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NISEKO ニセコ

Issue 40 // February 25 to March 9 // 2012

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WASC

Niseko Village to host World Airlines Ski Championship

MANPUKUTEI

Eating out like in Korea Town

RESORT GUIDE

Your guide to Niseko – page 27

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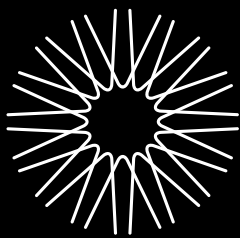
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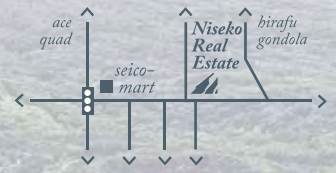
Featured Properties



KIZUNA



NISEKO YOTEI ESTATE



* EDITOR'S NOTE



photo // azza - niseko photography

WHILE late February and March usually see fewer visitors in Niseko, this year will be different because one of the most important events of the season is about to start.

Hundreds of airline employees are beginning to arrive, with many of them preparing for the World Airline Ski Championships (WASC), which will be held in Niseko Village. It's the first time Niseko will host this event, and it will be a good opportunity to showcase the assets of the area to the well-travelled participants. It's likely they will spread the word about skiing destination Niseko.

While participation in the WASC is closed to airline members only, you are of course encouraged to come and cheer. If you would like to show off your own skiing or snowboarding skills and win prizes from Burton and Oakley, head to Hanazono for the straight jump competition, which is open to everyone. After watching or taking part in the competitions, treat yourself to a good meal in some of the unique restaurants we've reviewed in our Eat & Drink section.

The owner of Korean restaurant Manpukutei gets most of his supplies sent from his family in Osaka's Korea Town and only uses his mother's old recipes from Jeju Island. If you would like to eat European cuisine with Hokkaido ingredients, try the organic farm food at Italian inspired restaurant Prativo or have an authentic Japanese dining experience with homemade Udon noodles at Houzuki.

For those who have time to explore other parts of the island, read about some of the lesser-known getaways on our Discover Hokkaido page. Have a go at indoor-wave-surfing on the banks of Lake Toya, marvel at the natural beauty of remote Shirogane and Uryunuma or take the bus to nearby Kutchan and learn about the area's history and wildlife. But most of all enjoy your holiday!

Kerstin Winter, Powderlife Managing Editor, kerstin@powderlife.com

毎年2月の終わりから3月にかけてニセコへの訪問者は徐々に減り始めますが、今年はずいぶん違います。もしかするとこれからが活気づき始める時期になるかもしれません。なんと、WASC(ワールドエアラインスキーチャンピオンシップ)がニセコビレッジで行われるからです。このイベントがニセコで行われるのは今年が初めて。ニセコがスキーやスノーボーダーにとってどれだけ素敵な場所であるかを紹介するには最高の機会かもしれませんね。

WASCではメンバーだけではなく、一般の人でも参加可能となっています。スキーやスノーボードで参加をしてバトンやオークリーなどの賞品をゲットする良いチャンス!花園で行われているストレートジャンプ競技は一般人参加可能ですよ。

競技に参加した人や応援した人も、美味しい、ユニークなレストランで至福のひとつを過ごしてみてもいいでしょうか。詳しくはEat&Drinkセクションをご覧ください。

韓国レストラン「まんぶく亭」では殆どの食材は彼の実家である大阪のコリアタウンからの物であり、彼のお母さんJejuアイランドのレシピを使用しています。もしも北海道産の食材を使ったヨーロッパフードを楽しみたいという方は、イタリアンレストランPrativoでオーガニックファームから採れた野菜を楽しんでみませんか。もしくは日本風で行きたいのであれば、ホームメイドのうどんを「ほうずき」で食べてみてはいかがでしょうか。

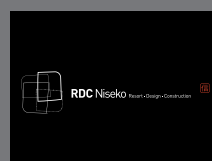
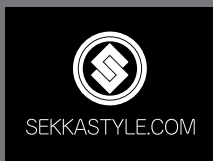
ニセコ以外の場所も探検してみたいという方はディスカバーホッカイドウのページを参考に色々旅をしてみてください。洞爺湖にはインドアのサーフィンが出来る場所がありますし、ちょっと離れた白金や雨竜沼に行き自然の美しさにひたってみても。もしくはバスによって近場の倶知安町でその地域の歴史について勉強してみてもいいかも。皆さんが素敵な休日をお過ごしください!

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

HIRAFU-ZAKA MAIN STREET MASTER PLAN

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CG Image, Final construction may vary slightly



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* FLUFF // light news & information

ONE FOR THE AGES



photo // bazza - niseko photography

diving head first into a powder pool... don't forget to pack your snorkel!

WHETHER you were in town for a week or the season, winter 2011/12 is one you'll remember for a long time.

Across Japan record lows and snowfalls were recorded – and in Niseko we've certainly had our share. With 6.62m of snowfall at village level in December and 5.97m in January, we enjoyed an average of over 20cm a day and only five snowless days. That's an amazing stat and the reason so many people are here from across Japan and around the world. Of course there's always a downside to this: digging out your car - and your house - from under more than 15m of snow gets old quick, but nobody's complaining.

We're already over our season average – with weeks of snow still to come and lifts that run to May. So keep your skis handy, the season's far from over...
– by Chris Chan

CELEBRATING GIRLS' DAY

HINA Matsuri or "Girls' Day" is a Japanese celebration on March 3, where families pray for the happiness and prosperity of their girls. They believe the prayers and rituals performed on that day will help their daughters grow up to be healthy and beautiful.

Most families with girls will have "hina-ningyo" in their homes. They are special dolls for the festival and usually arranged on a five or seven-tiered stand which is covered by red carpet. The Emperor and Empress of Japan are always displayed at the top, with the other tiers showcasing different attendants and musicians. All the dolls wear ancient court costumes from the Heian period (794-1184).

Families generally put the dolls out for display in February and take them down immediately after March 3. There is a superstition that says leaving the dolls out past March 4 will result in a late marriage for the daughter, and no one would want that!

The custom of displaying the dolls began during

the Heian period. People believed that the sin of the body and misfortune could be transferred to a doll, and then removed by sending the doll down a river to the sea in a boat. This custom is called "hina-okuri" or "nagashi-bina", and certain areas still perform this custom late on the afternoon of March 3 in various areas across Japan.



child wearing traditional clothing on girls' day



Hina-ningyo on display in a Japanese school

TOUCH A TANUKI

EVER wondered what the fur of a Tanuki feels like? Or the teeth of a mole? The claws of a bear, the feathers of a woodpecker or the tail of a squirrel?

All these animals live in Hokkaido, but some of them are rare or nocturnal and will surely not be found anywhere near Hirafu's slopes during the season.

In Kutchan's Natural History Museum, wildlife

enthusiasts are encouraged to touch the dozens of stuffed animals that were brought in as road kill by the locals. Curator Katsunori Okazaki says by touching them, visitors might develop more interest in these creatures and their natural habitat.

For more information on the museum, check out our Discover Hokkaido page.



a tanuki (Japanese raccoon dog)

* NISEKO NEWS // tracking down local stories

WORLD AIRLINES SKI CHAMPIONSHIP COMING TO NISEKO

For the first time ever, the Hilton Niseko Village will be hosting the annual World Airlines Ski Championship from March 4 to 8.

It's only the second time that the WASC will be held in Asia, with the host locations usually alternating between Western Europe and North America. The first Asian host was Naeba in Niigata prefecture back in 1978. This year will be WASC's 53rd time.

Over 400 attendees are confirmed to come. This includes competitors and supporters of the three race disciplines – Alpine, Snowboard, and Nordic. The competitors are employees from over 35 different airlines from around the world, ranging from pilots to engineers to airhostesses. Those who are participating in the events are members of the "Airline Ski Club".

Some of the competitors are near Olympic level, while others are complete beginners. Regardless,

WASC is an opportunity for Niseko to showcase itself to over 400 highly influential and experienced ski travellers. The event is likely to bring future business to this area and many see it as an opportunity to put Japan and Asia "on the circuit".

According to an Airline Ski Club survey among 225 members, "all of them interact in their airline job with an average of over 106 members of the travelling public each week, and are sometimes (50% of those surveyed) or frequently (43% of those surveyed) asked by others for advice on where they should go on a ski holiday."

Two out of the five nights during WASC are "free" nights where attendees are encouraged to head into Hirafu Village to explore local businesses. Many guests are also taking longer



vacations before and after the event and will be staying in accommodation in Hirafu.

The Hilton Niseko Village is still looking for sponsors to help support this event. For more information or questions please email: sales.niseko@hilton.com.

GENTEMSTICK GOES GLOBAL

Niseko's revolutionary snowboard makers, Gentemstick, recently displayed their line-up of über-boards at the ISPO in Munich, regarded as the world's largest winter sports exhibition.

The Gentemstick booth and the eccentric style of the boards created quite a stir in the show. Founder Taro Tamai attended the exhibition and noted that in particular Scandinavian visitors showed great interest in the boards and the snow-surfing philosophy that they are based on. Snowboarding legend Jeremy Jones was also spotted taking a keen interest in the Gentemstick booth. Tamai-san is confident this could be the start of a growing international interest in not only the boards, but also snow-surfing which he hopes will change the way snowboards are ridden.



Gentemstick's philosophy is to bring snowboarding back to its surfing roots, and next year's line-up has just been announced. If you love to ride powder, don't often ride switch and want the thrill of accelerating out of your turns, these are the boards for you. The new sub-brand "Taro Tamai Snow Surf design" (TTSS) are all made with a bamboo top sheet, and most have deep swallow tails, an extra wide body and pointed nose. They are quickly gaining popularity along with the newer shorter and more economical sub brand "The Snowsurf". While the prices start at ¥108,150 for the 152cm Momentum and top-out at a jaw-dropping ¥170,100 for the 186cm Impossible, there are a growing number of devotees who are more than willing to pay the asking price to own what may well be the finest snowboards in the world.

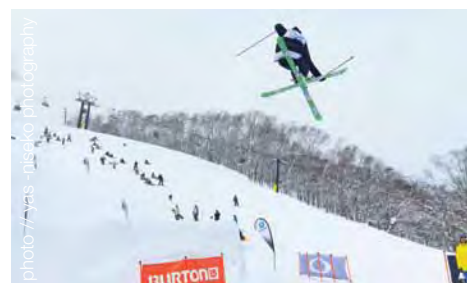
HANAZONO'S STRAIGHT JUMP COMPETITION KICKS OFF

If you've missed out on the atmosphere at the Toyota Big Air a couple of weeks ago, head out to Hanazono for its Straight Jump competition on Saturday, February 25.

The Straight Jump is a "one make" jump event, similar to the Big Air, but on a smaller scale. The competition is part of the monthly Freestyle Series, with skiers and snowboarders trying to land the most technical/stylish trick on a specially

made kicker in the Hanazono Main Park.

The Monthly Freestyle Series has been held in Hanazono for the last three years and has grown in popularity. Expect to see great tricks from sponsored Japanese local skiers and riders, as well as some international competitors. Prizes include Burton bindings, K2 helmets and Oakley goggles. Entry fee is ¥2000 in advance and ¥3000 on the day.



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- Dinner for four at The Barn, Niseko
- One week at Niseko Freedom Inn & MUCH MORE!

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- 3 Check your email, March 11, 2012, to see if you've won!

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED MARCH 11, 2012 (via email)

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

FEB 2012

25 Hanazono Freestyle Series – Straight Jump Competition 花園フリースタイルシリーズストレートジ

ヤンプ競技 8am registration, 10.15am first heat, 11.30am second heat, 1.30pm finals, 3pm awards ceremony at Hanazono 308. ¥2000 advance entry, ¥3000 on the day. 競技申し込みは 8時から、10時15分より第一弾がスタート。第二弾は11時30分より。午後3時からの授賞式は花園308にて。前売りチケット2000円、当日券は3000円

Start // 8.00 am
Place // Hanazono
Contact // 0136 23 0103



photo // sebastian grewe

26 Koryu Taiko Drumming Performance 鼓流太鼓の演奏

Niseko's famous Koryu Taiko drumming group will perform in the snow. Audience participation encouraged! ニセコの有名な鼓流太鼓グループのパフォーマンスが雪の中で行われます。参加も出来ますよ。

Start // 7.00 pm
Place // Grand Hirafu Mountain Centre
Contact // 0136 21 2551

27 Monty's Happy Hour モンティーズ ハッピーアワー

At Monty's BBQ and Pub there will be a happy hour from 5pm-7pm where beer and cocktails are 2 for 1. モンティーズで5時から7時の間ハッピーアワーとしてビールとカクテルが1杯頼むと2杯ついてくる!

Start // 5.00 pm
Place // Monty's BBQ and Pub
Contact // 0136 55 5989

28 Beginner Belly Dancing Class 初心者ベリーダンスクラス

A fun way to increase your flexibility and core strength. Explore your femininity with smooth beats from the middle east. ¥1000 drop-in. ベリーダンスにチャレンジしてしなやかさと、強さを養ってみては。中東の音楽に合わせて女性らしさを探求する良い機会。参加は1000円から。

Start // 7.00 pm (please arrive 10 min early)
Place // J-Sekka Kushi Room
Contact // 090 5982 7278

29 Meat Day @ SO-AN 肉の日@草庵

All you can eat meat for 60 minutes for only ¥1500. Last order is at 10.30pm.

60分、1500円の食べ放題。ラストオーダーは午後10時30分。

Start // 5.00 pm
Place // Niseko SO-AN Yakimiku restaurant
Contact // 090 2059 6701

MAR 2012



01 Hina Matsuri Buffet 雛祭りブッフェ

All you can eat for ¥2000. Must come with a girl in celebration of Japan's "Girls' Day". Reservation only. Please book early to ensure a spot. 2000円食べ放題。雛祭りにちなんで、必ず「女の子」を連れて来てください。要予約。すぐ定員になる可能性があるため、お早めにご予約を!

Start // 12.00 pm
Place // Graubunden in Izumikyo 2
Contact // 0136 23 3371

02 Underground Unplugged アンダーグラウンドアンプラグド

Hayden Weke playing live guitar in an intimate setting. Acoustic dub, reggae, and hip hop. Open from 6pm-3am.

Hayden Wekeがライブのギターとアコースティックダブ、レゲイ、ヒップホップをプレイ。午後6時から朝の3時までオープン。

Start // 8.30 pm
Place // Temperance Bar
Contact // 0136 21 5833



03 Hina Matsuri @ blo*blo 雛祭り@blo blo

In celebration of "Girls' Day", a free entry drink will be given to all girls. Drink specials and great tunes playing all night.

雛祭りにちなんで、全ての女の子はエントリードリンクが無料!ノリノリの音楽で一晚中エンジョイ!

Start // 6.00 pm
Place // blo*blo
Contact // 0136 22 1269

04 WASC 2012 Opening Parade WASC2012オープニングパレード

The 53rd World Airlines Ski Championship will kick off with a parade and opening ceremony complete with fireworks and a traditional taiko drum performance. 第53回ワールドエアラインスキーチャンピオンシップのパレードと開会式が太鼓の音頭と花火と共に行われます。

Start // 7.45 pm
Place // Outside the Hilton
Contact // 0136 44 1111

05 Hokkaido University Jazz Circle Performance 北海道大学ジャズサークルパフォーマンス

The Yoshihiro Sibata Sextet will be performing. They are a group of young and talented musicians from Hokkaido University, and will be playing jazz, fusion, and funk. 柴田義宏さんの6重奏団が演奏にやってきます。北海道大学の若くて才能のある生徒があつまりジャズ、フュージョンそしてファンクを演奏してくれます。

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

06 WASC Slalom Race WASC スラロームレース

Cheer on the 15 km men's, and the 10 km women's slalom race at the World Airlines Ski Championship.

WASCの男性 15 kmそして女性の10kmと一緒に応援しませんか

Start // Men 9.30 am, Women 1.00pm
Place // Race area in Niseko Village
Contact // 0136 44 1111

07 Flow Inspired Yoga Workshop Flow ヨガワークショップ

Introduction to the eight limbs of yoga, breakdown of postures, and focus on the seven chakra energy centres of the body. All levels welcome. Tickets: ¥1000 in advance, ¥1500 at the door. 四肢ヨガの紹介。姿勢矯正など。体中心の第七チャクラのエネルギー探し。どのレベルでも参加可能。前売りチケット1000円、当日券1500円

Start // 6.30pm-8.30pm (please arrive 15mins early)
Place // J-Sekka Kushi Room
Contact // 090 7584 8658

08 WASC Cross-Country Race WASCクロスカントリーレース

Come and cheer on the 10 km men's and the 5 km women's cross-country race at the World Airlines Ski Competition.

WASCのクロスカントリー男性の部10km、女性の部5kmの応援をしませんか。

Start // 9.30 am
Place // Race area in Niseko Village
Contact // 0136 44 1111

09 Jam Bar Happy Hour Jam バーハッピーアワー

Everyday during Happy Hour at Jam you'll receive ¥100 off all drinks. Come and try the Bob Marley or the Atsu Special. Stay for their Niseko-famous yakisoba. 毎日Jamバーのハッピーアワーではオールドリンク100円オフ!ポブマーリーやAtsuスペシャルを試してみてくださいはニセコで有名な焼きそばも試してみてください。

Start // 6.00 - 7.00 pm
Place // Jam Bar & Café
Contact // 0136 23 0700



Call for an appointment or just drop in.
Ph. 0136 22 0399 - info@nisekomassage.com

	30 minute	45 minute	60 minute	90 minute
Early bird (finish prior to 2pm)	¥3,500	¥5,000	¥6,000	¥8,000
Normal Price	¥5,000	¥7,000	¥8,000	¥11,000



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* SNAP

MEET THE LOCALS



Name // Emily Gattinger

EMILY Gattinger from the USA, has worked at Fusion Snowsports for four seasons. She used to live in Austria before she decided to come to Niseko. Emily keeps coming back season after season, because she loves her international community of friends here.



Name // Ian Mercer

IAN Mercer from Cooma, Australia, has been working at Rhythm in Australia for many years, but this is his first season at the Niseko branch. Ian will go back to Australia when the season is over, but plans to return to Niseko next winter as he loves it here.



Name // Jessica Markezic

JESSICA Markezic is originally from Canberra, Australia. She used to work at Larry Adler ski shop in Jindabyne before she got the opportunity to work at the location in Niseko. When the season is over she is going home to study nutrition and dietetics.

Question // What do you love to eat and drink in Niseko?



MATT Clarkson from Leeds loves katsu (breaded meat) curry and Yebisu beer. **Louise Healy** from Ireland and **Samara Shanks** from NZ love salmon sashimi with umeshu (Japanese plum liqueur).



KATE Kuncova from the Czech Republic loves edamame and coffee-milk from Seicomart. **Jake Morris** from Australia and **Claire Arthur** from Scotland love onigiri (Japanese rice ball) with a Sapporo beer.



MARGIE Clark from Melbourne can't get enough of the fresh sashimi here, and loves yuzu (an asian citrus fruit) juice. **Daryl Clancy** also from Melbourne loves grilled seafood and Pocari Sweat.



ERIC Lin from Taiwan loves sashimi and umeshu, and **Zoe Yu** and **Michael Larkins** from Melbourne both love eating ramen, and drinking genmaicha (Japanese rice tea) and cold sake.

PROSKI STACK

WIN
ENTER TO WIN A
HELMET FROM
PROSKI



Kim Rodd sent us a picture of her Aussie friend Stuart Cole doing the Niseko backcountry cat ski. Kim says their group waited a while for Stu to launch himself off this drop. They're not sure what went wrong, but no one was injured and they enjoyed a great day in the powder.

ENTER TO WIN A HELMET FROM PROSKI

MAYBE you don't usually wear a helmet? But perhaps you had a painful wake-up call and realised it might not be such a bad idea after all. Send us your best Niseko stack photo with a short description on how you ended up in such a mess. Email your photo and you could win a helmet from ProSki.

Submit entries to kerstin@powderlife.com

* FLASH



The rail jams are held outside Herbie's Umbrella Bar just above the Welcome Centre

photos // glen claydon

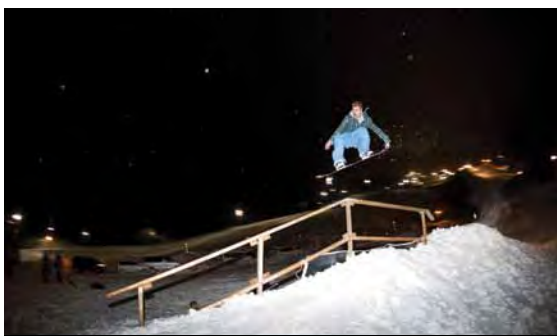
HERBIE'S

RAIL JAM //

Herbie's has been hosting rail jams throughout the season with one more to come in March. There has been a solid turnout of riders and skiers of all ages competing for prizes that were donated by local sponsors. The spectators kept warm with hot drinks and plenty of alcoholic beverages from Herbie's Umbrella Bar.



Allie (Ni-ban) Coates from Melbourne, Australia, took second place as usual



20-year old Andrew Davey from the USA took first place in the first rail jam



Kids, like this Japanese boy, also showed amazing skills

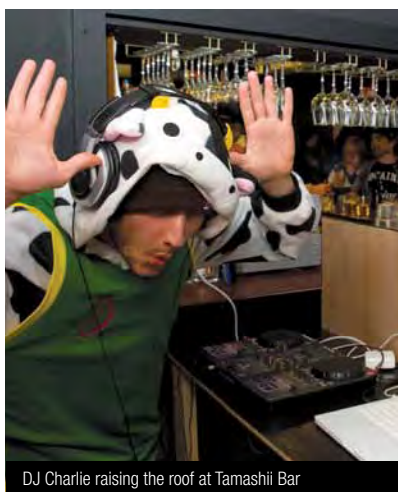


Winner Andrew Davey enjoying the spotlight



Australians doing what they do best... enjoying themselves that is!

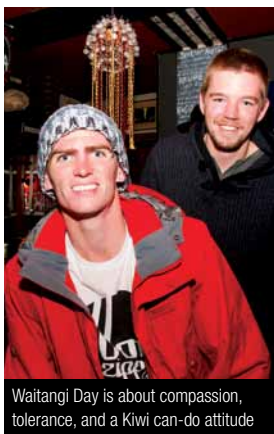
photos // glen claydon



DJ Charlie raising the roof at Tamshii Bar



A peaceful coexistence between Care Bears, crocs and superheroes



Waitangi Day is about compassion, tolerance, and a Kiwi can-do attitude

AUSTRALIA DAY / WAITANGI DAY

Tamshii Bar

Australia's official national day on January 26 can be a rowdy affair, but the crowds in Tamshii Bar were pretty tame this year.

blo*blo

Twelve days later on February 6, New Zealanders took over blo*blo, celebrating Waitangi Day, their national day.



Beached az bro!



Aussies Rowena and Rachael Murray and friends celebrated both Australia and Waitangi Day at blo*blo

* EAT & DRINK // restaurant review - manpukutei



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

KENICHI Takada (bottom right) has watched his Korean mother make Kimchi and other Korean dishes since he was a child. Growing up in Osaka's Korea Town, the 32-year old was brought up on dishes from Jeju Island, which is part of his ancestor's home country of South Korea. His family's recipes have been handed down from generation to generation and now Kenichi uses them in Manpukutei, which he only just opened this season in the lower village.

Kenichi is not only using his mother's recipes, but also the ingredients she sends him from Korea Town. From pork belly, Samgyeopsal, to thinly sliced beef, Bulgogi – Kenichi has all the Korean classics on his menu.

We start our dinner with a rich creamy oxtail soup. The carrots and other vegetables just melt in your mouth and so does the slowly cooked meat.

This is followed by Bibimbap, which is rice topped with chili paste, eggs and seasoned stone roasted

vegetables, including fern.

Everything is stirred together in one large bowl and eaten with a spoon. The fresh taste of the vegetables stands out and together with the rice and eggs makes a very filling dish. But that's only just the start of the feast, because Kenichi brings a large plate of Samgyeopsal, Korean bacon. The big juicy bacon strips are cut with scissors – a real Korean dining experience. We cut the meat in bite-sized pieces and dip it in spicy Korean chili sauce.

The Samgyeopsal is followed

by another main course, Bulgogi. This grilled beef dish is topped with sesame seeds and the dipping sauce is yet another of his mother's secrets. A crunchy radish salad with spicy Kimchi and cucumber wraps up the meal.

A large variety of beverages, including Korean Sake and Soju, help you digest the huge meal. Lean back and enjoy your drink while watching ski and snowboard movies on the big screen.

Its dimmed lights, wooden furniture and cosy ambience make Manpukutei a great place for spending an evening. You can either sit on cushions on the floor in real Korean style or be seated at a table with chairs. The menu is available in English with most dishes priced below ¥1000.

Booking Information //
Manpukutei is open everyday from 6pm to 11pm
T. 0136 55 8588
Location: 155-52 Aza Yamada Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun.
Map p.39, B4.

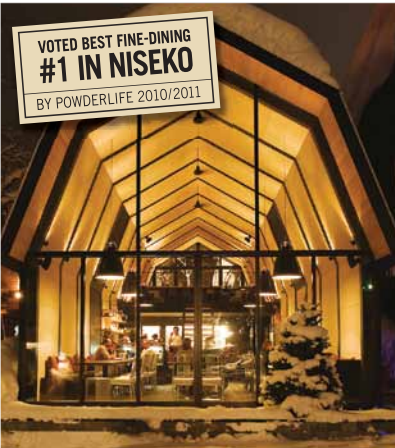
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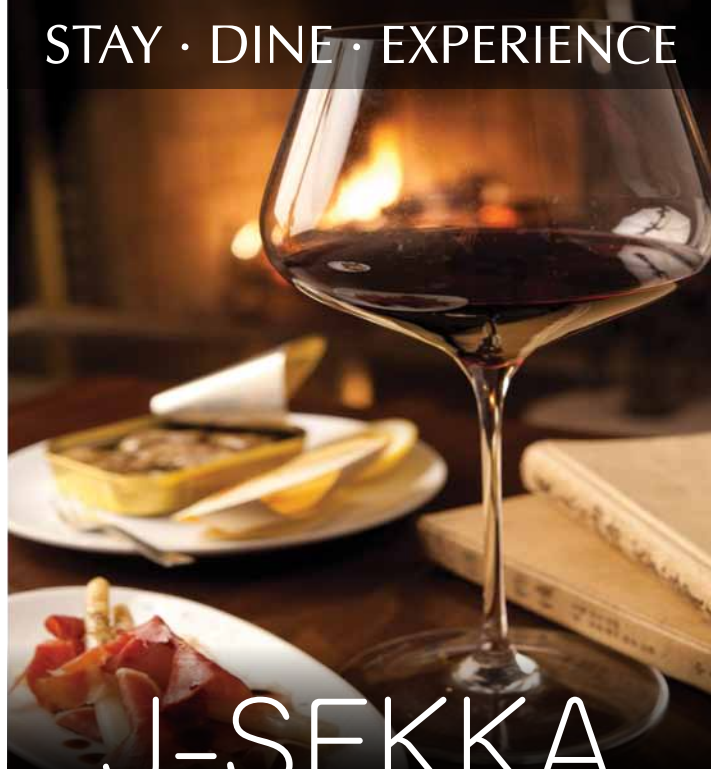
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* IRRASHAIMASSE // “welcome!” – great local businesses



PRATIVO, Niseko Village, Yuko Takai

Niseko-born Yuko Takai and her family opened Prativo, an Italian-inspired restaurant in Niseko Village in April 2011. Prativo is located on the edge of their dairy farm next to Milk Kobo, a popular Niseko landmark that sells house-made yogurt and desserts. Prativo means grassland in Italian, and in the summertime their land is covered in lush grass with a stunning view of Mt Yotei through the large windows in their restaurant. The dairy used at Prativo comes from their cows, and whenever possible they cook with local vegetables, meat, and seafood. For lunch you have the choice of one meat or seafood main, and an all-you-can-eat buffet of salad, roasted veggies, dessert, fresh juice, coffee, and their famous drinking yogurt for ¥1500. Lunch is from 11.30am to 2.15pm. Please call to confirm dinner hours and menu at TEL: 0136 55 8852.



高井裕子さんのニセコビレッジにある「Prativo」

2011年4月にオープンしたイタリア風レストランPrativoはニセコ生まれの高井裕子さんとその家族で営まれており、デリーファームの一角にレストランは建てられた。また、高井さん一家はニセコで有名な「ミルク工房」も営んでおり、ここではホームメイドのヨーグルトとデザートを提供している。Prativoはイタリア語で「草原」を意味しており、その名前どおり夏期はすばらしい草原に包まれ、レストランから見える羊蹄山の景色は最高に美しい。Prativoで使用される乳製品はすべて彼らの牛から採れるミルク、そして野菜、肉、魚類も地元の物を可能なだけ使用。ランチには肉か魚のメインどちらかのチョイス、そしてサラダ、デザート、フレッシュジュース、コーヒー、もしくは彼らの有名な飲むヨーグルトが食べ放題のブッフェは1500円となっている。ランチは11時30分から2時15分までとなっている。ディナーの時間やメニューについての問合せは 0136 55 8852. まで。

HOZUKI, Aza Hirafu, Ito Katsuya

Ito Katsuya, originally from Tokyo, came to Niseko 10 years ago. He used to run a restaurant in Hirafu Lower Village until early 2010 when he found a location for his restaurant that he couldn't pass up. By the beginning of the summer he opened Houzuki Udon Café, which is situated at the base of Mt Yotei on the road leading to Lake Hangetsu. Katsuya-san hand makes his udon every morning with Hokkaido wheat and water from Mt Yotei, and uses vegetables from nearby farms in his tempura. Houzuki is open for lunch between 11.30am-5pm, or until the udon sells out. He is closed on Mondays, and sometimes on Tuesdays. TEL: 0136 21 7711.

伊藤勝也さん字比羅夫にある「寶月」

東京出身の伊藤勝也さんは10年前にニセコへ引越して来た。伊藤さんは2010年の初め頃まで比羅夫のローアービレッジでレストランを営んでいたが夏には羊蹄山の麓の半月湖へ向かう途中にある素晴らしい場所で「寶月」をオープンした。勝也さんは北海道産小麦と羊蹄山の湧き水を使用し、毎朝うどんをこね、天ぷらに使用している野菜も近所の農場からの野菜である。「

寶月」は11時30分から5時まで売り切れるまでオープンしている。月曜日が定休日となっており、火曜日が不定休となっているので、事前に電話をして確認をしてみてください。問合せは0136 21 7711まで。





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Vegetarian

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Meat

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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

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M 30cm
2 - 3 people

L 45cm
4 - 6 people

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* REAL ESTATE NEWS // following the niseko market



Route 343 as it currently looks - February 2012

ROUTE 343 BOULEVARD MASTER PLAN

TWO major makeover projects are targeting the transformation of ski resort Hirafu into an attractive and active all-year round destination. Central to the idea is a change of face of two important roads in Hirafu village.

Work on the main street Hirafu-zaka, which leads to the ski lifts, is already underway and will result in an improved landscaped avenue. Underground power lines and utilities, heated pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, underground road heating and new building projects are among the main features. The Hirafu-zaka project will be completed in the next few years, and several members of the community are now looking ahead to also improve the main road that leads to and through Hirafu, Route 343. A future concentration of commercial, residential and recreational activities along this road in Hirafu is expected to boost the local economy and increase visitor numbers in all four seasons.

Matt Jones from Niseko Resort Design & Construction (RDC) highlights the importance of showing commitment to fostering international tourism. "We have made an excellent start with the upgrade of Hirafu-zaka and now need to follow through with 343. Eventually we hope to see not just 343 and Hirafu-zaka completed but the entire village, and with time and commitment from the relevant stakeholders this will happen," Jones says.

Architect and Urban Designer Riccardo Tossani has been developing concepts and is currently in talks with stakeholders and landowners along Route 343 – from Shiki to the Family Lift – to discuss seed funding for the creation of the master planned boulevard. "The support for the idea shown so far by the developers along 343 has been exceptionally encouraging, and with general community support this could become as

achievable as Hirafu-Zaka was in its implementation".

Tossani says they were successful in their pro-bono master plan of Hirafu-zaka as a means to generate public support and government funding and that he was also confident about the prospects for a new boulevard for 343. "These public revitalization projects will serve to add value to the whole village, and further enhance Hirafu and Niseko as a four-season, world class destination in the making."

The idea is to create an attractive location to promenade, in a key central village location, with the retail aspect being one of the most important factors in transforming the thoroughfare into a destination.

Jonathan Martin, Chairman of Niseko Alpine Developments (Nisade) says whilst activity driven, every resort needs to offer a range of possibilities for visitors to browse and shop. "The long term sustainability of Destination Niseko will revolve around the retailing experience as it does in every other destination resort globally", he says. "Route 343 is the lynch pin to retailing, the presentation and visual experience as you enter and move through and into Destination Niseko is absolutely critical."

Retail will play a big role in AP Land Berhad's new development Shiki, which is along route 343 and opens next season. Joint Managing Director Low Su Ming says the whole ground floor will showcase a variety of high-end shops as well as classy bars and restaurants. "Come December 2012, Shiki's 68 units will be the single largest service apartment block to be



Architect and Urban Designer Riccardo Tossani's proposed Master Plan area for Hirafu Boulevard.

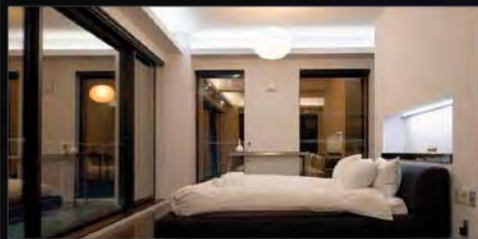
completed along Route 343, and it will be especially iconic due to the planned retail and restaurants at the entrance fronting Route 343", Ms Low says.

Shiki's upcoming retail and restaurant section is widely anticipated to enrich Hirafu's gateway, with established businesses hoping for more to come to make the area more attractive.

Up and running restaurant Monty's has been benefiting from its prime location along the route, with M Group's Peter Neo saying it's one of their best property investments. "Monty's being on 343 is a big plus. We are in the middle of the village, which gives us the advantage over many other properties around the ski resort."

While it's too early to mention possible new property constructions along the route, the news of a combined community effort to kick-start the makeover of the resort's gateway has come at a good time, especially with Grand Hirafu celebrating its 50th anniversary this season.

Ben Kerr, president of Niseko Real Estate sums it up: "With our new high-speed Gondola in operation and the Hirafu-zaka master plan also underway, it is exciting to see the Hirafu community now focusing on 343 street improvements. To be able to bury all power lines, and beautify Hirafu's main street would be wonderful. The Niseko experience only continues to improve!"



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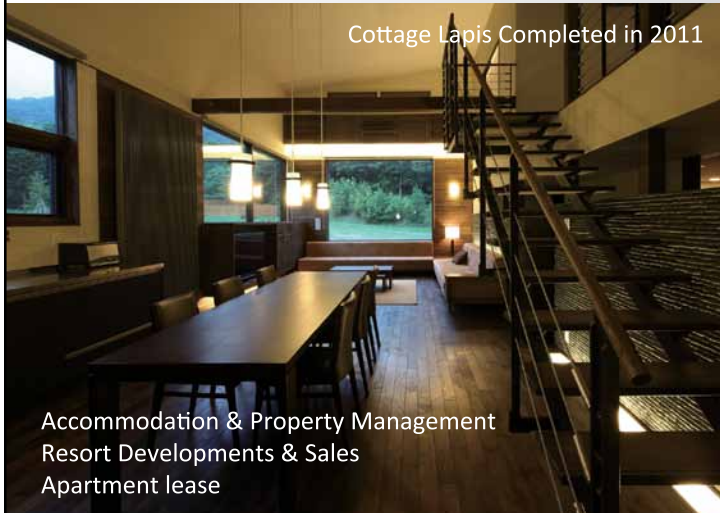
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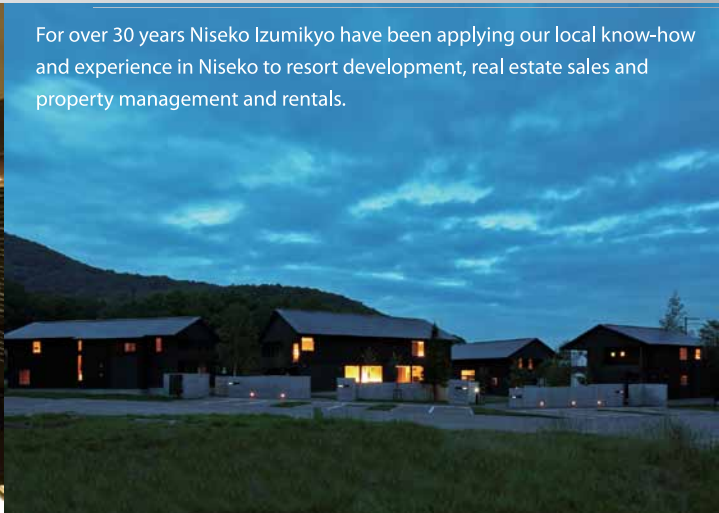
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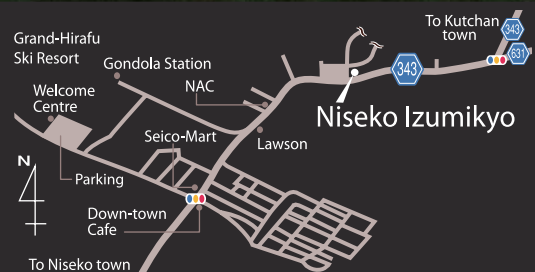


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photo // azza – niseko photography // location iwao north face // rider tatsumi kono

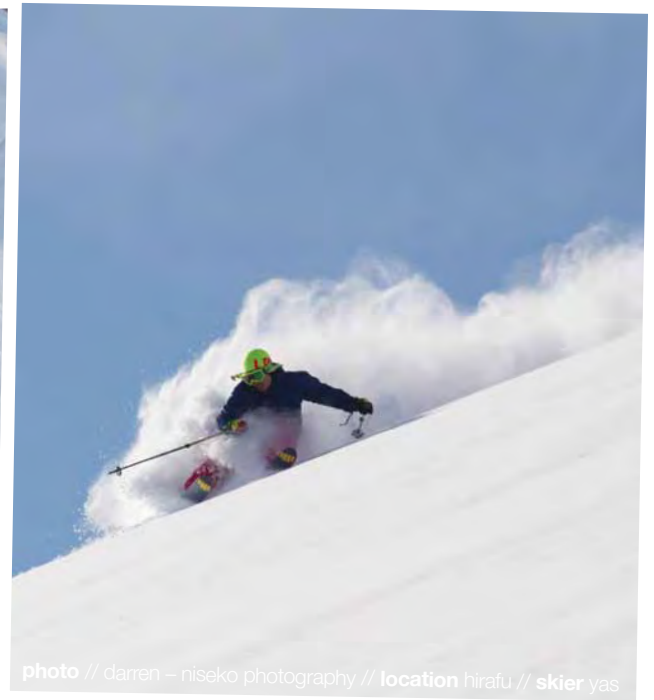


photo // darren – niseko photography // location hirafu // skier yas

* 1000 WORDS



photo // yasuyuki shimanuki – niseko photography // location hirafu peak



photo // glen claydon // location hirafu peak - fresh tracks



photo // glen claydon // location iwao-nupuri north face // skier ken shimizu

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* BACKCOUNTRY // stay safe on the mountain



photo // glen claydon

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

// 'Backcountry basics'

// 'Inside a 2-day avalanche course'

// 'Lost in the backcountry'

// 'How to build a snowcave'

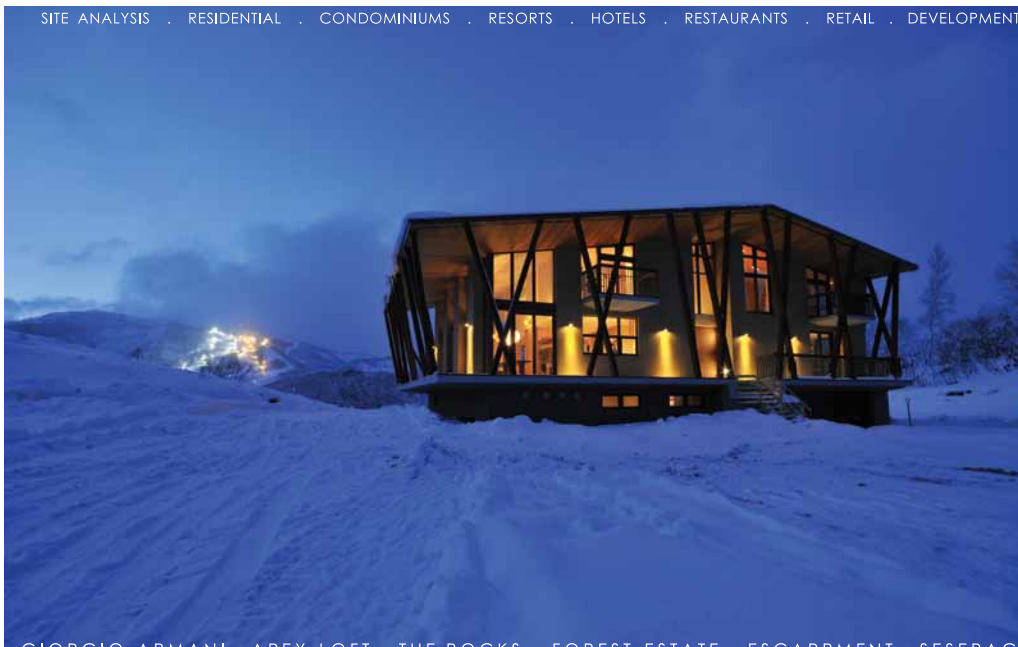
FREE BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION SEMINAR //

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 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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GIORGIO ARMANI . APEX LOFT . THE ROCKS . FOREST ESTATE . ESCARPMENT . SESERAGI . AKATSUKI . HANAZONO RESORT

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 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.



TOURIST INFO

Kutchan Information Centre

Plenty of brochures and English-speaking staff.
Location: Main Street, Kutchan (Map p.38, 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

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. ¥2300 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.

T: 0136 555 301
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 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.38, G3

MaxValu for all your food supplies.

Map: p.38, G3

Best Denki for all your electrical and technical needs. Map: p.38, C4

M-Pocket for imported groceries and alcohol.

Map: p.38, A3

¥100 store if you're on a budget

Map: p.38, 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.38, 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.38, 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)

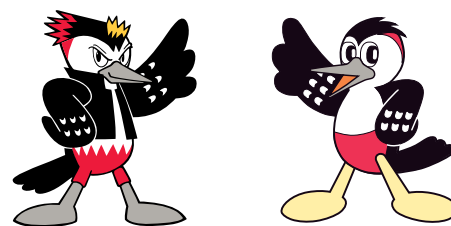
When available, compost bins are for food scraps. Though be careful, tea bags are not considered compost.

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
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).

RESORT 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.38, G7)

Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 3311 (Higashiyama map p.38, G7)

Niseko Grand Hotel

T: 0136 58 2121 (Annupuri map p.38, A8)

Kanro no mori - (private onsen available)

T: 0136 58 3800 (Annupuri map p.38, A7)

Niseko Kira no yu (in front 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 ...? toilet	... wa doko desu ka? 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

FOOD

RESTAURANTS & BARS

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

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

We take great pride in our fresh seafood



Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 5.30pm – 11.30 pm
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

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

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.ebcb.com

Have fun with our genki and laughing oden bar staff



Open daily
5pm – midnight

☎ 0136 22 6544

D2
p.39

GLOORIOUS Coffee

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

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



Open daily
8pm–4pm

☎ 0136 23 0164

FOOD RESTAURANTS & BARS

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.

www.nisekohalfnote.com

Hirafu's only jazz bar!



6pm-midnight
Open daily

☎ 0136 23 2727

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

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



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

☎ 0136 23 1432

E2 JAM Café Bar p.39 UPPER HIRAFU

Try our Jam special burger, and mega waffles with coffee for lunch. We serve various Izakaya style dishes at a reasonable price. More than 80 kinds of drinks are available.

www.jamcafebar.com

**Take away is available. Enjoy our
mouth watering home-made sweets!**



Lunch 11am - 3pm
(No lunch on Sunday)
Dinner 6pm - midnight
☎ 0136 23 0700

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

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

**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

**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

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



Day 10am-3pm
Evening 5-9pm
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 55 8588

B3 Maki Lounge

p.39 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

Japanese whiskey, sake and shochu by the fire



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

C3 Niseko So-an Yakiniku Restaurant

p.39 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

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



Open daily 5pm - 11pm (LO 10.30am)

☎ 090 2059 6701

C3 Niseko Pizza

p.39 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

Dine in, Take-away and delivery



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

D2 Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub & Restaurant

p.39 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.paddymcintysirishpub.com

Value Drinks, Hearty Meals, Live Sports and Music



Open daily 1pm till Late

☎ 0136 55 8020

B1 Restaurant LUPICIA Niseko

p.39 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

Euro-Japanese cuisine to accent the Hokkaido ingredients



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

C3 Steak Rosso Rosso

p.39 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

A must for steak lovers!



Dinner 6pm-11pm
Occasionally closed

☎ 0136 21 7100

D3 Splash Bar Niseko

p.39 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

Upcoming exciting events. Ask our friendly staff for details.



Winter Only - Open Daily 9pm-2.30am(L.O)

☎ 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

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

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.



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

Try Asahikawa Ramen with Gyoza

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

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

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 for Takeout before 7pm.

Online Orders given priority.

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 Bill's

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!



Open 7 days
5pm-Late
☎ 0136 55 5774

Come and enjoy our great food and music.

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

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.



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

www.blackdiamondtours.com

Niseko's backcountry powder specialists

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



3-7.30pm
Bookings essential

☎ 0136 23 0222

Reservation is required. Experience Japanese Culture !

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



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

Closest healing relaxation therapy spot to Centre 4 lift

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



8am-9pm

☎ 0136 21 6688

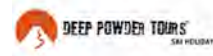
Kids are our speciality Hanazono and Hirafu

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

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



Available Everyday
Call to book

☎ 0136 22 5764

Niseko's professional photographers

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

www.nisekomassage.com



7 days
8am-8pm

☎ 0136 22 0399

Niseko's injury centre also providing sports & relaxation massage

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



8am-7pm
All year round

☎ 0136 23 1688

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

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.



8am – 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.



Daily
8am–9.30pm
☎ 0136 22 5677

www.mariposa.asia

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

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.



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

www.niseko343.com

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
1pm–7pm

☎ 0136 55 8585

www.nisekoculturalschool.com

Learn & experience Japanese Culture in Hirafu

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.



Open Daily
Midday – 10.00pm

☎ 0136 22 5764

www.nisekophotography.com

Photo gallery – fine-art prints and souvenirs

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

0136 23 4546

Reopened in 2010 on 2nd floor of Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen

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.



Daily
1–7pm in winter
☎ 0136 21 7007

www.sakura-niseko.com

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

I ♥ NISEKO

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

D2 Glen Claydon Photography

UPPER 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

na Hokkaido Services

NISEKO

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

www.hokkaidoservices.com



call John 8am-8pm

Innovative building solutions for Niseko

☎ 090 9756 7616

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@nisekorealtysales.com, or drop by our Hirafu office across from the SPLASH bar.

www.nisekorealtysales.com



8am-7pm
All year round

Secure your future in Japan's premier powder ski area

☎ 0136 23 2221

D1 Demo Equipment Hire

p.39

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

Multiple locations, wide equipment range, endless possibilities

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

C3 Hermosa Angel Massage

p.39

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

Relax and rejuvenate in the heart of hirafu

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

F7 Niseko Auto Rentals and Sales

p.38

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

D2 Travelplan

p.39

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

The world's best ski holidays

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



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 conditions, collisions with other people as well as natural and artificial hazards such as rocks, trees, stumps, 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. As you proceed downhill 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. Use proper technique and equipment. Ensure equipment is in good condition, and use it properly.
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, snowboard, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if you are unable to do so safely.
10. If you are involved in an accident, alert the Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to them.

KNOW THE CODE: IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Niseko Rules

The Niseko Rules are Niseko's official regulations created for the safety and freedom of everyone using the ski resort and riding beyond the ski area boundary.

- 1. CERTAIN CLOSED AREAS WITHIN NISEKO ARE STRICTLY OFF LIMIT AND ARE NOT TO BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME**
No Sawa Gully between Annupuri and Niseko Village area, and Haru no Taki (cliff area west of Hirafu) are "STRICTLY off limit areas" as well as the Niseko Rules. Those riding these areas WILL have their lift pass confiscated.
- 2. CROSSING ROPES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**
Ducking the boundary ropes is prohibited. If you do, your lift pass will be confiscated. Use ONLY designated gates to access out of bounds areas. Crossing gates 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 peak) are National Forests and parks, and are not controlled or supervised by the resort or the Ski Patrol. Niseko Rules prohibits that hiking and riding these areas is dangerous and if you choose to do, you do it AT YOUR OWN RISK.
- 4. BACK COUNTRY SKIING/RIDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WHEN GATES ARE CLOSED**
During extremely hazardous conditions, access gates will be closed and out of bounds riding will be strictly prohibited.
- 5. AVALANCHE CONDITION INFORMATION**
The "Niseko Avalanche 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**

Avalanche Control Operation 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

	Ski patrol
	AED
	Light
	Gate to uncontrolled area
	Mogul run
	Wave
	Half Pipe
	Park/Kicker, jib, etc.
	Lift ticket counter
	Rest room
	Phone
	Kid's room
	Restaurant
	Cafe
	Shop
	Information
	Rental
	Ski school
	Onsen (Hot Spring)
	Shuttle bus stop
	Parking lot

Un-groomed Slope
 Easiest
 More Difficult
 Most Difficult

Name of Slope
 Maximum / Average / Length
 Gradient / Gradient / Length

Number of seats
 Name of Lift
 Length · Time required
 · Number of lift ticket points

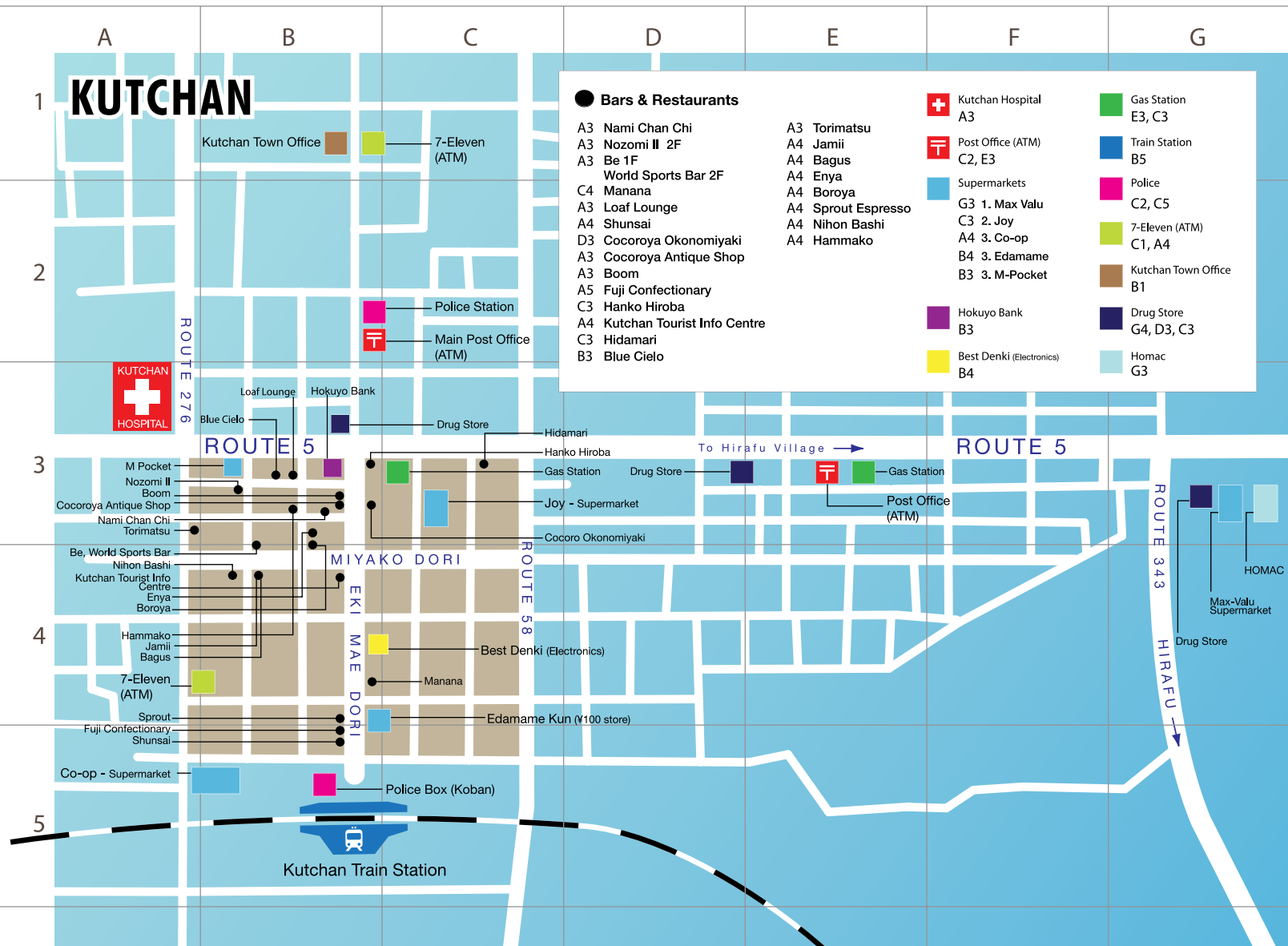
Ski area shuttle bus
NISEKO UNITED Shuttle
 The NISEKO UNITED Shuttle conveniently links each of the four ski resorts and is free to holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass. *The bus timetable is on "Niseko Resort Map" at lift ticket counters etc. *Holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass must present pass on boarding the bus. (12-point ticket holders forfeit 1 point). *Those without the All Mountain Pass can ride the bus for the regular fare.

Niseko Rules insist that all resort users respect and obey the instructions of the Ski Patrol and the Shirubeshi Mountain Patrol.

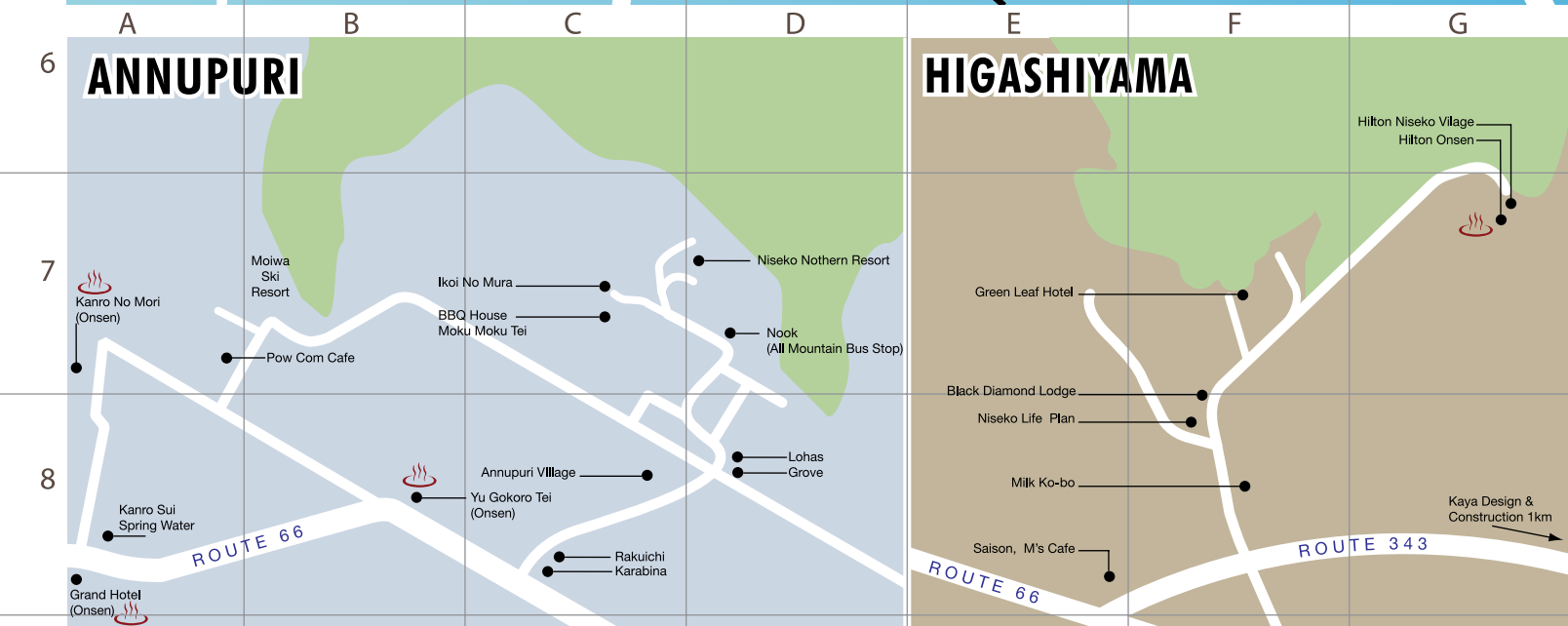
The Niseko Rules have been created with everyone's safety in mind. In order for everyone to remain safe, everyone must respect and follow these rules.

Niseko Rules are official regulations, established by the Niseko Annupuri Avalanche Prevention Committee, the Niseko Mountain Resort Safety Committee, the Niseko Free Passport Committee and the Hokkaido Shirubeshi Alpine Accident Prevention Committee.

©2010 YAMANO design



- 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
- T** Post Office (ATM) C2, E3
- S** Supermarkets
- G3 1. Max Valu
 - C3 2. Joy
 - A4 3. Co-op
 - B4 3. Edamame
 - B3 3. M-Pocket
- +** Hokuyo Bank B3
- +** Best Denki (Electronics) B4
- +** Gas Station E3, C3
- +** Train Station B5
- +** Police C2, C5
- +** 7-Eleven (ATM) C1, A4
- +** Kutchan Town Office B1
- +** Drug Store G4, D3, C3
- +** Homac G3

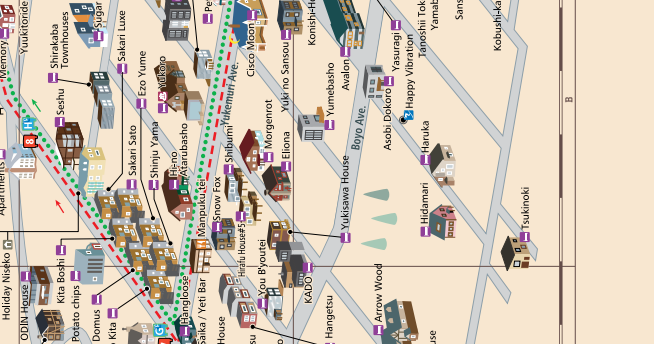
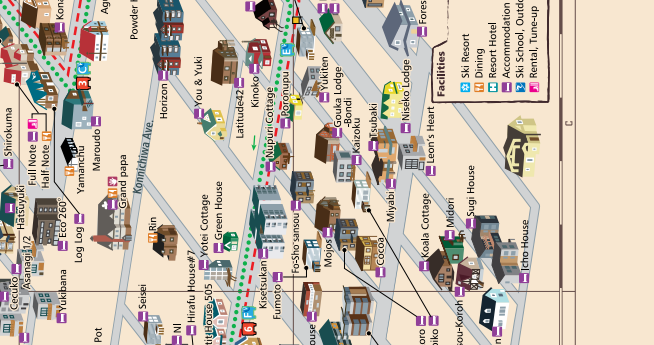
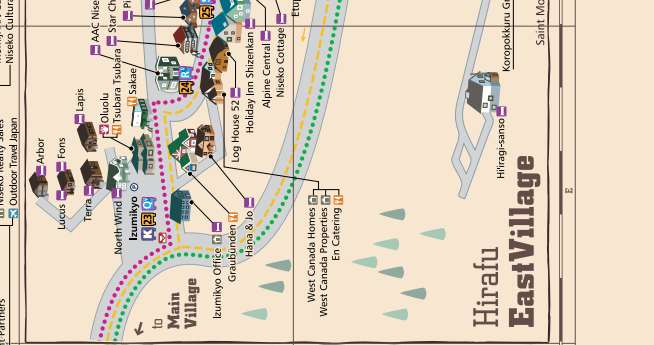
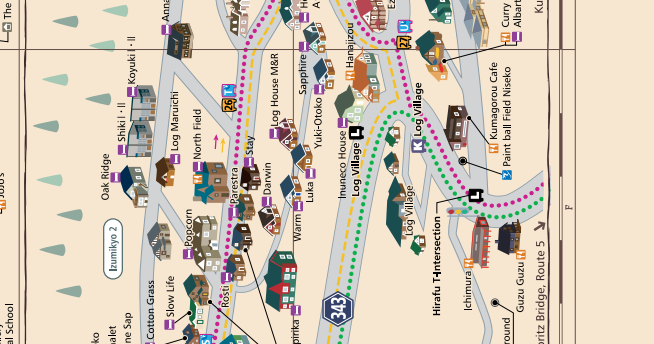
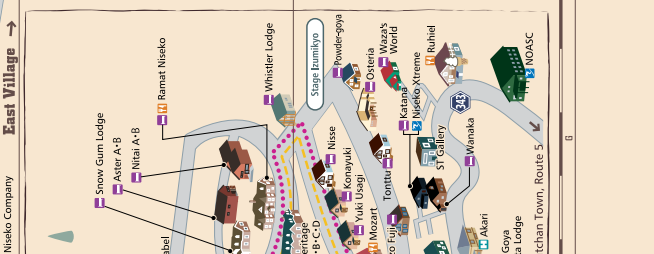
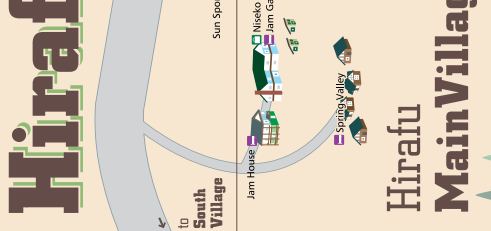
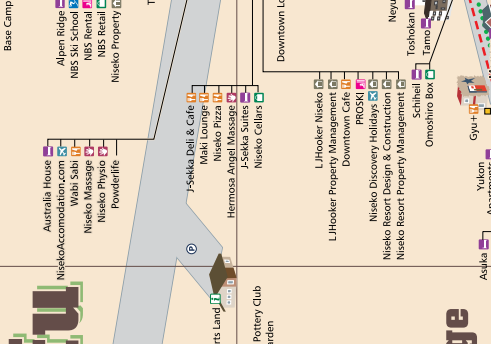
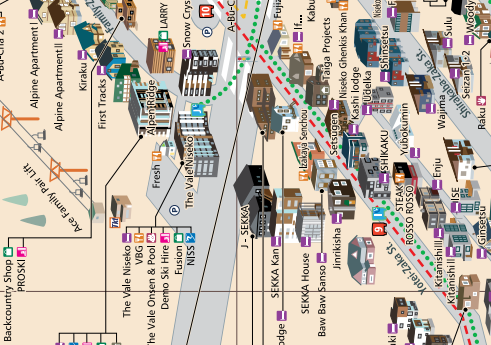
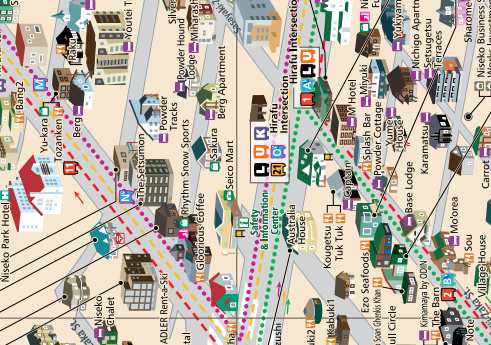
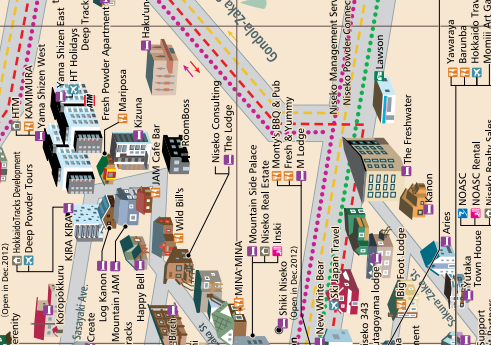
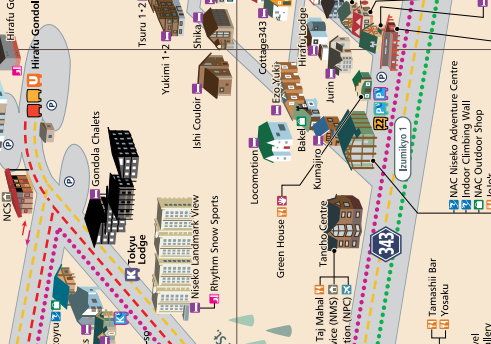
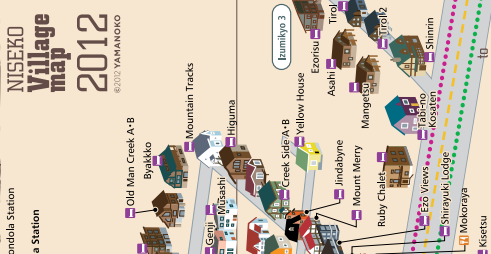
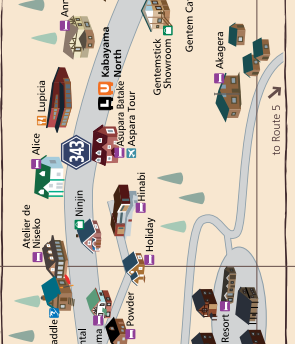
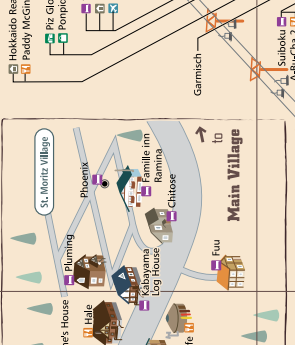
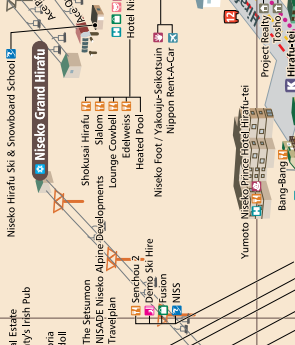
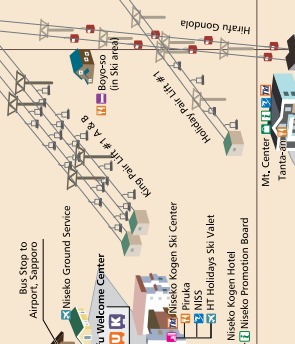


- A7 Kanro No Mori
- B7 Moiva Ski Resort
- B7 Pow Com Cafe
- C7 Ikoi No Mura
- C7 BBQ House Moku Moku Tei
- D7 Niseko Nothern Resort
- D7 Nook
- A8 Kanro Sui - Spring Water
- A8 Grand Hotel (Onsen)
- C8 Annupuri Village
- C8 Yu Gokoro Tei (Onsen)
- C8 Rakuichi
- C8 Karabina
- C8 Lohas
- D8 Grove
- G6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

Hirafu

2012 Village map

©2012 VANAKO



Hirafu South Village

Hirafu Main Village

Hirafu East Village

Bus route, bus stop

- Local Bus
- NISEKO UNITED Shuttle
- Kutchan Night Go
- Grand Shuttle - via Pension Village
- Grand Shuttle - via Izumiyoko
- Grand Shuttle - via Lower Village
- Hazono Shuttle - via Upper Village

Facilities

- Ski Resort
- Resort Panel
- Accommodation
- Ski School, Outdoor Activity
- Rental, Tune-up
- Shop, Indoor Activity
- Service Store
- Body Care
- Hot Spring
- Day Care Center
- Information Center
- Travel Company
- Lift Ticket Center
- Information Map
- Post
- International ATM (IE-2)

* TRAVEL FEATURE // mt aso



PHOTOGRAPHY AND WORDS BY // kerstin winter

There are not many places in the world where a tourist ropeway leads up to a steaming and regularly active volcanic crater. Mt Aso in Kumamoto prefecture on Kyushu island is not only the largest active volcano in Japan, but is also one of the biggest in the world.

The area of Mt Aso consists of a series of peaks located in a massive caldera with a circumference of around 120 km. It stretches beyond the city of Aso, which will be your starting point should you travel by train. Many people give public transportation and the ropeway a miss and hike or bike up to the peaks. It's well worth the effort, as you can stop by at horse ranches, cattle farms and quaint little villages on the twisted mountain pass.

While staying on the main mountain route, you get grand views of crystal clear lakes, cows

grazing on emerald green meadows and Mt Aso's lava landscape in the backdrop. On the way up, everyone will pass by the crater vestige Kusasenri, which is one of the most luscious green grass fields you can imagine. Most people stop here to have picnics at the lake or rent horses for a guided tour across the hills. From Kusasenri it's only a couple of kilometres to the place

“ There are several concrete emergency shelters dotted across the area should the volcano erupt. ”

everyone has come to see – Mt Aso's northernmost crater or crater number one. You can stand right on the perimeter, looking into the deep turquoise colour of the crater lake, whose lava temperature hovers between 1000 to 1200 degrees Celsius. At a 600m width and 130m depth, many signboards warn adventurers not to climb across the

boundaries. Some do though to collect the canary yellow igneous rocks, but these and other colourful rocks can be bought from the vendors along the main trail around the crater, which is a lot safer.

There are several concrete emergency shelters dotted across the area should the volcano erupt. Japanese officials have assured visitors that these shelters are

mainly used for picnics or as a cover from the rain, because the whole crater area is evacuated immediately if the volcano becomes too active. Warning systems are installed on the entire mountain range and all staff members are well trained at evacuation and other emergency procedures should the volcano erupt. That's unlikely to

happen, but the observation decks are sometimes closed, depending on the wind direction. Inhaling the toxic volcanic gases is a health hazard and the crater's fumes are closely monitored at all times.

If the crater is closed for a few hours, try and explore the peaks. Several trails will lead you through a rugged moon-like landscape with lava rocks, leading to the top of Mt Taka, which at 1592m is the highest of the five peaks that make up Aso's central cone group. The further up you hike, the greener and denser the vegetation becomes and you will come across waterfalls and wildlife.

If you're only there to look at the active crater, a couple of hours will give you enough time to walk the main trails and take pictures of Aso's highlights. But you can easily spend a whole week hiking the five peaks and doing some sightseeing in the surrounding rural areas without getting bored.



INDIAN RESTAURANT

タージマハール TAJ MAHAL

Since 1982



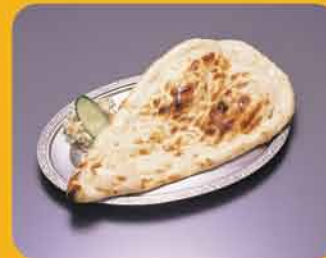
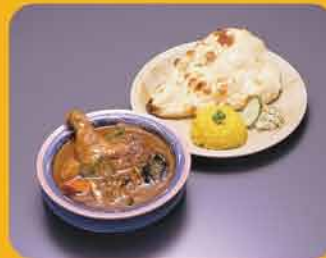
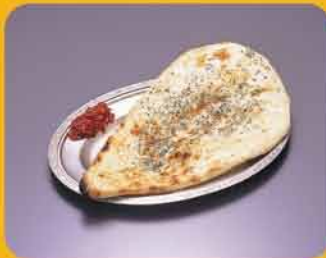
NISEKO BRANCH

**VEG &
NON-VEG**
available

All meats are
HALAL

**10%
OFF**
for take-away

**FREE
WI-FI**



**Namaste! We welcome our guests
and their families to enjoy an all
you can eat lunch buffet everyday
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* DISCOVER HOKKAIDO



INDOOR SURFING

FLOWRIDER is an indoor-wave-machine located inside Sun Palace Hotel's waterpark, on the banks of Lake Toya.

The wave is open for surfing during certain allotted times between 9am to 5pm. The wave is created by propeller pumps, which take water from a pool and inject a 3-inch sheet wave over a soft rubber surface. This creates a wavelike shape that you can ride on a boogie board.

Beginners can start on their stomach, intermediates can attempt to stand, and experts can carve all over the wave on their feet, and perform impressive tricks all whilst splashing the beginners.

The best part of FlowRider is watching people

wipe-out - it looks like some sort of cartoon character slipping on a banana peel. And no need to worry about hurting yourself. The foamy plastic that shapes the wave is soft enough to absorb the energy of impacts. FlowRider officials claim that the surface is "much like a trampoline, and helps to absorb the worst of impacts and makes you come back for more."

The Sun Palace Hotel complex on the shoreline of Lake Toya is about 75 minutes by car from Niseko.

Aza Toyako Onsen 7-1, Soubetsu-cho, Usu-gun, Tel: 0142 75 111



URYUNUMA WETLANDS

THIS wetlands area is one of Hokkaido's most unknown and stunning nature sights

The Uryu Swamp was recognized as the world's first mountainous wetlands area by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance – called the Ramsar Convention – on November 8, 2005. Uryunuma-shitsugen extends across four kilometres east to west and two kilometers north to south on a plateau at a height of 850m. From the boardwalks you can view the more than 100 alpine ponds, which dot the landscape of the swamp.

The wetlands are located in the Shokanbetsu Teuri Yagishiri Quasi-National Park.



SHIROGANE ONSEN VILLAGE

SHIROGANE onsen village is home to Shirogane waterfall and canyon as well as to the Blue River with its cobalt colour.

These popular sightseeing spots can be viewed from some of the hot spring baths. The area is not only popular for its hot springs, but also the starting point for climbing the mountains Tokachidake, Bieidake and Biei-Fuji.

Shirogane onsen is located in the highlands, 600m above sea level at the southern foot of Mt Tokachidake and southeast of the town of Biei. It is a 20-minute drive from Biei train station or about 80 minutes from Furano.

KUTCHAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

THIS museum offers an insight into Japanese lifestyle after WWII with special focus on the 1950s and 60s.

From reproduction of classrooms to vintage cameras – the collections show how fast life and technology changed during that time. The other major theme of the museum is Hokkaido's nature and wildlife.



- 01 SIT inside a 1960s Subaru 360.
- 02 IMAGINE walking through snow in rice straw shoes, like the locals used to do.
- 03 LEARN about the dangers of the Echinococcus multilocularis, that gets transmitted from foxes to rats to dogs and in 25 cases to humans last year in Japan.
- 04 TOUCH the fur of a squirrel and many other animals in the hands-on-displays.

Bus Stop: Ogawara Shu Kinen Bijutsukan North 6, East 7, Kutchan.

Open 9am - 5pm, Closed Tuesdays
Tel: 0136 22 66 31, Japanese only

family time. warm memories.



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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.



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