

powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

Issue 33 // Feb 19 to March 4 // 2011

WINTER SPORTS * ENTERTAINMENT * REAL ESTATE

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CLAYTON KERNAGHAN

Black Diamond Lodge and life in Japan

OKINAWA

Japan's southern islands

RESORT GUIDE

Your guide to Niseko – page 42

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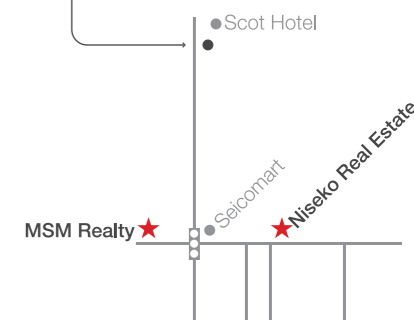
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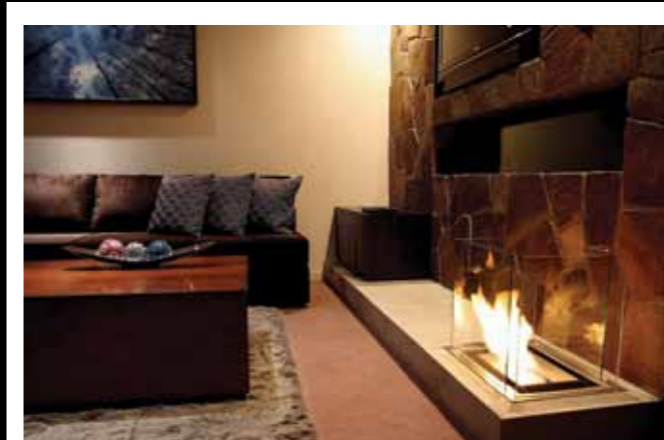
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powderlife
NISEKO ニセコ

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副編集長 associate editor Ross Cole-Hunter ロス・コールハンター
企画運営アシスタント editorial assistant Kisato Kurihara 栗原季里
デザイナー designer Paul Malandain ポール・マランデイン,
Shane Agard シェイン・エイガード (conceptual designer)
投稿者 contributors Chris Chan
写真撮影 photography Niseko Photography, Glen Claydon Photography,
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広告掲載に関するお問い合わせ advertising inquiries
ads@powderlife.com
予約購読/既刊 subscriptions / past issues
info@powderlife.com

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cover // lachy 'kevin' keevers photo // az, niseko photography

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* EDITOR'S NOTE



photography // aaron jamieson - niseko photography

THIS fortnight I was a little worried about finding the time to complete my work. Between snowboarding, Japanese lessons, watching rail jams, playing darts in the local competition, celebrating birthdays, Chinese New Year and seeing French band NoJazz, I thought how will the Powderlife team find, write and report back to our readers about what's been happening in Niseko? To sum it up – a lot has been happening. And there's more to come for the tail end of this season.

First off the mark, is *MTV's Japan Jam* event featuring Australian rock group Art vs. Science and DJ Anna Lunoe from Sydney, which starts tomorrow. The event will be held over four days at the Hilton Niseko Village – see our events page for more details.

Along with MTV, various other media organizations have shined their light on Niseko; from the New York Times to BBC online, Niseko is receiving welcome accolades from the press. No stranger to media is Black Diamond Lodge (BDL) in Higashiyama. Having been featured in a number of snowboard and ski movies BDL, run by Clayton Kernaghan and his dedicated team (interview p. 19), have quietly made the world aware of the beautiful powder snow in Hokkaido by hosting various film crews over the years.

For our travel story, we venture to Japan's southern islands of Okinawa. Steeped in both Japanese and Chinese history, Okinawa is a beautiful location where many go to swim and dive in the island's crystal clear, tropical waters. This is our second last issue for the season – we hope you like it.

Lizzy Hoo, Powderlife, Managing Editor, email lizzy@powderlife.com

『締め切り期日までに仕事を片付けられるかどうか』。今週、私の頭の中はその事ではいっぱいでした。スノーボード、日本語レッスン、レイルジャム観戦、地元バーでのダーツ大会、誕生日のお祝い、チャイニーズニューイヤー、フランスバンド『NoJazz』のライブ。数えたらきりが無い程、たくさんのイベントがニセコで開かれました。その合間を縫って働くパウダーライフチームがどのように読者にニセコ情報を期日までに紙面にして伝えることができるのか、心配でした。この1週間、本当にニセコはさまざまなイベントで忙しくにぎわいました。今シーズンの終わりを迎えるまで、更ににぎやかになることでしょう。

まず始めに皆さんにご紹介したいのは、明日から始まる『MTV JAPAN JAM@ヒルトンニセコビレッジ』です。オーストラリアの人気ロックバンド『アートバーササイエンス』とシドニー出身の『D J アンナ・ルノ』を迎えるこのイベントは4日間に渡り行われます。詳細は13ページをご参照ください。

このようなイベントがニセコにもたらす影響は大きいでしょう。今シーズン、ニセコは多くのメディアから注目されました。ニューヨークタイムスやBBCニュース・オンラインなど、さまざまな報道機関がニセコについて称賛とも言える程、素晴らしい記事を書いてくださいました。また、東山にある『ブラックダイヤモンドロッジ』は、スノーボード&スキーフィルムなどを始めとするメディアに何度も取り上げられています。オーナーのクレイトン・カーナガン氏と氏が率いるスタッフがフィルムクルーを受け入れた事で、徐々に素晴らしいニセコのパウダースノーが知られるきっかけとなりました。これらのフィルムは世界的に配給されていますが、ニセコで撮影されたことがもたらす影響力に世の中はまだ気づかされていないかもしれません。19ページに掲載しているカーナガン氏に関する記事の中で、氏は日本で生活する上での見識や将来の夢を語られています。

今号の“Travel”特集では日本列島の南部に位置する沖縄にスポットをあてています。歴史的には日清両属の琉球王国であった沖縄は現在、ダイビングなどを始めとするビーチリゾートとして知られています。

パウダーライフは次回が最終号となります。今号も本誌をお楽しみください。

リズィー・フー, パウダーライフ, 編集長, lizzy@powderlife.com

HEATED SIDEWALKS AND ROADWAY, BURIED LINES, FESTIVAL-READY, CUSTOM LIGHTING, FURNITURE & PAVING, LANDSCAPING, LOW CARBON



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MAINSTREET REMODEL STARTING 2011
THE NEW HIRAFU MAIN STREET coming soon

* VILLAGE NEWS



SNOWMAGEDDON

TO the disgust of powder-hounds who visited in December, January's snowfall was the stuff of legends.

SHORTLY after New Year, a massive storm system came to town bringing with it three straight weeks of fresh snow. What followed this daily onslaught of fresh snow was four short days of amazing sunshine and clear skies, as well as a few doomsdayers proclaiming that it was the

end of the powder in Niseko. The month finished off with another huge dump and the sceptics couldn't have been more wrong.

2011 now officially holds the snowiest January since 2005, with over 4 metres of accumulated snowfalls in town. Measurements for the mountain are harder to accurately determine, but are certainly higher.

As you enjoy your fresh daily snow, spare a thought for the poor snow clearers that keep us from drowning as well as ski patrol who are up early every morning, even during storms, making sure the mountain is safe.



FEB 20-24

MTV COMING TO TOWN

MTV Japan Jam held at Niseko Village will no doubt be one of the season's party highlights, featuring Australian rockers Art vs. Science, DJ Anna Lunoe and MTV Australia's Erin McNaught (does this mean Ruby Rose is coming?), Darren McMullen, Japanese pro riders as well as international riders Johnny Lyall, Kale Stephens, and Kevin Griffin, this event is something you might want to clear your schedule for. This is just the first announcement; there are more riders/skiers/bands/celebrities to be announced.

AUSTRALIAN ICE HOCKEY

OUTDOOR Travel Japan is hosting the U18 National Australian Ice Hockey team, which will be coming to Hokkaido on a training camp at the Tomari Ice Centre from April 3-9 ahead of the World Youth Championships being held in Taipei, Taiwan from April 10. Tomari Village is situated on the west coast just 45 minutes drive from Niseko Hirafu. They are scheduled to play an exhibition game against the Tomakomai Koukyou High School on April 4 from 9-10am. ¥ Free.



LOCAL VOICES

Name Angela Kennewell **Age** 30
Hometown Adelaide **Company** Harmony Resorts **Time in Niseko** Four years **Ski or board and for how long?** Snowboard, 11 years **Favourite restaurant?** Torimatsu, Kutchan **Favourite bar?** Wild Bill's, Hirafu **Favourite onsen?** Green Leaf Hotel **Favourite ski run?** Death May Result, Rusutsu **Local secret?** Hot chocolate at Shunsai **Place to ski before you die?** Kashmir, India

名前 アンジェラ ケンウェル 年齢 30 歳 出身地 アデレード、オーストラリア 職場 日本ハーモニーリゾート ニセコ年数 4年 スキー、スノーボード歴 スノーボード11年 お気に入りのレストラン 鳥松、倶知安 お気に入りのバー ワイルドビルズ お気に入りの温泉 グリーンリーフホテル 好きなゲレンデコース デス・マイ・リゾルト、ルスツニセコ



Name Te2 **Age** 32
Hometown Hyogo **Company** Hanazono Park **Time in Niseko** 4 seasons **Ski or board and for how long?** Ski, 4 years **Favourite restaurant?** Wai Wai, Kutchan **Favourite bar?** Marukyu-shoten, Kutchan **Favourite onsen?** Poporo **Favourite ski run?** Hanazono Park **Local secret?** Hanazono Park staff are pretty cool **Place to ski before you die?** Breckenridge Colorado, America

名前 テツ 年齢 32歳 出身地 兵庫県 職場 花園パーク ニセコ年数 4シーズン スキー、スノーボード歴 スキー 4年 お気に入りのレストラン わいわい (倶知安) お気に入りのバー マルキュー商店 (倶知安) お気に入りの温泉 ほぼろ 好きなゲレンデコース 花園パーク ニセコの秘密 花園パークのスタッフはみんなかっこいい 死ぬ前にいきたいスキー場 ブリッケンリッジ コロラド アメリカ

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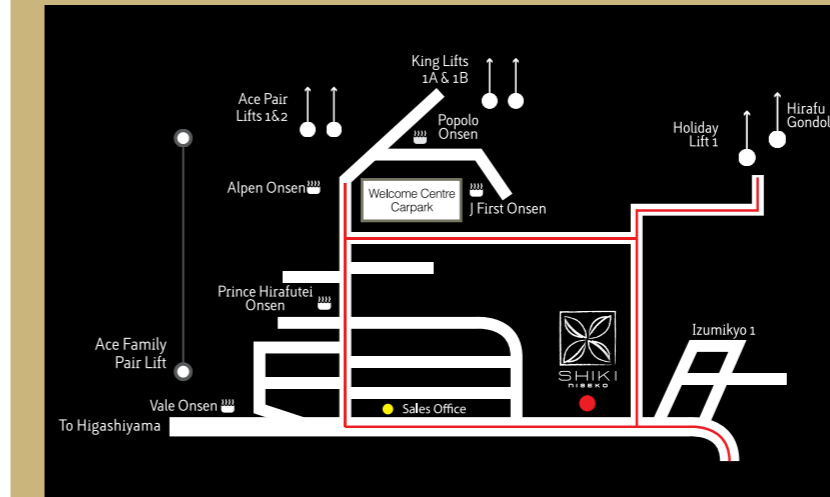
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Central Village sales offices map

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To find out more:
 Please visit one of our Central Village sales offices (beside Seico Mart) M | +81(0)90 9434 2580 T | +81(0)13 655 8880 E | discovery@shikiniseko.com or our website to reserve your luxury condominium today!

Shiki Niseko offers 69 limited units with contemporary design complete with premium furnishing and fittings. Adding to this is the breathtaking views of Mt Yotei, the Hirafu ski slopes and nearby creek. Shiki Niseko boasts of a strategic location amidst the neighbourhood of restaurants, eateries, bars and retails outlets, all herald a lifestyle well beyond the ordinary...

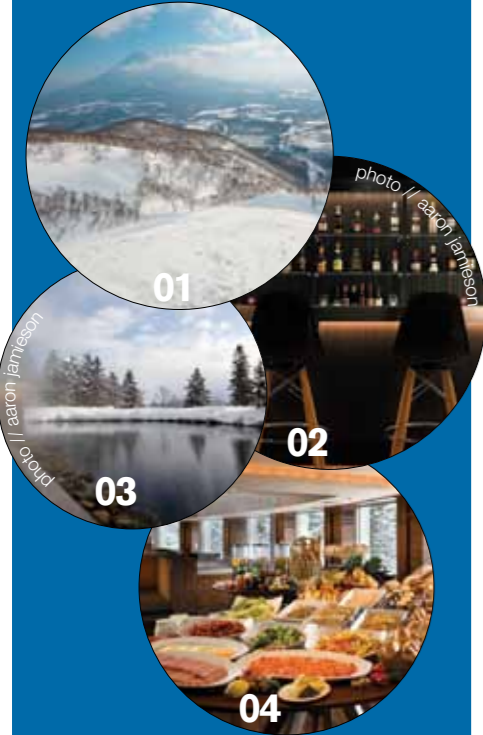
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* DISCOVER

EXPLORE NISEKO VILLAGE

NISEKO Village sits between Annupuri Ski Resort and Niseko Grand Hirafu with lifts that converge at the top of the mountain, making it possible to ski in and ski out of all the resorts.

Dominating the area is the horse-shoe shaped multi-story hotel, Niseko Hilton at the base of the gondola. Inside the hotel is an onsen and several bars and restaurants. Just up the road, and also connected by a chairlift to the Niseko Village ski resort, is the freshly renovated Green Leaf Hotel, it too with its own onsen, bars and restaurants.



- 01 **RIDE** one of Niseko's premier back-country areas, Mizuno-no-sawa. This terrain is tightly controlled and you have to attend a short talk before going there.
- 02 **SIP** on some fine whisky and delicate hot or cold cocktails at Tomioka White in the Green Leaf Hotel. Make sure you taste the signature cocktail!
- 03 **TAKE** a dip in the beautiful Niseko Hilton or Green Leaf onsens. The Hilton Onsen often wins 'Best Onsen' in Powderlife's 'Best Of' awards.
- 04 **FEAST** on a wide-range of options at The Hilton buffet. The lunch buffet only costs ¥1500 and is perfect for a ski break.



BACKCOUNTRY

photo //glen claydon - the top of mt yotel

IN the never-ending search of elusive untracked areas to explore, skiers and riders are searching further and wider to obtain their fix.

SO, what do you do if you think that the quiet resort of Moiwa is too crowded? There is the single chairlift resort, Chisenupuri, 15-minutes past Moiwa – though to get the best out of this small resort, you really should hike to the peak as the

resort area is a little flat. The same problem exists at Niseko Weiss.

If you aren't fazed by the prospect of a long day snowshoeing/skinning up mountains, there are plenty of peaks in the immediate area available to hike. The smart money is to go with a guide that is familiar with the area to make sure you get out safely.

If you don't mind spending the extra cash for the best experience, the prospect of cat skiing is hard to beat; fresh lines without the work.

BASASHI - RAW HORSE



FOR a whole host of reasons, the very suggestion of eating raw horse may stir up a variety of emotions in some people, from disgust to outrage. Some may feel horse is no different to a sheep or a cow, and have no problem in eating and enjoying it. But, for those who object it's completely understood. So, for the curious, the meat is incredibly soft, so soft in fact that it resembles the texture of raw fish; no effort is required to bite through the flesh. The taste is also quite subtle and pleasant. There are a few restaurants where you can try basashi around town, such as Torimatsu in Kutchan and Rin in lower Hirafu.

BEST OF NISEKO - CAST YOUR VOTE

THIS is your only opportunity to tell us what you think about Niseko in Powderlife's 'Best of' awards. We've spiced up the categories a little this year: 'Best Street Food Van', 'Best Place for a First Date', 'Best Coffee' and 'Best Bartender' are alongside all the usual categories. Visit www.powderlife.com, spin around twice in your seat, rub your belly, and look in the top left side of the website and you will find a link. Yes, there will be prizes for all those prize pigs out there. We're not entirely sure what they are yet, but you can trust us – can't you? Start voting!



Best meal for less than ¥1000? You be the judge!

No one knows Niseko like we do.

Operating throughout Niseko's four wonderful seasons, our friendly, bilingual staff ensure the best experience for visitors to Niseko.

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* IN THE LOOP

FEB 2011

21 **Brick Club Party Night**
クラブパーティーナイト

Regular club party nights held at The Brick every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night.

毎週・月・水・金曜日ダンスパーティー。

Start // 9:30 pm – very, very late
Place // The Brick

19 **Flax Showcase pt.2**
DJナイト

DJ Takeshi, Daisuke Act 2, Momo, Fabio and Yukio from Sapporo's best nightclub, Precious Hall, are coming. ¥1,000 entry (inc. one drink).

DJが札幌からやってきます。プレシアスホールがワイルドビルズで、ダンスミュージックをお送りします。入館料1000円(ワンドリンク)

Start // 10:00 pm
Place // Wild Bill's

23 **CMH Heli-skiing**
カナダヘリスキー情報

Exclusive Niseko information evenings about heli-skiing in Canada, includes free arrival drink. Every Wednesday in February.

毎週水曜日、J-Sekkaの串にて行ないます。

Start // 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Place // Kushi at J-Sekka
Contact // 0136 21 5354

20 **Reggae Dance Party**
Tuff Rider @ 与作

5th Anniversary party by local group Sonic Wall. Special guests Power Playerz from Tokyo. ¥1,500 entry.

Sonic wallの結成5周年を記念して、今年初、最強爆音のフルサウンドシステム出動させます。エントリー1500円です。

Start // 9:00 pm
Place // Yosaku
Contact // 0136 23 4390

24 **Pool Tournament**
ビリヤードトーナメント

Pool Tournament @ Bar Splash – Bar Splash's house rules. ¥1000 entry.

ビリヤードのトーナメントをスラッシュでやっちゃいます。腕前を披露できるこの時をお見逃しなく。

Start // 9pm
Place // Bar Splash
Contact // 0136 55 8228



25 **Kutchan Art Exhibition**
くっちゃんART展2011

Colourful exhibition featuring many artists gathering in this small museum. Exhibition period February 9th – March 27th. Admission fee: ¥500.

小さな美術館で、多くの作家が集う華やかな展覧会。展示期間2月9日から3月27日。入館料500円。

Start // 9:00 am to 5 pm // Feb 9th – Mar 27th
Place // Shu Ogawara Museum of Art
Contact // 0136 21 4141

26 **Hanazono Big Air Comp**
ビッグエア イン 花園

Monthly freestyle competition at Hanazono on one of Hanazono's big kickers.

キングオブフリースタイルに輝くのは誰だ? 男女年齢問わず誰でも参加できます。

Start // 9:00 am
Place // Hanazono Ski Resort
Contact // 0136 23 0913

27 **Japanese Reggae Party**
Link Up vol. 8

High-quality reggae dance music party in Kutchan by local group Sonic Wall. Lift home service late night. ¥1,500 entry.

倶知安のBe.にてSonic Wallがお届けするダンスパーティーです。お見逃しなく。エントリー1500円。

Start // 9:00 pm
Place // Be. (Kutchan)
Contact // 0136 55 8228

01 **Ping Pong Tournament**
ハーフノート卓球大会

Who's going to be the champ? Winner gets a bottle of sparkling wine and 5 Free Drink Tickets! Entry Fee 1,000yen (One drink included).

チャンピオンになるのは誰か? 優勝者にはスパークリングワイン1本とハーフノートドリンク券5枚が当たります! 参加費用は1,000円(ワンドリンク付き)

Start // 9:00 pm
Place // Half Note
Contact // 0136 23 2727

02 **Free Karaoke Night**
無料カラオケナイト

Every Wednesday night at Après Bar there is free karaoke and ¥400 drinks to help break the ice.

毎週水曜日にアプレーバーで無料カラオケと400円で飲み物をご提供。

Start // 7:30 pm
Place // Après Bar
Contact // 080 6081 4242

03 **Hina Matsuri Buffet**
ひな祭りビュッフェ

Celebrate Girl's Day with a ¥2,000, 1.5 hour all-you-can-eat buffet for girls, or diners with girls in the group. Reservations required.

女性または女性同伴の方限定 グランビュンデン食べ放題 一時間半 2000円。予約制です。

Start // 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm
Place // Graubunden
Contact // 0136 23 3371



04 **Toss The Boss**
トス・ザ・ボス

Toss a coin with the bar staff, if you win, the drink is free! Dance music later in the night.

コインゲームでスタッフと対決。勝ったらフリードリンクゲット。ダンスミュージックあります。

Start // 8:00 pm
Place // Yeti Bar
Contact // 080 4040 4470



MTV JAPAN JAM

Confirmed for MTV Japan Jam are Australian music sensations Art vs. Science and DJ Anna Lunoe as well as MTV VJ's Erin McNaught and Darren McMullen, and MTV guest Digital Host Mitch Tomlinson.

Plus Japanese pro riders and international riders Johnny Lyall, Kale Stephens, Kevin Griffin, Shingo Kawano, and Haroki.

FEBRUARY 22
Ezo Pub, Hilton Niseko Village: After-Ski Party. Free admission

FEBRUARY 23
Ezo Pub, Hilton Niseko Village: After Ski Party. Free admission
Wild Bill's, Hirafu: Party featuring DJ Anna Lunoe

FEBRUARY 24
Hilton Niseko Village: Snowboard Competition featuring Pro Riders. Free admission
Hilton Niseko Village: Grand Finale Party featuring Art vs. Science and DJ Anna Lunoe Live. Free admission

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Name // corinne 'rin' banks



Name // kaori mano

WHAT are you wearing today? Kazuma, from Aomori, has been enjoying the sunshine by riding the park in Hirafu in a steezy Pro-Club parker and Grenade pants.

WHAT are you wearing today? It's great to see some people taking mountain fashion a little less seriously with great retro fluro fashion. What were they thinking in the 80s?

WHAT are you wearing today? Tokyoite, Kaori, is in the middle of her six-week vacation in Niseko. She's loving her new Volcom outerwear, and frankly so are we.

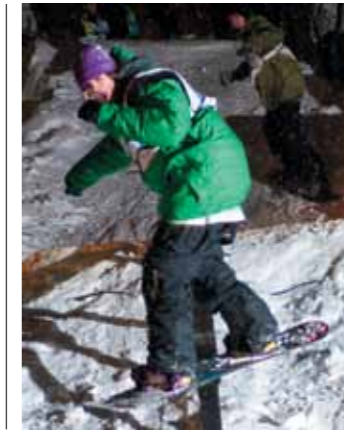
* FLASH



VALE BAR & GRILL

VALE JAM //

The small car park in front of The Vale Niseko was transformed for this competition. There was a solid turnout, both of competitors and spectators, who braved the cold to be treated to some great park riding.



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Question // What do you love about Niseko?



CLEAVEN and Emmie from Singapore love being able to walk around the conveniently sized town in the fresh air.



LEANNE and Tony O'Dea from Perth, Australia love the powder, the powder, the powder!



ASHLEY Jones from Shanghai loves the saké in the soba hut on the mountain. [ed: boyo-so]



MAX and Emma Stevens from Hong Kong love how soft and forgiving the powder snow is. That and snowball fights.

INSKI STACK



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THE BARN

NOJAZZ //

French nu-jazz five piece NoJazz were back again this year for even more funk, bringing with them a new saxophonist. The band's electric music complemented the live performance, which was reciprocated by the crowds jumping around to the funky sounds.



*** IRRASHAIMASSE // "welcome!" – great local businesses**



EFFECTOR, Hirafu, Gaku and Yuki Nagata

KEEN snowboarder Gaku moved to Niseko 20 years ago because of the quality of powder snow. A pro-snowboarder for a long time, Gaku needed to find a way to make money so he could stay and snowboard in Niseko, so 6 years ago he opened up backpackers Inuneco House. Gaku met his wife, also a lover of snowboarding, in Niseko and they have since opened Effecttor, which stocks good-quality Japanese labels. Gaku wants to show Niseko's international visitors the cool Japanese snow gear and products that he used to use when he was a pro, which are all uniquely Japanese in their design and quality.

エフェクター ヒラフ 永田学・由紀さん

東京出身、地元ニセコのトップスノーボーダー永田学さんは、当時スノーボーダーが数少なかったという20年前に、上質のパウダーを求めニセコにやってきた。ニセコに来てから長い間、プロとして世界中を滑りながら生計を立てていたが、35歳の時に身を固め、ここニセコにて滑り続けるために、ゲストハウス INUNECO HOUSEを6年前にオープンした。そしてニセコで出会った大阪出身の奥さん、由紀さんもまた、ニセコの雪に見せられたスノーボーダーだ。今シーズンから二人は、プロ時代からサポートしてくれている日本ブランドのスノーギアを取り扱うお店EFFECTORをヒラフにオープンされた。日本製でこだわりの職人たちが作る本物のJAPANESE QUALITYと、新しい世代の日本人デザインの良さをニセコを訪れる多くの海外からの観光客に知ってほしいと語った。お店の中は、永田さんのセンスが光る品揃えて、海外からの観光客ばかりではなく、日本人スノーボーダーの多くも足を運んでいる。

KARABINA, Annpuri, Mao Rai

LONG-TIME local Mao Rai was 26 years old when he started his izakaya Karabina. Born in Niseko Town, Mao grew up in the lodge Sekkokurei-sanso his parents managed and when they started Rakuichi Soba (next door to Karabina), Mao took over the running of the lodge before starting his own restaurant. He named his restaurant, which was previously owned by his grandmother, after the climbing tool carabiner. Mao loves to cook at his restaurant and makes sure he uses local produce when he can. In the future, he wants to continue cooking and enjoying Niseko. He hopes that more people come to enjoy his relaxing restaurant in Annpuri.

唐火七 アンヌプリ 頼真生さん

地元ニセコ出身の頼真生さんが、唐火七をオープンされたのが26歳の時、7年前だ。同じ敷地内にあり、両親が経営されていたペンション雪石嶺山荘にて生まれ育った頼さんは、両親が敷地内にそば屋をオープンされた後、自身がペンションの切り盛りをされていた。ペンションに泊まりに来るお客さんたちに、ゆっくりと食事やお酒を楽しめる場所を提供したいと、以前祖母が住んでいた家を改装してお店を始めたという。唐火七という名は、クライミングの道具の一つカラビナにちなんで名付けられた。頼さんの提供する食事は、ニセコの地元食材が盛りだくさん、冬は魚の干物やポテトフライが特にお勧めだとのこと。生まれ育ったニセコが大好きで、今でもほぼ毎日スキーに出掛ける頼さんは、アンヌプリはヒラフより静かで、本当に山や雪の好きな面白い人が集まってくる特別な土地。そんなアンヌプリに来て、緩やかに流れる時間を、お店の真ん中にある自慢の薪ストーブの暖かさと共に過ごしてほしいと話した。

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◆ FEATURE // clayton kernaghan

words by // lizzy hoo translation by // yuri pangier

WATCHING snow go over your head with each turn, clearing it from your goggles and choking on the bits that got caught in the back of your throat, are the kinds of unique experiences that stamp Niseko into the memories of many who visit. Look around Black Diamond Lodge at about 5:00 pm, after guests have returned from a day's skiing or snowboarding, and you'll discover tired bodies, ear-to-ear smiles and witness elated conversations about how the snow would blanket them with each explosive movement. In amongst the smiles and exhausted guests, you may well find owner Clayton Kernaghan checking to see if everyone was happy with their day, making sure everyone has their gear, washing dishes and, if he's got time, getting ready for a night ride.

"Washing dishes was my first job ever and my last job," laughs Clayton whilst explaining his typical winter day, which starts at 6:30 am and can involve anything from cooking breakfast for the guests to snow clearing several times a day. Clayton admits that there's no rest time when you own your own business. Kindly, in between waiting for guests to return and dinner service to start, he has taken 30 minutes out of his busy schedule to ponder his life in Japan, the Niseko area and what he wants for the future.

First visiting Japan 14 years ago, to help out a Kiwi guy who was exporting cars, Clayton realised a connection with Japan and thought of a potential business – to take Japanese snowboarders to Canada, his homeland. "Then I didn't have any connections, no money or any Japanese ability. I figured I would come here, and get some connections learn some Japanese and save some money and move to Sapporo."

He stayed true to the first part of his plan. Whilst living in Sapporo and teaching English at schools then later at university, Clayton used to visit

『ターンをする度に雪が頭に舞い降り、ゴーグルに積もった雪をはいのける。口を開けようものなら喉の奥まで粉雪が入り込む』。これこそがニセコでしか経験できない極上のパウダースノーであり、多くの人々を魅了し続けているものである。午後5時、ブラックダイヤモンドロッジ(以下BDL)には一日中ニセコの雪を楽しんだスキーヤー、スノーボーダー達が帰ってくる。彼らは疲れてはいるが、笑顔が顔中に広がっている。そして、大得意にその日どれだけパウダースノーと格闘したのかを話し始める。お客様の疲労と笑顔が飛び交う中、BDLオーナーであるクレイトン・カーナガン氏はお客様の一人一人が楽しい一日を過ごせたのか、スノーギアを紛失していないかを確認する。そして、自身の仕事である皿洗いを済ませた後、時間があればナイターに行く。「皿洗いは人生で初めて経験した仕事。でも今でも同じ事をしている」と、カーナガン氏は笑った。氏の典型的な冬場のスケジュールは朝6時半から始まる。朝食の準備、日に何度もしなければならぬ雪かきなど、ロッジ運営に関するさまざまな仕事をする。自分の商売を持つということは、むしろ休む暇もないことだと氏は認める。お客様が山から帰って来て、夕食サービスが始まるまでの30分間。この時間に、氏は

は日本での生活、ニセコの将来の為に何ができるのかをゆっくり考える。日本へ初めて来たのは14年前。ニュージーランド人で自動車の輸出業を営む友人を手伝うのが目的だった。すぐにカーナガン氏は日本で

Teine, a resort outside of Sapporo, in between classes. "Teine is where my heart is. That's my favourite for sure... the terrain's good, it's close to Sapporo, you can get four hours of riding in then go to work." Satisfied with the snowboarding, but unfulfilled by his English teaching job, Clayton was ready to move on until a friend introduced him to a lodge that was for sale near his favourite part of Niseko, the Higashiyama Gondola, which unfortunately closed just after he and his wife Ayami bought the lodge. After living in

きそうなビジネスの可能性を思いついた。自国カナダを日本のスノーボーダーに紹介することだ。「当時、私にはビジネスに使えるコネクション、資金、日本語能力がありませんでした。そのためまず日本へ行き、コネクションを作り、日本語を学ぶ。そしてお金をためてから札幌に移ろうと計画しました」。始めの半分は計画通りだったカーナガン氏。札幌では諸学校、後には大学で英語を教えた。授業の合間には札幌近郊にある手稲リゾートに通った。「手稲は思入れが深い場所です。お気に入りのリゾートと言ってもいいかな。地理的にも札幌から近く便利でしたね。4時間滑ってから仕事に行くことも可能でしたからね」。スノーボードに関しては満足していたが、英語教師という職業では十分に氏の力を発揮できなかったと言う。「ニセコ東山のゴンドラ近くのロッジが売りに出ている」と友人の一人が教えてくれた時、もう次へ進む準備はできていたという。しかし、不運にも氏と妻のあやみさんがロッジを購入した後にゴンドラは

北海道に住むようになってからカーナガン氏の『カナダを日本のスノーボーダーに紹介する』という夢はすぐ変わった。「多くの人々に日本に来てもらいたい」と。「BDLが象徴するものとは何か」という問いに

氏はこう答えた。「BDLは真剣にスキー、スノーボードをする人たちのためにスキーヤー/スノーボーダーが創るスキーロッジ。スキーロッジだからこそ閑散とした広い場所に建てています。お客様にはニセコのウィークパスのみを購入して欲しくな



BLACK DIAMOND LODGE

Hokkaido, Clayton's original idea to take snowboarders to Canada quickly changed. Now, he wants people to come here. When asked what BDL symbolizes to Clayton, he answers, "BDL is a ski lodge by skiers and snowboarders for serious skiers and snowboarders. We've got a lot of space around so people feel like it's a ski lodge. We don't want you to buy a week's pass for Niseko because then you won't feel inclined to go to Rusutsu, Kiroro, Moiwa or Chisennupuri, for example."

This year to allow others to get the best experiences out of their stay and to see what he already knows about the area is the driving force behind the BDL. It's also the reason why 7-8 film crews frequent BDL during the winters. The Poorboyz Productions 2008 movie *Reasons*, featuring skiers JP Auclair and Chris Benchetler, opens with an exterior shot of the BDL during a typical snowy Niseko day. Since the release

いですね。そうすると他のリゾート、例えばルスツ、キロロ、モイワ、チセンヌプリなどに行きたいという気持ちがうせしてしまいます」。このようなカーナガン氏のパウダースノー、リゾートに対する強い思いはお客様のBDL滞在中における素晴らしい経験につながり、また氏の地域に関する知

BDLは真剣にスキー、スノーボードをする人たちのためにスキーヤーとボーダーが創りあげるスキーロッジ

識こそがBDLの原動力になっている。だからこそ、冬場にさまざまな映画関係者が7、8グループもBDLの宿泊を希望する。Poorboyz Productionsが2008年にリリースした"Reason"(JP・オークレア、クリス・ベンチェトラ出演)ではニセコの典型的な雪景色と共にBDLの外観がオープニングに使われている。このフィルムがリリースされた後、スウェーデン、

of this movie, Swedish, Spanish, Italian, Belgian, Finnish, Australian and Canadian film crews have stayed at the BDL because Clayton knows where they want to go and what they want to hit. "I might not spin it as much as they do, but I know what they want. And I love doing that

BDL is a ski lodge by skiers & snowboarders for serious skiers & snowboarders.

with them." Clayton's know-how and hospitality has no doubt attracted a lot of foreign interest in Niseko. His influence in the area's promotion on the world stage perhaps goes unnoticed, but deep down, showing the world what Hokkaido has to offer is his underlying goal. "I want to help

スペイン、イタリア、ベルギー、フィンランド、オーストラリア、カナダの映画関係者がBDLに宿泊したという。なぜなら氏なら彼らがどこへ行きたいのか、どこで滑りたいのか分かるからだ。「時に映画関係者はパウダースノーを撮ろうと必死になります。私はそこまで必死にはなりませんが、彼らが何を欲しているのかは分かりません。こういう仕事をするのは本当に好きですね」。カーナガン氏の知識とホスピタリティーは確実に外国人のニセコへの興味をひきつけている。地域をPRするにあたっての氏の影響力は世界的には気づかれないかもしれない。しかし、雪深い北海道の価値を知ってもらうことこそが氏の求める本来の目標だ。「日本、北海道、ニセコには多くの可能性があります。それに気づいて欲しいです。私はここ、ニセコに何か新しい風を吹き込みたいです。日本文化、欧米文化、両方の良さを引き出し、文化をうまく融合するために働き、その架け橋になりたいです」。ロッジ、レンタルカー会社の運営、時折折る自動車の輸出業、そして息子ユタ君のお父さん業と、カーナガン氏の人生は大

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◆ FEATURE // clayton kernaghan

Niseko and Japan and Hokkaido realise it's full potential. I hope I can make a change here. I want to be able to be the guy who bridges the best of Japanese culture and the best of western culture and mix them together."

In between attending to guests, running his car rental business, exporting the occasional car overseas and being a dad to his baby boy Utah, Clayton's life is seemingly hectic. But during the winter, he manages, somehow, to find time for himself. "Last night, I went out on a 'nighter' and I got an hour and half in and that was peaceful; waist-deep powder after a really really hectic day. That's where I find peace in life. Getting out at night by myself."

His motivations to clear the snow again, wash the dishes or tend to an emergency are not only the smiles on satisfied customers faces and the genuine thanks he receives as guests leave, but also the arrival of

忙しである。冬場にはどうか自分の時間を持つ事ができると氏は言う。「昨晚、ナイターに行って1時間半滑りました。穏やかな良い時間を過ごせました。本当に忙しい一日の最後に腰の高さまであるパウダースノーを楽しむ。この時間こそ人生の中で平和を見いだせる瞬間です。一人でナイターに行くときこそね。雪かき、血洗い、緊急事態への対処 — これらを頑張るのはお客様の笑顔や感謝が嬉しいからだけではなく、夏に生まれたばかりの息子の存在も大きい。「朝起きてハッピーな赤ちゃんの顔を見られる。これ以上に幸せなことはいないです。息子の存在があるから一生懸命頑張れる。同じ事はかりでつまらないと感じていたことでもほかの人には新しく感じられることがある。そのように私の知っている物事を人々に教え、彼らの顔に笑顔が見えた時は本当に嬉しいですね。」

冬シーズン、毎日のようにBDLのお客様は何か新しい物事を発見する。それらは初めてパウダースノーを体験することだったり、初めてのバックカントリーだったり、大きな雪塊からジャンプすることだったり、ナイターでパウダースノーを滑るこ

his son Utah last summer. "Waking up with a happy baby boy is awesome. It gives you a reason to work harder – and something to work towards. Everything that I've been getting bored with I can introduce to somebody new. And showing someone something new and putting a smile on their face is awesome."

Everyday in winter, guests of BDL discover new things, whether it is the experience of a fresh run, their first backcountry trip, a huge pillow to jump off or a nighttime powder run. Clayton's advice for those on their quest to discovering Niseko's incredible snow is that of a man who knows the area well: "Hit the backcountry. If you're knowledgeable do it by yourself. If you're not, hire a guide. Ski the back bowls, check out some of the lesser-known resorts. Visit one of the bigger cities – go to Sapporo or Osaka. Also, the food and onsens – it's not just the powder."

とだったりする。ニセコの素晴らしいパウダースノーでの楽しみ方を発見するためのカーナガン氏のアドバイスはこうである。「バックカントリーをするべき。バックカントリーについての知識があるなら一人でも行けます。そうでないならガイドと一緒に同行するのを勧めます。バックボウルを滑って、あまり知られていないリゾートを開拓してみてもどうでしょうか。その他、ニセコだけではなく日本の事も知って欲しいですね。大阪や札幌みたいな大都市に行くのもいいですね。食べ物や温泉もね。パウダースノーだけじゃもったいないよ。」

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PHOTO ESSAY

夢物語 LIVING THE DREAM



* EAT & DRINK

we

Christie Dowling from *The Daily Flake* (www.thedailyflake.com) lets us in on her favourite things to eat and drink in Niseko.

- Large skinny mocha made by Kisato from Gloorious Coffee, Rhythm Snowsports
- Anything Kim does with bacon and Hokkaido scallops at J-Sekka
- White Liver Patè from The Barn
- Sesame Crusted Tuna from Vale Bar and Grill
- Any kind of yakitori from Enya in Kutchan
- The entire cheese and wine selection available at J-Sekka Cafe
- Oysters, sashimi and Alaskan King Crab legs from Ezo Seafoods
- A tasty New Zealand pinot noir from Niseko Cellars

RECIPE // mineharu samu – wild bill's



ZANGI

Ingredients:

- Locally sourced chicken thigh
- Potato starch
- Marinade**
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 small piece of ginger
- 3 tbs soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp mirin (味醂 rice wine for cooking)
- 2 tbs saké
- Dipping sauce**
- Grated daikon (giant white radish)
- Ponzu (type of citrus) soy sauce
- Scallions

A Hokkaido twist on kara-age, the popular Japanese-style of fried chicken, with Wild Bill's chef Samu-san adding his own ponzu dipping sauce twist. Delicious.

Method:

1. Cut the chicken thigh into bite-sized pieces
2. Mix marinade ingredients together and marinate for 5 minutes
3. Add some potato starch and mix through
4. Fry at 170°C in oil
5. Mix the dipping-sauce ingredients and dip your zangi into this
6. Eat and enjoy!

BOYO-SO

THERE is small shack hidden in plain sight a few hundred metres uphill from the Hirafu gondola station, and if it weren't for the flags flying outside, you'd be forgiven for not giving it a second glance. Inside is a restaurant, which feels more like a dining room centred around a giant fireplace than a cafeteria. Boyo-so serves up a variety of Japanese style foods, from soba and udon to pork cutlet curry. It's not the easiest restaurant to get to on the mountain, but as the old adage goes, with effort comes reward, and the reward is a great meal in nice ambience.



MARIPOSA MUFFINS

OFTEN people say that homemade food is made with love. The muffins that Yamamoto-san makes in her small shop (built by her husband) across the road from Jam Bar in Upper Hirafu are also made with great skill. There is a variety of sweet muffins like Blueberry Custard, Banana Caramel, Orange Cheesecake and more unusual savoury creations like Mushroom and Chili Con Carne. I was sceptical about these maverick muffin combinations, but they truly are amazing and really deserve to be tried. Small bite-sized muffins are only ¥220, with larger muffins selling for ¥400.



'STRANGE' JAPAN

WESTERN media often portrays what is 'normal' in Japan as slightly 'odd' or perhaps even 'weird'. Sure, there are some crazy fashion trends and oddball shows on TV, but generally there isn't anything that strange in Japan. Unless you consider Kit-Kats with flavours such as rock melon, grilled corn, vegetable juice, sports drink, soy sauce or wasabi weird. Or, small caramel candies that are flavoured like jingisukan (BBQ Lamb) to be strange. If these unique snacks are appealing to your sense of adventure, then you can find some of these at souvenir stores in town.



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Bianco w Prosciutto Pizza M ¥1,700 L ¥3,200
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Quatro Formaggio M ¥2,200 L ¥4,200
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* RESTAURANT REVIEW // country grill



WORDS BY // lizzy hoo PHOTOGRAPHY BY // aaron jamieson – niseko photography

OUR waiter is wearing something you don't often see in a ski town – a perfectly pressed suit. When paired with a lime-green tie and purple shirt, we get the feeling that he means business.

AND he does. Backing up the suit with precision service, our waiter at new Niseko locale Country Grill makes sure we try the best of the menu.

Quiet, hidden and relatively undiscovered, Country Grill is in its first winter of operation and is headed up by Niseko Pizza owner Cezar. Looking for a change of pace, Cezar has escaped the hustle of Hirafu and has moved his cooking skills five minutes away. Although, when you're sitting in this quiet restaurant, you may well feel like you have travelled miles.

The name of the restaurant gives a fair indication of what's on offer here. However, with Cezar at the helm, you can expect more than just a humble steak. The menu

divulges a selection of meats including everything from scallops, roast chicken, grilled rib-eye to pork steaks, lamb, venison and duck breast. If you're in need of a serious protein or steak fix, Country Grill is your answer.

A juicy rib-eye steak is brought to the table. The steak sits atop a bed of fried local potatoes and next to a neat bundle of fresh salad. The steak is topped with sweet gravy, which is pushed around the plate with every bite until there isn't any left.

Waiting for the next dish, we are envious of the plates being delivered to our neighbour's table. Juicy pieces of duck breast on one dish and perfectly stacked lamb pieces on the other. This jealousy subsides

as our Black Pepper Ezo Venison Steak in Red Wine Sauce arrives. Best enjoyed medium rare, the piece of venison we are about to devour is from Hokkaido and is cut from the hind leg, making it extremely lean, yet tender. Rich and complex, the red-wine sauce dripping off the stack of venison complements the meat's robust flavour. This dish is also served with potatoes and a side salad and, just like the rib-eye, it's eaten in its entirety right down to the last smear of red wine sauce.

Clearing the plates, our suited-up waiter need not ask how the meal was – the practically clean plates speak for our satisfaction.

To finish the meal off, we opt for with a Warm Chocolate Fondat with Gelato. It's light creamy and perfectly matched with an espresso.

Booking Information //
T. 0136 55 5123

Breakfast: 7:30-10:30 am

Dinner: 5:00-10:00 pm

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*TASTE THE REGION // kurabitoshu sake

THE plummeting price of rice during the 1990s forced Niseko rice farmers to produce a higher-quality product or risk losing their livelihood. Having only ever reached a B in terms of rice quality, this posed a tough situation for farmers.

The local Niseko government then assisted farmers in creating a higher standard of rice. What also resulted from the high-quality rice is an exceptional sake made from local ingredients, Kurabitoshu Sake. The sake maker, Tanaka Shuzo, is just as committed to the production of an excellent end product as the farmers are to growing the rice. Shuzo-san has a long history with the group and uses 100% Niseko-grown rice for his sake.

The growth of the rice is as-

sisted using natural alternatives such as the organic duck-farming method (pictured), which supports the area's 'Yes Clean' scheme. Ducklings are used to keep the rice paddies free from pests and weeds during the rice-growing season, and enhance the quality of the soils naturally. The ducks reach maturity just before the rice and are sold as meat locally over the winter period.

One sip of Kurabitoshu Sake is much more than having a warming drink on a chilly winter's night. The people behind each cup of sake believe in every step of its production, from growing the rice to when it's bottled.

The farmers' wishes are simple: to keep producing high-quality rice, which then translates to exceptional sake.



CONTACT // Tourism and Industry Division, Hokkaido, Niseko Town, Aza Fujimi47 Japan. T. 0136 44 2121. Ask for Paul.

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*POWDER POSTER

LOCATION nakayama - hokkaido backcountry // PHOTOGRAPHY joey corcoran // BOARDER allie coates

* EYE SPY // art and culture in japan



WORKS BY // tamami kaizawa

AINU PATTERNS

GLOBALLY, indigenous cultures struggle to pass on their cultures and traditions. Hokkaido's indigenous Ainu people are no different.

KEEPING the spirit of the Ainu people alive today and creating a new stage for the culture tomorrow is Tamami Kaizawa, a creator/designer from Nibutani in Hokkaido. By copying the pattern of old kimono's, Tamami captures the essence of her ancestors designs in modern contemporary fashions.

Tamami combines the traditional designs of the Ainu people together with bright colours to create garments and accessories that have a fresh new look and feel to them. The colours, no matter how bright, come together in perfect harmony and the designs have an energising flow to them.

During her 20s, Tamami studied interior design and then went out on her own as a designer. Nature is a great source of inspiration to Tamami and it provides great energy in her designs. Talking to her, you get the feeling that she is as natural as the area from which she comes, at the forefront and constantly breaking new barriers with her design. Today, there are not many people skilled in the craft of

Ainu design. The only way to learn the style of patterns is to copy them; Tamami has copied over 100 kimonos to teach herself the basics of Ainu design.

In order to create her first Ainu-inspired design, she talked at great length with the people from her district and read many textbooks on the Ainu culture and Ainu people. This process fuelled her interest in her culture and identity as an Ainu and gave her the courage and inspiration to become an Ainu designer.

Later, Tamami returned to Nibutani to the Ainu School of the Arts and was praised for her meticulous attention to detail. It was here in Nibutani that Tamami learned for herself that it was okay to be Ainu and it was okay to feel proud about her culture and heritage. Returning to Sapporo, she started to teach classes at University and this year will see her working with Ainu patterns in design for 12 years.

@ <http://g-mozart.jp>

ORIENTAL CARPET

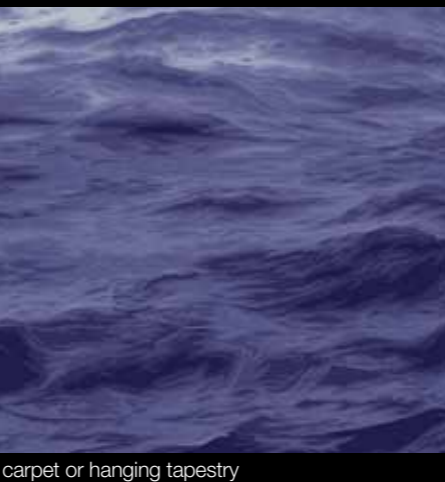
DURING the Meiji period, dantsu rugs were one of Japan's most important exports to The West.

KEEPING this tradition alive is Oriental Carpet Mills Co. Ltd. rugs. Its products are housed in prominent locations such as the embassies of various countries and the National Theatre of Japan, as well as the Imperial Palace and Japan's State Guest Houses. The company has also fulfilled overseas orders from places such as the Vatican Palace and Roosevelt Memorial Hall in the United States.

In 1935, with the help of seven craftsmen from China, Oriental Carpet Mills Co. Ltd. was established and introduced carpet craft into a small city in northern Japan, Yamanobe. Since then, this company has been producing high-quality handmade carpets and rugs featuring a Japanese sense of beauty. The factory is more like an artisan's studio; all of the processes including procurement, spinning, designing, dying and weaving are done by the craftsmen.

The design of this carpet (picture below) suggests a depth as boundless as a seascape. The delicate subtleties in yarn pigment and highly skilled weaving techniques have enabled the creators to replicate an image like that of a photograph. This piece works not only as a carpet, but also as a hanging tapestry.

@ www.oriental-carpet.jp



carpet or hanging tapestry



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MTV Japan Jam Snowboard Competition
Thursday, February 24, at Niseko Village

1pm to 3pm Pro-Rider Practice / 3pm to 5pm Competition
At Niseko Village directly behind the Green Leaf Niseko Village.

Catch the live action as leading international pro snowboarders including Vancouver Olympics opening ceremony star Johnny Lyall, Canadian legendary pro Kale Stephens, and Japanese Endeavour Snowboards veteran pro Shingo Kawano descend on Niseko Village. Reaching crazy speeds thanks to a snowmobile tow-in riders will hit a massive tabletop, battling to win the crowds approval and an MTV Japan Jam cash prize. バンクーバー五輪の開会式を飾ったジョニーライオールなどプロライダーがニセコビレッジ内、グリーンリーフホテル前特設会場に集結！賞金をめぐるジャンプの競演を繰り広げます。公開練習13時、大会15時スタート！

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February 22 & 23
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Grand Finale Party
Thursday, February 24
at Hilton Niseko Village

5pm - After Competition Party at Ezo Pub
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Hilton Niseko Village 0136-44-1111 / Visit www.niseko-village.com for more event information

* SNOW CAVES// kado

advertising promotion



KADO

SOAKING in a bath after a day on the slopes is the perfect remedy for tired and sore legs. But what could make this relaxing experience even more special?

LOOKING out to a sunken zen garden during your soak and reclining in a massage chair afterwards. All of which can be done in Kado – a stunning Sekka-designed home.

Kado is in Hirafu's lower village and is suited to both summer and winter getaways. With panoramic views of Mount Yotei, Kado is a luxurious retreat that can sleep 10 people. With all the style and sophistication of a Shouya Grigg designed house, this spacious residence expands over four levels and has four ensuited bedrooms (two larger bedrooms and two smaller bedrooms) as well as two rooms perfect for nannies downstairs.

As well as spacious bedrooms, there are two living areas, which differ

in size. Children could easily use the second living room, which also has a small kitchen, as a games room or to watch a movie on their own. The main living room, adjacent to the spacious kitchen, is warmed by the open fireplace and has beautiful views of Mount Yotei. The living room's main features are the views and the home cinema, where you can comfortably enjoy a movie with every guest in the house.

Here, you can awaken to the sun rising over Mount Yotei. Kado is also close to the shuttle service and is far enough away from the village to enjoy peace and quiet, but close enough to take advantage of the the upper-village attractions.



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WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

IT was close call for James at Yeti Bar when he decided on the winner for this issue's ski shot. The deciding factor? A Black Eyed Peas song. If you want to win a ski shot from YETI BAR for you and four friends (or five shots for yourself) email your playlist (note: James "the juror" does not like the Black Eyed Peas) to ross@powderlife.com

- 1// **The Chemical Brothers** // Modern Midnight Conversation
- 2// **Gorillaz** // Stylo
- 3// **The Presets** // Yippy-ay
- 4// **Grafton Primary** // I Can Cook (Miami Horror remix)
- 5// **Daft Punk** // Encore
- 6// **The Chemical Brothers** // Escape Velocity
- 7// **Shapeshifter** // Electric Dream
- 8// **Tube & Berger** // Strait Ahead
- 9// **Deadmau5** // Not Exactly
- 10// **M83** // We Own The Sky



FIRST IMPRESSION



Name: Meeka Mallon.
Nationality: Australian.
Ski or snowboard? Snowboard, 2 years.
Why Niseko? Some friends visited and claimed it was the best snow in the world, so I wanted to visit.
First thoughts? I was a bit surprised at how many Australians are here!
Something that made you look/think twice? The complexity of the garbage recycling system.
Going anywhere else in Japan? Definitely going to Tokyo, and hopefully Kyoto too.



photo glen claydon // location mt. yotei // rider simon ramsay

* 1000 WORDS

If a picture tells 1000 words, then here's 3000 words to help you get a better understanding of this awesome place we call home.



photo glen claydon // location hirafu // skier christie dowling



photo glen claydon // location country resort // rider unknown

* REAL ESTATE NEWS

by lizzy hoo



THE VALE FURANO UPDATE

LIKENED to Niseko circa 2002, Furano is one of Japan's emerging new international ski destinations. At this stage, the area lacks the accommodation expected of international ski tourists and investors. The Vale Furano, sister hotel of The Vale Niseko, is starting to change this. A joint venture between Hokkaido Tracks Resort Development and Nisade, The Vale Furano is experiencing a sales pattern similar to the beginning of Niseko's expansion.

There are four apartments sold so far to pioneering Australian buyers who like the underdeveloped feel of Furano. "The Aussie buyers like lack of foreigners/foreign influence, a more Japanese experience and proximity of ski hill in a big town." Says Julian Bailey of HTRD. With developments such as The Vale Furano, brought to you by two of Niseko's alpine development pioneers, Furano will become an attractive option for ski tourists and investors.



NEW DEVELOPMENT – AKAZORA

NEW to the market is Akazora, located on one of Hirafu's most popular nightlife streets Momiji-zaka. Soon-to-be released to the Japanese market exclusively by LJ Hooker (it's already been released in Singapore and Malaysia), Akazora features 26 apartments – 4 studios, 10 one-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom apartments. The size of the apartments

and price points have already made this development attractive to investors – only 19 units remain available, ranging in size from 57–87 sqm. Akazora is being developed and managed by Niseko Resorts Group, who have built and managed 30 chalets in the Country Resort development near Hirafu Village in Niseko over the past three years.



AGENT PROFILE

Name Ruskin McLennan **Agency** Niseko Property **How is business in Niseko?** Better than I anticipated this winter. I thought the strong yen would dampen the market. This winter we have sold over 4.5 million USD worth of Hirafu stock. **What's your forecast for 2011?** More interest in big blocks of land in the area around Niseko Town. Sales of some of the excess stock of apartments as the next phase of development in Niseko will be priced substantially higher. **What projects in Niseko are you excited about?** Hinode Hill in Higashiyama. YTL have the contacts, marketing budget and expertise to provide a five-star experience in Niseko Village. **From what countries are interested buyers coming from?** China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia. **What type of real-estate investment would you recommend to buy in Niseko?** Land is always a good investment, but I think you have to have be patient and take a long-term view. **What are your words of wisdom for potential buyers?** Do your homework and be patient; ask questions about the management of your property and the liquidity of your property when you decide to sell. Are the guaranteed returns sustainable, or are they being paid from your capital? **What do you think will make more people come to Niseko?** A higher standard of service will bring more people to Niseko. I think we still have a way to go in that area.

(Image: Yamashizen Penthouse, ¥89,000,000)



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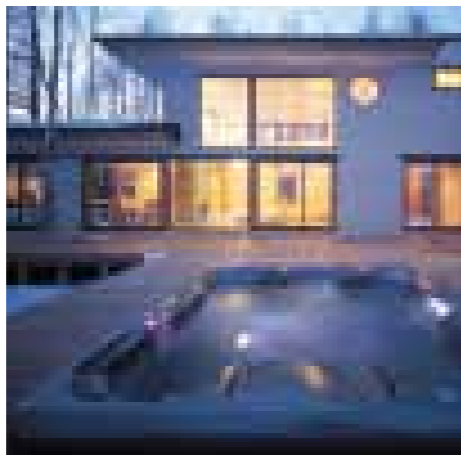


* REAL ESTATE NEWS // niseko buyer profiles



KATE AND SUZHER // the escarpment COUNTRY // hong kong

WHAT made you fall in love with the Niseko area? We were bowled over by the beauty of it here. The variety of pistes is amazing and we love the quaint small town and little Japanese restaurants. Do you have a family? Suzher my husband and my three girls, Jade 13, Katya 11, Tatiana 6. How did you first hear about Niseko? We'd heard from a number of friends who had started to come here. We were intrigued because it was quite close from Hong Kong. Describe what owning a house in this area means to you? Everything about this house is what intrigues me about Japan – it's clean, the attention to detail, the love and care that has gone into building; this house is very much what we feel around here. Are you working – what do you do? I work in investment banking for Morgan and Stanley – I run the Asia Pacific Investment Banking. What is the purpose of your home in Niseko? We never like to rent. We much prefer to own something. It's a good investment for our own emotional experience and family. What are your hobbies? We love cycling, skiing, walking and hiking as a family. What do your children like about the area? That they're in ski school and meeting people, and their friends are coming more and more. They love hiking, cycling and skiing together. Do you prefer to spend time in your home here or get involved with the activities on offer? I hear there are other things here that we've never done before as a family – like fishing or rafting. People talk about their vegetable gardens and tulips. We're looking forward to seeing that in summer. Why do you see Niseko as a good investment? You have to love it as a passion for yourself then you look at capital appreciation if you're lucky. We looked at this and thought this would be our folly – this would be a lifestyle choice. It's frankly an investment for our children – we want them to come here and build memories.



PHILLIP AND NICOLE // akari COUNTRY // hong kong

WHAT made you fall in love with the Niseko area? Fantastic snow, clean air, great food and a good mix of international people and Japanese locals. Do you have a family? Yes, I have been married to my wife Nicole for 13 years and I have a girl of 11 and boy of 10, they love the area in winter and summer. How did you first hear about Niseko? Friends who had skied here before told us about the resort. Describe what owning a house in this area means to you? Knowing we have a peaceful home that we can travel to easily and frequently is a new experience for our family and it allows us to experience another way of life in a very friendly community. Are you working – what do you do? I have been importing and exporting a diversified range of products into and out of Asia since 1994. After travelling for many years I am now trying to spend more time with my family. What is the purpose of your home in Niseko? To enjoy life and spend as much time as we can here and hopefully learn some Japanese. What are your hobbies? I love to ski the powder, eat in great restaurants, cycling and triathlon, and my wife loves golf. What do your children like about the area? The freedom to do as they please; they love to ski and in the summer there are a lot of children who they can run around with. Do you prefer to spend time in your home here or get involved with the activities on offer? If we're not skiing we do spend quite a lot of time in the house. But in the summer there are lots of activities and opportunities to meet the community. Why do you see Niseko as a good investment? Niseko is a wonderful place to unwind and we always look forward to returning. Financially, a big attraction was the freehold title and the potential of the area. We hope to holiday here for many generations to come.



LYNDALL, GUY & FIONA // shirokuma & big valley COUNTRY // australia

WHAT made you fall in love with the Niseko area? We love the 'winter wonderland' combined with the wonderful food and the friendly people. And then there was the most important factor – the awesome powder and no queues! Best snow in the world and so convenient for us to get to compared to Canada, Colorado or Europe. Do you have a family? One son 23, and an 18-year old daughter. My brother (part owner) with three children plus a sister (part owner) with two teenagers. How did you first hear about Niseko? Some friends had originally been up here, bought a house and raved about the powder snow – years ago now. Describe what owning a house in this area means to you? Rest and relax or ski every day! A wonderful family holiday destination as my teenage children also love being here. Has a minor added benefit of escaping from our very hot summer weather at home and being in the same time zone as home makes working from here very easy, if that is what you need. Looking forward to enjoying some time in summer up here soon, as it is meant to be beautiful also. Are you working – what do you do? Company Director. What is the purpose of your home in Niseko? Lifestyle choice. What are your hobbies? Photography, travelling, fishing, cycling, reading and of course skiing! What do your children like about the area? Love the powder and off-piste skiing. Enjoy the local night life, the food and the culture. When you're in town, do you prefer to spend time in your home here or get involved with the activities on offer? Thoroughly enjoy both. Why do you see Niseko as a good investment (financial reasons, escape, place to bring your grandchildren, four seasons)? Great lifestyle choice in an area that can only become more popular for all the above reasons.



Niseko Property

193-7 Aza Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Hokkaido Japan 044-0081



Alpen Ridge 104
¥35,000,000 5 1 1 1



Split level charming 2 bedroom property within close reach of the ski field, many restaurants and bars. Provides solid returns.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 32m²

Alpen Ridge 202
¥45,000,000 1.5 1 1 1



Ski-in ski-out, luxury slope side, one bedroom apartment with spectacular views looking directly down on the Ace Family chairlift.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 59m²

Kira Kira 2nd Floor
¥85,000,000 4 3 1 1



Spacious studio & 3 bedrooms apartment now offer an exclusive package deal. Fantastic opportunity to purchase an entire floor.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 160 m²

Alpine Apartments 2C
¥80,000,000 3 3 1 1



Ski-in Ski-out, Western style bedrooms arranged over two levels with a large lounge and dining space. Has a large ski/snowboard storage on the ground floor.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 135m²

Alpen Estate
from ¥5,000,000 LAND



Two minutes drive to the Ace Family Chairlift. These blocks are ready for you to start building. All blocks have great view of Mt Yotei.
LOCATION: St Moritz 2
LAND SIZE: From 353m²

Glasshouse
¥250,000,000 3 3 2 2



An iconic house in Niseko. This property showcases the tranquility & beauty of its environs, yet it is within close reach of the ski field and Hirafu amenities.
LOCATION: Lower Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 270m²

Berg House
¥250,000,000 2 1 1 1



Located in the heart of Hirafu Village. This iconic house built 8 years ago has tremendous value for both rental and residential re-development.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 236m²

Seseragi Residences
¥130,000,000 4 4 1 1



A new development, designed by Riccardo Tossani, consists of 2 beautiful four-bedroom homes with garages. Within walking distance of all Niseko amenities.
LOCATION: Middle Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 202m²

Alpen Ridge 205
¥45,000,000 1 1 1 1



Luxury one bed Ski-in Ski-out apartment with village views. The best location in the resort and high occupancy rate.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 58m²

Landmark View 501
¥68,000,000 3 2 0 1



Price reduction. Supremely located adjacent to the Grand Hirafu Gondola base station. Strong annual rental returns with many repeat customers.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 120m²

Yuki Sawa
¥46,000,000 3 3 1 1



Located in a quiet street in Lower Hirafu Village, offers superb views of Mt Yotei. Excellent returns, below replacement cost.
LOCATION: Lower Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 165m²

Yama Shizen West Penthouse
¥89,000,000 3 3 1 1



Supremely located near the Grand Hirafu Gondola base. The apartment's views will never be built out. Significant long term capital appreciation.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 194m²

www.NisekoProperty.com - sales@NisekoProperty.com - Ph:+81 136 21 5060

* BACK COUNTRY



Name Koji Kashiwaya **Company** NAC, 13 years **Ski or board** Ski, 25 years **What's your best backcountry experience?** Too many good experiences, everything is good in Niseko. **Best tip for backcountry skiers/boarders**

visiting Niseko? Snow danger judgement is important. Some days the snow conditions are very dangerous and you need caution. It's more important to be safe and have a lifetime of powdersnow, than take a risk.

FREE BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION SEMINAR //

Ever hiked the peak? Been through a gate in Niseko? Considered the consequences? Know what you're getting into with Black Diamond Tours free information seminar.

Location // Above Proski Demo shop, opposite The Vale Niseko
Time // 6-7pm every Tuesday during winter

YOU have mastered the groomers, been on ski holidays several times all over the world, and you want to escape the crowds – chances are you're ready to go backcountry.

The satisfaction of hiking peaks and then making your way down in untracked, waste-deep snow is exhilarating.

In Japan, Niseko is renowned for its liberal stance toward backcountry skiing and snowboarding. With that freedom comes the responsibility to respect the mountain. Niseko's powder may look soft and friendly, but don't let its light and fluffy appearance fool you.

Powderlife has collected some tips from local experts to keep you safe on the mountain.

- 1. Obey the Niseko Rules: Listed on the course map (p.52)**
- Check weather and avalanche reports – www.niseko.nadare.info
- 3. Respect Niseko's ski patrollers**
- Use essential equipment:

A beacon, probe and shovel are the bare essentials. Make sure you know how to use them.

5. Let someone know when you're planning to be back.

6. If the gates are closed don't risk entering them.

7. No-go zones include Yu no Sawa (between Annupuri and Niseko Village area), and Haru no Taki (cliff area west of Hirafu).

8. Ducking ropes may result in you losing your lift pass.

9. Hire a guide if you're not sure about going off-piste.

10. Explore the backcountry with experienced riders and skiers.

AVALANCHE INFO //

Shinya-san's daily avalanche report: www.niseko.nadare.info
Powderlife's Backcountry Guide is online – www.powderlife.com
// 'Backcountry basics'
// 'Inside a 2-day avalanche course'
// 'Lost in the backcountry'
// 'How to build a snowcave'

JAPANESE HEALTH SYSTEM // by bevan colless

ONE of the most common discussions we have in the physio rooms over the years is about the state of the Japanese health system. Many foreigners visiting or living in Japan are quite reluctant to present themselves to a Japanese hospital, primarily due to concerns over the language, but overall the Japanese health system is pretty good.

IT'S a very 'socialist' health system, whereby everyone contributes to the national health-care scheme and, from approved providers, the government will cover 70% of the cost, with patients covering the other 30%. Private-health insurance is often taken, but only to cover the 30% and Japanese will rarely attend clinics that are not part of the national-health scheme. With the increasing number of medical procedures becoming available it can

be difficult for a national health care scheme to cover the cost of providing these treatments to everyone. The Japanese mentality of 'gaman' (defined as 'the ability to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity') means there is often an acceptance that non-life threatening problems should just be endured – or in other words "take one slice of humble pie with a cement pill chaser and call me in the morning". This reminds me of a Japanese patient who told me that when she let out a moan during labour the nurse scolded her with a quick "shame on you", so she had to keep quiet and *gaman*. Pain relief is often not as high a priority with many forms of care as it can be in The West.

Patients and doctors, sometimes, do not aim for a 100% return to function and this is convenient because the government system

cannot afford that expectation amongst everyone. The *sempai/kohai* (master, senior person/lower, junior person), coupled with following the US system, whereby doctors are all-powerful and ancillary health professionals who are given short shrift (note boulder-sized chip on shoulder) and are not accustomed to explaining conditions or being questioned by patients. This has led to some cross-cultural conflicts between Japanese doctors and foreign patients over the years. Difficulty reading new English studies, a lack of requirement for ongoing education and the *kohai* doctor having trouble bringing new ideas to the table, can mean that Japanese doctors can be slow adopters of new research and techniques.

The local Kutchan hospital here in Niseko does a remarkably good job with its unexpected influx of foreign



ers they've been subjected to over the past seven years. They now provide English translators and they have a new MRI and X-ray machine. Orthopaedic doctors are in Monday to Friday from 8:30-12:00pm. They do have a habit of draining fluid from acutely injured knees for diagnosis that has long-been abandoned in The West, and the A & E doctors tend to cast injured knees until seen by an orthoped. But aside from that the level of care is generally acceptable.

RESORT GUIDE

POWDERLIFE is your Niseko Travel Guide – in print and online. With www.powderlife.com and Powderlife Niseko magazine, you'll discover the essential information for the perfect holiday.

During your stay, experience Niseko's restaurants, bars and cafes, where you can feast on anything – from the most authentic sushi to beautiful local sake. Make the most of your skiing and boarding with the specialist ski and snowboard stores and mountain guides around town. Inside you'll also find *Powderlife's* onsen guide, short history of the area and village maps. **For everything else visit www.powderlife.com/niseko-resort-guide.**



TOURIST INFO

Kutchan Information Centre

Plenty of brochures and English-speaking staff.
Location: Main Street, Kutchan (map p.53, A4)
T: (0136) 22 1121.

The Niseko Grand Hirafu Welcome Centre

Wide range of brochures from the area and transport information.
Location: Top of the main street (Hirafu Zaka) in Hirafu (map p.54, E1)
T: (0136) 22 0109.

GETTING HERE & THERE

New Chitose Airport.

For departure and arrival times.
T: (0123) 23 0111
W: www.new-chitose-airport.jp/language/english

Getting from New Chitose to Niseko

Bus: This is a cheap and efficient option. Buses leave every 30 minutes from the airport to Niseko and take about three hours (includes rest stop and drop off at Rusutsu). Companies providing this service: Whiteliner Buses, Chuo Bus, Donan Bus and Hokkaido Resort Liner. Visit the Welcome Centre for bus bookings back to Chitose. ¥2,300 approx. (one way) or ¥3850 approx. (roundtrip).

Door-to-Door Transfer

Skybus offers a door-to-door transfer service to and from the airport to Niseko, or Sapporo. See p.18 for details.
T: 011 788 4994
W: www.skybus.co.jp

Train This is the most scenic route to Niseko. There is no direct train from Chitose to Kutchan Station (closest major station to Hirafu), and all

trains run through Sapporo and Otaru. You will be required to change platforms. ¥2600 approx.

T: (0123) 45 7011 – Airport Station
T: (0136) 22 1310 – Kutchan station
W: www.japanrail.com

CAR RENTAL

Niseko Auto Rentals

Specialising in large 4wd 7-8 passenger vehicles: Delica Space Gear and Toyota Hiace.
T: (0136) 44 1144
W: www.bdlodge.com

Toyota Rent-a-Car ShinSapporo

One-way hire from Chitose to Hirafu is about ¥7000 for six people/24 hours. Pick up at Chitose airport, Sapporo or Kutchan
T: (0118) 15 0100 (English ok!)

The Powderlife website has some great tips on how to drive on snow as well as good contacts if you have an accident.
www.powderlife.com/niseko-travel-guide

TRANSPORT AROUND NISEKO

Taxis: Drivers probably won't speak English so you will need a business/place name and map for where you are going.
T: (0136) 22 1212 Kutchan Hire // (0136) 22 1171 Misora Hire // (0136) 44 2635 Niseko Hire.

Bus

Niseko United Shuttle: Connects Hirafu, Niseko Village and Annupuri resorts. Pickup/drop-off points in Hirafu include Hirafu Gondola and the bus stop near Hirafu intersection.
¥: Free if you have an all-mountain pass // 1 point if you have a 12-point mountain pass //

¥500 Adult and ¥300 for child.

Grand Hirafu Village shuttle bus:

Shuttle buses run throughout Hirafu every 15 minutes, all day, every day, until the end of night-skiing.
¥: Free

Hanazono Shuttle Bus: Travels throughout Hirafu Village and out to Hanazono from 7.50am to 6pm. Look out for the blue buses.
¥: Free

Kutchan Night Go Bus: Runs to and from Hirafu to Kutchan Station every night.
¥: ¥200 for 1 week pass/¥500 for a season pass

MONEY

ATM Locations

Hokkaido Tracks Holiday's Office, Hirafu
Map: p.54, E2
Accepts: All major cards

Kutchan Main Post Office
Map: p.53, E3
Accepts: All major cards

7 Eleven

Map: p.53, C1
Accepts: Visa Plus, JCB, AMEX, Dinners Club, Discover, China Union Pay

Credit Cards Lift tickets, ski hire and ski lessons can all be paid for by credit. Most large restaurants offer credit card facilities too, however some small businesses are cash only. Check with your retailer before purchasing.

Currency Exchange Kutchan Post Office and Hokuyo Bank (Map p.53, B3)

SHOPPING

For everything from toothpaste to alcohol and late-night snacks try:

Seicomart – Hirafu

Location: At the main intersection in Hirafu

Lawson – Hirafu (24 hours)

Location: 5 minutes from Seicomart in the direction of Kutchan.

Piz Gloria and the **Alpen Hotel** offer a smaller range of snacks and drinks, and **Sekka Deli** provides gourmet items from Hokkaido.

Kutchan Shopping

For a big shopping trip, it's worth venturing into Kutchan Town. Here is a list of the major stores stocking the basics, but if you explore a little further you'll find small local fruit and vegetable retailers and great souvenir shops.

Try **Best Denki** for all your electrical and technical needs.

Location: p.53, B4

Rummage through **M-Pocket** for imported groceries and alcohol.

Location: p.53, B3

Visit **Homac**, which shelves basically every household product. Afterwards head next door to major supermarket **MaxValu** for all your food supplies as well as **Tsuruha Drug** (red signage) if you need a pharmacy.

Location: Route 5 and Route 343. (p.53, G3)

Take a trip to the **¥100 store** if you're on a budget.

Location: p.53, B4

SHOPPING

Internet

J-Sekka Deli and Downtown Café have free Internet terminals.

Mobile Phones

Only 3G phones will work in Japan. Some accommodation providers offer mobile phone hire.

Domestic Calls

Green and grey public phones take coins or pre-paid telephone cards. Local calls don't require the '0136', unless made from a public telephone.

International Calls

Dial (010) and then the code of the country you wish to call. If the number starts with 0 – drop the

0 and dial everything else.

Post Offices

Look for the red '〒' symbol. There are two post offices in Kutchan. In Hirafu, post-office boxes and stamps are located at Piz Gloria and Seicomart.

ELECTRICITY

Standard voltage is 100v AC. You can use most electronic items without a problem, but some high watt devices such as hairdryers may not run on full power. Plugs are the international standard (flat, two-blade type).

STAY SAFE AROUND TOWN

No skiing/boarding on roads or footpaths

While it may seem much quicker and easier than walking, skiing and snowboarding home from the hill is dangerous and is frowned upon by locals.

One third of all injuries in Hirafu are caused by people falling on the street. Wear shoes with a good grip or buy and attach rubber sole cleats with metal studs.

Be careful when walking or parking your car under roofs

Heavy snow slides from rooftops in Niseko. The snow slides can seriously damage your cars too.

Drinking Dangers

Make sure you leave the bar with someone else. Also make sure you rug up and stay warm – people have been known to fall asleep in the snow on the way home. If you do notice someone who is intoxicated, report them to the police or the safety hut located outside Seicomart.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Kutchan Kousei Hopsital

For anything you think is broken. X-ray, MRI and medical dispensary. No appointment necessary.

Location: p.53, A3

T: 0136 22 1141

Niseko Physio

The only acute sports injury specialist in the village.

Location: p.54, B2

T: 0136 22 0399

LOCAL LINGO

GREETINGS

Good morning	Ohaiyogozaimasu
Hello	Konichiwa
Good evening	Kon ban wa
Goodnight	Oyasuminasai
Goodbye	Sayonara
See you later	Mata ne
What's your name?	Onamae wa nan desu ka?
My name is ...	Watashi no namae wa (insert name) desu
(nice to meet you)	Dozo yoroshiku
How are you?	Genki desu ka?
I'm fine	Genki desu
How old are you?	Otoshi wa Ikutsu desu ka?

BASIC QUESTIONS

Where is ...?	... wa doko desu ka?
toilet	toire
Are you okay?	Daijoubu desu ka?

RESTAURANT TIPS

How many people?	Nan mei sama desu ka?
two people (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	'ni' mei desu (san, yon, go, roku, shichi, hachi)
What would you like to drink?	Onomimono wa okimari desu ka?
One beer please	biiru 'hitotsu' kudasai
Food counters	
one	hitotsu
two	futatsu
three	mitsu
four	yotsu
Before you eat say	Itadakimasu
After you eat say	Gochisosamadeshita
Cheers	Kanpai
Delicious	Oiishi

OUT AND ABOUT

Great snow	Sugoi yuki
Excuse me	Sumimasen
I don't understand	Nihongo ga
Japanese	wakarimasen
Do you speak English?	Eigo ga hanasemasu ka?
Cute	Kawaii
Japan's great!	Nihon wa sugoi

ONSEN GUIDE

GOING to the onsen for the first time can be a little daunting. *Powderlife's* guide and onsen etiquette tips will help you fall in love with this quintessential Japanese experience.

Yukoro Onsen

T: 0136 23 3434 (Hirafu map p.54 B4)

Hotel Niseko Alpen

T: 0136 22 1105 (Hirafu map p.54 E1)

Hot Spring Poporo

T: 0136 23 3291 (Hirafu map p.54 F1)

Yumoto Niseko Prince Hotel Hirafutei

T: 0136-23-2239 (Hirafu map p.54 D1)

Hilton Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 1111 (Higashiyama map p.53 G7)

Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 3311 (Higashiyama map p.53 G7)

Niseko Grand Hotel

T: 0136 58 2121 (Annupuri map p.53 A8)

ONSEN ETIQUETTE

What to bring?

Bath towel, modesty towel and toiletries. Most onsens provide body soap and shampoo, and sell modesty towels for about ¥200.

How much?

Most onsens range between ¥600 to ¥1000.

What to do?

1. Enter the changing room through the appropriate door: 女 for women, 男 for men.
2. Remove your clothes and put them in the basket or locker provided.
3. Have a shower before entering the onsen. Rinse yourself thoroughly and then your shower cubicle before going into the onsen.
4. Use the modesty towel when walking into the onsen then gracefully slide into the water – never jump.
5. Don't let your towel enter the onsen water – just rest it on your head or on a rock on the side of the onsen.
6. Soak, contemplate and relieve your sore muscles.
7. Dry yourself off before going back into the change room, as best you can.

Many onsen have rooms where you can relax, drink a cold beer or tea, or even sit in a massage chair.

LOCAL HISTORY

WHAT does Niseko mean?

'Niseko' was the name originally given to the area by the Ainu, Hokkaido's indigenous people, and means 'a cliff jutting over a riverbank deep in the mountains'. Meanwhile, Nupuri is a word commonly heard around these parts, namely because it's the Ainu word for 'mountain'. Put it all together and Mt Niseko Annupuri (the mountain that is home to the Niseko United resorts) means 'a mountain which has sheer cliffs and a river below'. Other nearby mountains which have carried their Ainu names until today include Chisenupuri and Iwaonupuri.

SKI RESORT HISTORY

1911	Theodore von Lerch ascends Mount Yotei
1949	Mount Yotei is designated a National Park
1956	Rope tow installed at Asahigaoka ski area
1961	First ski lift in Grand Hirafu ski area completed
1962	40th All Japan Ski Championships (Alpine)
1963	Niseko mountain range is designated a Quasi-National Park
1966	Taiheiyō Club Niseko Moiva International ski area opens
1970	Kutchan hosts the 25th National Ski Competition
1972	Niseko Annupuri ski area opens
1982	Niseko Higashiyama ski area (currently Niseko Village) opens
1993	Free Passport lift pass system valid at 4 ski resorts introduced
2002	Niseko starts to receive a large number of Australian tourists

Information courtesy of the Niseko Promotion Board



Jagata-kun: Little fat skiing potato boy



Jagako: Jagata-kun's snowboarding girlfriend

GOMI GUIDE

IF in doubt, don't just throw it out!

What is burnable rubbish? (燃えるゴミ moeru-gomi)

Contrary to what most of us are brought up to believe, burnable rubbish includes plastics, as well as paper and food scraps.

PET bottles and cans (ペット缶)

Plastic drink bottles (with lid/label removed) and aluminium/steel drink cans

Compost (生ゴミ nama-gomi)

When available, compost bins are for food scraps. Though be careful, tea bags are not considered compost.

Non-burnable rubbish (燃えないゴミ moenai-gomi)

Non-burnable rubbish is for rubbish that doesn't fit the other categories, including items such as broken glass, ceramics and metals.

What can you do to help keep Niseko beautiful?

Take a second to be sure you're throwing your garbage in the correct bin. For more information visit www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp

C2 A-Bu-Cha 2
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese dishes or hot-pots. Choice of 400 drinks! Japanese seating available. Families welcome. Lunch and Cafe: various lunch dishes, coffee, homemade dessert.



Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 6pm – 2am
(LO 3pm/11.30pm)
☎ 0136 22 5620

www.abucha.net

A wide variety of meals and drinks – top marks

E7 Black Diamond Restaurant
p53 HIGASHIYAMA

Offering a wide variety of food and drink from around the world. Japanese daily specials, Western, Mexican and Italian dishes! Billiards, darts, happy hour and drink specials daily! Free pickup from The Hilton and The Green Leaf for groups of 6 or more.



4pm–midnight
(LO 11pm food // 11.30pm drink)
☎ 0136 44 1144

www.bdlodge.com

Free pick-up from The Hilton and The Green Leaf for 6 or more

A1 Country Grill
p54 COUNTRY RESORT

Unique flavours not found anywhere else in the area, with all local products by La Andy. From Hokkaido-grown beef, country roast chicken, and our specialty Hokkaido Venison, try the new Country Grill, just outside busy Hirafu in the quiet community of Country Resort.



Breakfast 7.30–10.30am
Dinner 17.00 to late
Free pick up and drop off
☎ 0136 55 5123

www.nisekocountryresort.com

Grilled favourites, relaxed dining, casual atmosphere

A4 Ebisutei
p54 LOWER HIRAFU

Finished skiing? Drop in for great food and a good time! Laugh and drink at this lively izakaya inn. Enjoy our assorted Japanese hotchpotch.



Open daily
5pm – midnight
☎ 0136 22 6544

www.ebcbar.com

Have fun with our genki and laughing oden bar staff

D2 Bang Bang
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Ramen lunch at Bang 2 starting this season! We take great pride in our fresh seafood and look forward to offering you mouthwatering dishes from our wide-ranging menus.



Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 5.30pm – 11.30 pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 22 4292

www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang

We take great pride in our fresh seafood

C3 Cocoro Okonomiyaki
p53 KUTCHAN

Real Osaka-style okonomiyaki and yakisoba cooked by you on your teppan (hot plate). Try out takoyaki (octopus) and chicken balls. Japanese sweets also available.



11am – 9pm
☎ 0136 22 1528 (Jap)
☎ 0136 23 0008 (Eng)

Great Food, Great Value!

B3 Downtown Café
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Hugely popular with locals, this top-rated cafe-restaurant offers all-day breakfast, bagels, daily blackboard specials and great coffee. Eat in or take out. Free high-speed internet.



Open 7 days
8am to 10.30pm
Breakfast, lunch and dinner
☎ 0136 23 3354

Hirafu's finest cafe free internet terminal + Wi-Fi

C4 Half Note
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Enjoy live weekend jazz nights as well as Dancing and other live music on weekdays. With, jazz, billiards and table tennis, there's always something going on at Half Note. Check out Half Note's regular jazz events at www.nisekohalfnote.com.



6pm–midnight
Open daily
☎ 0136 23 2727

www.nisekohalfnote.com

Hirafu's only jazz bar!

F5 Hana Jizoh
p54 IZUMIKYO 2

Amazing sweet and savoury breads and pastries from a friendly local family baker. You must try this! Get the free Hirafu Village shuttle to bus stop 27, near Unitas Log Village. Eat in or takeaway.



8.00am – 4.30pm
Closed Wednesdays
☎ 0136 23 0331

Creative and delicious breads from a local baker

D4 Java Lounge
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Come and relax on the Java Lounge sofas, try our

- Italian coffee • Assorted Panini
- Home baked muffins and cakes • Hot soups
- Iced-cold beer • Daily special lunches
- Quiches or all day breakfast



Daily
7am to 8pm

Early morning breakfast, lunch and après drinks

E2 Kamimura
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Trained by one of the world's top chefs, Tetsuya Wakuda, chef Kamimura uses the abundance of Hokkaido produce to create a memorable degustation dining experience.



Dinner 6pm – 11pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 21 2288

www.kamimura-niseko.com

Blessed by land, sea and a creative chef

B3 Maki Lounge
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

With an open fire and sweeping views of the Hirafu ski hill, unwind on our leather lounges. Apres drinks include an array of fine Japanese whiskey, sake, sho-chu and plum wine as well as classic and house-blend cocktails, spirits and glass wine.



Coffee, snacks and games from 10am // bar 2pm–late 7 days
☎ 0136 21 6133

www.j-sekka.com

Japanese whiskey, sake and shochu by the fire

B3 J-Sekka Café and Delicatessen
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

For a hearty breakfast to get you ready for the slopes, or a lazy afternoon spent discovering the delicious Hokkaido produce used in our house-made delicacies.



open from 7am daily

www.j-sekka.com

A taste of Hokkaido

☎ 0136 21 3088

C3 Kabuki 1 and 2
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

At Kabuki 1 you can do make-it-yourself Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki. Kabuki 2 (next door) is a full-service Teppan Yaki Restaurant. Early bird 20% for all meals – in by 6pm out by 7pm.



Open 7 days
5–11pm
☎ 0136 21 2233 (Kabuki 1)
☎ 0136 21 2121 (Kabuki 2)

www.nisekokabuki.com

Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki Restaurant

E8 M's Cafe (Saison Club)
p53 HIGASHIYAMA

Try our huge traditional Japanese nabe hotpots with meat, seafood and vegetables. We have shabu shabu, sukiyaki and chanko hot pots.



Day 10am–3pm
Evening 5.30–7.30pm
Open daily
☎ 0136 44 3380

www.saison-club.com

Warm your body with our big hearty hot-pots

B4 NICHII Shokudou
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Specializing in Japanese food & Italian food cooked with wood-fired oven. Please enjoy our delicious food!



Open daily
4pm to midnight
☎ 0136 22 2161

<http://nichii.pittore.jp/>

Japanese and Italian food Iza-kaya with wood-fired oven.

D2 Niseko Pizza

p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Niseko Pizza is a family run restaurant offering a menu with lots of love and the best quality ingredients. You will be delighted by the smell, enticed by the flavours, pleased by the atmosphere and comforted by the staff



Open 4–11pm weekdays
11am to 11pm weekends,
holidays, Chinese New year
☎ 0136 55 5553

www.nisekopizza.jp

Dine in, Take-away and delivery

B2 Sekka Dining

p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Experience a taste of Hokkaido in style at Sekka Dining, with an impressive cellar and a menu that celebrates simplicity, innovation, and absolute delicacy in preparation.



Open daily
Dinner from 6pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 21 5022

www.j-sekka.com

Showcasing the best of Hokkaido

A5 Shunsai

p53 KUTCHAN

Having trained in various countries, our expert chef creates a colourful array of dishes. Bread freshly baked after ordering. Vegetarian menu available. Chilean wines from ¥2,000.



Lunch 11am–3pm
Dinner 5–9pm
Closed Sundays
☎ 0136 23 1882

Creative fusion cuisine from land and sea

C3 Steak Rosso Rosso

p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Casual steak house with a contemporary flavour. Juicy, tender wagyu and Kobe beef and a variety of imported wines. Enjoy yourself to satiation with our stylish cuisine and refined hospitality.



Dinner 6pm–11pm
Occasionally closed

www.rossorosso.net

A must for steak lovers!

☎ 0136 21 7100

D2 Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub & Restaurant

p54

UPPER HIRAFU

Enjoy your perfect powder holiday at our popular pub and restaurant with its welcoming fun atmosphere, imported and local beers, wines, spirits and great value meals.



Open daily
1pm till Late

www.paddymcginthispub.com

Value Drinks, Hearty Meals, Live Sports and Music

☎ 0136 55 8020

D1 Senchou 2

p54

UPPER HIRAFU

Founded in 1996. While we have seen many changes, the quality of our fresh seafood remains as good as ever. Try us while you are here. The food is so fresh it will dance on your tongue.



Winter only
5pm–midnight
Open daily
☎ 0136 22 5454

www.senchou.com

Best choice for gourmet seafood

C3 Souan Genghis Khan Lamb BBQ

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Goes perfectly with beer and makes a great party menu. Bring your family and friends for the ¥1700 all-you-can-eat for 60 minutes offer.



Open daily
5pm–2am
(LO 1am)
☎ 090 2059 6701

¥1700 all-you-can-eat barbecue for 60 minutes

F3 Taj Mahal

p54

IZUMIKYO 1

Experience the best of authentic Indian cuisine and courteous service. Enjoy an authentic Indian meal with Indian beer at our prestigious restaurant. 10% discount on takeaway orders. Vegetarian meals available. Free local delivery.



Open all year, 7 days
11.30am to 10.30pm
☎ 0136 22 4566

www.tajmahalgroup.com

Visit India in Taj Mahal Niseko

C4 The Barn

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Come and enjoy our alpine food and wine in Hokkaido's warmest and authentic bistro atmosphere. Drop in on the way back from the slopes for a snack and hot wine in our friendly bar on the upper floor, or stay the evening for dinner in the main restaurant.



Open 7 days 6pm to late
(LO 9.30pm food //
drinks 11.30pm)
☎ 0136 23 0888

www.nisekobarn.com

Hokkaido's one and only alpine bistro

E4 Tsubara Tsubara

p54

IZUMIKYO 1

Everyone falls in love with our carefully prepared soup made from delicious ingredients. Restaurant recently renovated to give improved access and a larger seating area. Enjoy our famous Hokkaido soup curry.



Lunch 11.30am–3pm
Evening 6–10pm
Closed 2nd/4th Wednesdays
☎ 0136 23 1116

www.tsubaratsubara.com

Spicy, flavoursome and local Hokkaido curry soup

B2 Wabi Sabi

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Quality prepared and cooked Yakitori (various skewered meats, seafood and vegetables barbecued). All food cooked in traditional Japanese style.



Open 7 days
5–10pm

www.nisekowabisabi.com

Specialty Yakitori restaurant

☎ 0136 21 5115

F3 Yakitori Yosaku

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Hirafu locals' favourite yakitori restaurant. Come in after a day of powder and try some of our Japanese barbecue, sukyaki and hot sake.



Open daily
6pm to 3am

Serving yakitori every night until 3am

☎ 0136 23 4390

D2 Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen

p54

UPPER HIRAFU

Asahikawa ramen is made from 100% Hokkaido wheat noodles served in a smooth and rich soup. There is a wide selection of dishes to choose from including Donburi rice bowls. From Asahikawa's original ramen restaurant.



Open daily
10.30am–11pm
(LO 11pm)
☎ 0136 23 4549

New location this winter!

C2 VBG – Vale Bar and Grill

p54

UPPER HIRAFU

Full breakfast available from 7am. Serving an eclectic fusion-style menu all day. Daily Specials. Warm up with our VBG Ultimate Hot Chocolate or something a little stronger in our relaxed après lounge. Shots and cocktails. Live music events.



Open 7 days
7am to late
All-day dining
☎ 0136 21 5833

www.nisekoalpineaccommodation.com

Ski-in ski-out bar and dining

D3 WAGYU DINING SOU

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese food nabe hotpot for your experience of Japanese culture. We recommend Sukiyaki, Shabushabu and Kimuchi hotpot to warm your body up in the cold Niseko winter. Lunch available with reservation – Shabushabu, Sukiyaki or Kimchi hotpot course from 11am to 2pm.



Dinner 6–10pm
Lunch 11am to 2pm
7 days
☎ 0136 23 3048

Carefully selected Japanese wagyu beef and special soup

B3 Yummy's

p54

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Cesar Salad, Avocado Salsa Salad, Chicken Wings, Bacon Pepper Steak, Baked Cream Potato, Cheese Fondue, wines and of course various styles of pizza. And more more!



www.yummypizza.com

Yummy homemade crust pizza and western foods restaurant

5–11pm daily
Delivery available in the Hirafu area
☎ 0136 21 2239

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

C2 Black Diamond Tours

UPPER HIRAFU

Check out Niseko's incredible backcountry or visit Rusutsu, Sapporo Kokusai or Teine Highland. We also have a range of backcountry tours to suit your lung capacity.



www.blackdiamondtours.com

Niseko's backcountry powder specialists

8am-8pm daily
Above Proski Demo Shop
Opp. The Vale Niseko
☎ 090 2054 8687

B4 Japanese Cultural Tours

KUTCHAN/HIRAFU

Tours will take you to various cultural attractions in Kutchan: Tea ceremony, laido sword demo, Taiko drums, sake-brewery tour and Japanese dinner. ¥5000/¥3000. Departs Seicomart Hirafu, ends in Kutchan.



www.niseko.co.jp/plat/

"Experience Japan's cultural heritage"

3-7.30pm
Feb 3,18
Bookings essential
☎ 0136 23 0222

E1 Niseko Foot

UPPER HIRAFU

Visit this popular relaxation salon and sample some of our many treatments. All different styles of massage are available for body and feet. 30-minute, 60-minute and 90-minute courses available. Big groups welcome. Also osteopathy and sports injuries.



www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot

Closest healing relaxation therapy spot to Centre 4 lift

Open daily
11am-10pm
Free pickup available
☎ 0136 22 1224

F1 NISS

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO 308

Niseko International Snowsports School is designed to assist your Hanazono/Hirafu snow holiday. With two great locations and a suite of programs we'll help you learn new skills, gain confidence and above all enjoy your time in the powder of Niseko.



www.hanazononiseko.com

Kids are our speciality Hirafu and Hanazono

8.30am-4pm
Ticket sales/Kids Centre
Hirafu and Hanazono 308
☎ 0136 21 6688

RETAIL & SHOPPING

B3 Cocoroya

KUTCHAN

Located on Kutchan high street, Cocoroya offers a wide range of Japanese antiques, furniture, Kimono and original handmade gifts. We also stock a selection of high-quality power stone jewellery.



www.cocoroya.jp

Take home a unique piece of Japan

11.00am-7.30pm
Open every day
☎ 0136 23 0008

D1 Fusion Sports Shop

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO

Great gear, good value, friendly staff. Fusion provides all your on mountain and après needs. Popular brands like Burton, Oakley, Dakine, The North Face, Volcom and more.



www.hanazononiseko.com

Gear for the elements at two locations in Niseko

Hirafu 8am-9pm
Hanazono 8.30am-5pm
☎ 0136 21 6633(Hirafu)
☎ 0136 23 0911(Hanazono)

D1 Niseko Photography Gallery

UPPER HIRAFU

Stunning prints and fine art canvas works. Niseko Photography's gallery is a showcase of beautiful photography from Niseko's stunning four seasons. We also stock t-shirts, handmade beanies and souvenirs as well.



www.nisekophotography.com

Photo gallery - fine-art prints and souvenirs

7 days
midday-8pm
☎ 0136 22 5764

B3 SEKKA STYLE Shop & Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

A collection of unique photography, antiques and objects d'art selected by Shouya Grigg, the style-impresario behind the SEKKA projects.



www.sekkastyle.com

You can never get enough SEKKS

1-7pm
Closed Mondays
☎ 0908 274 4814

D3 Ezo Seafoods

MIDDLE HIRAFU

We stock seafood for takeout sourced daily from the coast - oysters, King Red Crab, salmon, and more. We also prepare seafood platters and fish and chips.



www.ezoseafoods.com

Niseko's seafood supplier

7 days
Open from 4pm
☎ 0136 22 3019

E3 Momiji Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Gallery is a mix of stunning photography, renowned Hokkaido artists, (working in paint, bronze and plastic), unique antiques and gifts, postcards and gourmet cookies.... An artful fusion of old and new, Japanese and Western.



Art and Photo gallery, gifts and antiques

Open 7 days
2-8.30pm
☎ 0136 55 8585

D2 Sakura

UPPER HIRAFU

Tucked in behind Paddy McGinty's, Sakura offers a wide selection of gifts including kimonos, geisha hairpins, pottery, paintings, traditional wooden furniture and more.



www.sakura-niseko.com

Your one-stop Japanese souvenir shop

Daily
1-7pm in winter
☎ 0136 21 7007

D2 Yukara

UPPER HIRAFU

Stocking a wide variety of souvenirs, original t-shirts, Hokkaido sweets and more. Remember your holiday and take home a souvenir with you.



Reopen on 2nd floor of Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen Restaurant

7 days
9am-10pm
0136 23 4546

RENTAL & SERVICES

D1 Demo Equipment Hire

UPPER HIRAFU/HANAZONO

New store at The Vale Niseko. Huge fleet of K2 and Salomon skis and boots, Burton snowboards and boots, helmets and snow shoes for adults and kids. Deep powder, park, groomed, off-piste, back country – we have equipment to suit all conditions and all levels.

www.hanazononiseko.com

demo

Hirafu 8am–9pm
The Vale 8–10am, 4–8.30pm
Hanazono 8.30am–5pm
☎ 0136 21 6677

Free drop off at Hirafu
Free O'night Storage 308

C3 Hermosa Angel Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Offering both traditional shiatsu and relaxing oil massages either in your suite or at the J-Sekka massage space, Inka Rebeza's skilled practitioners provide truly exceptional service. Chida-sensei's team have a course to suit you, with flexible bookings and a variety of packages available.

www.j-sekka.com



Open 7 days
Appointments available from 3pm–midnight
☎ 0136 21 6133

Relax and rejuvenate in the heart of hirafu

F7 Niseko Auto Rentals and Sales

HIGASHIYAMA

Complement your holiday or home with a 4WD vehicle. Local licensed dealer offering affordable rentals and sales IN ENGLISH. Short and long-term rentals available. English navigation available.

www.nisekoauto.com



4WD vans from ¥46,200/week
or ¥135,000/month

9am–9pm
24hr Emergency English
Roadside Assistance
☎ 0136 44 1144

E3 Niseko Realty Sales

UPPER HIRAFU

Dealing in real-estate sales, property management, and holiday lettings. Our staff are native to the area and know the property market. For trustworthy advice, sales, accommodation contact us at 0136-23-2221, info@nisekorealty.com, or drop by our Hirafu office across from the SPLASH bar.

www.nisekorealty.com



8:00am to 7:00pm
All year round
☎ 0136 23 2221

Secure your future in Japan's premier powder ski area

E3 Glen Claydon Photography

HIRAFU

Complete photographic services including architectural, landscape, stock, prints and panoramic photography for online virtual tours.

www.glenclaydon.com

Complete photographic services



☎ 080 6098 7244

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HIRAFU

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- Project Management
- New Homes
- Renovation
- Building Supplies

www.jbuildniseko.com

18 years' experience in Japan



We never close

☎ 090 9380 5729

B2 Niseko Physio

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Australian trained physiotherapists, sports injuries, back and neck pain, rehabilitation, taping, braces, pain relief, managed by Tokyo Physio (est 2002). Massage service also available. Hakuba clinic now open in Phoenix Hotel.

www.nisekophysio.com

Niseko's sports injury centre in the middle of Hirafu



7 days
8am–8pm

☎ 0136 22 0399

D1 Travelplan

UPPER HIRAFU

Australia's #1 snow holiday specialist with 39 years' experience, offering a wide selection of pensions, hotels and quality apartments in Niseko and other resorts. CMH Heli Skiing in Canada – information night every Wednesday at J Sekka. For more information contact Travelplan.

www.travelplan.com.au

The world's best ski holidays



7 days
8am–8pm

☎ 0136 21 5354

www.powderlife.com

NISEKO UNITED.



FOR YOUR SAFETY
Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sports, always show courtesy to others and be aware that THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS in all snow recreation activities. These risks include rapid weather changes, avalanches, collisions with other people as well as natural and artificial hazards such as rocks, trees, stumps, bare spots, lift towers and snowmaking equipment. Common sense and personal awareness can reduce such risks. Observe the ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE and share with others the responsibility for a great experience.

ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE
1. Know your ability and always stay in control.
2. Take lessons from qualified professional instructors to learn and progress.
3. Don't drink or become intoxicated or overtake another person, you must avoid people below and beside you.
4. Do not stop where you could obstruct a trail, a run or are not visible from above.
5. When entering a trail, a run or starting downhill, look uphill and give way to others.
6. Always use chairlift restraining devices where provided and always use proper equipment. Ensure you are in good condition and have your equipment in good condition.
7. Observe and obey all signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails or runs and keep out of closed areas.
8. Before using any lift you must have the knowledge and ability of how to load and unload safely.
9. Do not ski snowcovered, side lift or undertake any other alpine activity if you are not adequately trained and sober.
10. If you are involved in, or witness an accident, alert the Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to them.

KNOW THE CODE. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

- 4. BACK COUNTRY SKIING/RIDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WHEN GATES ARE CLOSED.
- 5. AVALANCHE CONDITION INFORMATION is the official information posted by "Niseko Avalanche Institute". This information can be found at lift stations, access gates and on the internet.
- 6. BACK COUNTRY RESCUE FEE YOU are responsible for the cost of your rescue from back country areas.
- 7. SKI AND MOUNTAIN PATROL. INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE OBEYED.

- 2. CROSSING ROPES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Ducking the boundary ropes is prohibited. If you do, your lift pass will be confiscated. ONLY SKIERS WITH LIFT PASSES are allowed to pass. Crossing ropes at other areas will result in lift pass confiscation.
- 3. NO SAFETY CONTROL BEYOND RESORT BOUNDARY The area outside the mountain resort boundaries (back country, including the peaks) are National Forests and Parks, and are not controlled or supervised by the resort or the Ski Patrol. Niseko Rules proclaims that hiking and riding these areas is dangerous and if you choose to, you do it at YOUR OWN RISK.

- 1. CERTAIN CLOSED AREAS WITHIN NISEKO ARE STRICTLY OFF LIMITS AND ARE NOT TO BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME You no Snow/Gully between Annupuri and Niseko Village area, and Han no Taki (gull area) west of Hirafu) are STRICTLY OFF LIMITS. Those riding these areas WILL have their lift pass confiscated.

Avalanche Control Area
Various methods of Avalanche Control are in use in this area in the interest of increasing avalanche awareness and safety. Only skiers and riders participating in the program are permitted to use this area.
Contact: Niseko Village 0136-44-2211

Niseko UNITED Shuttle
The NISEKO UNITED Shuttle conveniently links each of the four ski resorts and is free to holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass. The bus timetable is on "Niseko Resort Map" at lift ticket counters etc. *Holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass must present pass on boarding the bus. (15-point ticket holders forfeit 1 point.)
*Those without the All Mountain Pass can ride the bus for the regular fare.

Legend:
 - Un-groomed Slope
 - Ski patrol
 - AED
 - Light
 - Gate to controlled area
 - Mogul run
 - Wave
 - Half Pipe
 - Park/Kicker, jib, etc.)
 - Lift operating times and courses are subject to change due to weather, snow and light conditions etc.

Facilities:
 - Lift ticket counter
 - Rest room
 - Phone
 - Kids room
 - Restaurant
 - Café
 - Shop
 - Information
 - Rental
 - Ski school
 - Onsen (hot Spring)
 - Shuttle bus stop
 - Parking lot

Other symbols:
 - Ski patrol
 - AED
 - Light
 - Gate to controlled area
 - Mogul run
 - Wave
 - Half Pipe
 - Park/Kicker, jib, etc.)
 - Lift operating times and courses are subject to change due to weather, snow and light conditions etc.

Maximum / Average / Length

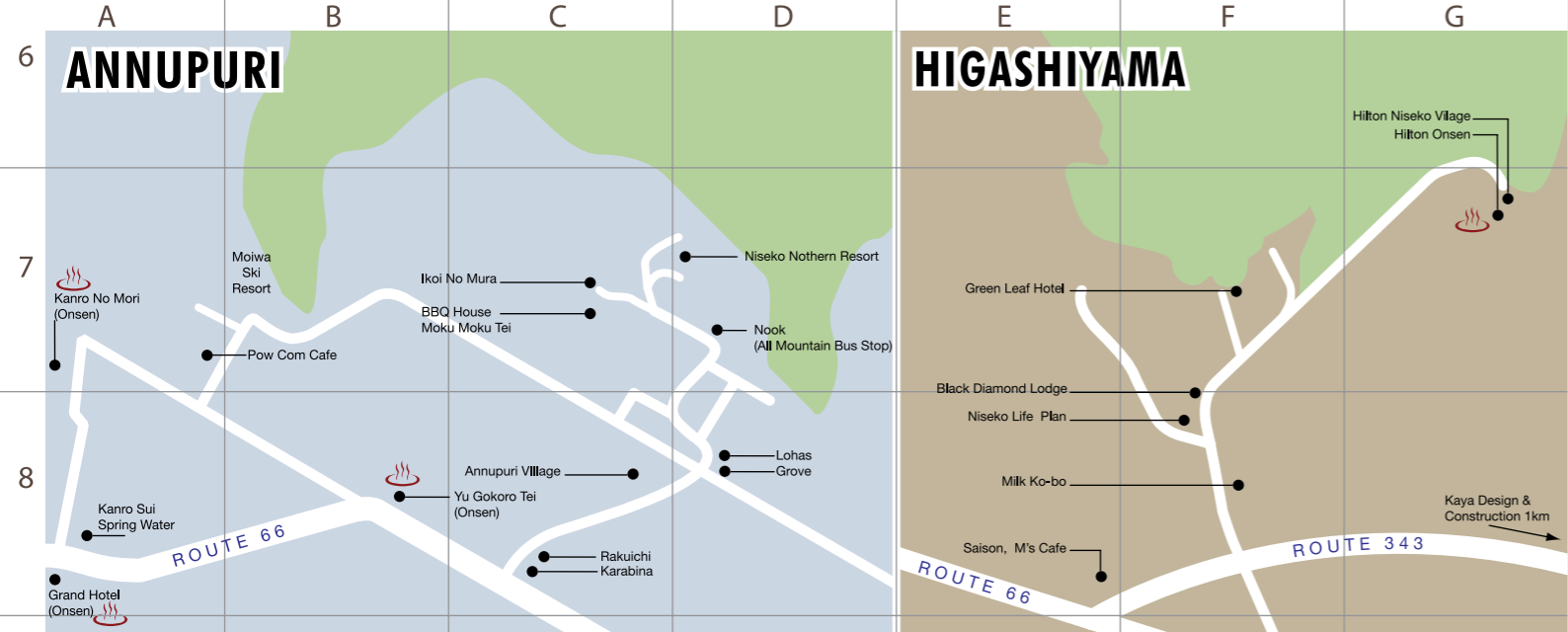
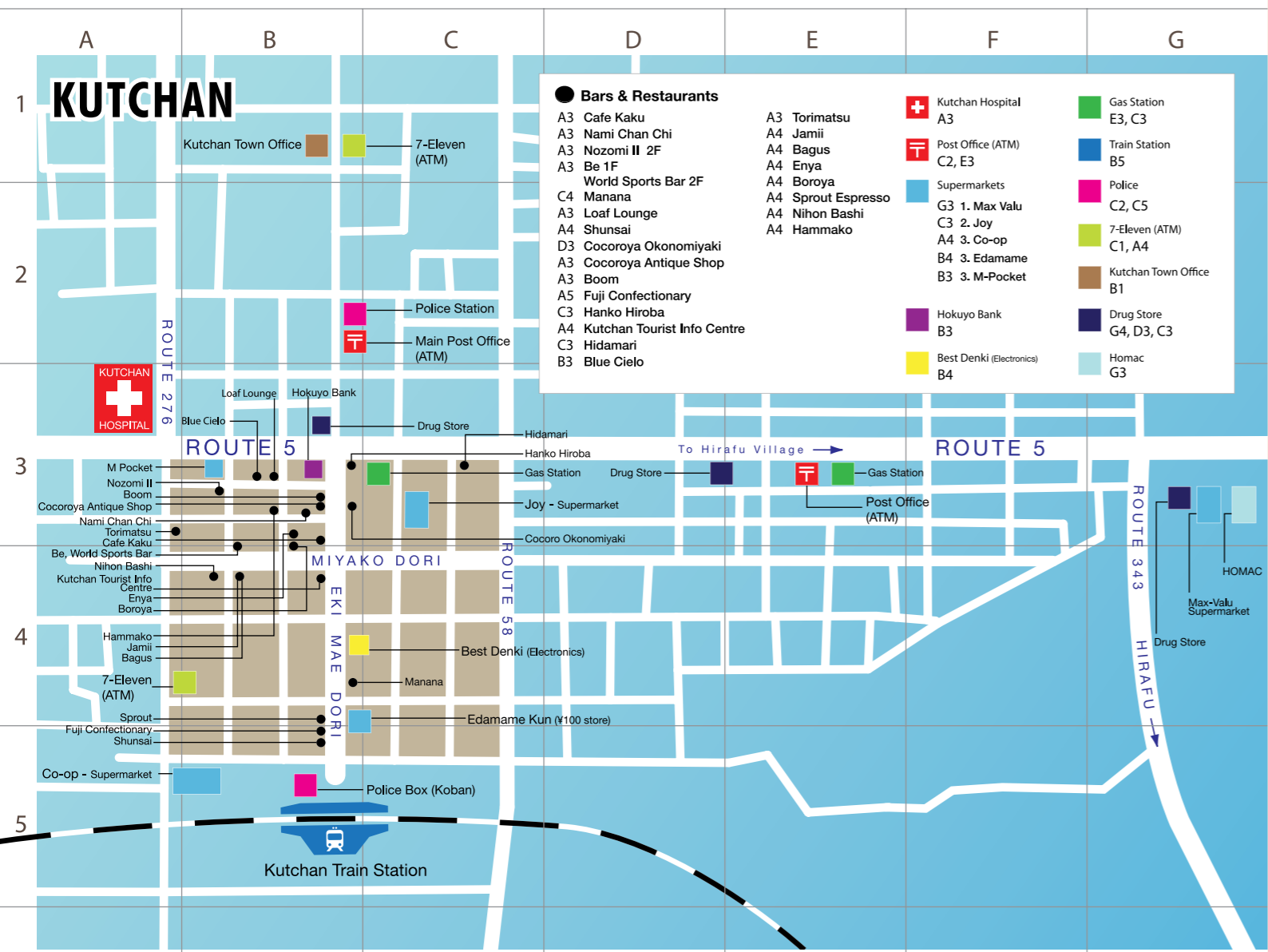
Gradient	Average Gradient	Length
Run	Run	Run
More Difficult	More Difficult	More Difficult
Most Difficult	Most Difficult	Most Difficult

Number of seats / Name of Lift

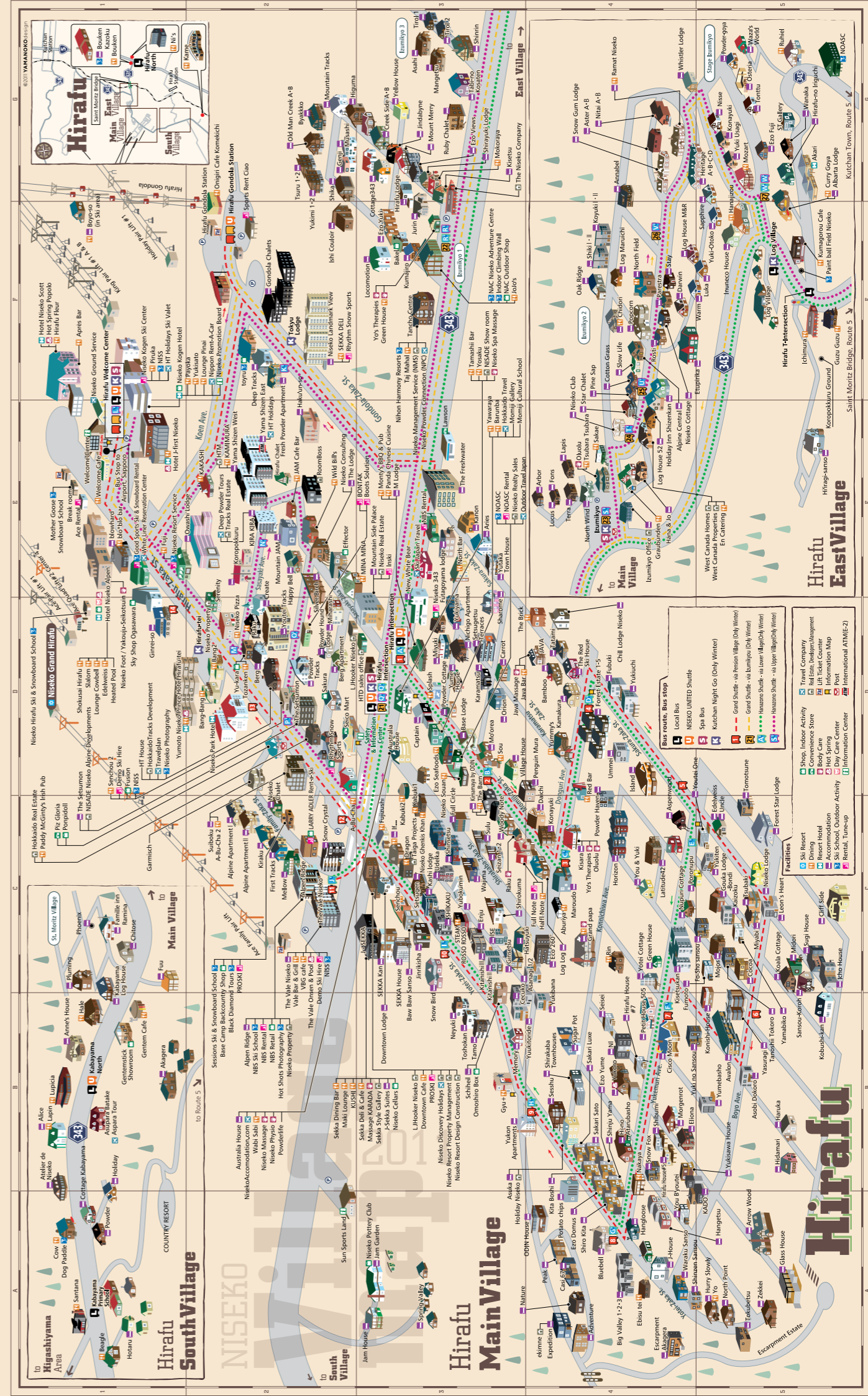
Number of seats	Name of Lift
Number of seats	Name of Lift
Number of seats	Name of Lift

Length / Time required / Number of lift ticket points

Length	Time required	Number of lift ticket points
Length	Time required	Number of lift ticket points
Length	Time required	Number of lift ticket points



- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| A7 Kanro No Mori | C7 BBQ House Moku Moku Tei | A8 Grand Hotel (Onsen) | C8 Karabina | G6 Hilton Niseko Village | E7 Niseko Life Plan | G8 Kaya Design & Construction |
| B7 Moiwa Ski Resort | D7 Niseko Nothern Resort | C8 Annupuri Village | D8 Lohas | G6 Hilton Onsen | E8 Milk Ko-bo | |
| B7 Pow Com Cafe | D7 Nook | C8 Yu Gokoro Tei (Onsen) | D8 Grove | E7 Green Leaf Hotel | E8 Saison | |
| C7 Iko No Mura | A8 Kanro Sui - Spring Water | C8 Rakuichi | | E7 Black Diamond Lodge | E8 M's Cafe | |



* AFTER THE MELT



RUSUTSU AMUSEMENT PARK

ROLLER COASTERS covered under meters of snow is a strange sight, but as soon as the snow melts, this fun little amusement park opens its gates. It's Hokkaido's biggest amusement park with over sixty rides, featuring not just one, but eight rollercoasters. Other rides include a giant drop, a giant Ferris wheel and several pools. The park opens at the beginning of May, and stays open until the end of October. Entry is ¥4,800 (¥3,800 for children).



HANAMI

HANAMI (cherry blossom viewing) involves sitting under a sea of cherry blossom petals, eating barbeque and drinking alcohol with friends and family. The blossoms begin blooming in Hokkaido in early May, many weeks after Tokyo and Kyoto. Niseko has a few cherry blossom trees, however they're not as good as what you can find in Hakodate or Sapporo. Last year, 1000 cherry blossom trees were planted in the Niseko area to rectify this.



SURFING

WHILE not a surfing mecca, Hokkaido still has its fair share of great surf locations, and when the weather conditions are right, surfing here can be quite enjoyable. And, for those of you who think it might be too cold to surf here in summer, spare a thought for Niseko's diehard winter surfers trudging down through the knee-deep snow before getting into the frigid waters in a full-body wetsuit.



CAMPING AT LAKE TOYA

WITH a beautiful mountain backdrop, clear waters and stillness, Lake Toya is just one of the many scenic places to go camping near Niseko. The beautiful lake is unmistakable due to the oddly shaped islands in the centre. There is an abundance of camping locations around the lake, and just as many things to do in the area: canoeing, horse riding, hiking or bathing in the onsens, and visiting the indoor heated waterpark, Sunpalace.

SUMMER // sapporo yosakoi soran festival

SAPPORO has its fair share of festivals: the Snow Festival in February, the Beer Festival in August and the Yosakoi Soran Festival in June.

EVERY year during the second weekend in June, over 30,000 dancers in over 300 teams from Japan and abroad converge on the streets in the centre of Sapporo for a flamboyant dance-off. Teams of dancers move around the city, stopping every few hundred metres for a performance, making it easy to find a spot, relax and watch the acts stream past.

The dancers train daily for several months to prepare for this event, and when you see teams of 150 dancers moving in perfect unison, you can appreciate where that time was spent.

The style of dance has origins in fishing communities, with a lot of the moves and chants mimicking those used by fishermen as they pulled in their haul and cast their nets prior to

trawlers being invented.

It's not just the energetic and well-timed dance moves that will impress, their amazing costumes are also a thing of beauty. These costumes cost the dancers several hundreds of dollars and take many weeks to create. Many teams actually have costumes that they modify throughout the performance, getting more colourful (and revealing) as the dancing progresses. There are also giant flags being waved around at the back that only the strongest members of the team are able to handle.

And all of this accompanied by an amazing soundtrack that is a combination of traditional instruments, singing, yelling, chanting and percussion that will be with you every time you see a picture of Yosakoi.



photo // ross cole-hunter

Looking for a budget hotel in Sapporo?

Single 3,500 yen
Double 4,200 yen
Twin 6,000 yen
+ including light breakfast

1 min. walk from Nakajima Park sbwy Station
3 min. walk to Susukino Town!

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info@sho-susukino.com
www.sho-susukino.com/eng

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- 'MYOB' Consultant (10 years)
- Customizable & Easy to Use
- 90 Day "Test Drive"
- Niseko Based

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Certified Consultant

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Affordable Accommodation & Ski Packages

photo: Glen Clayton

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Certified Master Bootfitters

Boot fit and comfort
GUARANTEE on every pair of ski and snowboard boots that we sell.

First Class
WINTERSTEIGER
Ski & Board Tuning

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We have powder skis and boards, snow wear and accessories. We can pick you up from your accommodation, fit your gear and drop you back or deliver your gear to you.

INSKI
OPEN 8AM to 9PM

AT MOUNTAIN SIDE PALACE, CENTRAL NISEKO HIRAFU. Phone: 0136-55 8558

Java Massage

Sports Remedial Relaxation

30 mins 4500Y
60 mins 8000Y

Bookings Phone: 0136 23 0788

Gnd Floor Java House, Sakura-Zaki St, Hirafu
We accept CASH only. Bookings essential. From 12pm to 8pm daily.

Java Bar

Hirafu's Coolest Lounge Bar

Open from 7am til 9pm

FREE Internet Hotspot

Live Music & DJs

Best Espresso Coffee in Niseko!

Sakura-Zaki St. Mid Hirafu Village, Shuttle Stop 4. t: 0136 23 0788

* TRAVEL FEATURE // zamami-jima, okinawa



PHOTOGRAPHY AND WORDS BY // ross cole-hunter

SUGARCANE fields, pineapple plantations, white sandy beaches and clear blue seas filled with vivid tropical fish might fool you into thinking that you're no longer in Japan.

UPON further discovery, it's not just the landscape that's different; it's the people, the language and the culture too. Okinawa was only a recent addition to the Japanese Empire. Prior to being absorbed into Japan in the 19th century, Okinawa was its own nation, Ryukyu; an archipelago of hundreds of tropical islands that stretch from Kyushu in the south west of Japan down to the very edge of Taiwan.

Due to its past ties with mainland China, Okinawa has many aspects that are more similar with Chinese culture than Japanese. The temples are bright red and decorated with vivid wooden carvings of animals. And the food that Okinawans eat is more adventurous; pig's feet, ears, nose and pig's face features on menus. Locals famously proclaim to eat all of the pig, apart from

its voice. It's not just sugar and sunshine in Okinawa, these beautiful islands have been the scenes of some bloody battles throughout history, most recently the closing days of World War II. Amazingly, even after all that has happened to the people of Okinawa, including it now being the site of the largest U.S. military base in Japan, Okinawans are some of the most friendly and open people we met during our travels, with no hint of

“**The highlight of our time in Okinawa – two days of remote bliss on a small tropical island.**”

hostility or resentment to our presence. After a week of exploring Okinawa Island, we left the modernity and headed to the small island of Zamami-jima (*jima* is Japanese for island). It was the highlight of our time in Okinawa; two days of remote bliss on an island small enough to walk around. Zamami is a tourist island,

unquestionably, but it feels so far removed from any tourist destination that we'd been to thus far on our trip, which started at the top of Japan. There were no large incongruous concrete hotels and no giant *omiyage* (souvenir) shops. Instead there were rustic, Ryukyuan-style surf shacks and scooter-hire shops operated by laid-back locals running on island time.

Tourists primarily come to Zamami to laze on the beach and dive in the shallow, rich waters surrounding the

island. After wading no further than waist-deep into the water, we felt like we were inside a tropical aquarium. There was an abundant number of fish and other sea-creatures from small clownfish, like Nemo, safe inside anemone, through to shy eels with nothing more than a head poking from a cave within the coral. The fish all seemed oblivious to our presence,

barely moving out of our way as we floated above them. Coming from the east coast of Australia, it takes a lot for a beach to impress me, but the pristine white beaches that surrounded Zamami-jima are unforgettable and are a contrast to grey, pebbly and murky beaches usually associated with Japan. Even though it was the end of October, and thus considered as being too cold to swim, the clear blue waters were a perfect temperature.

The other critical part of travel in Japan is testing out the local cuisine, and we tried our best to sample as much as we could, from the clean and refreshing Orion Beer, ultra-fresh reef-fish to delicious slowly cooked pork and the famous *goya chanpuru* (a stir fry). Pig feet weren't bad, but neither of us were brave enough to try anything from a pig's face.

A tropical paradise might not be the first thing people associate Japan with. But, this is exactly what Okinawa is – pristine, blue and warm. **Getting there:** 2 hour, ¥2,120 ferry from Tomari Port in Naha City, Okinawa.



LAND

All locations

TRE has a large selection of land in all Niseko locations. These range from 50 tsubo blocks to much larger sites in and around the main resort areas. Many are stunning with unique ambience and panoramic views. We have close contact with many Japanese and foreign owners, and so can introduce land that will never be publicly marketed.



FREERIDE LODGE

Higashiyama

12 from ¥39,000,000

Spacious lodge with separate manager's house, well-located in Higashiyama Village and short distance to ski area. Total floor area approx 500sqm and land 993sqm. The property has been well maintained and was renovated by current owner five years ago with considerable timber finishings. Large parking at the front of the property. The options are considerable.



Featured Properties



EZO 4

Middle Hirafu ¥89,000,000
Bold architectural residence with premium furnishings and fittings. Spacious, open plan living and kitchen areas. A private retreat close to fine dining.



MIHARASHI 1

Upper Hirafu ¥32,000,000
Vendor finance available! One of Hirafu's most reasonable apartments. A funky, modern, central two bedroom unit. Light, airy and a popular rental.



IZUMIKYO LAND

Izumikyo II ¥33,600,000
Substantial 925 sqm block with panoramic Mt Yotei views and a quiet, natural environment. Adjacent 926 sqm block is also available to purchase.



MOUNTAIN TRACKS

Izumikyo I ¥39,900,000
Large centrally located six-bedroom house with Mt Yotei Views. Options as holiday home, lodge or other commercial. Adjacent land available.



FUBUKI 2

Middle Hirafu ¥80,000,000
Spacious and chic premium property with spectacular Mt Yotei and forest views through large picture windows. A short walk to hot spring and many dining options.



HIRAFU HOUSE 7

Lower Hirafu ¥42,000,000
Stylish two bedroom home located in leafy, quiet Lower Hirafu. Close to restaurants and bars, with the hot spring across the road. Value for money.



FOREST STAR LODGE

Lower Hirafu Price on Application
A popular ski lodge in a quiet setting with soothing forest views. Well-equipped for commercial guests but would be easy conversion to family residence.



ASAHI PLAZA 201

Chitose ¥6,500,000
Tidy 51.6 sqm two bedroom apartment, rented at 66,000 JPY/pm- a 12.18% net return. Located very close to Chitose train station. Great investment.



+81 (0)136 22 69 77
sales@tracksrealestate.com
www.tracksrealestate.com

Big mountain. Big dream. Big picture.

A property investment in Niseko offers tremendous potential for both lifestyle and financial returns. But the market is complex and dynamic. To invest wisely you need to consider many factors. In other words, you need to accurately see the big picture.

Led by long time realtor Jason King, the Hokkaido Real Estate team boasts over 60 exclusive listings, putting you ahead of the pack right from the start. Having focused on the Niseko market for over six years (a long time for this area), we have comprehensive knowledge from both local and international perspectives. We do not trade in the market, so we remain impartial, allowing us to always keep your best interests at heart.

In short, we'll objectively present you with a wide range of options and considerations so that you can make informed and intelligent investment decisions.

For a private discussion anytime, or to join a Wednesday evening 'Big Picture' seminar, call Jason on +(0136) 21 6211 or email jason@hokkaidorealestate.com



THIS WEEK'S FEATURE



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