



SWS Mountain Guides
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Furano Backcountry Ski Tour 8 Day Ski Tour Hokkaido, Japan



The lodge-based tour will stay in the area surrounding Furano with its famous Ski Resort. Many areas offer skiing access, and we will be flexible with our particular daily destination. With this combination of quality snow in a fantastic place, this tour promises to be a lifetime ski trip.

What to Expect with Itinerary

Travel Day: Leave the US - Arrive in Sapporo the next day

Day 1: Sapporo: Getting to Hokkaido will involve a transfer from either Narita or Haneda airports in the greater Tokyo area. This implies a late arrival into Hokkaido (after 6:00 pm). We will pick you up at the Chitose airport in Sapporo and spend the first night in Sapporo.

Day 2: Furano: We will get up and drive three hours to Furano. The town is known as the "Navel of Hokkaido" for its central location on the island and makes an excellent base for other ski resorts and the Daisetsuzan National Park. We will start the trip with a half day of lift-assisted access to the side country using the Furano Ski Resort Gondola.

Day 3: Tokachidake: The Ainu, the indigenous people of Hokkaido, refer to the mountains of Daisetsuzan as "Kamui Mintara," or the "Playground of the Gods." Hokkaido's premier backcountry skiing area provides excellent alpine and tree skiing. One option is to ski the active Volcano of Mt Tokachi and finish in an outdoor spring with superb ski line views.



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Day 4: Asahidake: Asahidake is at 2,290m, the highest mountain in Hokkaido, and is also a live volcano. It's pretty awesome to ski by its conical-shaped crater with its multiple smoking fumaroles. On bright days you can see plumes of white smoke billowing from its many vents. We can either go to the summit or do laps on a cable car which lifts access to the tree line providing 600 meters of skiing through ancient forests of spruce that are 600 years old.

Day 5-6: Sandanyama and Maetokachi: Straight out from our ryokan, there is access to unlimited terrain surrounding the peaks of Sandanyama and Maetokachi. Depending on the group's preferences, we can hit steep chutes, birch forests, ridgelines, or bag a summit.

Day 7: Furano: Furano ski resort is one of the premier ski areas of Hokkaido and has steeper terrain than other areas of Hokkaido. Our last ski day will come full circle, and we can take an off-piste circuit out of the ski area boundaries, which provides 900 vertical meters of skiing each run. Easy access out of the resort and then egress makes for a big day of skiing.

Day 8 - Travel Day: Transfer day, where we return to Sapporo to allow everybody time to start their journey home or continue onto other venues!

Note: This is a general itinerary; we will follow this approximate schedule. But due to the nature of international travel, please remember to be flexible. This trip aims to balance an amazing cultural experience of Japan's Northern Island with providing the best possible skiing and mitigating natural hazards when possible. As a result, the guides will adjust the itinerary during the trip to give the best balance and experience possible for the group.

Dates & Prices: Check on our website at: [Dates & Prices](#)

Includes: Information support, professional guides, Local Transportation from and to Sapporo, Japan, all lodging, breakfasts and dinners, entrance fees to parks, permits, radios, and group technical equipment.

Food & Beverages: Additional food and beverage (including soda* and alcohol*) not included.

Not included: Airfare to and from Sapporo Japan*, lunches, snack food and beverages as noted above*, laundry, and personal skiing and touring equipment.

Group size: Limited to 8 skiers and two guides

Route: There are many areas that offer skiing access and we will be flexible with our particular daily destination. Each day the guides will pick a side country or mechanized objective that may include some ski touring. Route decisions are subject to change throughout the trip due to weather, skier ability, and avalanche/snow conditions.



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The level of Experience Needed: Skiers, for this trip should be experienced in backcountry ski touring and should be able to skin for at least one hour at a time in moderate terrain. For the downhill skiers should be experienced in a variety of conditions including powder skiing.

Physical Conditioning: Skiers – This trip includes both downhill and ski touring. To ensure you have the best possible experience we recommend some physical training for 6-8 weeks before departure. Should include cardio workouts such as running, swimming, versa climbing, and of course backcountry skiing for at least one continuous hour for three days a week.

Acclimatization: Unlike most of our international trips skiing in Japan is at or near sea level. The average altitude on this trip is below 4,000ft, so an acclimatization schedule is not necessary.

Equipment: Please follow the enclosed equipment list. It is vital you bring everything on the list. If you have any questions or would like to know about a possible substitution, please give our office a call.

General Precautions for International Travel: Japan does not require you to get a visa for stays less than 90 days. If you plan on staying longer than that before or after the trip, please check with the Japanese embassy before departure.

Immunizations: Immunization recommendations are constantly changing, so we recommend checking with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention before departure. Below is the CDC's travel information for Japan: [Japan Travel Information, Visa, Immunizations, Covid requirements](#)

Passports and other Documentation: You are **required** to have a **passport with six months before expiration with at least two blank page for Visa / Exit & Entry stamps** for travel in Japan and entrance back into the United States.

Not included in the cost of the trip: Airport Exit Taxes may not be included in your airline ticket, check with your airline.

Baggage Restrictions: Please check with your airline and point of departure for luggage restrictions. Departures from the US allow you to check two bags (not exceeding 50 lbs per bag) with one additional carry on not to exceed 40 pounds. The equipment on our list is under the weight and size restrictions for domestic airlines are leaving from the U.S. However, please check with your airline or travel agent when making your airline reservations, to avoid excess baggage charges, which can be expensive.

Meeting Location: We will be contacting you at least **14 days** before your departure with the name and phone number of the hotel in Sapporo, Japan, where you will be meeting your guides with instruction on how to get from the airport to the hotel. Depending on the arrival times of your flights, we may meet you at the airport; we will be in contact to discuss the options.



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International Expeditions & Treks: A 25% deposit is required to book International Expedition or Trek; an additional 25% deposit is required 90 days before departure, with the balance due 60 days prior to departure. If you cancel your reservation 90 days before your expedition or trek, a \$1,000.00 cancellation fee is required, and your expedition or trek fee balance will be refunded. Between 90-60 days before the course, a 50% cancellation fee is required, with the balance refunded. We are sorry, but NO REFUNDS are made within 60 days before the course starting date. **Travel Insurance Highly Recommended:** [Global Rescue & Travel Insurance](#)

Travel Insurance: SWS Mountain Guides strongly recommends that all participants purchase travel insurance to protect themselves from unforeseen circumstances. In addition, travel insurance can protect your investment in a trip if you must cancel at the last minute. SWS Mountain Guides recommends [Global Rescue & Travel Insurance](#) for your adventure travel & rescue insurance choice; they have many options & work with you to get you the best coverage.

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