



# powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

Issue 37 // January 14 to 27 // 2012

WINTER SPORTS \* ENTERTAINMENT \* REAL ESTATE

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## ONSENS

Japan's ultimate après ski relaxation

## CHANKONABE HOT POT

Eat like a sumo wrestler at Ryogoku

## RESORT GUIDE

Your guide to Niseko – page 27

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2 WEEKS



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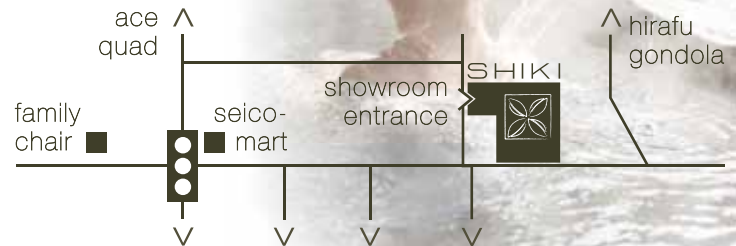
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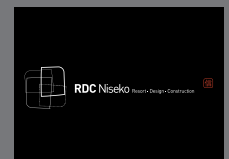
# WWW.SHIKINISEKO.COM

# HIRAFU-ZAKA MAIN STREET MASTER PLAN



**NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION!**

*CG Image, Final construction may vary slightly*



*Proudly supported by the Niseko Community!*

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**powderlife**  
NISEKO ニセコ

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cover // relaxing at niimi honkan onsen photo // glen claydon

# NISEKO

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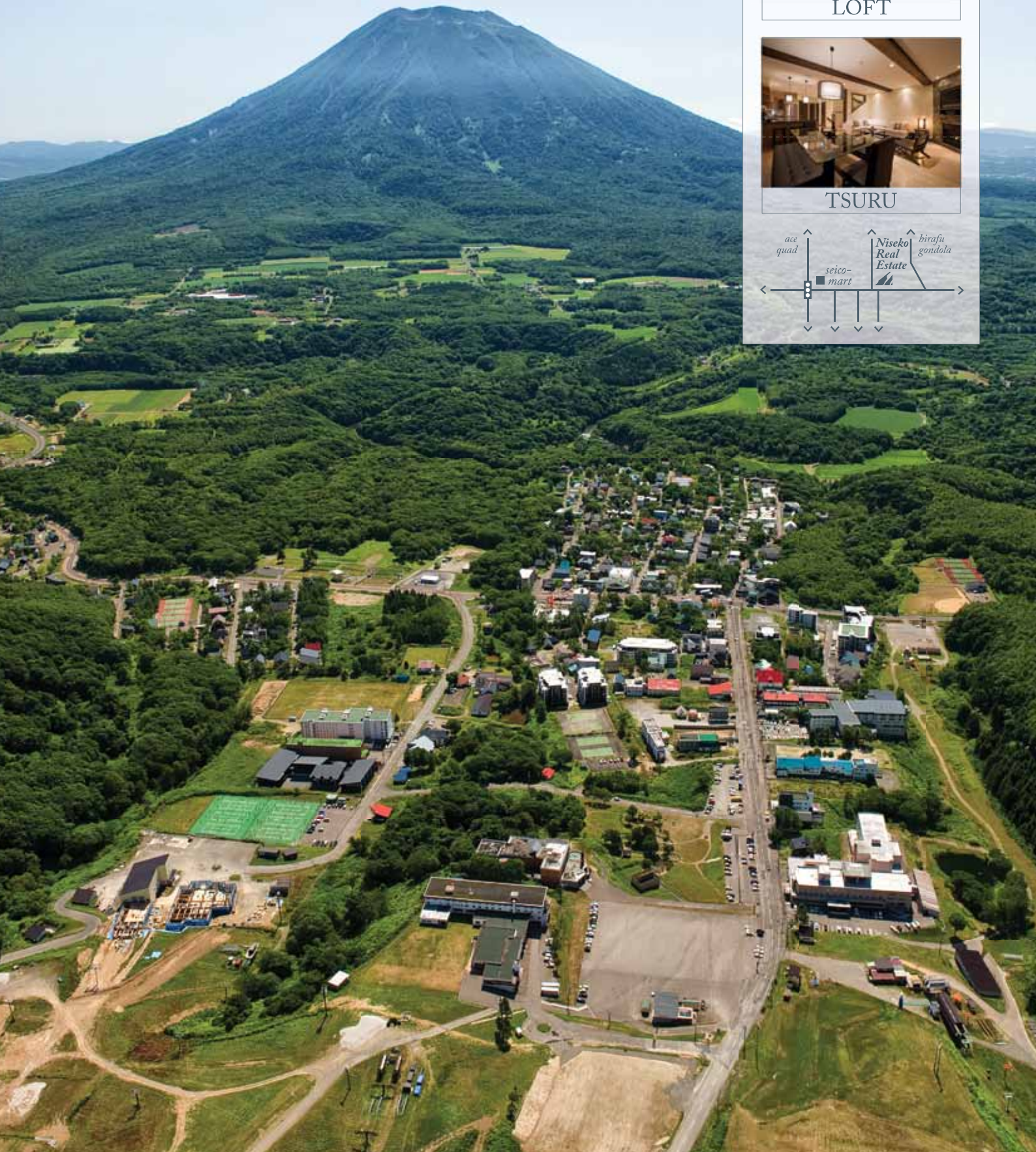
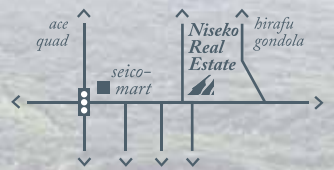
## *Featured Properties*



LOFT



TSURU



## \* EDITOR'S NOTE



photo // azza - niseko photography

**The Lunar New Year Holiday is about to start and it's the busiest time of the year on Niseko's slopes. It's the most important festival for Chinese communities and the tradition is to reconcile, forget grudges and wish peace and happiness to everyone – a good thing to remember should someone crash into you on the mountain!**

The coming lunar year is associated with the dragon, which is considered the luckiest of the 12 zodiac animals. On our Snap page some of you revealed the colour of your inner dragon and we met quite a few riders and skiers out there with a dark and ferocious side! With the massive snowfall it was a challenge taking those shots. High-pressure systems over the Arctic keep the snow systems coming and Japanese media reports that we've seen the best early season snow in 50 years. More great powder days ahead and for those of you who are looking for après ski relaxation, there are dozens of hot springs to choose from.

Our Discover Hokkaido page gives you a selection of lesser-known onsens in Niseko and we hope you'll find some time to take a dip in the many sulphur, iron and mud pools. They're not only a great way to relax, but also beneficial for your health. Staying healthy in Niseko isn't difficult with all the fresh food we're introducing you to in our Eat & Drink section. For a genuine sumo-wrestler-food experience try the hot pot at Restaurant Ryogoku in Kutchan, which is run by an ex-sumo wrestler. Our restaurant review will also give you a brief introduction into sumo culture.

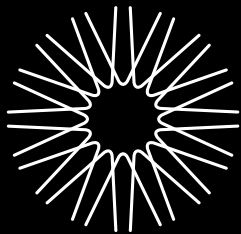
Enjoy the food, powder and onsens and please email us your best experience!  
Kerstin Winter, Powderlife Managing Editor, [kerstin@powderlife.com](mailto:kerstin@powderlife.com)

ニセコが一番込み合う正月がもう少しでやってきます。中国の伝統の中でも最も大切にされている「正月」。恨む事を忘れ、全ての人が平和で幸せでありますようにと願う時期です。もしも、だれかと山でぶつかったらこの信念を思い出してみてください!

十二支の中でも一番ラッキーな動物と言われているのが今年の「龍」。スナップページに写っている人の中には、龍のように熱い精神を持ったスキーヤーや、スノーボーダーがいました。今回は大量の雪が降っていたため、なかなか大変な撮影でした。北極を通ってくる高気圧が原因で雪が降り続いており、今年のシーズンは最高のスタートを切っており、これからも雪は降り続く予定と日本のメディアは報道しています。スキーで一滑りした後は色々な種類の温泉がニセコでは待っていますよ。

ディスカバリーホッカイドウのページではニセコにある温泉を紹介。温泉には硫黄が強いものや、イオンをメインにしたものや泥などの種類があるので、是非エンジョイしていただきたい。温泉は体の疲れを取る事で有名ですが、それだけでなく、健康にもとても良いという事は有名。ニセコにいればすべての食べ物新鮮なので健康に気遣っている人にとっては最高の滞在先。Eat&Drinkのページで素敵なお店を見つけてみてはいかががでしょう。倶知安にはなんと元相撲取りの方が営業している鍋屋があることをご存知でしょうか。相撲カルチャーのページにこのこのレストランのレビューを載せているので要チェック。沢山美味しい物を食べ、温泉に浸かり、最高の滞在や面白いエピソードがあれば私たちにE-mailでご連絡くださいね。

カースティン ウィンター パウダーライフマガジン編集者, [kerstin@powderlife.com](mailto:kerstin@powderlife.com)



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TIME: 4-8pm

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DEVELOPER:



# IMAGINE

After an exciting day on the slopes or in the village, we offer perfect indoor comfort matching the awesome outdoors. IMAGINE coming home to a naturally warm space, after hanging your boots on the warm rack, and your ski parkas on the warm coat hooks designed with the entrance PS radiator. IMAGINE taking a hot shower and drying yourself with a warm, dry towel hanging on the PS radiator warming up the bathroom. IMAGINE sleeping effortlessly in a bedroom warmed up to a perfect sleeping temperature. And finally, IMAGINE all this at such a wonderfully reasonable energy consumption...**PS HEATING.**



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PROSKI is Niseko's premier snowsport store: retail, rental, lessons and tours for all levels, ages and abilities. Let our friendly, qualified staff give you the tools and knowledge to truly experience Niseko...

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We have the largest selection of snow skis and ski accessories from all the best brands. Ski gear for all snow conditions and equipment to cater for skiers of all skill levels and riding styles!

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High-performance ski and snowboard rental, featuring the latest skis and snowboards for skiers and riders of all levels and riding styles.

### KEEP YOUR EQUIPMENT IN PEAK CONDITION

Our premium **MASTERFIT BOOTFITTING** and **WINTERSTEIGER EQUIPMENT TUNING** services, ensure your equipment operates at maximum performance in Niseko's powder!

On or off piste, powder or park - PROSKI has the equipment and services for you...



## SNOWSPORTS SCHOOL

Learn the basics, enhance your skills, fine tune your technique and ultimately get the most out of your time on Niseko's sensational snow with PROSKI's qualified instructors. *More info on lessons and rates online!*



### YUKIMI - ALL MOUNTAIN MASTER PROGRAM

4 day powder intro & exploration. Take the guess work out of your selection and terrain safety with our qualified guides

### GUIDED MOUNTAIN ORIENTATION

Quickly learn the entire hill alongside one of our instructors, from lift locations and powder stashes to recommended restaurants and apres bars

### PRIVATE LESSONS

Learn what you want, where you want, when you want; choose the time, techniques and terrain to cover

### STANDARD GROUP LESSONS (HOUR / DAY)

Learn with people of similar abilities and explore with the people who know the mountain best. Interaction with new skiers & boarders makes learning even more fun!

## LOCATION

2 CENTRAL LOCATIONS!

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# \* FLUFF // light news & information

## SNOWMAGEDDON



a malaysian family's first time to ever touch snow - photo // glen claydon

**YOU** probably know that Niseko is one of the snowiest places on earth with 15m of powder in an average season. To put that in perspective it's the height of a five-storey building. Well, this is not an average season!

Last month was epic, beating a 50-year old record and setting up this month's great skiing. The Japan Meteorological Agency says this was due to an exceptional "double-La-Niña" year, but whatever the reason, it all adds up to smiles for Niseko visitors. If you're in town you already know this – you're one of the ones smiling. And as we're less than halfway through the season, these continuing snowfalls will only make smiles wider.

Those who have remained faithful to Niseko's powder and have returned again are being repaid in spades – or snow shovels full... – by chris chan

## ENTER THE DRAGON

**WE** are about to enter the luckiest year on the Chinese lunisolar calendar. Each lunar year is associated with one of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals.

On January 23 the Year of the Rabbit is left behind and the Year of the Dragon begins – a year traditionally associated with new beginnings and good fortune. In ancient China, people believed that the dragon was powerful and wise and brought the Four Benedictions of the East - harmony, wealth, virtue, and long life. It's the year that coincides with a baby boom in Chinese communities, couples waiting to get married, and new businesses springing up. Those with an entrepreneurial spirit are favoured to see great success in the coming year. Still today, the dragon is a revered symbol, and many Chinese companies use it in their logo or name.



traditional chinese new year's celebrations in longtan, taiwan - photo // kerstin winter

## GAME ARCADE OPEN FOR EVERYONE!



william getting ready to kill on "innocent sweeper"

**M HOTEL** has filled Niseko's late night entertainment niche with a brand new game arcade in the basement. There are 25 machines from motor racing to dancing, and gun battling to basketball, as well as kiddy rides.

Try your luck on Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and other pin ball machines for ¥100 per game. For speed freaks there are games such as Wild Racing Battle, Race Leaders, Super Motocross and more. If you're into machine guns, they have Innocent Sweeper to hone your shooting skills.

M Hotel is located in the heart of Hirafu on Momiji Street. The game arcade is open from 3pm til late.



cowabunga dudes - tmnt pinball!

# \* NISEKO NEWS // tracking down local stories

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OPENS IN NISEKO

**THE growing international community here has long been waiting for it and as of January 23, 2012, Hokkaido International School (HIS) will open a campus in Niseko.**

It will be the second international school in Hokkaido after Sapporo and the first to open in a resort area in Japan. "The long-term plan is to turn HIS Niseko into a boarding school, making it a breeding ground for world-class skiers and snowboarders", says head of school Barry Ratzliff. "For now it will be 8.30am to 3.30pm, but Niseko students will be able to participate in programs on the Sapporo campus, as well as using the dormitories there."

The school has hired certified teachers from Ireland, the US and Singapore who are experienced with the format of multi-aged classes and children who learn English as a second or third language.

HIS accepts children from ages three to 12. The tuition costs range between ¥850,000 to ¥900,000 per year. Ratzliff and school principal Peggy Shibuya are holding frequent orientation courses in the run up to the opening. The school is a 10-minute walk from JR Niseko Station, next to the Niseko Elementary School.

For short-term visitors with children who are planning to visit Niseko in the summer, the school accepts drop-ins for the summer program.

**For more information call 0136 55 5252, or email – [bratzliff@his.ac.jp](mailto:bratzliff@his.ac.jp) or [pshibuyaHIS@gmail.com](mailto:pshibuyaHIS@gmail.com)**



multi-aged class at hokkaido international school

## NISEKO WINTER RAFTING TOUR



explore niseko's winter wonderland in a raft

**OUTDOOR adventure company NOASC offers a unique winter experience - winter rafting.**

The tour begins with an exciting on-snow river-side entry from the bank to get your heart pumping. Next you are off down the river, exploring Niseko's winter wonderland by raft. Stand on a giant snow mushroom mid-river, make snow angels or have a snowball fight with the whole family.

You are provided with a comfortable dry suit, gloves, boots, protective equipment, a hot drink and refreshments along the way.

During winter, NOASC runs two tours per day at 9am and 1pm. The tour lasts for around 3.5 hours and costs ¥7500 for adults.

Price includes a private pick-up and drop-off service from your front door. Please book one day in advance.

**NOASC 0136-23-1688 [www.noasc.com](http://www.noasc.com)**

## REINDEER SLEDDING AT THE HILTON

**CHRISTMAS might be over, but you can still find Santa's reindeer outside the Hilton in Niseko Village.**

You will be taken for a five-minute ride and can take as many pictures as you want. Reindeers are a type of deer found in the Arctic region and can weigh as much as 120kg. They can easily pull twice their own weight, which means your whole family could sit in the sled. Their large broad hooves act

like snowshoes and emit a clicking sound caused by a tendon on the foot rubbing against bone as the animal walks. Try and hear it while you're in the sled! They are also able to sniff-out food even when buried under deep snow.

You can try reindeer sledding from January 21 to January 31 between 10 am and 3.30 pm daily.

**It's ¥2100 for adults and ¥1580 per child.**



reindeer from horonobe town in northern hokkaido

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Sapporo Day Tour



¥5,000 per person Child under 12 FREE with every paying adult. Minimum participants apply. Departs every Monday and Thursday.

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¥6,000 per person Child under 12 50% OFF with every paying adult. Minimum participants apply. Departs every day between 6-12 Feb 2012.

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Thank you!

NISEKO  
HIRAFU  
5<sup>th</sup>



NEW! Hirafu Gondola

NEW! Grand HIRAFU  
Mountain Center



NEW! Tanta•an  
(Grand HIRAFU Mountain Center 2F)



Cafe&Bar 9:30-20:00 Meals 11:00-16:00



NEW! Kids Lesson Area



NEW! Web booking



NISEKO MOUNTAIN RESORT

Grand HIRAFU

http://www.grand-hirafu.jp



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Restaurant Slalom  
( Dinner ¥4,300 )



Shokusai Hirafu  
( Sashimi Chirashi ¥3,200 )



Cafe Edelweiss  
( Handmade Sweets ¥500~ )



Swimming pool



Open air hot spring bath



Bedrock sauna bath

# \* IN THE LOOP // what's on around town

## JAN 2012

**14 Niseko Winter Music Festival**  
ニセコ冬の音楽祭  
An intimate concert of classical favourites performed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Adults ¥2500, Youth (6-15yrs) ¥1000. Tickets are available at the door but advance reservation is recommended. オーストラリア室内管弦楽団の演奏 大人2500円、6歳-15歳1000円 事前予約あり

Start // 7.00 pm  
Place // Grand Hirafu Mountain Centre  
Contact // 0136 22 0109



**15 Early Morning Gondola**  
早朝ゴンドラで朝一パウダー  
Take this opportunity to guarantee first tracks in Niseko Village. Adult & Child ¥1000.

ニセコビレッジの早朝ゴンドラでパウダーを楽しもう。大人、子供1000円

Start // 7.30 am  
Place // Niseko Village Gondola  
Contact // 0136 44 2211

**16 Acoustic Music Night**  
アコースティック ミュージック ナイト

Every Monday come and watch different bands playing live.

毎週月曜日はバンドライブをみに魂バハへ!

Start // 7.00 pm  
Place // Tamashii Bar  
Contact // 0136 55 8505

**17 Après Ski At The Green Leaf Hotel**  
グリーンリーフホテル アフレスキー

Warm up your body and soul by the fireplace at Bar Tomioka White with 50% off all drinks.

バー トミオカ ホワイトの暖炉で暖まろう。飲み物 50%OFF

Start // 5.00-7.00 pm  
Place // The Green Leaf Hotel  
Contact // 0136 22 0109

**18 Drum And Bass Night With Jamie D**  
ドラムンベース ナイト

blo\*blo is bringing some low down dirty drum and bass to Hirafu. ¥400 tequila shots.

ブローブロー ドラムンベース DJ Jamie D テキーラショット 400円

Start // 8.00pm  
Place // blo\*blo  
Contact // 0136 22 1269

**19 Ladies Night @ Ezo Pub**  
レディース ナイト @ エゾパブ

From 5-7pm all ladies will be offered selected drinks for only ¥500.

5-7pmの間 女性のみ、一部飲み物 500円

Start // 5.00 pm  
Place // Ezo Pub, Hilton, Niseko Village  
Contact // 0136 44 1111

**20 Happy Hour @ Herbie's Umbrella Bar**  
ハッピーアワー @ハービーズ アンブレラ バー

Everyday between 3-4pm beers, spirits, and shots of schnapps are only ¥400.

毎日3-4pmはビール、スピリット、シュナップスのショットが400円!

Start // 3.00 pm  
Place // Herbie's Umbrella Bar, Grand Hirafu  
Contact // NA



**21 Tomohiro Higashida Concert**  
東田トモヒロ コンサート

An intimate acoustic guitar performance by Tomohiro Higashida. ¥2000 entry with a drink if you pre-book, ¥2500 at the door. アコースティックギターのライブコンサートを開催します。前売予約 ワンドリンク付で2,000円、当日 2,500円

Start // 9.00 pm  
Place // Lupicia  
Contact // 0136 21 7880

**22 Hiroshi Itaya Trio**  
板谷大トリオ

Come and enjoy the energetic and dynamic sound of live Jazz piano music.

エネルギッシュでダイナミックなジャズピアノの演奏を楽しもう。

Start // 9.00 pm  
Place // Half Note Jazz Bar & Café  
Contact // 0136 23 2727

**23 Lion Dance Performance**  
旧正月 獅子舞ダンス  
Celebrate Chinese New Year with a 10-minute lion dance performance. Afterwards the lion will go around the crowd to ward off bad luck from spectators for the upcoming year.

世を祝う縁起もの、獅子の舞を見て、旧正月をお祝いしよう。

Start // TBA please call for details  
Place // Inside Hanazono 308  
Contact // 0136 23 0911

**24 Koryu Taiko Drumming**  
鼓流 和太鼓

Niseko's famous Koryu Taiko drumming group will perform in the snow. Audience participation welcomed!

ニセコの有名な、羊蹄太鼓 鼓流の迫力ある演奏をお楽しみください。

Start // 7.00 pm  
Place // In front of The Niseko Company office  
Contact // 0136 21 7274



**25 Loft Pre-Launch Release**  
ロフト 発売前の公開

Find out more about Niseko's luxury apartment development.

ニセコにあるラグジュアリーアパートメント開発についてお知りになりたい方はどうぞお越しください。

Start // 4.00-8.00 pm  
Place // Sales office, ground floor, The Vale Niseko  
Contact // 0136 21 7722

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Start // 7.00 pm  
Place // blo\*blo  
Contact // 0136 22 1269

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Challenge Kazuto to a game of billiards and if you win you get a free drink! ビリヤードゲームに勝ったら飲み物1杯無料。

Start // 7.00 pm  
Place // Splash Bar  
Contact // 0136 23 1688



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# \* SNAP

## MEET THE LOCALS



Name // harumi omae

HARUMI from Downtown Café moved from Osaka to Niseko to raise her family in a place with clean air and water. As well as the delicious drinking water, she loves the abundance of onsens here.



Name // helena cheung

J-SEKKA Deli & Café staff member Helena Cheung from London just left Whistler, Canada to try out a new resort and was drawn to Niseko for its snow and Japanese culture.



Name // tori shankster

TORI Shankster from Glorious Coffee inside Rhythm Snowsports loves the skiing and food here, and can't wait to travel around the rest of Japan at the end of the season.

## Year of the Dragon // What colour is YOUR inner dragon?



**YUKARI Narumi** from Kyoto's inner dragon is forest green and **Waki Kobata**, also from Kyoto, says hers is fire red.



**YUIMARI Takahashi** from Kumamoto's inner dragon is deep green, her sister **Nanami's** is fluorescent pink. **Lolo Schweisguth** (centre) from France's is rainbow.



THE inner dragons of **Yui Ochi**, **Yuki Nishihara** and **Hideo Kan** from Oita, Japan are white because none of them has ever seen snow before!



**DREW Ulick** (right) is from Arkansas, USA, and his inner dragon is diamond and chrome with a bowtie, while Aussie **Jordan Dickson's** dragon is dark blue.

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Submit entries to [kerstin@powderlife.com](mailto:kerstin@powderlife.com)

# \* FLASH



Daniel Grochowski from Perth spinning some tunes between performance acts.



Blo\*blo manager Tom Kau is famous for his mai tai cocktails.

## blo\*blo

### OPENING PARTY//

Blo\*blo gyoza bar kicked off the 2011-2012 season with a live performance by Australian duo Bertie Page and John Meyer. The pair entertained the crowd late into the night with sultry songs and a burlesque show unlike anything Niseko has seen before.



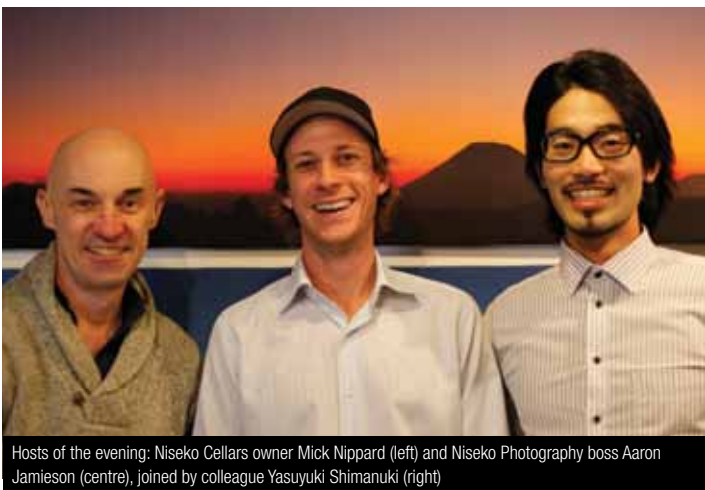
Bertie Page giving the full cabaret experience to blo\*blo guests.



Megumi Kishimoto and Mariko Hirano celebrating blo\*blo's opening with one of their fruit cocktails.



Noriko Tanifugi and Shirowa Iyo from Hakodate stopped by for some pumpkin gyoza and cocktails.



Hosts of the evening: Niseko Cellars owner Mick Nippard (left) and Niseko Photography boss Aaron Jamieson (centre), joined by colleague Yasuyuki Shimanuki (right)



Australian Darren Teasdale, New Zealander Kim Reid and Brit Patrick Deacon celebrating great photos



Local Midori Sasaki securing a couple of the ¥200 beers

## NISEKO CELLARS

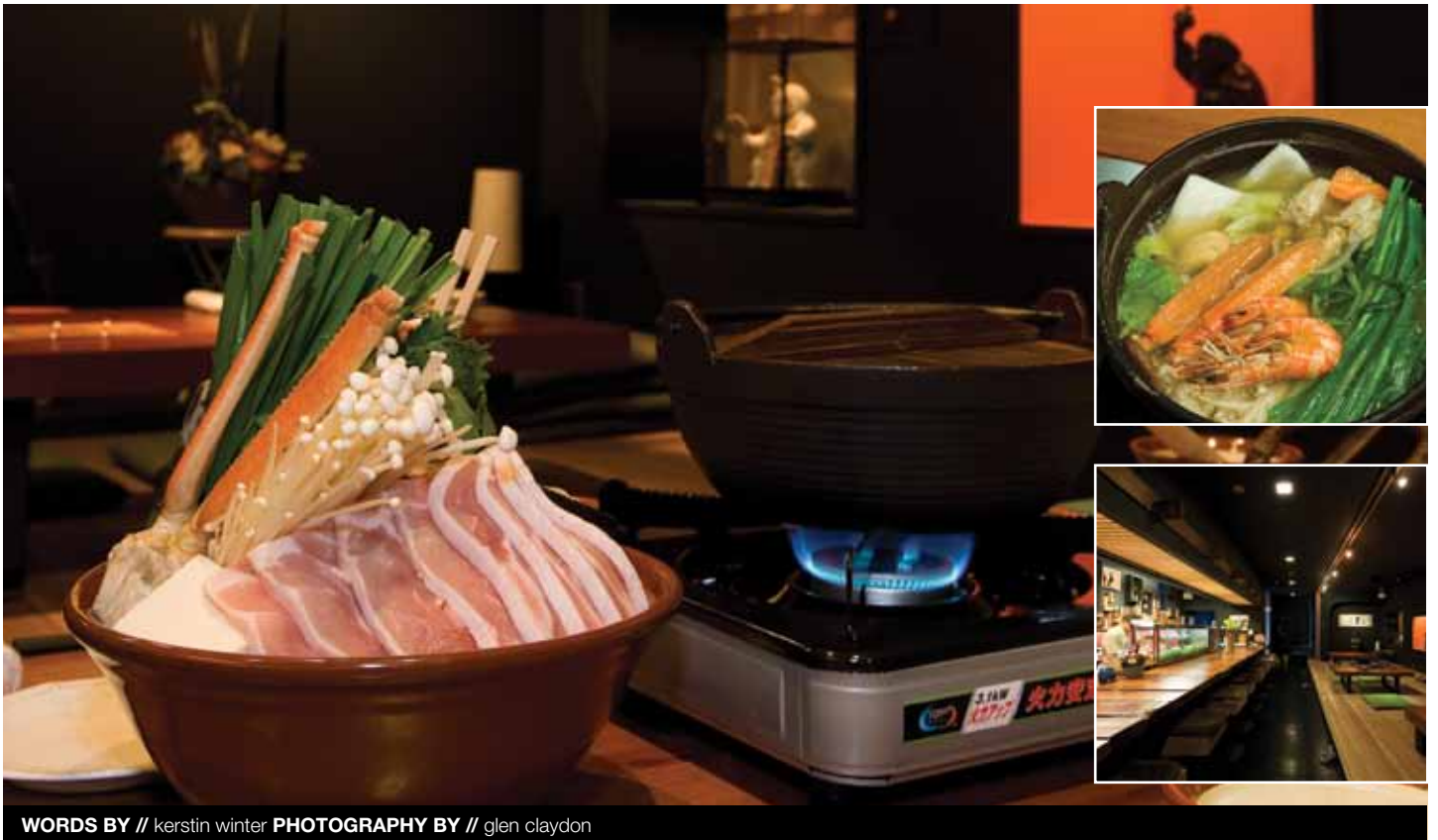
### GALLERY PARTY //

Niseko Photography threw a celebration at Niseko Cellars to welcome in the winter and show off their new work. The place was packed with locals and visitors admiring the crew's panoramic photos of Niseko. Host Aaron Jamieson was more than happy to show everyone around the gallery.



Hugo Okada from Brazil admiring Aaron's Mt Yotei shots

## \* EAT & DRINK // restaurant review - ryogoku



WORDS BY // kerstin winter PHOTOGRAPHY BY // glen claydon

**“SUMO wrestlers don’t eat until noon,” Satoshi Okawa says. “They practice early in the morning until they have worked up an appetite and then eat lunch until their stomachs cannot take anymore.”**

62-year old Hokkaido local Okawa-san recalls the strict eating regime he had to follow during his days as a sumo wrestler. He was 16 when a talent scout recruited him off his high school’s baseball ground in Mikasa.

What followed was a five-year sumo wrestling career at the Asahiya-beya stable in Tokyo in the third highest and most heavily contested sumo division, the Makushita division. 40 years later and Okawa-san (right) brings to Kutchan what famous wrestler Konishiki once called a legal steroid – “chankonabe”. Konishiki bulked up to 287kg with the help of this protein rich stew which is the main course of a sumo meal.

Okawa-san has been successful in the chankonabe restaurant business for 35 years and his expertise can be experienced at his new restaurant, named after the centre of sumo

wrestling culture in Tokyo, Ryogoku.

As you enter Ryogoku you will see it’s not just about indulging in sumo food, but also immersing yourself in sumo culture. The restaurant is an exhibition of Okawa-san’s professional past. Pictures, tournament schedules and the Yokozuna belt of former sumo champion Kitanoumi are on display. The interior could be described as East-meets-West fusion. You sit on the raised wooden floor on zabuton – traditional Japanese cushions. The black walls, bright wooden furniture and small fireplace create a cosy and warm ambience. If you prefer tables and chairs and a smoke-free environment you can book one of the four large private rooms upstairs without an extra charge. Including the counter, Ryogoku has seating capacity for 68 people.

You can chose from four

chankonabe sets with salt, kimchi and miso broth with up to 22 different types of meat and vegetables. Prices per person ranges from ¥1500 to ¥2000.

We are served Yokozuna, which contains the best seafood and vegetables Hokkaido has to offer. Okawa-san’s wife Saiko is tossing crab legs, prawns, chicken, tofu, shiitake mushrooms, scallops and several green vegetables into a boiling soup made from chicken stock.

While the stew is cooked in a simmering pot at our table, Okawa-san explains that sumo wrestlers can eat up to 10 bowls of chanko together with several bowls of rice.

We marvel over the nutty flavour of freshly ground sesame seeds in our bowls, as we finally pour the stew over it.

The basic stock brings out the flavour of the juicy meat and fresh vegetables. With the soup being subtle, the food tastes wholesome. As scallops, crab legs and prawns disappear, there is room in the pot for the kishimen noodles which always go

in last when the broth has developed its full flavour. I am having a hard time finishing my second bowl.



### Booking Information //

T. 0136 55 5875

Location: 24-12 Nishi 2 chome kita 3 jyo, Kutchan-cho.

5:30pm to 10:00pm  
reservation required.

English speaking staff and menu are available.



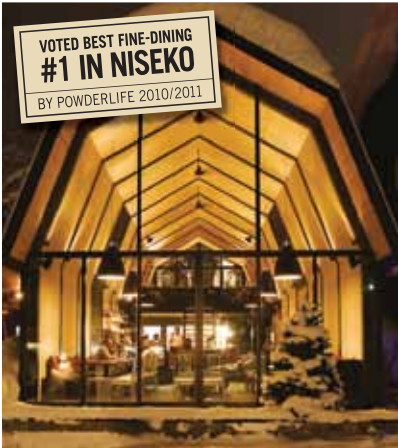
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# \*SKI-IN SKI-OUT CUISINE // where to eat on the slopes

words and photography by // kanami anderson



## HANAZONO 308

HANAZONO //

IF you're skiing or riding in Hanazono, make sure to stop for lunch at 308, a cafeteria-style restaurant with lots of room for big groups, live music during peak-season, and a wide array of meals. They serve their famous crab (kani) ramen, steaks, curries, burgers and pizzas. If you've worked up a big appetite on the slopes we recommend the 308 Special Hamburger Steak.



## ACE HILL

GRAND HIRAFU //

CONVENIENTLY located right off the Ace Quad Lift (Centre Four), this cafeteria-style restaurant serves sandwiches, pasta, curry, stews, soups, and hamburgers. They also have a café inside that offers coffee, tea, and hot chocolate if you need a hot drink to warm you up before you head back out on the hill.

## BOYOSO

GRAND HIRAFU //

TUCKED away under the Grand Hirafu Gondola line, this cosy little restaurant is about as ski-in, ski-out as it gets. Make sure you check on a map where it is or you might just ride by. It is located just above the top of the Holiday Pair Lift. There is a wood-stove in the middle of the room where you can hang your snow-covered gear and keeps everyone warm. They serve soba, udon, curry, ramen, and donburi. The kani-don (boiled crab meat on a bed of rice) and sake-ikura don (grilled salmon flakes and salmon roe on a bed of rice) are excellent, and well worth a visit.



## THE LOOKOUT CAFÉ

NISEKO VILLAGE //

LOCATED a few hundred metres down the slope from the Niseko Village Gondola and adjacent to the Wonderland chair, this stylish restaurant was renovated in November of 2010 and is the highest dining point in Niseko. They serve ramen, curry, spaghetti, burgers, soup, onion rings, dessert, coffee, hot chocolate, sake, beer, wine and even Moët & Chandon champagne by the glass. The Makkari pork cutlet curry uses local organic pork, and the cheesecake is made with Hokkaido cheese and topped with a Hokkaido berry sauce. The tempura cod burger with burdock chips is perfect for those looking for a different take on the average burger.



## MELT BAR & GRILL

HILTON NISEKO VILLAGE //

LOCATED on the second floor of the Hilton at the foot of the Niseko Village Gondola, Melt offers the best deal on the mountain with an all-you-can-eat buffet for ¥1600 for adults, ¥800 for children, and free for kids under six. The buffet includes a sandwich, salad, soup, hot food, and dessert bar complete with coffee and tea. New this season is the made-to-order ramen bar with your own personal ramen chef.



## NOOK

ANNUPURI //

IF you're over in Annupuri for the day, stop for lunch at this cafeteria-style restaurant with one of the most diverse menus on the hill. Located next to the shuttle bus station, Nook serves ramen, Chinese-style stir-fries, pizzas, pastas, pork cutlets, curries, gyoza, hamburger steaks, omelets, sashimi bowls, and rice bowls. The snow crab pizza and Italian katsu are unique in the local area.

Gourmet Pizzas



DELIVERY MENU (available 5 - 11pm)

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Pepperoni

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Hawaiian

M ¥1,700 | L ¥3,200



BBQ Chicken

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



Vegetarian

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



Andy's

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



Meat

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



Supreme

M ¥2,000 | L ¥3,800



Bacon Lovers

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



BBQ Chicken & Bacon

M ¥1,900 | L ¥3,600



Capriccosa

M ¥1,800 | L ¥3,400



Cheese

M ¥1,500 | L ¥2,800



BBQ Ribs

M ¥2,300 | L ¥4,400



Gamberetti Parmegiana

M ¥2,200 | L ¥4,200



Genovese

M ¥2,400 | L ¥4,600



Quatro Formaggio

M ¥2,200 | L ¥4,200



Bianco & Prosciutto

M ¥1,700 | L ¥3,200



Napolitana

M ¥2,200 | L ¥4,200

Additional Standard Toppings ¥150 per topping

Anchovies . Garlic Sauce . Mushrooms . Red Onion . Capsicum Pepperoni . Italian Sausage . Pork Sausage . Ham . Bacon Pineapple . Black Olives

**M** 30cm  
2-3 people

**L** 45cm  
4-6 people

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INTL' BEERS ON TAP



# \* REAL ESTATE NEWS // getting to know odin

**ODIN is behind some of the most praised architectural creations in Niseko-Hirafu. Within the course of five years, the brand has created a portfolio ranging from chic contemporary alpine residences to an exclusive luxury lodge-hotel linking with one of the hottest restaurants – and bar – in the village.**

Behind Odin's approach is a vision to create a collection of contemporary alpine properties, mixing modern design and architecture with traditional and authentic materials reminiscent of luxury ski chalets. Following a commitment to responsible living, most of the materials come from sustainable, local sources with design features made of recycled timber. Other features are geared towards reducing energy consumption, such as geothermal heat pumps and low-emission glazing to prevent heat loss.

Odin has carved out a niche in Niseko's high-end luxury segment. "Our distinctive brand of intelligent luxury is the result of our passion for original design, architecture and sustainable mountain living", says Odin partner Nicolas Gontard. "We handpick architects, product designers and interior stylists specifically for each development. We worked with award-winning US firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson as well as Hokkaido's very own star architect Koichiro Ishiguro of Atelier BNK, amongst others."

Praised for developing a strong relationship between buildings and their physical surroundings, Odin's properties are frequently published in the architectural press and various coffee table books around the world. One of their latest coups is a capsule collection of furniture, which has won international praise. The Odin Chair, designed by up-and-coming design star Jamie McLellan, recently won gold in the New Zealand Best Design Awards.



odin house, the uber-luxe family residence that sets new standards for design, prestige and quality – photo // glen claydon



kimamaya: a charming luxury-lodge hotel on momiji street



the barn: niseko's one and only alpine bistro



yasuragi: alpine loft apartments photo // azza - niseko photography



the odin chair: award-winning furniture collection



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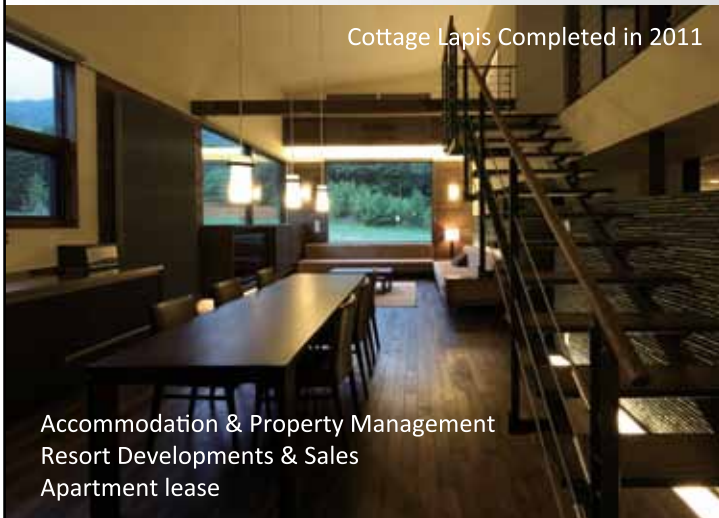
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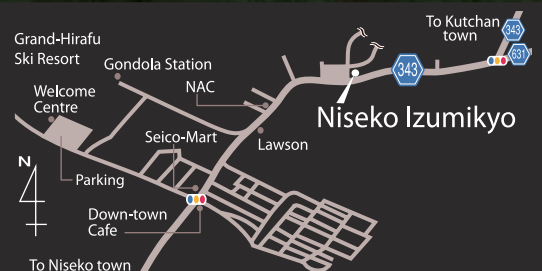
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# Enjoy four seasons of luxury at the Aspen of Asia

Regarded as among the best ski resorts in the world – Niseko, Hokkaido is fast becoming the centre of new wealth for investors. The latest, highly anticipated development on the northern Japanese island is SHIKI Niseko; a collection of luxury ski resort apartments and retail services - a development that is set a new standard in the beautiful Niseko backdrop. *By Anne Lourdes.*



Low Su Ming

SHIKI Niseko's 68 units of limited luxury apartments, designed by renowned international Australian architectural firm 'DBI Design Pty Ltd', will be the iconic destination in upper Hirafu village, putting it in the heart of the ski resort and just 200 meters away from the ski field.

Each unit comes with a breathtaking view of either the Hirafu ski field or the iconic Mt Yotei.

"These apartments will appeal to buyers from around the world," says Low Su Ming, Joint Managing Director of AP Land Berhad in Malaysia (pictured). "They are design masterpieces in an area that is famous for its climate and scenery, and SHIKI Niseko offers a sensational investment for one of the fastest growing international ski resorts".

Niseko is famous for its powder snow – skiers in the know liken the experience to skiing on icing sugar – but the roots of the area lie in the traditional farming community.

Now, with the influx of tourists and investors from around the world, especially Asia and Europe, Niseko, while retaining its traditions, is set to dramatically enhance its real estate and infrastructure landscape, says Low.

"SHIKI Niseko is not a typical development. Our concept caters to Asian visitors – discerning affluent lifestyle seekers who not only enjoy holidaying in Niseko for its famous powder, but also the natural wonder of its four distinct, vividly beautiful seasons", Low further adds.

SHIKI in Japanese means four seasons. Thus, SHIKI Niseko is not only recognised as a ski resort, but increasingly also as a four season destination, offering year round activities.

In years to come, Niseko will be regarded as the top destination with a wide range of attractions from skiing to outdoor activities such as golfing, trekking, mountain biking and rafting.

Low said this is AP Land's first residential development in Niseko, comprising of a seven storey building on 0.85 acres of freehold land and facing the main road of Hirafu.



SHIKI Niseko, Exterior



SHIKI Niseko, Entrance Lounge



SHIKI Niseko, Living Area



"We are confident about the market and also notice a growing trend among affluent property investors in holiday homes in the region," Low added.

The construction of the luxury apartment began early this April and is scheduled to be completed by the end of Dec 2012.

It is currently the largest development in Niseko featuring the whole ground floor reserved for retail and F&B and will include comprehensive facilities across the board, some exclusively available for residents.

These limited luxury apartment units are priced from 59million yen with unit sizes ranging from 630sqft to 1,700sqft. SHIKI Niseko comes with one, two or three bedroom configurations, with 2 bedroom penthouses. The 3 bedroom units are divided into a bedroom section and studio apartment with its own entrance, allowing a for a flexible dual key configuration.

SHIKI Niseko is a freehold property open to foreign buyers with specialist asset management firm Fairlane Hospitality appointed to manage and handle the transaction experience while maximizing returns on the owner's investment.

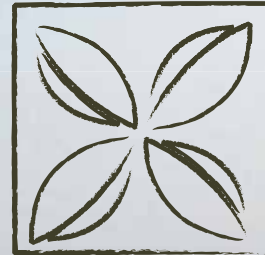
Fairlane Hospitality, a five star hospitality management from Malaysia, offers a holistic one-stop management service specializing in areas of pool management, property management and real estate services.

SHIKI Niseko investors from around the globe can enjoy a hassle free investment where the status of their property will furthermore be updated online, so they can see how their property is faring without having to even leave home.

The Hokkaido region is also well known for its treasured agricultural, dairy and coastal products. SHIKI Niseko, at its onset, was developed to showcase this uniqueness.

This has lead us to lock in with renowned chef Yuichi Kamimura, of Restaurant Kamimura, who will open his doors at SHIKI Niseko next year, bringing along his signature fusion Japanese cuisine for residents and holiday makers alike.

Chef Kamimura, who is the disciple of world renowned chef Tetsuya Wakuda, uses his natural creativity and years of experience to create truly memorable dining experiences using this locally sourced produce at his restaurant.



**SHIKI Niseko**

*For sales inquiries and viewing contact:*

APL Niseko Property TMK

P: +60-120-6988-606

090-2057-7196 (Japan)

W: [www.shikiniseko.com](http://www.shikiniseko.com)

**SHIKI**  
NISEKO





# \* 1000 WORDS

photo dan gallagher – niseko photography // location lwao-nupuri // rider tatsumi kono



photo dan gallagher – niseko photography // location super ridge // rider azza jamieson



photo azza – niseko photography // location lwao-nupuri // skier oscar mcclennan



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08:00	10:30	12:00	14:30	09:30	12:00
09:00	11:30	14:00	16:30	<b>Sapporo City - Niseko</b>	
10:00	12:30	15:00	17:30		
11:00	13:30	16:30	19:00	Departs Sapporo	Arrives Niseko
15:00	17:30	19:00	21:30	12:30	15:00
17:00	19:30	21:30	23:59		

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# \* BACKCOUNTRY // stay safe on the mountain



photo // azza - niseko photography

WITH the adrenaline rush of riding through deep untouched powder, it is easy to forget that this exhilarating experience in the backcountry can quickly turn into a nightmare if you are not prepared.

Niseko has a liberal stance toward backcountry snowboarding and skiing, so you are the one who has to make responsible decisions. When venturing into unpatrolled areas, preparation is vital.

*Powderlife* has compiled some top tips to keep you safe on the mountain.

1. If the backcountry's closed, it's for a reason! Learn and obey the Niseko Rules. They include limiting access to the out-of-bound areas and restricting entry during hazardous conditions.
2. Read and understand weather and avalanche reports posted in Japanese and English at entries and exits to the backcountry.
3. Know where the ski patrol is located. Once an incident gets to a certain level, know where to go and who to contact for help.
4. Let someone reliable know where you plan to go, your destination and what time you plan to be home.
5. Explore the backcountry with experienced and reliable people. The least experienced person in the group should still know what to do in case of emergency.

6. Make sure everyone is familiar with equipment, which should include a shovel, beacon, probe.

7. No-go areas include Yu no sawa (between Annupuri and Niseko Village), and Haru no taki (cliff area west of Hirafu). All no-go areas are well sign-posted and marked on resort maps.

8. We strongly suggest using a qualified guide, especially beginners.

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

10. Always remember YOU are responsible for your own decisions and safety.

**Daily Avalanche Report**  
<http://niseko.nadare.info>

**Powderlife's Backcountry Guide**

[www.powderlife.com](http://www.powderlife.com)

// 'Backcountry basics'

// 'Inside a 2-day avalanche course'

// 'Lost in the backcountry'

// 'How to build a snowcave'

## FREE BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION SEMINAR //

**Topics //** Niseko Rules, safe backcountry travel, terrain evaluation & search techniques with the guides from Black Diamond Lodge.

**Location //** Black Diamond Tours head office (Niseko Village) - Catch the free shuttle bus to the Niseko Village area & get off at the Milk Kobo stop.

**Time //** 6-7pm every Tuesday during winter. First Session Dec. 20th

SITE ANALYSIS . RESIDENTIAL . CONDOMINIUMS . RESORTS . HOTELS . RESTAURANTS . RETAIL . DEVELOPMENT PLANNING . INTERIORS . LANDSCAPE DESIGN



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# RESORT GUIDE



**POWDERLIFE is your Niseko Travel Guide – in print and online. With [www.powderlife.com](http://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 cafés, 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](http://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.39, 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](http://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: 0136 555 301

W: [www.skybus.co.jp](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Annapuri 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.39, E2

Accepts: All major cards

Kutchan Main Post Office

Map: p.39, E3

Accepts: All major cards

7 Eleven

Map: p.39, 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.39, B3

# RESORT GUIDE

## SHOPPING

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

### Hirafu

**Seicomart** – Map: p.39, D3

**Lawson (24 hours)** – Map: p.39, E3

**Piz Gloria** – Map: p.39, D2

**Alpen Hotel** – offer a smaller range of snacks and drinks. Map: p.39, E1

**Sekka Deli** – gourmet items from Hokkaido.

Map: p.39, F2

### Niseko

**Maeda Shoten** near the Post Office in Niseko, is a superette and liquor store.

**Hanajizou Bakery** sell fresh bread and pastries in store on Tuesday every week.

### Kutchan

For a big shopping trip, it's worth venturing into Kutchan Town.

**Homac** for household products.

Map: p.39, G3

**MaxValu** for all your food supplies.

Map: p.39, G3

**Best Denki** for all your electrical and technical needs. Map: p.39, C4

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

Map: p.39, A3

**¥100 store** if you're on a budget

Map: p.39, B4

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### 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 OFFICE

Look for the red '〒' symbol. There are three post offices in Kutchan and two in Niseko town. In Hirafu, post-office services are available 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).

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### Kutchan Kousei Hospital

No appointment necessary.

Map: p.39, A3

T: 0136 22 1141

### Niseko Physio

The only acute sports injury specialist in the village.

Map: p.39, B2

T: 0136 22 0399

**Tsuruha Drug** (red signage) pharmacy.

Map: Route 5 and Route 343. (p.39, G3)

## 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.

## RUBBISH GUIDE

### 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.

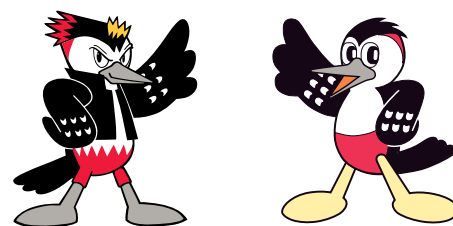
### What can you do to help keep Niseko beautiful?

Take a second to be sure you're throwing your garbage in the correct bin

For more information visit

[www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp](http://www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp)

[www.town.niseko.lg.jp](http://www.town.niseko.lg.jp)



Niseko Town mascots Anniky and Nicky (above) are two brothers based on the Great Spotted Woodpecker - Akagera - that lives in the Niseko area and can be seen on a regular basis.



Kutchan Town mascots: Little fat skiing potato boy Jagatakun and his snowboarding girlfriend Jagako (above).



# GUIDE

## ONSEN GUIDE

*Powderlife's* guide and onsen (hot spring) etiquette tips will help you fall in love with this quintessential Japanese experience.

### Yukoro Onsen

T: 0136 23 3434 (Hirafu map p.39 B4)

### Hotel Niseko Alpen

T: 0136 22 1105 (Hirafu map p.39 E1)

### Hilton Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 1111 (Higashiyama map p.39 G7)

### Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 3311 (Higashiyama map p.39 G7)

### Niseko Grand Hotel

T: 0136 58 2121 (Annupuri map p.39 A8)

### Kanro no mori - (private onsen available)

T: 0136 58 3800 (Annupuri map p.39, A7)

### Niseko Kira no yu (infront of Niseko Station)

T: 0136 44 1100 (private onsen available)

## 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'. Nupuri is 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
1962	40th All Japan Ski Championships (Alpine)
1963	Niseko mountain range is designated a Quasi-National Park
1966	Taiheiyo Club Niseko Moiwa 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
2011	100 years of skiing in Hokkaido and 50 years of ski operation in Hirafu.

Information courtesy of the Niseko Promotion Board

## 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 Japanese	Nihongo ga wakarimasen
Do you speak English?	Eigo ga hanasemasu ka?
Cute	Kawaii
Japan's great!	Nihon wa sugoi

**C2**  
p.39

## A-Bu-Cha 2

UPPER HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese dishes or hot-pots. Choice of over 400 drinks! Mouth-watering Home-made sweets. Take away menu is available. Authentic Japanese seating. Families are welcome.

[www.abucha.net](http://www.abucha.net)

**A wide variety of meals and drinks – top marks**



6pm – 2am  
Food (L.O) 11.30pm

☎ 0136 22 5620

**D2**  
p.39

## Bang Bang

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.

[www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang](http://www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang)

**We take great pride in our fresh seafood**



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

**E3**  
p.39

## Barunba

MIDDLE VILLAGE

Barunba is a little bar situated on Momiji street. Enjoy your time with local skiers and snowboarders. Have a drink with us, and enjoy our funky, small bar atmosphere here in Niseko!

**HAI-CARUMBA! Bar BARUNBA!**



Open 7 Days  
8pm–3am

☎ 0136 55 5615

**E7**  
p.38

## Black Diamond Restaurant

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.

[www.bdlodge.com](http://www.bdlodge.com)

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



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

**C3**  
p.38

## Cocoro Okonomiyaki

KUTCHAN

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

**Great Food, Great Value!**



11am – 8.30pm (LO)

☎ 0136 22 1528

**D3**  
p.39

## Dining Sou

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese nabe hotpot and experience Japanese culture. We recommend Sukiyaki, Shabushabu and Kimuchi hotpots to warm your body up in the cold Niseko winter. Lunch available (no nabe) reservation recommended  
Lunch: ¥1050 - Dessert plate: ¥400

**Definitely hot pot in Winter! Best ingredients from Hokkaido**



Dinner 6–11pm  
Lunch 11am to 2pm  
7 days until end of Feb.  
☎ 0136 23 3048

**B3**  
p.39

## Downtown Café

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Downtown Café is open from 7:30am–9:30pm for breakfast, lunch, dinner and takeaways. Locally sourced and organic produce. A great place to relax, be warm and watch the snow.

**We have a warm, cosy atmosphere with coffee & cakes**



Open 7 days  
8am to 9.30pm  
Breakfast, lunch and dinner  
☎ 0136 23 3354

**A4**  
p.39

## Ebisutei

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.

[www.ebcbar.com](http://www.ebcbar.com)

**Have fun with our genki and laughing oden bar staff**



Open daily  
5pm – midnight  
☎ 0136 22 6544

# FOOD RESTAURANTS & BARS

## D2 GLOORIOUS Coffee

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

Located inside the Rhythm shop, serving take away premium LAVAZZA coffee. Be sure to drop in and enjoy a delicious brew each morning before you hit the slopes. And for those of you with a sweeter tooth, trying our decadent hot chocolate is a must!

[www.facebook.com/GloriousCoffee](http://www.facebook.com/GloriousCoffee)

**"it's the best coffee in town!"  
Point card - 6th coffee FREE!**



Open daily  
8pm-4pm

☎ 0136 23 0164

## B3 GYU+ (A.K.A The Fridge)

p.39 LOWER HIRAFU

Gyu + (aka Fridge Door) has been open for over 10 years serving single malt whiskeys, hot cocktails and a long menu of original drinks.

[www.gyubar.com](http://www.gyubar.com)

**Hand Selected Vinyl Records,  
Cocktails & Rare Japanese Whiskey.**



Open 7 Days  
6pm-1am  
(L.O 12.30am)

☎ 0136 23 1432

## C4 Half Note

p.39 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](http://www.nisekohalfnote.com).

[www.nisekohalfnote.com](http://www.nisekohalfnote.com)

**Hirafu's only jazz bar!**



6pm-midnight  
Open daily

☎ 0136 23 2727

## B3 J-Sekka Café and Delicatessen

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

For a hearty breakfast to get you ready for the slopes, great coffee and winter warmers to power you through the day or a lazy afternoon spent discovering the delicious Hokkaido produce used in our house-made delicacies.

[www.j-sekka.com](http://www.j-sekka.com)

**A taste of Hokkaido**



open from 7am daily

☎ 0136 21 3088

## C3 Kabuki 1 and 2

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

A choice of make-it-yourself or a full service Teppan Yaki restaurant. At Kabuki 1 you can 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

[www.nisekokabuki.com](http://www.nisekokabuki.com)

**Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki  
Restaurants**



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

## E2 Kamimura

p.39 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.

[www.kamimura-niseko.com](http://www.kamimura-niseko.com)

**Blessed by land, sea and a  
creative chef**



Dinner 6pm - 11pm  
Occasionally closed

☎ 0136 21 2288

## E8 M's Café (Saison Club)

p.38 HIGASHIYAMA

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

[www.saison-club.com](http://www.saison-club.com)

**Warm your body with our big  
hearty hot-pots**



Day 10am-3pm  
Evening 5.00-9.00pm  
LO (8pm)  
☎ 0136 44 3380

## B4 Manpukutei

p.39 LOWER VILLAGE

2nd season for Korean restaurant, Manpukutei with new menu. Come in after a day of pow and have a great time at Manpukutei in Niseko!!

**Pick up service is available!!**



6pm-11pm

☎ 0136 21 7880

**B3**  
p.39

## Maki Lounge

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.

[www.j-sekka.com](http://www.j-sekka.com)

**Japanese whiskey, sake and shochu by the fire**



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

**C3**  
p.39

## Niseko So-an Yakiniku Restaurant

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Tasty meat & cold beer! Ideal for groups. Enquire about large group reservations, FREE pick-up service is available.

¥1700 all-you-can-eat BBQ for 60 minutes.

[www.nisekosoan.net](http://www.nisekosoan.net)

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



Open daily  
11am-3pm (LO 2pm)  
5pm - 11pm (LO 10.30am)  
☎ 090 2059 6701

**C3**  
p.39

## Niseko Pizza

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Visit us at our NEW LOCATION, in the J-Sekka building beside the traffic lights. Enjoy home-made pizza, pasta and succulent beef, pork and other meats from our new grill!

[www.nisekopizza.jp](http://www.nisekopizza.jp)

**Dine in, Take-away and delivery**



Open 5-11pm weekdays  
11am to 11pm weekends, holidays, Chinese New year  
☎ 0136 55 5553

**D2**  
p.39

## Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub & Restaurant

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.

[www.paddymcgintrysirishpub.com](http://www.paddymcgintrysirishpub.com)

**Value Drinks, Hearty Meals, Live Sports and Music**



Open daily  
1pm till Late

☎ 0136 55 8020

**B1**  
p.39

## Restaurant LUPICIA Niseko

KABAYAMA

LUPICIA offers fine dining experience in Niseko. A modern fusion of European and Japanese cuisine. Enjoy our sommelier recommended wine: French Chateaus and Domains, Australian favorites, and LUPICIA's reserved wine "LA MEIGE VIERGE". Open daily (Winter season)

[www.lupicia.com](http://www.lupicia.com)

**Euro-Japanese cuisine to accent the Hokkaido ingredients**



Lunch 11:30am-2pm  
Tea Time 2-4pm  
Dinner 5pm - 10pm  
☎ 0136 21 7880

**C3**  
p.39

## Steak Rosso Rosso

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.

[www.rossorosso.net](http://www.rossorosso.net)

**A must for steak lovers!**



Dinner 6pm-11pm  
Occasionally closed

☎ 0136 21 7100

**D3**  
p.39

## Splash Bar Niseko

MIDDLE VILLAGE

It's party night!!

Pool table, darts and yummy drinks. Locals' favorite bar is now equipped with a big screen TV!!

[www.splashbarniseko.com](http://www.splashbarniseko.com)

**Upcoming exciting events. Ask our friendly staff for details.**



Winter Only - Open Daily  
4pm-1am  
Happy Hour 4pm-7pm  
☎ 080 6096 0698

**na**

## Sumibi Yakiniku Kurobeko

KUTCHAN

Located on Route 5, catch the Kutchan Night-Go Bus to Keizai Center bus stop. It's a 2-min walk from there.

Try the best Authentic Yakiniku!

**50 seats are available. Groups are welcome.**



Closed Tuesday  
5pm - 11.30pm (L.O)

☎ 0136 22 2020



# FOOD RESTAURANTS & BARS

## F3 Taj Mahal

p.39 IZUMIKYO 1

Enjoy the best of Indian traditional cuisine & courtesy service. Experience Indian meals with Indian beers & wines at our prestigious restaurant. vegetarians meals are also available. 10% discount on takeout orders. Free local delivery.

[www.tajmahalgroup.com](http://www.tajmahalgroup.com)

**Dine in, take-away & delivery**



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

## C3 The Barn

p.39 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.

[www.nisekobarn.com](http://www.nisekobarn.com)

**Hokkaido's one and only alpine bistro**



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

## D2 Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen

p.39 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.

**Try Asahikawa Ramen with Gyoza**



Open 7 days  
11.00am-11.30pm  
(LO 11pm)  
☎ 0136 23 4549

## C2 VBG – Vale Bar and Grill

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

This year the VBG has taken a step forward with a menu based around a modern French Steakhouse with a wine list to match. The slow roast beef steak is a must try and the 1945 fortified Grenache is an experience of a lifetime. Open from breakfast through to late night.

[www.nisekoalpineaccommodation.com](http://www.nisekoalpineaccommodation.com)

**The VBG is a casual flavoured field dining highlight.**



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

## B2 Wabi Sabi Café

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Great Value, Healthy Japanese Café. Wabi Sabi Café. We serve Donburi, a classic Rice Bowl cuisine & Cakes, Coffee and Chai. Free WiFi, Daily Specials. 10% Discount will apply between 12pm & payment & departure before 7pm.

[www.nisekowabisabi.com](http://www.nisekowabisabi.com)

**Specialty Donburi Rice Bowl Lunch & Dinner Café**



Open 7 days  
12 Midday - 10pm  
☎ 0136 21 5115

## B2 Wabi Sabi Express

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Delivery and Take Out. Japanese Rice bowl (Donburi) 1pm - 10pm Daily specials, Salads, Drinks all Delivered. 10% off for Takeout before 7pm. Online Orders given priority.

[www.nisekowabisabi.com](http://www.nisekowabisabi.com)

**Original Japanese Delivery & Take Out Service**



**Take Out and Delivery Good value Japanese.**

Eat In & Take Out  
12 Midday - 10pm  
Delivery: 1pm - 10pm  
☎ 0136 21 5115

## E2 Wild Bills

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

We offer a great selection of Japanese izakaya style food in the warm log house setting. Late night a sure spot for a good party!

**Come and enjoy our great food and music.**



Open 7 days  
5pm-Late  
☎ 0136 55 5774

## D4 Yummy's

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Ceasar 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](http://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

## F8 Black Diamond Tours

p.38 NISEKO VILLAGE - HIGASHIYAMA

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](http://www.blackdiamondtours.com)

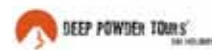
**Niseko's backcountry powder specialists**

8am-8pm daily  
In Niseko Village  
across from Milk Kobo  
☎ 090 2054 8687

## E2 Deep Powder Tours Ski Holidays

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

A licensed I.A.T.A international travel agent. Check out our website for a broad overview of the many ski resorts in Japan that we offer.



[www.deeppowdertours.com](http://www.deeppowdertours.com)

## D2 Japanese Cultural Tours

p.39 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 from Niseko Hirafu Safety & Information Center (Seicomart) ends in Kutchan.

**Tour Dates:** 28 Dec, 8 Jan, 20 Jan, 3 Feb, 17 Feb

[www.kutchan-town-st.com/mailjapan.htm](http://www.kutchan-town-st.com/mailjapan.htm)



3.00-7.30pm  
Bookings essential

**Reservation is required. Experience Japanese Culture !**

☎ 0136 23 0222

## B3 Niseko Photography Tours

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Professional photography and video services.

From the deepest powder pics to group tours and family shots – Niseko Photography are the local professionals. Book a private tour and we will capture your priceless holiday memories while you and your friends or family cruise the mountain.

[www.nisekophotography.com](http://www.nisekophotography.com)



Available Everyday  
Call to book

**Niseko's professional photographers**

☎ 0136 22 5764

## E1 Niseko Foot

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

Visit this popular relaxation salon and sample some of our many treatments at Aplen Hotel 1F and B1F. All different styles of massage are available for body and feet. 30-minutes, 60-minutes and 90-minutes courses are available. Groups are welcomed. Osteopathy and sports injuries are offered.

[www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot](http://www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot)



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

**Closest healing relaxation therapy spot to Centre 4 lift**

## B2 Niseko Physio & Massage

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Australian trained physiotherapists specialising in knees, and all snow sports injuries. Serving Niseko since 2006 and in Tokyo since 2002. We also operate Niseko Massage, oil sports and relaxation massages from ¥6,000 per hour.

[www.nisekophysio.com](http://www.nisekophysio.com)

[www.nisekomassage.com](http://www.nisekomassage.com)



7 days  
8am-8pm

**Niseko's injury centre also providing sports & relaxation massage**

☎ 0136 22 0399

## F1 NISS

p.39 HIRAFU AND HANAZONO 308

Let our instructors inspire you on 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. Hanazono 308, Hirafu Kogen, Fusion Hirafu, The Vale Snowsports.

[www.hanazononiseko.com](http://www.hanazononiseko.com)



8.00am-9.00pm

**Kids are our speciality Hanazono and Hirafu**

☎ 0136 21 6688

## E3 NOASC

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

NOASC is Niseko's premier winter adventure company.

We offer ski school (skiing/snowboarding/telemarking) lessons for kids through to advanced skiers, powder lessons, mountain guiding, snowshoe tours, CAT skiing, Niseko Explorer Private tours, kids adventure school, and backcountry tours.

[www.noasc.com](http://www.noasc.com)



8:00am to 7:00pm  
All year round

**Just Do It adventure tours – an experience you won't forget**

☎ 0136 23 1688

# RETAIL & SHOPPING

## F5 Hana Jizoh

p.39 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 Wed & Thurs.

☎ 0136 23 0331

**Creative and delicious breads from a local baker**

## E2 Mariposa

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

Sweet Muffin, Savory Muffin and Scones. Delicious Bread available on Thursdays. Cream puff also available on weekends. Enjoy our delicious, freshly baked muffins & scones, homemade daily from a selection of over 50 of our favorite recipes.



[www.mariposa.asia](http://www.mariposa.asia)

Daily  
8am–9.30pm  
☎ 0136 22 5677

**Delicious muffins, scones and soup**

## D1 Fusion

p.39 UPPER HIRAFU/HANAZONO

Try on the latest gear from popular brands like Burton, Volcom, Orage and The North Face. Stop into our main Hirafu shop for a complete selection or the Vale and Hanazono locations for any on-snow accessories.



Hirafu 8am–9pm  
The Vale 8am–9pm  
Hanazono 8.30am–5pm  
☎ 0136 21 6633

[www.hanazononiseko.com](http://www.hanazononiseko.com)

**Prepare for the pow with the latest gear at Fusion**

## D3 Mountainshop Niseko 343

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Best item selections in Niseko  
Satisfaction is guaranteed for any skiers to have a great time in Niseko. FAT SKI rental for powder snow has variety selection. Rental delivery and pick up service is available.



[www.niseko343.com](http://www.niseko343.com)

Daily  
9am–9pm in winter  
☎ 0136 23 0343

**NISEKO+343 =200% FUN**

## E3 Niseko Cultural School & Momiji Gallery

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Small classes of tea ceremony, calligraphy, Japanese cooking: sushi /sukiyaki /hotpot, bamboo painting & cultural tours. ¥4,000 to ¥10,000. Perfect on your own or with friends. No kids under 12. Bookings at Momiji Art Gallery & Japanese gift shop on ground floor.



Open 7 days  
1.00pm–7.00pm

[www.nisekoculturalschool.com](http://www.nisekoculturalschool.com)

**Learn & experience Japanese Culture in Hirafu**

☎ 0136 55 8585

## B3 Niseko Photography Gallery

p.39 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Stunning limited edition prints and fine art canvas works. Niseko Photographie's gallery, located in Niseko Cellars, is a showcase of beautiful photography from Niseko's stunning 4 seasons. Prints available in quality frames, or unframed for easy travel.



[www.nisekophotography.com](http://www.nisekophotography.com)

Open Daily  
Midday – 10.00pm

**Photo gallery – fine-art prints and souvenirs**

☎ 0136 22 5764

## D2 Yukara

p.39 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 and share with your family and friends.



7 days  
9am–10pm

[www.powderlife.com](http://www.powderlife.com)

**Reopened in 2010 on 2nd floor of Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen**

0136 23 4546

## D2 Sakura

p.39 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](http://www.sakura-niseko.com)

Daily  
1–7pm in winter  
☎ 0136 21 7007

**Your one-stop Japanese souvenir shop**

# RENTAL & SERVICES

## NA BonTak

Specialist for ski and snowboard tune up & repair.  
Pick up and delivery service available to accommodations in Niseko



[www.bontak.jp](http://www.bontak.jp)

I ♥ NISEKO

Free pick up 3pm~6pm  
Free deliver till 8:30am  
☎ 0136-44-1501  
☎ 090-7584-5535

## D1 Demo Equipment Hire

UPPER HIRAFU/HANAZONO

Situated in three areas, Hirafu main village, The Vale, and Hanazono, Demo offers the latest equipment with the flexibility of renting, exchanging, and returning at any location.



[www.hanazononiseko.com](http://www.hanazononiseko.com)

Multiple locations, wide equipment range, endless possibilities

Hirafu 8am-9pm  
The Vale 8am-9pm  
Hanazono 8.30am-5pm  
☎ 0136 21 6677

## D2 Glen Claydon Photography

UPPER HIRAFU

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



[www.glenclaydon.com](http://www.glenclaydon.com)

Complete photographic services

☎ 080 6098 7244

## C3 Hermosa Angel Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Offering both traditional shiatsu and relaxing oil massages either in your suite or at our salon, 1F J-Sekka building. 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.inkarebaza.com](http://www.inkarebaza.com)

Relax and rejuvenate in the heart of hirafu

Open 7 days  
Appointments available from 11am-midnight  
☎ 0136 23 2004

## na Hokkaido Services

NISEKO

- Construction & Renovations
- Project Management
- Property Maintenance
- Independent Building Reports
- Discount Glass - dbl glazing from ¥10000/sqm

[www.hokkaidoservices.com](http://www.hokkaidoservices.com)



call John 8am-8pm

Innovative building solutions for Niseko

☎ 090 9756 7616

## 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](http://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](mailto:info@nisekorealty.com), or drop by our Hirafu office across from the SPLASH bar.

[www.nisekorealty.com](http://www.nisekorealty.com)



8:00am to 7:00pm  
All year round

Secure your future in Japan's premier powder ski area

☎ 0136 23 2221

## D2 Travelplan

UPPER HIRAFU

Australia's #1 snow holiday specialist with 41 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 4th Jan-8th Feb. For more information contact Travelplan.

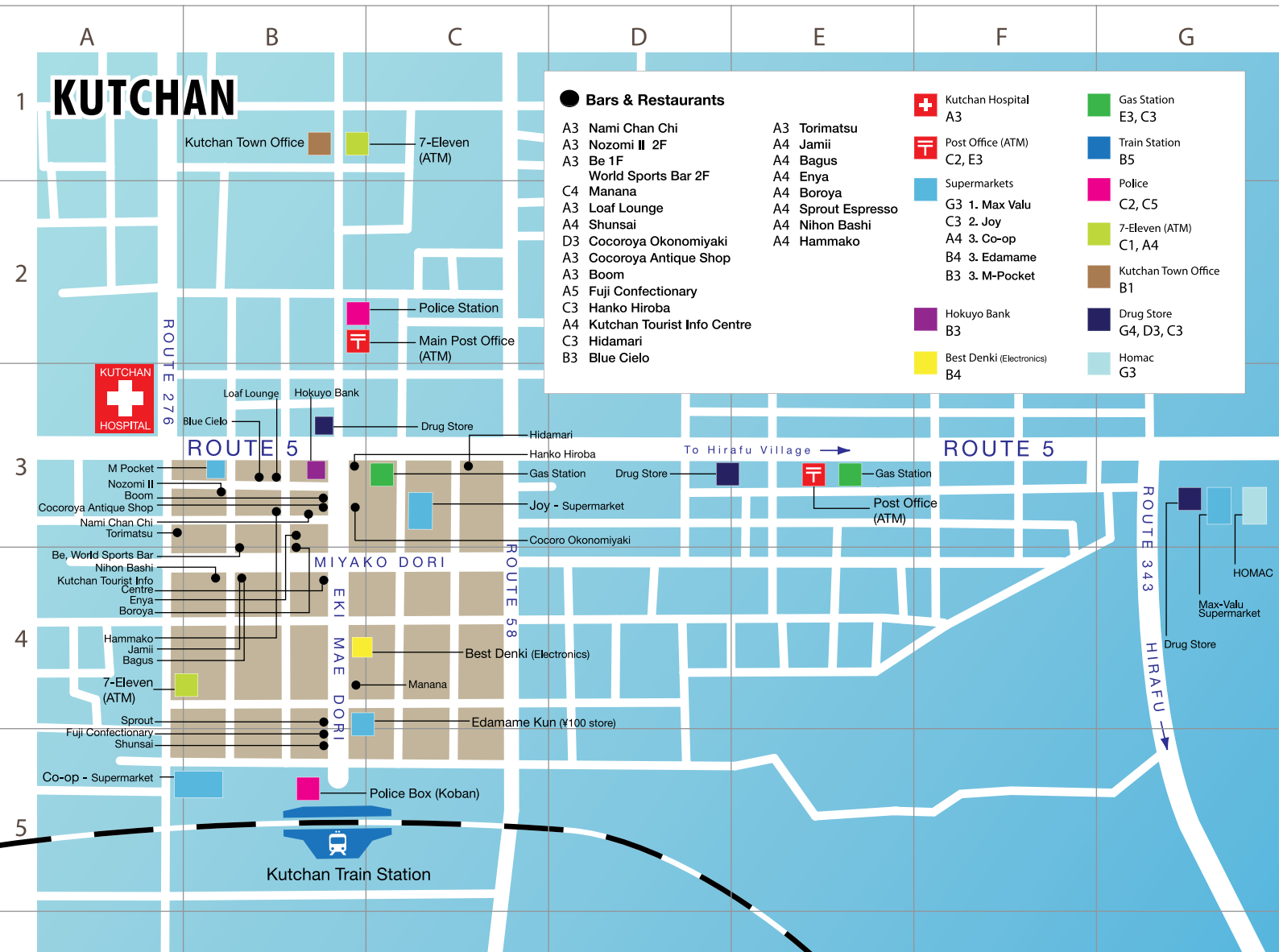
[www.travelplanski.com](http://www.travelplanski.com)



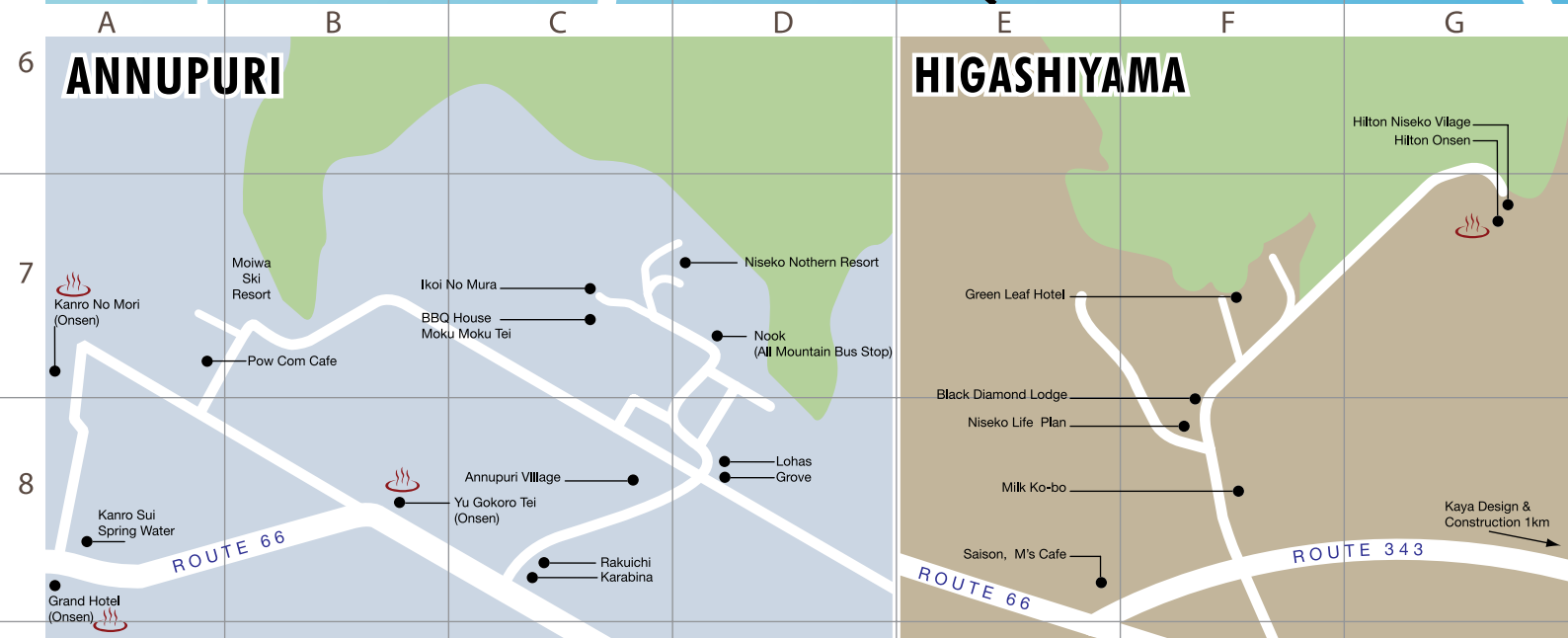
The world's best ski holidays

7 days  
8am-12pm  
3pm-7pm  
☎ 0136 21 5354





- Bars & Restaurants**
- A3 Nami Chan Chi
  - A3 Nozomi II 2F
  - A3 Be 1F
  - World Sports Bar 2F
  - C4 Manana
  - A3 Loaf Lounge
  - A4 Shunsai
  - D3 Cocoroya Okonomiyaki
  - A3 Cocoroya Antique Shop
  - A3 Boom
  - A5 Fuji Confectionary
  - C3 Hanko Hiroba
  - A4 Kutchan Tourist Info Centre
  - C3 Hidamari
  - B3 Blue Cielo
  - A3 Torimatsu
  - A4 Jamii
  - A4 Bagus
  - A4 Enya
  - A4 Boroya
  - A4 Sprout Espresso
  - A4 Nihon Bashi
  - A4 Hammako
- +** Kutchan Hospital A3
- 〒** Post Office (ATM) C2, E3
- 🛒** Supermarkets
- G3 1. Max Valu
  - C3 2. Joy
  - A4 3. Co-op
  - B4 3. Edamame
  - B3 3. M-Pocket
- 🚗** Gas Station E3, C3
- 🚉** Train Station B5
- 👮** Police C2, C5
- 🏪** 7-Eleven (ATM) C1, A4
- 🏢** Kutchan Town Office B1
- 🏠** Drug Store G4, D3, C3
- 🏦** Hokuyo Bank B3
- 🛍️** Best Denki (Electronics) B4
- 🏠** Homac G3



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

# Hirafu

**Hirafu South Village**

**Hirafu Main Village**

**Legend:**

- Bus route, bus stop
- Local Bus
- NISEKO UNITED Shuttle
- Spa Bus
- Kutchan Night Go (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Pension Village (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Irumaigo (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Lower Village (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Upper Village (Only Winter)

**Facilities:**

- Shop, Indoor Activity
- Convenience Store
- Baby Care
- Resort Hotel
- Ski School, Outdoor Activity
- Rental, Tune-up
- Travel Company
- Rail Estate, Buildings/Management
- Hot Ticket Corner
- Information Map
- Post
- Day Care Center
- Information Center

**Hirafu East Village**

**Legend:**

- Bus route, bus stop
- Local Bus
- NISEKO UNITED Shuttle
- Spa Bus
- Kutchan Night Go (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Pension Village (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Irumaigo (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Lower Village (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Upper Village (Only Winter)

**Facilities:**

- Shop, Indoor Activity
- Convenience Store
- Baby Care
- Resort Hotel
- Ski School, Outdoor Activity
- Rental, Tune-up
- Travel Company
- Rail Estate, Buildings/Management
- Hot Ticket Corner
- Information Map
- Post
- Day Care Center
- Information Center

**Hirafu North Village**

**Legend:**

- Bus route, bus stop
- Local Bus
- NISEKO UNITED Shuttle
- Spa Bus
- Kutchan Night Go (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Pension Village (Only Winter)
- Grand Shuttle - va Irumaigo (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Lower Village (Only Winter)
- Humans Shuttle - va Upper Village (Only Winter)

**Facilities:**

- Shop, Indoor Activity
- Convenience Store
- Baby Care
- Resort Hotel
- Ski School, Outdoor Activity
- Rental, Tune-up
- Travel Company
- Rail Estate, Buildings/Management
- Hot Ticket Corner
- Information Map
- Post
- Day Care Center
- Information Center

# \* DISCOVER HOKKAIDO // onsen special



niimi onsen photos // gjen claydon

the whole family can relax together in the outdoor bath

## NIIMI HONKAN

Niimi Honkan is one of the few onsens in the Niseko area where couples or the whole family can enjoy the outdoor bath together. The area around Niimi is well known for its mineral content in the drinking and onsen water, so make sure you take a long soak in the precious water. This hot spring is tucked away in a remote location in the mountains, and therefore many of the guests who make the journey here stay for a few days at the guesthouse to relax and eat. There is also some good backcountry nearby, so the guesthouse can be used as a great jumping off point to your adventures, and you can come home to one of the best onsens around in your backyard. It has been open for 99 years and next year will be their 100th anniversary.

¥500 adults, ¥300 high school children, ¥200 kids. Open 8am-9pm every day, all year round.  
TEL: 0136575231 Hitou no Yado Niimi Honkan Aza Niimi 1 Rankoshi-cho, Isoya-gun, Hokkaido.



one of the indoor baths



only the outdoor bath is mixed – male and female



the outdoor bath has little waterfalls



unlike our models in this picture, you are only allowed to wear a towel in the onsen!

## YUGOKOROTEI

Yogokorotei Onsen has a beautiful outdoor pool that overlooks a meadow of snow-covered silver birch trees with a small waterfall where the free flowing hot spring water pours in. After your soak you can take advantage of the free massage chairs in order to reach ultimate zenic relaxation. They also have a restaurant that serves up tasty Japanese dishes such as donburi and sashimi. The onsen is on your right-hand side, just before you enter the wooden arch into Moiwa off of Route 66.

Open 6am-11pm, adult ¥700, child ¥500.  
TEL: 0136 58 2500



the ladies' outdoor bath



beautiful illumination in the evening



# \* DISCOVER HOKKAIDO // onsen special

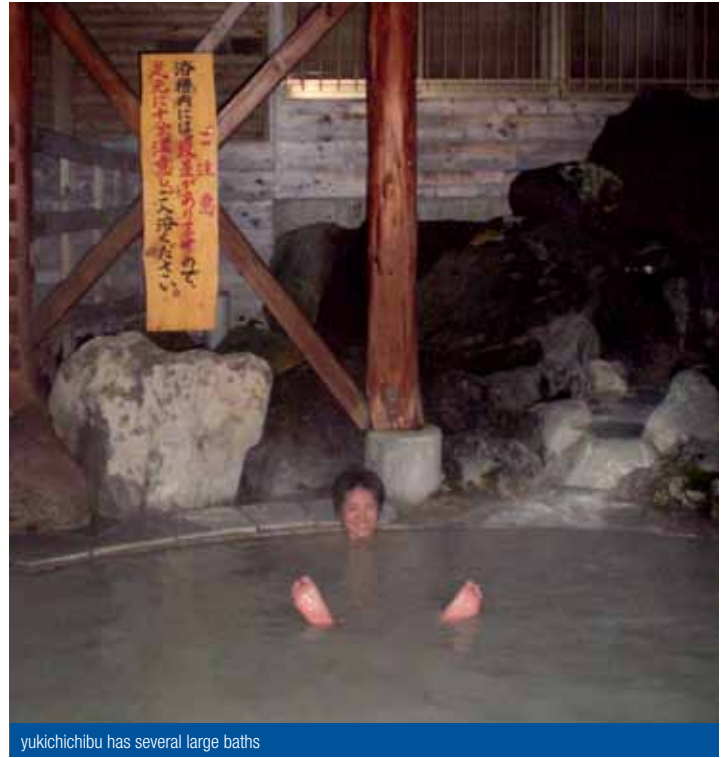
## YUKICHICHIBU

Yukichichibu is one of the few onsens in Hokkaido where the baths have coloured water. There are six outdoor baths for ladies with red iron water, sulphur water and mud. Nearby Oyunuma is the source of the sulphur water, whereas the iron-rich water gets pumped up from 30m below the earth. The mud is also from the surrounding areas. It has to dry for five days before it's poured into the mud bath. According to the manager, a dip in Yukichichibu onsen is beneficial to people who suffer from neuralgia, muscle pain, joint aches, bruises, chronic skin disease, fatigue, high blood pressure, hardened arteries, diabetes, sensitivity to cold, cuts, stiff muscles, painful shoulders as well as other conditions.

¥500 adults, ¥300 children. Open 9.30am-9pm everyday all year round.  
TEL: 0136 58 2328, 048-1321, Aza Yunosato, Rankoshi-cho, Isoya-gun, Hokkaido



enjoy the view of mt chisenupuri



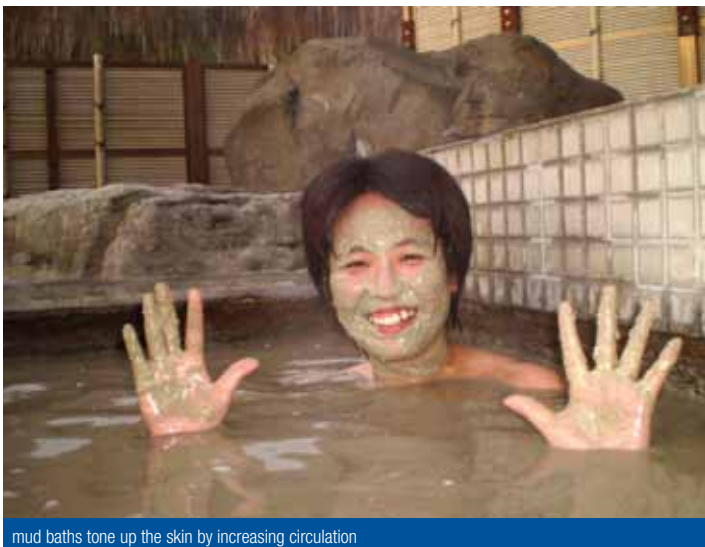
yukichichibu has several large baths



traditional after-bath wear yukata



oyunuma pond is a popular sightseeing spot



mud baths tone up the skin by increasing circulation



nearby oyunuma pond is yukichichibu's sulphur water source

# \* TRAVEL FEATURE // kyoto



PHOTOGRAPHY AND WORDS BY // kerstin winter

**H**ome to Nintendo, manga museums, a heaving underground music scene, glitzy nightclubs, traditional festivals, Zen gardens, tea houses, authentic architecture and thousands of years of history and culture – Kyoto offers the best of Japan in a nutshell.

Geishas and temples are often associated with Kyoto, but start exploring the city and its surroundings you will soon realise that no travel guide can truly do justice to the ancient capital of Japan. Dare to get lost, and you will stumble upon ancient alleyways and small traditional handicraft shops that won't be found in any guidebook.

For those on a tight schedule – get a ¥500 one-day bus pass and a free map at the train station and start exploring. The map will give you detailed information on the major sites and bus routes. Most visitors go straight to the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple in the north of the city where

the top floors are covered in gold leaf. The sight is overwhelming, but so can be the crowds. For a more relaxing experience, take the bus to one of the oldest Shinto shrines in Kyoto – Fushimi Inari Taisha – which is protected by hundreds of red gates and surrounded by a dense bamboo forest. Run through the red gate tunnels, hike in the maze and wind down in the tranquility of the forest.

Another must-see destination in Kyoto is Ryoan-ji, home to one of

“

**Some teahouses in Gion require membership or even a personal invitation**

”

Japan's most austere Zen Buddhist gardens. Fifteen rocks rest on a rectangular bed of white pebbles, and the space borders a verandah and low walls. Raking produces a pattern around the rocks in a complicated mathematical order.

The rocks are placed in a way so that you can only see 14 rocks at any one time from whatever angle you

look at the garden. In Buddhism the number 15 denotes completeness. So in order to make this a meaningful experience you must have a total view of the garden, but in the current condition of this world, that's not possible – according to Zen Buddhism.

Hordes of high school students and elderly people come here and spend all afternoon trying to figure out the system. It's entertaining to watch them!

At night when the temples are closed, there are more great opportunities for people watching in the back streets of the entertainment district Gion and nightlife hotspot Pontocho-dori. Spotting Geisha or Maiko (apprentice geisha) becomes rather addictive and trying to photograph them as they rush to appointments is a challenge. In that

area you will find shows to cater for all budgets, from traditional musical dramas to the cultural show of geishas. Some teahouses in Gion require membership or even a personal invitation. Geisha entertainment in such an exclusive place starts at around ¥800,000 for an evening.

For those who want entertainment without spending any money, window shopping is a treat in Kyoto, a city that for centuries has been famous for weaving and lacquer ware, bamboo crafts and ceramics. Handicraft is on display in hundreds of artisans' shops.

Should you travel to Kyoto in the summer, try and visit in July when the whole city celebrates Gion festival, one of the most famous festivals in Japan. It culminates in a huge parade along the main street. Dozens of floats are paraded through the city, followed by thousands of people in traditional costume.

Whatever season you choose to visit, make sure you have at least three days to be able to experience Kyoto – the best of modern and traditional Japan.

family time. warm memories.



TAIGA

REAL ESTATE & PROJECT MANAGEMENT 大河

[www.taigaprojects.com](http://www.taigaprojects.com) tel / 080 3233 0262

### Niseko's Boutique Property Service

**Niseko Ranch Land**  
Unbroken mountain and farmland views  
Land : 3.5 hectares near Niseko Town  
3,625yen per tsubo



**Hirafu Estate Land**  
Proximity, privacy, forest views  
Land : 4,638m<sup>2</sup> or 1,403 tsubo  
Best village price



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KIZUNA  
JANUARY 2012 COMPLETION

[WWW.KIZUNANISEKO.COM](http://WWW.KIZUNANISEKO.COM)

**NISEKO**  
real estate

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1 – Odin Chair, designed by Jamie McLellan and Gold winner of New Zealand Best Design Awards 2011.

2, 5 – Yasuragi by Odin defines alpine spa-living in Niseko.

3 – The Barn by Odin has achieved recognition as one of Niseko's finest (and funnest) dining venues.

4 – Odin House bears the distinctive pedigree of Odin's design philosophy.

 **ODIN**

- RESIDENCES & APARTMENTS
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