SNOW LIKE NO OTHER
DISCOVER YOUR JAPAN SNOW STORY

For details, please check the Snow Website.
WHY JAPAN IN WINTER?

If you are a ski or snowboard enthusiast, mountains covered in high-quality snow will be high on your winter wish list. Many snow-seekers prioritize comfortable winter resorts. The quality of both snow and accommodation makes Japan the ideal destination for winter sports fans. Even if you don’t ski or snowboard, Japan offers winter adventures full of culture, outdoor activity and superb cuisine.

Japan celebrates the season with its snowy landscapes, outdoor hot springs and seasonal food.

Japan experiences huge amounts of snowfall during the winter. The top snowiest cities globally with populations of over 100,000 are in Japan: Aomori, Sapporo and Toyama. Snow quality is top notch. The country’s powder snow is a product of conditions that result in snow with low moisture content which piles in the northern areas of Japan.

Dry powder snow is thought of as ideal by skiers and snowboarders, and falls only in certain regions. However, travelers can easily access it by heading to the country’s northern climes.

Pairing powder snow with snow resorts makes Japan an ideal destination. Gondolas and lifts connect mountain peaks at some resorts and many offer a variety of courses. There are resorts that cater to both people new to snow travel or experts.

Even if you are not an skier or snowboarder, there are many other activities. Snowshoe, sled, snowmobile or play with snow. Accommodation spans all budgets. Luxury hotels, wallet-friendly inns, and ryokan ideal for family vacations are some options.
Japan has become the destination for ski and snowboard enthusiasts from all over the world looking for ultimate snow conditions. Japan’s snow has a stellar reputation that those in the know call it “Japow,” short for “Japan powder snow.” The famed powder is a product of ideal humidity and temperature. Layers of snow carpet the mountains, offering an unrivaled experience on groomed slopes, in the trees or deep in the backcountry.

You can access the country’s slopes easily as many of the resorts are at low altitudes. The country has many ski resorts with excellent snow, around Hokkaido and the north and north-central parts of Honshu, the largest island. The resorts have a different feel from destinations in the European Alps or the US and Canada. The hospitality culture of omotenashi, hot springs, gourmet cuisine, transport infrastructure, and a variety of ski and snowboard courses make Japan the ultimate winter destination.

**FEATURES OF AREA /JAPAN**

Each area has distinctive snow, and gets heavier moving north and toward the Sea of Japan; it rarely falls on the Pacific coast. The quality changes from area to area based on water content and the time of year. Certain regions have resorts that are ideal for extended stays, while resorts closer to urban centers are popular with daytrippers. Learn more about the traits of Japan’s snowy areas and the skiing and snowboarding experiences special to each region.

**HOKKAIDO**
Fifteen meters of powder fall annually in the mountains of Japan’s winter sports paradise.

**TOKAI HOKURIKU**
Snow on the Roof of Japan, along the coast of the Sea of Japan, and among the remnants of Japan’s past.

**WESTERN JAPAN**
Split your time between the chilly mountains and the comfort of the warmer cities in Western Japan.

**KANTO KOSHINETSU**
Easy access to the snowy slopes that surround the entranceway to Japan.
PROFILE
Akira Sasaki
Occupation: Pro skier/entrepreneur
Former skier on the Japanese Olympic Team for Slalom and Giant Slalom

How would you describe the quality of snow in Japan?
Japanese snow is light and drifts by, never sticking to anything. Hokkaido has the best snow quality. But, there are differences even within Hokkaido. The snow in the Asahikawa area is especially light. I just wanna say, “Whoa! Thank you!” When I go skiing with my friends from abroad, or when somebody asks me for a good place to ski, I usually say Asahikawa. You can’t miss it.

Mike Douglas
Occupation: Pro skier/Filmmaker/Event Producer/Designer
Former skier on the Canadian Skiing Team (Freestyle)

What do you like most about Japan?
I think number one would probably be the snow. Japan is one of the snowiest places on Earth. Between mid-December and mid-March, the cold winds blow off Siberia, they cross the Sea of Japan, get loaded up with moisture and then hit the mountains when they enter the country, and it just snows, non-stop. And if you are into powder skiing, you’d be hard-pressed to find a better place than Japan.

Mike Basich
Occupation: Pro snowboarder, Apparel Executive, Filmmaker, Adventurer, Lifestyle Creator
Former member of the American Snowboarding Team

How was the transportation?
Transportation was easy! From the US, get on a flight around 10 a.m. and land here around 3 to 4 o’clock in the afternoon, so you have the rest of the day to take a train or check-in to your hotel. It’s super welcoming. There’s a lot of history... When I had dinner, it was very traditional, something that you can’t experience anywhere else. It’s really nice to feel the culture.

What do you think about ski resorts in Japan?
What’s different is that, in Europe, there are landscapes around the slopes, but in Japan there are lanes through forests. There are steep slopes, good slopes and interesting slopes. In Europe we are more accustomed to producing artificial snow, so the slopes are fairly hard. But there is more natural snow here and I think that powder snow plays an important role.

Michael von Grünigen
Occupation: Pro skier, Ski Product Designer, Ski Coach
Former skier on the Swiss Ski Team (Alpine)

How to get there
Hokkaido is accessible via planes to Shin-Chitose Sapporo or Asahikawa airports from Tokyo and other cities. Rail in rural Hokkaido is not as frequent or extensive as the rest of Japan. While JR connects major cities, smaller resorts are best accessed by bus or rental car.

From Shin-Chitose Airport
You can reach ski resorts in western Hokkaido from the Shin-Chitose Airport via the New Chitose Airport Limousine Bus. Trips take two to three hours. The resorts closest to Sapporo are best accessed by car.

From Asahikawa Airport
Hokkaido’s Asahikawa Airport is an hour drive or a airport, Limousine Bus ride from a variety of resorts.
By shinkansen
While air travel is the most convenient way to reach the resort, JR operates the Hokkaido Shinkansen between Tokyo and Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto in the south. Travelers who have more time for a Japan Rail Pass, should consider this method.

Ski resorts and snowboarders from around the world rate Niseko highly for its snow conditions, and remains a popular resort. Niseko United is located on Niseko Annupuri, a 1,308-meter-high mountain and consists of four resorts: Niseko Annupuri International Ski Area, Niseko Village Ski Resort, Niseko Grand Hirafu Resort, and Niseko Hanazono Ski Resort. Travelers can glide down a variety of courses at the four ski resorts, and each resort offers lessons and rental equipment. The area also provides a great place for beginners to try skiing or snowboarding on smaller slopes, non-stop. And if you are into powder skiing, you’d be hard-pressed to find a better place than Japan.

How to get there
From Shin-Chitose Airport, the express train to Otaru Lakes 70 minutes. From there, it takes a further 90 minutes to Niseko, five trains run from Otaru to Niseko. Take a taxi from Niseko Station to the ski resorts.

By bus
From Sapporo, take the Limited Express train to Tomamu, then from Tomamu, take the resort shuttle bus.

Hostino Resorts TOMAMU is famous for its hobbit and activities. Its location has ideal conditions for dry powder snow. The trails, which are balanced for skiers and snowboarders of all levels, are served by one gondola and five lifts. Take your time as you head down runs as long as 4,200 meters. Family-friendly facilities include an Ice Village and the scenery of the Terrace of Frost Trees for children. If you don’t ski, there is plenty of first-time snow travelers. For experienced skiers, there are the experts only powder area, snowboard and backcountry tours that give chances to enjoy perfect snow.

From New Chitose Airport, take the JR Rapid Airport Train to Shin-Chitose Station. From Sapporo, take the Limited Express train all the way to Tomamu. Shuttle buses run from Tomamu to the resort.

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From Sapporo, take the National Road 2/5 via Komabetsu to reach Niseko.

By car
Use the paid Resort Liner bus from New Chitose Airport.

Furano and Rusutsu regions offer perfect conditions for skiing alongside hot springs and Japanese hospitality.

Hokkaido’s climate results in quality powder and a long ski season, with resorts open from November to May. Snow still falls here while cherry blossoms signal the arrival of spring on the southern islands. Allowing travelers extra time on the slopes.

Each area has its own character. From built-up Niseko to rustic Asahikawa, there is a resort for everybody. The larger resorts are ideal for families as they have slopes for all levels. Hokkaido’s size and diversity lend itself to plenty of exploration over a longer trip.

From Sapporo, take National Road 230 via Kimobetsu to reach Niseko.

Chuo buses run to Niseko Annupuri, Niseko Village and Niseko Hirafu from Sapporo Station Bus Terminal and New Chitose Airport.

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Top recommendations

Hoshino Resorts TOMAMU

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The slopes at Rusutsu Resort are among the most scenic in Hokkaido, offering panoramic views of Mt. Yotei and Lake Toya. The resort is one of the largest in Japan, with more than 300 trails and activities. With the opening of the new Chokai Express, the resort has expanded its slopes and improved its facilities. The Furano and Kiroro resorts offer similar experiences, with Furano being more popular among families and Kiroro catering to advanced skiers.

How to get there:
By car:
From New Chitose Airport, take the Chitose Expressway to the Furano Interchange, then drive around 45 minutes.
From Obihiro, follow Route 230 for around 30 minutes.

By train:
From New Chitose Airport Station, board the train to Minami Chitose, then transfer to a Furano local train, taking around 1 hour 20 minutes.

By bus:
From New Chitose Airport Station, take the Sahoro Express Bus to the resort (2 hours 25 minutes). From Tokachi-Obihiro Airport, the Sahoro Express Bus takes around 2 hours 10 minutes.

Sapporo, known as the capital of winter sports in Japan, offers a variety of activities for visitors. The city is home to two of the world's largest snow festivals, the Sapporo Snow Festival and the New Year's Fireworks Festival. The city is also famous for its seafood, with fresh catches from the Sea of Okhotsk available at local markets. The Furano and Kiroro resorts are among the most popular in Japan, with Furano being known for its high-quality snow and Kiroro for its luxurious facilities. The city of Hakodate is also worth a visit, with its beautiful skyline and historic sites.
SKI & SNOWBOARD

TOHOKU

How to get there
The region is vast, so departure points and connections will differ depending on the destination. Convenient options are air or rail. There are direct flights from Tokyo and Osaka, and the region also has a ski resort in Tokyo.

Ski resorts in northern Tohoku
There are several ski resorts located in the prefectures of Aomori and Iwate, and both are easily accessible from Tokyo. It takes 90 minutes to reach Aomori Airport from the capital. The Tohoku Shinkansen takes three hours to Sín-Aomori Station and around two and a half hours to Morioka Station.

Ski resorts in southern Tohoku
Journeys to the centrally located ski resorts in Fukushima and Yamagata prefectures are shorter. It is a one-hour flight from Tokyo to Yamagata Airport or 90 minutes to Fukushima's Komyama Station by shinkansen.

Renting a car
Renting a car is recommended for remote areas, or for those who don’t want to rely on public transport. Check license restrictions as they differ by leasing country.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Appi Kogen
Appi Kogen is the largest ski resort in the Tohoku region. Powder snow falls on the slopes, and is compacted to form pistes for smooth and stress-free rides. It’s the largest ski resort in Japan, covering 2,000 meters in length, giving intermediate and experienced skiers plenty of satisfaction. For beginners, glide down the longest run of 5,500 meters. Whatever level, Appi Kogen has something to offer.

How to get there
By plane
From Sendai Airport, take the express bus to Zao Onsen (reservations required), taking 1 hour 50 minutes.

By train
Take the Yamagata Shinkansen to Yamagata Station from Tokyo Station — it takes 2 hours 30 minutes. Transfer to an express bus to Zao Onsen Bus Terminal. The journey takes 2 hours 30 minutes.

By car
Nozawa Onsen is a hot spring area located in the northern part of Nagano Prefecture and is one of Japan’s longest-established resorts. The resort sits on the side of Mt. Kenashi (4,650m), offering 36 ski slopes and courses, with a run 10-kilometers long. With powder snow covering the resort from the mountaintop to the base of the slopes, it’s good for long runs. The hot springs are thought to have been discovered 1,300 years ago, and the center of the village, nestled at the foot of the mountain, retains the charm and ambiance of an old spa town.

How to get there
By train
Take the Shinano express train from Nagoya Station to Hakuba Station — it takes 2 hours 40 minutes. Take the Shinano express train to Hakuba Station, and then take a bus to the Happo-one Ski Resort.

By bus
Take the Hakuba Happo One Liner bus from Hakuba to the Happo-one Ski Resort. The journey takes 45 minutes.}

Hakuba Valley
Hakuba Valley is consists of 10 ski resorts at the base of the Ushiro Tatsuyama Mountain Range in northern Nagano Prefecture. From south to north, the resorts are Jigokatake, Kochi, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, Hakuba Happo-one, and Hakuba Happo-one. The center-piece is Hakuba Happo-one — the largest resort with 13 courses, a 1,071-meter altitude differential, and a course stretching to 8,000 meters.

How to get there
By train
Take the Hakuba Happo One Liner bus from Hakuba to the Happo-one Ski Resort. The journey takes 45 minutes. Take the Shinano express train to Hakuba Station, and then take a bus to the Happo-one Ski Resort. The journey takes 45 minutes.
The base hotel has many facilities, including restaurants, cafes, a spa, pool and playground offering the choice of an active or relaxing day.

By car
- Take the Kanetsu Expressway to Fujioka JCT, then the Joshinetsu Expressway to the Shinshu Nagano interchange. Take the National Road 292 to Shiga Kogen. From Nerima Kanetsu Expressway it takes 3 hours 30 minutes.

Shiga Kogen is a high altitude area with altitudes reaching more than 1,000 meters and is part of the Joshu Mountains National Park in Nagano Prefecture. The area is one of Japan’s leading destinations with 18 ski resorts — a total of 84 courses where the longest run stretches 6,000 meters. Buses run between each site and you can go back and forth between some of them.

Mt. Neeba consists of two resorts — Neeba Ski Resort and Kagura Ski Resort. The highest point of the Mt. Neeba ski resort is 1,789-meter Mt. Takenoko with 13 lifts and 23 courses — the longest ski run is 4,000-meters long. Kagura Ski Resort has 21 lifts and 23 courses, and the longest run stretches to 6,000 meters. The two resorts combined make up one of Japan’s leading resorts for snow travel.

Lotte Arai Resort is a resort located in Myoko, Niigata Prefecture. 14 courses spread across the east side of 1,429-meter Mt. Okenashi stretches 5,000 meters. Buses run between each site and you can go back and forth between some of them.

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Heaps of snow in central Honshu
Toki and Hokuriku’s mountains, located in the center of Honshu, see a lot of snow between December and February. Resorts on the Sea of Japan coast and in the Hida area of Gifu are popular. This region’s Northern Alps are known as “the roof of Japan”, famous for hot springs, the World Heritage-designated Shirakawa-go village and ski fields. Ski on fresh snow, and explore towns like Takayama (Gifu Prefecture) and the cultural city of Kanazawa ( Ishikawa Prefecture).

Many resorts in Shizuoka and Yamanashi have picturesque views of Japan’s iconic Mt. Fuji. Snow Town Yeti allows visitors to ski on the southern face of the national symbol.

Resorts in this region have slopes that extend each run. Fukui’s Skijim Katsuyama has the longest course this side of the Japan Alps at 5,800 meters. It’s open from mid-December to early April.

For details, please check the Snow Website.
INTRODUCTION

Ski resorts across Japan differ in size, variety of courses, facilities and access. It’s important to plan your journey based on your priorities. Planning a daytrip or extended stay? Require instructions in English or Chinese? Prefer groomed or backcountry slopes? Or just want to go sightseeing and shopping? Research which one suits you best, remembering to familiarize yourself with each resort’s rules and regulations for a pleasant stay.

APRÈS-SKI

Speeding down the slopes is half the fun of skiing and snowboarding. After a long day, enjoy some après-ski. While après-ski is less widespread in Japan, major resorts are developing their entertainment, dining, and nightlife options. The Niseko area, in Hokkaido, is famous for its clubs, live music, gastropubs, bars, and high-end restaurants. For a more traditional experience, try Japan’s smaller resorts.

Skiing or snowboarding for the first time can be daunting. For a safe and comfortable experience, take a lesson. Most ski resorts offer one-on-one, group and family plans from one or two hours to all day, and major resorts provide instructions in English and Chinese.

Almost every ski area has rental shops so you’re on the slopes in no time. What’s available differs by resort, so check ahead of time.

Backcountry skiing and snowboarding refers to riding outside the boundaries of patrolled ski areas. Backcountry allows experienced skiers and snowboarders the chance to get away from the crowds to enjoy powder snow and beautiful scenery.

Japan’s climate, topography and location make snowfall consistent and highly sought after. The snow has a low moisture content making it particularly dry and fluffy. Enthusiasts all over the world call the country’s light powder snow “Japow.”

Backcountry adventures require specific skills, equipment, and high proficiency at skiing or snowboarding. Because backcountry skiing takes place in natural terrain, be aware of potential hazards including avalanches.

Skilled guides are certified in avalanche prevention and awareness, and know the areas. Those who choose to go without a guide should take an avalanche awareness class, have experience and be up-to-date on avalanche reports.

All backcountry skiers and snowboarders should carry a location beacon, shovel, extra clothes, GPS, extra food, water, and a first aid kit. Skiers heading up the mountain on two legs should use touring bindings (to walk up the grade with skis on) and climbing skins to stick to the bases. Snowboarders can use a skateboard setup or snowshoes, poles and a backpack for their board. Many touring companies and ski areas rent this specialized equipment.

Backcountry skiing is a draw around Japan, with each region differing. Niseko in Hokkaido is known for backcountry adventures. Plenty of snow falls in there from December until May, and the tour companies there can customize excursions.

Hokkaido and Hokkamori are the most visited mountains in Tohoku for backcountry. Hokkaido’s icicle-covered summit can be reached by gondola for exploration. Hachimantai is famous for dry powder, and snowcat tours are available.

In Nagano’s Northern Alps, Hakuba, Nozawa Onsen, and Shiga Kogen are for backcountry enthusiasts. Kagura, in Nigata, offers spring helicopter tours to explore the best of the late-season. Western Japan is known for having big mountains; but, snowfall is less consistent, so be aware of snow conditions before embarking.

SNOW WITH KIDS

A child’s first time skiing or snowboarding should be fun and safe. Ensure the kids are secure, book them a lesson. Nearly all ski areas offer instruction in the basics; for children and families in private and in groups.

Family-oriented resorts provide child-specific attractions like dedicated lodges, ski trails and “magic carpet” snow escalators up the beginner slope.

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Visitors to Japan’s snowy regions have a wealth of accommodations. Nozawa Onsen, Hakuba, Niseko, Myoko Kogen, and Zao Onsen are some of the resorts offering comfortable, longer-stays. Nozawa Onsen has more than 80 lodgings at all price points.

To experience Japanese hospitality, stay at a ryokan. These traditional inns offer in-room dining and onsen baths. As ryokan tend to be on the higher end, consider a pension or minshuku for a budget-friendly option with shared bathrooms and dining areas. If traveling as a family or in a group, condominium rentals may be more appealing. Having a kitchen is a benefit, and they can end up being cheaper per person, as inns charge per person rather than per room.
SNOW ACTIVITIES

Snow blankets much of Japan during the winter. It doesn’t just settle on the mountain peaks, but covers low-altitude mountains and plains too, offering ample opportunity for activities. Fun isn’t just limited to skiing and snowboarding. Other options include snowshoeing, riding a snow buggy or snowmobile, and adventures on a snowcat or snow bike. Japan is a fantastic snow destination for families because many snow resorts here have a kids’ park. These are designated areas where anyone unfamiliar with snow, like children, can play in the snow safely. Some snow resorts have escalators too, where you can enjoy sledging without walking uphill.

SNOWSHOEING

Travelled with children requires planning, but Japan has facilities and programs for children. Most major resorts have children’s parks replete with playgrounds, sledging areas, igloos, snowman building and more.

You don’t have to stay in the kids’ parks to enjoy these amusements. Sledding, snowshoeing, snow rafting, tubing and banana boats are fun for all. Rentals are generally available, so check if the resort has the amusement you’re looking for.

SLEDDING

Sliding on a sled is a memory for many in countries with snow. Travelers can bring back those memories, or create new ones, by trying sledding and sleigh experiences. Sledding is a great first snow experience for young travelers, or anyone not confident to ski or snowboard. It can be dangerous when sharing the slopes with skiers and snowboarders, so some resorts in Japan have dedicated sledding hills.

SNOW RAFTING, SNOW TUBING

Try a snowmobile for a thrilling experience. It rides like a motorbike and is the perfect way to zoom through snowy terrains. It’s a great choice because you don’t need a driving license, and an instructor will run you through the basics. You can snowmobile on trails through quiet woods, and into the backcountry. Experienced drivers can race around mini-circuits with sharp curves and undulating slopes. Some locations offer tubing pulled by snowmobiles too.

SLEDDING, SNOWMOBILE

Snow adventurers looking to explore should consider renting a snow buggy. These three- or four-wheeled vehicles can travel over harsh terrains, making them the perfect companion for adventures. Plan to ride one early in the morning to catch the sunrise. Or, rent it for the whole day to cross terrain. Most zip lines allow speed control, so you can glide down at exhilarating speeds or slow down to take in the snowy landscape. Some high-altitude zip lines stretch to 1,500 meters in length, giving you a spectacular view of the mountainous terrain. Most zip lines allow speed control, so you can glide down at exhilarating speeds or slow down to take in the snowy views. Winter zip lining adventures are available in places such as Nozawa Onsen Ski Resort in Nagano, Lotte Arai Resort in Nikko, and Ieida in Fukui.

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SNOW RAFTING, SNOW TUBING

Try snow tubing or air boarding to go faster than normal sledding. Sit in a donut-shaped inner tube or ride head-first on the inner tube or ride head-first on the banana for a similar experience. You can snowmobile on trails through quiet woods, and into the backcountry. Experienced drivers can race around mini-circuits with sharp curves and undulating slopes. Some locations offer tubing pulled by snowmobiles too.

SNOW WATER SPORTS

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SNOW TRAVEL

There is plenty to experience during the winter months in Japan. Explore beautiful landscapes, take a dip in hot springs, and enjoy seasonal food and events. The UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawa-go and traditional Ginzan Onsen are magical places to visit when it snows. The landscape takes a dramatic turn during the winter as the jagged “snow monsters” descend upon some of the mountain slopes and a freeze turns the sea to drift ice.

SNOW TRAVEL NATURE

Winter in Japan is a special season, as natural sites only reveal themselves once the temperature drops and snow starts to fall. The nation presents a wide range of onsen, landslides, and the world’s highest snow corridor. Discover some of the country’s most beautiful landscapes above the snow line.

SNOW SIGHTSEEING CULTURE & HISTORY

There are many examples of Japanese architecture that represent the country’s long history and distinctive culture. These buildings are not only stunning to look at but also offer a glimpse into the past. One such site is Goryokaku Fort, a star-shaped fortification that was designed in 1861 and completed in 1868. It was the first fort in Japan to be built in the Western style. The Tokugawa Shogunate had its last stand against the pre-imperial forces of the Meiji Empire here—a defeat in the Boshin War that led to the Meiji Restoration of 1868. In 1871, it was turned into a park. In the winter, it’s lit up with Hoshi no Yume, an illumination of nearly 2,000 lights strung along the walls.

SNOW SIGHTSEEING CULTURAL HERITAGE

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WINNER EXPERIENCE ONSEN

Kamakura

How to get there:
Many hotels have a shuttle bus service from Sapporo Station or Makomanai Subway Station. The Kappa Liner bus departs from Sapporo, Otaru, and Suzuki stations, requiring reservations. By bus it takes 75 minutes, while by car it's a 45 minutes.

Oshida Station, then a bus to Ginzan Onsen.

How to get there:
From Tokyo, take the JR Joshu Yumeguri-go bus to Kusatsu. In Takasaki, it takes one and a half hours. The most convenient way is by car. From Tokyo, the journey takes three hours, or from the Shinshin Station in Takasaki, it takes one and a half hours. There are direct buses from Shiga Station Bus Terminal. Take the JR Kashimayuri-gun go bus to Kusatsu.

Zao Onsen

Zao Onsen is a popular ski and hot spring resort area located between the mountains of Yamagata and Miyagi prefectures. Known for the healing and beautifying benefits of its mineral-rich waters, Zao is also a major tourist destination during the snowy months as a ski resort. The healing waters here were discovered back in the A.D. 400s. When the weather turns warm, get out and hike, cycle, or trek into the forests and climb.

The Yunishigawa Kamakura Festival is held from late January to early March. Hundreds of kamakura fill the streets of this onsen town.

Ysoya Onsen

The hot springs of Noboribetsu are famous for their beauty and variety. Natural spring water flows down from Hell Valley, resulting in naturally colored baths and nine types of water.

How to get there:
From Noboribetsu Station, take a bus or drive (40-50 minutes). Parking is available at all hot springs hotels or in public parking lots. From Sapporo, Noboribetsu is 90 minutes by car.

How to get there:
Shiitake in your yakusa and wooden sandals. Breathing in Kamakura Onsen, an authentic onsen town in Gunma Prefecture.

How to get there:
Although there is no train station in the town, Kusatsu is easily accessible. The most convenient way is by car. From Tokyo, the journey takes three hours, or from the Kusatsu Station in Takasaki, it takes one and a half hours. There are direct buses from Shiga Station Bus Terminal. Take the JR Kashimayuri-gun go bus to Kusatsu.


drinks

Stack down in your yukata and wooden sandals. Breathing in Kamakura Onsen, an authentic onsen town in Gunma Prefecture.

WINNER EXPERIENCE CAMAKARA

Kamakura snow domes are found in the streets of this onsen town. These snow structures act as shrines to a god, and offer Japanese hospitality to all those who visit them. Stroll through the tiny, enchanting town full of shops and restaurants, and enjoy the perfect way to warm up after an action-packed day.

How to get there:
From Tokyo, take the JR Yamagata Shinkansen to Oshida Station, then a bus to Ginzan Onsen.

Based on the site of a former silver mine in Yamagata, Ginzan Onsen Hot Spring caters to guests with a taste for old-world atmospheres.

Traditional inn rooms line the river, creating picturesque scenes evocative of a Taisho Period (1912-26) novel. It’s easy to imagine how the Japanese have drifted away from beaches and into these historic onsen towns.

Traditional inns are famous for their thick walls. Stroll down with the onsen inn traveler in mind.

Winter is the season for ramen. Ramen has become popular the world over. Nearly every part of Japan has its own local ramen style, and there are some especially popular in popular snow destinations.

Hokkaido - Azahikawa Raman

Seafood is a mainstay of popular ramen and soy sauce is often used as a condiment. Discover Japan’s rich cultural heritage through food and drink.

Hokkaido - Sapporo Ramen

Sapporo’s ramen style is a meat-based soup with medium-thick noodles. It is often topped with vegetables, sometimes with corn and bulgur.

Akita - Nikko-shi, Akita-ken

Pair winter cuisine with a tipple

The right drink can complement the flavors of anything. Sake is a classic choice, but Japan also produces wine and beer to round out your meal.

Sake

Breweries in Japan produce a variety of sake depending on the climate. Japanese sake is characterized by its nature. It is made from rice and water and is often enjoyed hot or cold.

Wine

Japanese wine is gaining in popularity internationally. Wineries in climates as diverse as Yamazaki and Hokkaido make use of Japanese liquor and mashed barley grapes.

Beers

Beer is incredibly popular in Japan. As a result, there is a wealth of beers throughout the country. Craft beer is also booming as many regions have their own small-batch brews.
EVENTS

WINTER FESTIVAL

Japan’s local festivals don’t pause for snow. Winter festivals, many of which are hundreds of years old, entertain the season with spectacular fireworks displays and massive snow and ice sculptures. Sample regional delicacies and ice sculptures.

EVENTS

ILLUMINATIONS

Light up displays around Japan brighten the dark winter evenings. Each display scheme, from illuminating historical monuments and townscape to enhancing the natural landscape, lights up to reflect on the winter snow coast, making snowscape to be portrayed.

EVENTS

FIREWORKS

Fires over the night sky are symbolic of Japanese summer, but these luminous events are staples of winter, too. The displays are particularly wild in the clear winter sky as they shimmer over snow-clad mountains and frozen seas.

For details, please check the Snow Website. https://www.japan.travel/snow/en/