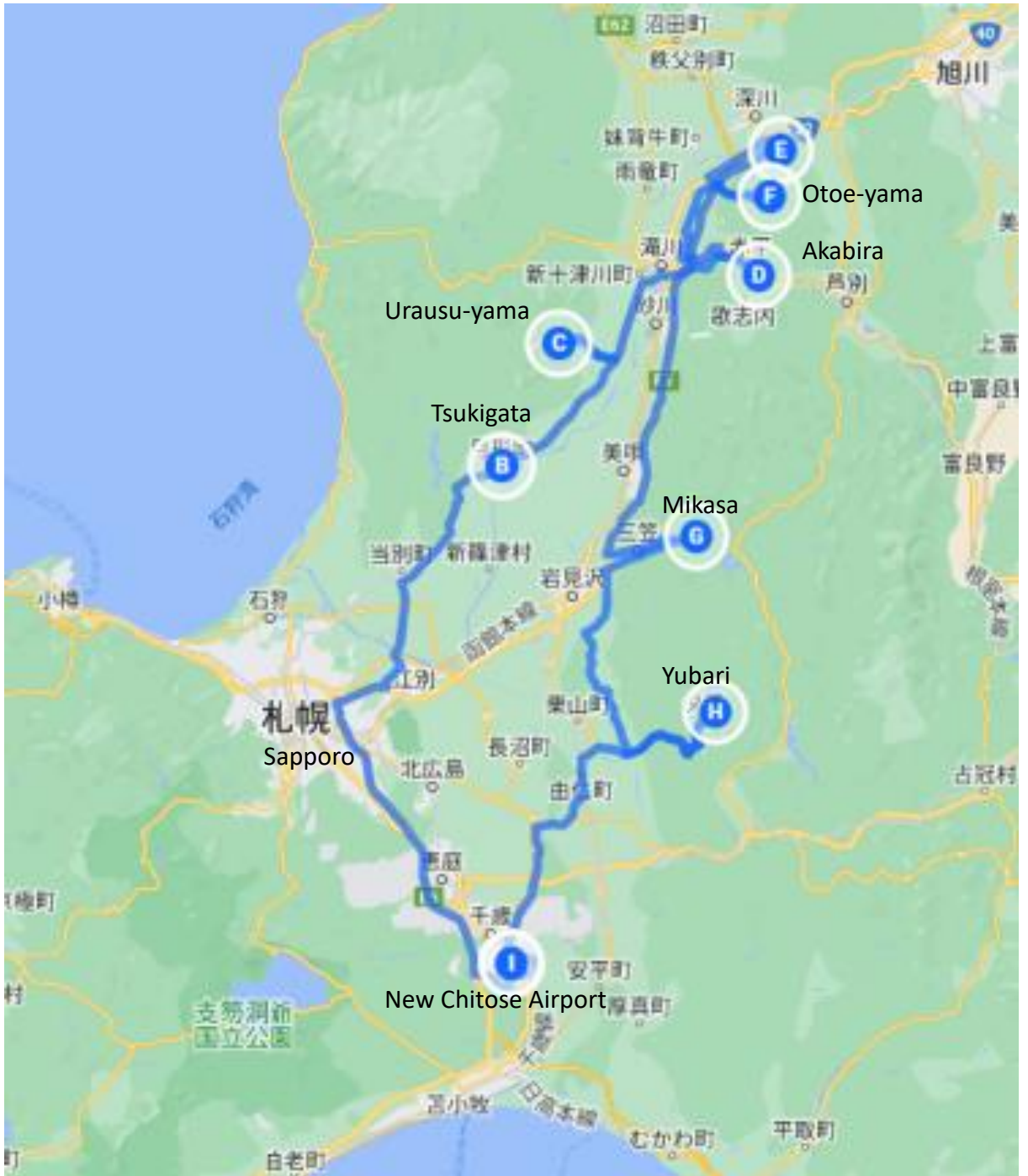
[We provide & What to bring](#)

[About us](#)

[Information and Requirements](#)

[Reservation & Cancellation policy](#)

Route map



Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 - Traveling from New Chitose Airport to Tsukigata

You meet a guide at New Chitose Airport that connects to Tokyo Haneda airport or other airports with considerable number of daily flights. 1.5hr on a private van to Tsukigata Town from the airport. At Tsukigata Museum, we learn about the history of pioneering of Hokkaido which the labor of prisoners contributed to. Staying overnight HTL in Tsukigata town.

Activity – Traveling 1.5hour by van & Vising Museum

Accommodation – Tsukigata | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Dinner at HTL

Day 2 - Guided BC Skiing in Mt. Urausu (718m) & Coal Mining Heritage

After breakfast at HTL, we depart for the trail head of Mt. Urausu by driving 30min. Mt. We try to hike up to the peak and ski down on eastern slopes. The tour takes about 5hrs. After the ski tour, we transfer to Akabira town and visit the heritage site/facilities of coal industry. We learn about the history of the coal industry in Sorachi by an interpreter who was once a coal miner. We stay overnight at HTL in either Ashibetsu city or Fukagawa city.

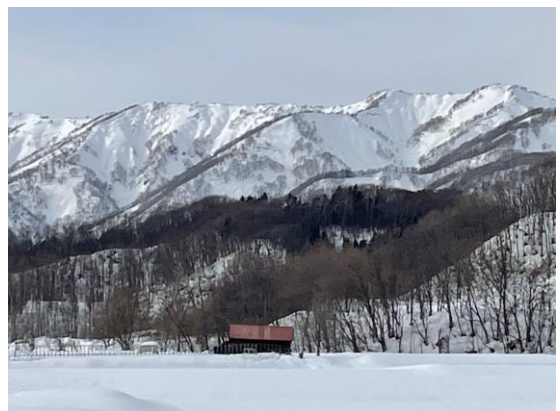
Activity – BC Skiing (5hrs) & Visiting Museum

Accommodation – Ashibetsu or Fukagawa city | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (5hrs) & Cultural and Historical Learning

Difficulty: 4



Day 3 – Guided BC Ski in Mt. Otoe (796m) and Visiting Mikasa Museum

After Breakfast at HTL, we depart for Mt. Otoe in Fukagawa city. We try to hike to the peak and ski down to the bottom. The ski tour takes about 4hrs. After the ski touring, we transfer to Mikasa city and visit Mikasa Museum to learn Coal Mine Complex and its by-product, large ammonite fossils, as well as an exhibit on Sorachi Shuji Gagan, which was the front line of prison labor like Tsukigata. We stay at HTL in Iwamizawa city or Mikasa city.

Activity – BC Skiing (4hrs) & Vising Museum

Accommodation – Iwamizawa or Mikasa | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC skiing & Cultural and Historical Learning

Difficulty: 4

Day 4 - Guided off-piste Skiing in Mt. Reisui (702m) & Yubari Coal Museum

Breakfast at HTL. We depart for Mt. Reisui by using chair lift of Yubari Ski Resort. We ski on north & east faces also in ski resort about 4hrs. After skiing, we visit Yubari Coal Museum to learn about its history with the rise and fall of coal industry brought about by national policy. We stay overnight at HTL in Yubari city, Yuni town or Naganuma town.

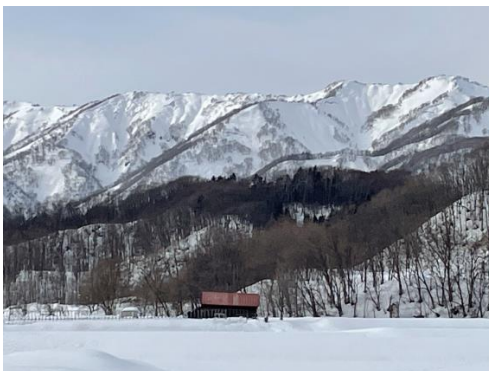
Activity – Off-piste Skiing (4hrs) & Vising Museum

Accommodation – Yubari, Yuni or Naganuma | Hotel | Private room with ensuite

Included meals – Breakfast & Dinner at HTL

Activity: BC Skiing (5hrs) & Cultural and Historical Learning

Difficulty: 4



Day 5 - Traveling To New Chitose Airport

After breakfast at HTL, we send you to New Chitose Airport by a private van. About 1hr from HTL to the airport.

Activity – Traveling 1hr by van

Included meals – Breakfast at HTL

Food & Accommodation

Accommodations

Day	Location	Type	Room	Spa
1	Tsukigata	HTL	Private room ensuit	
2	Iwamizawa Fukagawa	HTL	Private room ensuit	
3	Iwamizawa Mikasa	HTL	Private room ensuit	
4	Yubari Yuni Naganuma	HTL	Private room ensuit	

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 New Chitose Airport. The distance from New Chitose Airport to Tsukigata is approximately 80km and it takes about 1.5 hour on road. Sufficient number of flights from/to Tokyo, Haneda airport are daily operated, as well as flights for other domestic. On the last day of the tour, we send you to New Chitose Airport, about 1hour or less driving (30-60km away) from Yubari/Yuni/Naganuma where we stay on the last night of the tour. Please 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 and assistant guide upon group size

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
- Personal Medications
- Backpack suitable for all items
- 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
- 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 Sorachi region is located in the interior of Hokkaido and does not face any ocean. However, the western side is relatively close to the Sea of Japan, and the southern side is relatively close to the Pacific Ocean. Coastal areas are strongly affected by sea water temperatures, which are "hard to drop and hard to rise. Temperatures tend to be warmer in the fall and winter, and slightly cooler in the spring and summer. It is a very cold region, and with some exceptions, the morning and evening temperatures will be very severe. The lowest temperatures are sometimes observed at -20° C to -25° C at the lowest point of the day. Overall, there is a lot of snow, making it the "snowiest region" when viewed as a flat area in the province.

“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.

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