



SWS Mountain Guides
110 Alpine St.
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Niseko Backcountry Ski Tour **8 Day Ski Tour Hokkaido, Japan**



Nestled on the northern island of Hokkaido, Niseko receives an average of 500 inches of snow annually providing some of the best powder skiing in the world. Our experienced ski guides will lead participants through the deep powder, exploring the resort's many black diamond and off-piste ski lines.

Niseko region of Japan is ideally located so that it receives a unique mixture of cold Siberian air and warm moisture from the Sea of Japan. The result is the best powder snow on Earth. The goal of the Niseko Backcountry Ski Tour is to balance the incredible cultural experience of Japan's northern island, with providing the best possible skiing the area has to offer. With this combination of quality snow in a fantastic place, this tour promises to be a ski trip of a lifetime.

What to Expect: This trip is a lodge-based backcountry ski trip. As such, we will stay each night in a hotel or traditional Japanese Ryokan with Tatami matted rooms, visiting open spas most evenings. Each day the group will travel from the lodge to another area to ski. While some days may be solely accessed by ski touring, most days will have at least some element of mechanized access via chair lift or other means. The group may move lodges multiple times during the trip to experience the best terrain and conditions available.

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



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Includes: Information support, professional guide(s), Local Transportation from and to Sapporo, Japan, lodging (double or triple occupancy - single supplement available), breakfasts (except arrival night in Sapporo), entrance fees to parks, permits, radios, and group technical equipment.

Food & Beverages: Breakfasts are included except for arrival evening in Sapporo. Additional food and beverages (including soda* and alcohol*) are 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. Airport Exit Taxes may not be included in your airline ticket. Check with your airline.

Group size: Limited to 8 skiers and two guides

Route: Many areas offer skiing access, and we will be flexible with our 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.

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. The downhill skiers should be experienced in various 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 backcountry skiing for at least one continuous hour for three days a week.

Acclimatization: Unlike most international trips, skiing in Japan is at or near sea level. The average altitude on this trip is below 4,000 ft., so an acclimatization schedule is unnecessary.

Equipment: Please follow the enclosed equipment list. You must 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.

International Travel Information: [General information about traveling to Japan for U.S. Citizens](#)

Immunizations: Immunization recommendations constantly change, 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.](#)



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Passports and other Documentation: You must have a **passport six months before expiration with at least two blank pages for Visa / Exit & Entry stamps** for travel in Japan and entrance back into the United States. U.S. passports do not need visas for short-term visits to Japan (**less than three months.**) Please check with the Japanese embassy before departure if you plan to stay longer than 90 days before or after the trip.

Baggage Restrictions: Please check with your airline and point of departure for luggage restrictions, including the size of ski equipment bags. Departures from the U.S. allow you to limit two bags (not exceeding 50 lbs per bag) with one additional carry-on to be at most 40 pounds. The equipment on our list is under the weight and size restrictions for domestic airlines leaving 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 contact 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 instructions 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 contact you to discuss the options.

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 before 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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ITINERARY FOR NISEKO JAPAN



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. Hotel for the evening.

Day 2: Lift access skiing Annupuri Peak Area. Apres at a local outdoor thermal hot spring called the Pool of Five Colors, Hotel for the evening.

Day 3: Rusutsu Resort side country ski access in Mt Yotei area, Hotel for the evening

Day 4: Backcountry ski access from Kiroro Resort - Hotel for the evening.

Day 5: Mount Yotei 1,900m ski tour and descent - Hotel for the evening.

Day 6: Chisenupuri offers skiing in the center of the Niseko volcano group - Hotel for the evening.

Day 7: Moiwa Resort is an excellent location to can access the Moiwa bowl and north facing slopes down the backside of the mountains. Hotel for the evening.



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Day 8: Transportation back to Sapporo to allow everybody time to start their journey home or continue onto other venues!

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

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Notes: