

powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

Issue 31 // Jan 22 to Feb 4 // 2011

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RESORT GUIDE
Your guide to Niseko – page 46



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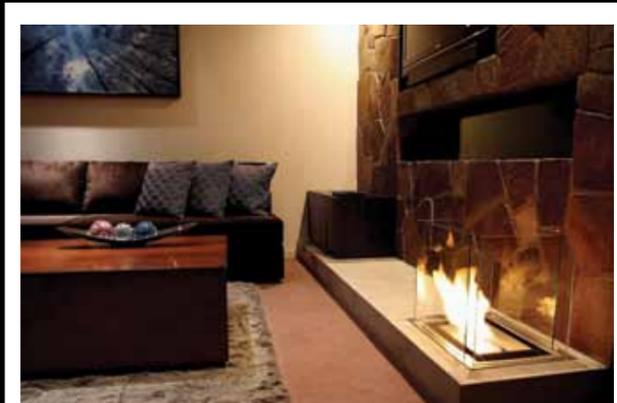




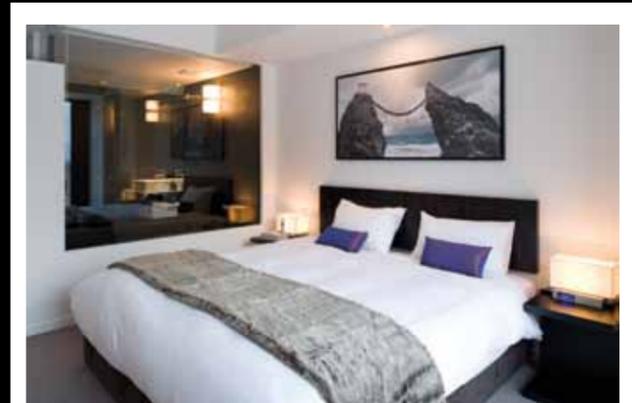
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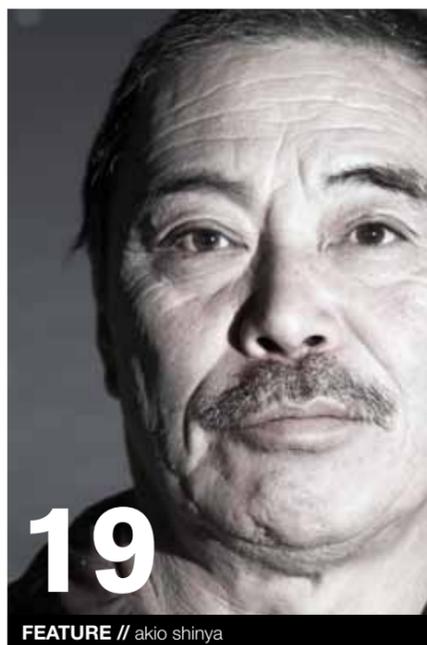
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Kishiwada Danjiri Matsuri

powderlife
NISEKO ニセコ

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Niseko's first English language periodical magazine – published every two weeks in Niseko between December and March, once a year as a globally distributed Niseko promotional issue (Powderlife Global Edition).

ニセコ初の定期刊行雑誌。冬季期間(12月~3月)は2週間に1回発行。冬季期間外はグローバルエディションとして一回発行。
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cover // joe corcoran photo // az, niseko photography

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* EDITOR'S NOTE



photography // niseko photography

BEFORE anyone arrives for first lifts in the morning, local avalanche expert Shinya-san (interview page 19) has already checked the weather forecast, Japan's coast-guard information, tested the snow and written his avalanche report for the day. His role in Niseko's mountain safety is undeniably one of the most important.

ON New Year's Day, Niseko had its first avalanche fatality in 12 years when an experienced skier made a poor decision to hike the back bowls during a high-risk time. For those wanting to go back country this year, please be careful. Black Diamond Lodge runs a backcountry seminar every Tuesday (see details page 45), which is great way to get a basic understanding of backcountry skills and avalanche awareness. Shinya-san's daily report, written in both English and Japanese, is also mandatory reading for those going backcountry – you can find it at <http://niseko.nadare.info>.

On a lighter note, Kong Hee Fatt Choy (happy new year!) This issue of *Powderlife* coincides with the beginning of Chinese New Year (February 3). Growing up with a Malaysian/Chinese father, I have fond memories of Chinese New Year and I'm glad I can still experience the excitement of this event whilst living in Japan, as a steady flow of Chinese guests enjoy their holiday in the snow.

The Year of The Rabbit is traditionally associated with home and family, artistic pursuits, diplomacy, and keeping the peace. It's predicated that 2011 is likely to be a calmer one than 2010 both on the world scene, as well as on a personal level. We hope you enjoy this issue of *Powderlife* and wish you a very happy, safe and prosperous Year of The Rabbit.

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

毎朝、スキーヤー、スノーボーダー達が朝一番のリフトに乗り込む前までに、ニセコ雪崩調査所の雪崩エキスパートである新谷氏 (19ページのインタビュー記事参照) は、天気予報、海上保安庁の気象データ、積雪状況を確認し、ニセコなだれ情報レポートを書かれます。ニセコの山の安全を考えるにあたって、新谷氏の役割はまぎれもなく重要なものです。

過去12年間ニセコでは雪崩による死亡事故はありませんでしたが、残念なことに2011年元日に雪崩による死亡者が報告されました。死亡されたのは経験豊富なスキーヤーでしたが、雪崩のリスクが高い日に鉢山の沢(バックボウル)を登ったことが今回の事故につながったと思われます。悪天候、気象条件を考慮していればこのような事故は防げたかもしれないと新谷氏は言われます。今年こそバックカントリーを楽しみたいと考えている人々は十分に気をつけてください。ブラックダイヤモンドロッジでは、毎週火曜日に無料の雪崩事故防止講習会を開いています(45ページ参照)。この講習会では、バックカントリーに必要な最低限の技術を学び、そして雪崩への認識を高めることができます。また、新谷氏によるニセコなだれ情報デイレリポート (<http://niseko.nadare.info>) は日本語と英語で書かれています。バックカントリーに出かける際には必ずお読みください。

明るい話題ではチャイニーズニューイヤー (旧正月) があります。『恭喜發財』(広東語での新年のあいさつ)! 今号のパウダーライフは奇遇にも2月3日のチャイニーズニューイヤーの期間と一致しています。中国・マレーシア系の父を持つ私にとってチャイニーズニューイヤーは、特別で楽しい思い出がたくさんあります。ニセコに来られる多くの中国人観光客がお正月休暇を楽しまれる様子を見る事によって、父の母国から遠く離れた日本に住む私もチャイニーズニューイヤーの雰囲気を感じることができ嬉しく思います。卯年は家族、芸事、社交、平和の維持と深く関係しています。2011年はきっと2010年よりも世界情勢、パーソナルライフの上で穏やかであることでしょう。

今号も皆様がパウダーライフを楽しんでいただいていることを願っています。皆様が幸福で安全で、そして多くの栄えある卯年を送られますように。

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

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



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MAINSTREET REMODEL STARTING 2011
THE NEW HIRAFU MAIN STREET coming soon

* VILLAGE NEWS



PLENTY OF JAZZ

NoJazz, the French nu-jazz five-piece are coming back to Niseko again after rave reviews and sold-out performances last year.

THE band fuses a combination of electronic synthesised sounds and beats, with organic horns, saxophones and percussion, into a wildly energetic stage performance. It's a rare

occasion to have an international live band perform in Niseko, and the live-music starved locals came out in force to see them last year. This year NoJazz will be performing three shows at The Barn, and hopefully a finale show at a much bigger venue.

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SNOW SEARCH JAPAN

THIS Lonely Planet-esque travel publication is tailored specifically for people interested in skiing or snowboarding in Japan. The 2010 IPPY Award winning guide covers the basics of travel in Japan, as well as getting in-depth on all the nitty-gritty details on most resorts in Japan worth mentioning. Resorts are reviewed on their powder and backcountry, their park and their groomed areas. It's worth mentioning that Niseko United was given the highest overall score, with five-stars for both powder and park, and four-stars for piste!

HIRAFU SNOW WEDDING

DURING December, Hong Kong based couple Athena and Alan Kwok were on their annual Christmas trip to Niseko and decided to take some snow-themed pre-wedding photos before their 'big day' in The Maldives. Alan says "This is definitely not as easy and straight forward as we thought, and we (especially the bride) have to make special arrangements for gowns and outfits." Local photographer Hiro showed the couple around and managed to get some great pictures.



LOCAL VOICES

Name Abi Duncan **Age** 29 **Hometown** Dumfries, Scotland **Time in Niseko** Second winter **Ski or board and for how long?** Snowboard, 11 years **Favourite restaurant?** Vale Bar & Grill **Favourite bar?** blo*blo **Favourite onsen?** Vale **Favourite ski run?** Miharashi **Local secret?** Edamame at Mina Mina **Place to ski before you die?** Fernie, BC Canada

名前 アビ ダuncan 年齢 29 歳 出身地 ダムフリース、スコットランド ニセコ年数 2シーズン スキー、スノーボード 暦 スノーボード 11年 お気に入りのレストラン ザ・ヴェールバーアンドグリル お気に入りのバー ブロブロ お気に入りの温泉 ヴェール 好きなゲレンデコース 見晴らしコース ニセコの秘密 ミナミナ の茶豆 死ぬ前に行きたいスキー場 ファーニ、BC カナダ



Name Tomonao Kurachi
Age 26 **Hometown** Niseko Town **Time in Niseko** 26 years (working at Annupuri for 6 years) **Ski or board and for how long?** Both, 10 years **Favourite restaurant?** Graubunden Izumikyo **Favourite bar?** Aoi Tori, Niseko **Favourite onsen?** Ikoi no Mura, Annupuri **Favourite ski run?** Dynamic Course **Your fortune cookie saying?** Go with the flow **Place to ski before you die?** Australia, to see how different the snow is
名前 クラチ トモナオ 年齢 26歳 出身地 ニセコ町 ニセコ年数 26年 (6年間アンヌプリの索道) スキー、スノーボード 暦 スキー 10年、スノーボード 10年 お気に入りのレストラン グラウブunden お気に入りのバー 青い鳥 ニセコ町 お気に入りの温泉 いこいの村 アンヌプリ 好きなゲレンデコース ダイナミックコース 人生の格言 臨機応変 死ぬ前に行きたいスキー場: オーストラリアの山 (ここの違いを知りに)。



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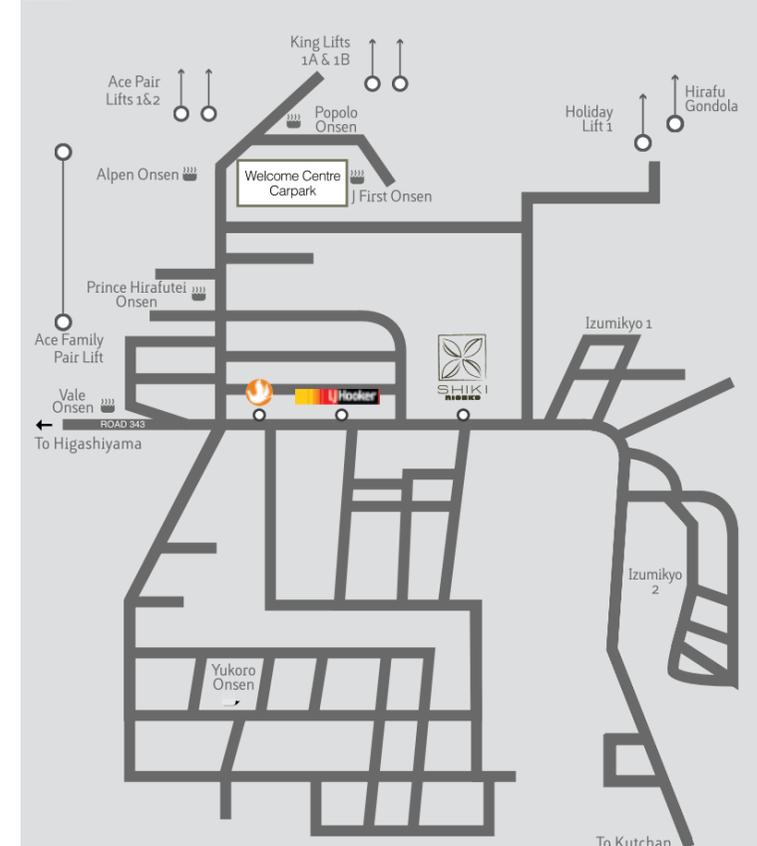
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* DISCOVER

EXPLORE KIRORO

BELIEVE it or not, Kiroro pips Niseko for the crown of 'Hokkaido's snowiest resort'. Reports can be contradictory, but those in the know would tend to agree.

WHILE not as large as the expansive Niseko resort area, it still has a reasonable and varied amount of groomed runs to suit all levels. And for the more adventurous looking to explore, there are some great pockets of accessible off-piste powder, if you know where to look.



01 SKI or snowboard Kiroro, at the resort's special Powder Zone and Premiere Cruise area.

02 UNWIND with an après drink (or two) and look out on the beautiful mountains in the resort from Lecca Bar.

03 SNACK on a delicious, cream-filled Melon-pan baked treat made fresh inside the Mountain Center.

04 THRILL your senses on a snowmobile cruise, or alternatively relax in one of the two onsens in Kiroro.



BACKCOUNTRY CAT TOUR

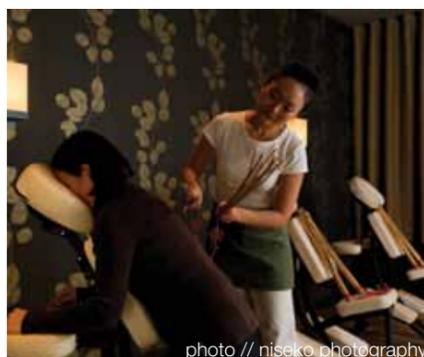
Want to ride untracked lines all day, without hiking or blowing a week's salary?

THIS season, Niseko Photography and Glen Claydon Photography are collaborating with Niseko Snowmobile Adventures (NSA) to offer a combined backcountry experience fit for professionals, with the added bonus of a professional photographer coming along to capture the day. Riders are provided with all necessary backcountry

equipment, and supervised by professional guides with first-aid experience.

NSA operates out of its expansive Kanbetsu base, just 15 minutes outside of Kutchan. They have access to a huge amount of terrain to really push experienced riders, however due to the nature of backcountry terrain, beginner and intermediate riders aren't suited to this style of tour. For more information or bookings, contact Glen Claydon Photography or Niseko Photography (see p.55 & p.54 for contact details).

BAMBOO TAPPING



ORIGINATING 1500 years ago in the countryside of China, bamboo tapping is believed to disperse wind and cold from the body. It involves a practitioner tapping sticks of bamboo whilst you lie face down or as you sit upright in a massage chair. It feels quite strange at first but it's surprising relaxing. The tapping is designed to get your blood flowing and relax your senses. Combined with deeply effective acupressure point massage, this treatment helps enhance immunity, and improve blood circulation and is available at The Green Leaf Spa Niseko Village.

HANAZONO ZIPLINE

THE Hanazono zip-line, alternatively known as a flying fox to those from down-under, was constructed during the green season and has remained open for winter. It stretches about 200 m down a gentle slope in front of Hanazono 308, with a maximum height of about 15 m above the ground. It's a very smooth experience; gentle, scenic, and with just a little bit of extreme thrown in at the end. A single ride costs ¥1000, or alternatively a 30-minute pass is available for ¥1500. It's a great activity if you feel like a quick break from skiing and snowboarding.



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*** IN THE LOOP**

<h1>JAN 2011</h1>	<p>22 Three Skins Live スリースキンズライブ</p> <p>Three piece rock outfit, Three Skins are coming to rock'n'roll. A high energy band that create a great atmosphere. スリースキンズは軽快なロックンロールトリオです。エネルギッシュな演奏をお楽しみください。</p> <p>Start // 8:00 pm Place // Wild Bill's Contact // 0136 55 5774</p>	<p>23 Esmie エスミ</p> <p>Esmie from Sapporo sings a wide range of songs: pop, jazz, gospel, soul, R&B. Her powerful and beautiful voice will grab your heart. ジャズ、ポップス、ゴスペル、ソウル、R&Bとレパートリーは広く、彼女の力強く美しい歌声はあなたの心をつかんで離さないことでしょう。</p> <p>Start // 9:00 pm Place // Half Note Contact // 0136 23 2727</p>	<p>24 Yeti Bar X Ebisu Tei イエティバーとえびす亭</p> <p>A cocktail and culinary collaboration in the lower village by Ebisu Tei Restaurant providing the food, and Yeti Bar making the drinks. フードを提供するえびす亭、ドリンクを作るイエティバーによる共同コラボレーションです。</p> <p>Start // 7:30 pm Place // Yeti Bar Contact // 080 4040 4470</p>
	<p>26 Australia Day Party オーストラリアデー</p> <p>Vegemite sandwiches, Australian beers, and Triple J Hottest 100 streaming live. ベジマイトサンドイッチ、オーストラリアンビール、およびトリプルJのミュージックをお楽しみください。</p> <p>Start // 10:00 am Place // Après Bar Contact // 080 6081 4242</p>	<p>27 Acoustic Music Night アコースティックナイト</p> <p>Live acoustic music in the comfort of Java Bar, relax and unwind with friends. ダーシーフォードがアコースティックミュージックを奏でます。</p> <p>Start // 6:30 pm Place // Java Bar Contact // 0136 23 0788</p>	<p>28 GLOORIOUS Snowman グロリアス雪だるま作り</p> <p>They are recycling the take away cups to create a new out fit each week for their Snowman. Come in and grab a delicious cup of Premium Lavazza Coffee, and help dress our naked snowman! テイクアウトの紙コップを利用してお店の前にある大きな雪だるまに飾り付けを手伝ってください。</p> <p>Start // from 10:00 am Place // Rhythm Snowsports Contact // 0136 23 0164</p>
<p>29 CMH Heli-skiing カナダヘリスキー情報</p> <p>Exclusive Niseko information evenings about heli-skiing in Canada, includes free arrival drink. Every Saturday in January. 毎週土曜日、アルペンホテル(2F)のバーエデルにて行ないます。</p> <p>Start // 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Place // Bar Edel at Alpen Hotel (2F) Contact // 0136 21 5354</p>	<p>30 Kissmark Bag Jump Mania キスマークバグジャンプマニア</p> <p>Big-Air Competition on Hanazono's bag jump. There are professional and amateur categories. 花園のバグジャンプにて大会を行います。プロ、アマチュアのカテゴリがあります。</p> <p>Start // 8:00 am Place // Hanazono Ski Resort Contact // 011 530 9121</p>	<p>31 Jaga Rail Jam ジャガレールジャム</p> <p>Rail jam for skiers and boarders. Peer voting and guest judge to pick finalists and 2011 title holder. Free transport. Afterparty at Wild Bill's. 1月に再び行ないます。スキーヤーボーダー入れ混ざってのコンペです。無料の送迎バスあります。アフターパーティーはワイルドビルズで。</p> <p>Start // 4:00 - 9:00PM Place // Country Resort Contact // 080 4358 0882</p>	
<p>02 Brick Club Party Night クラブパーティーナイト</p> <p>Regular club party nights held at The Brick every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night. ¥500 Entry. 毎週・月・水・金曜日ダンスパーティー。エントリー500円</p> <p>Start // 9:30 pm - very, very late Place // The Brick</p>	<p>03 Japanese Cultural Tour 日本文化体験ツアー</p> <p>Tour of Japanese cultural activities, including special bonus event, setsubun ceremony, that involves throwing beans at demons and ogres to ward off bad luck and encourage good fortune. For more information, see p. 53</p> <p>Start // 3:00 pm Place // Meet at Seicomart Carpark Contact // 0136 23 0222</p>	<p>EBIS FILMS 'PERSONA' PREMIERE</p> 	
<p>02-04 NoJazz Live ノージャズ</p> <p>Parisian Nu-Jazz five piece are back in Niseko for another tour, that will no doubt be one of the best parties of the season. Tickets ¥2000 パリから、あのファンキーな5人がニセコに戻ってきます。シーズンで1番のパーティをお見逃しなく チケット2000円</p> <p>Start // 9:00 pm Place // The Barn Contact // 0136 23 0888</p>	<p>24 EBIS FILMS 'PERSONA' PREMIERE</p> <p>Time: Doors open @ 7:30 pm. Movie starts @ 8:00 pm. Price: FREE. Get in early to get a seat. Details: A ski and snowboard lifestyle-documentary-slashfest created here in Hokkaido, with familiar landscapes and people, including Gentemstick's Tamai-san and Niseko's Shinya-san. The film has been specially subtitled in English for this screening. Place: Kushi, Sekka Contact: lizzy@powderlife.com 時間: 会場 - 7:30pm, 上映 - 8:00pm 入場: 無料です。早めの来場をお勧めします。 詳細: スキーとスノーボードライフスタイルドキュメンタリー上映会。ここ北海道では、Gentemstickの玉井さんとニセコ雪崩調査所の新谷さんを含む身近な人々を取り上げています。英語字幕あり。 場所: Kushi, Sekka コンタクト: lizzy@powderlife.com</p>		

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* SNAP



Name // Funaki Kazufumi

WHAT are you wearing today? Kazu is off to ride ura-miharashi, and with his bright green Oakley outerwear, there is no chance that his mates will lose him in the trees.



Name // Oishi Ayano

WHAT are you wearing today? Ayano, from Wakkanai in the far north of Hokkaido, is looking great in some very colourful Burton outerwear



Name // Hasegawa Taichi

WHAT are you wearing today? Taichi had just arrived in Niseko to enjoy a long weekend of snowboarding in his bright and bold Oakley jacket and matching pants.

Question // What do you love about Niseko?



MANUELA Cappellini and Jack David from Switzerland and Sydney love night skiing after a day at work.



CAROLINE Holdstock from Australia loves Niseko's snow, as well their luxury apartment and the convenience of the town.



HIDEKI, Tomo and Kazu from Hokkaido and Osaka love snowsurfing in Niseko's powder. Almost as good as real surfing!



NICK Jones and Lindsay Crawford from Canada love Niseko because they learnt to snowboard here. And the pizza!

INSKI STACK



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* FLASH



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NEW YEAR'S EVE

GRAND HIRAFU //

Niseko Grand Hirafu finished 2010 with hundreds of crazy characters skiing and snowboarding down the slope in front of Kogen Hotel with flaming torches, and ringing in the new year with a fantastic fireworks display.



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



CANTI, Kutchan, Yasue Yamamoto

ATTRACTED to the powder snow and business opportunities, Yasue Yamamoto moved to Niseko 20 years ago with her ex husband. They worked together at Big Cliff, which closed down and then Yasue went to Sapporo to learn more about beauty services. Last year, she returned to Kutchan to start Cantik (pronounced Shanti). Yasue believes there are many people stressed out from work here and that the ladies in the area want beauty treatments but don't have time to go to the city. She enjoys pampering and making people feel relaxed. In the future she hopes that her shop will continue to be a place where seasonal workers and locals can relax.

山本八寿恵さん チャンティ 倶知安

パウダースノーとビジネスチャンスに引き付けられ、大阪から山本八寿恵さんがニセコにやってきたのは20年前。当時働いていたビッククリフが閉店されたのをきっかけに、以前より趣味だったネイルや美容関係の勉強を本格的にしようと札幌に修行へ、その後、一昨年前に現在のチャンティを開店した。多くの女性が、冬の忙しいニセコの生活の中で、仕事によるストレス、サロンに行きたくても都市に行く時間を持ってない、ニセコでは予算内で美容を受けることができない等の悩みを抱えている。これを八寿恵さんはどうにか解決したいと、リーズナブルで満足いくサロンを年間を通して提供できる倶知安に場所を選んだ。日本全国、世界各国さまざまな地方からの移住者がいるニセコ地域には、多くの将来性、可能性を含んでいる。そんな忙しいニセコで働くスタッフや地元住民がメンタルと身体の両面でリラックス出来る癒しの場所を提供していきたいと語った。

PADDY MCGINTY'S IRISH PUB, Hirafu, Mayumi Kutsumi

A WELL-KNOWN face around town, Mayumi Kutsumi moved to Niseko, after living in Sapporo, in 1998. During the summer and winter, you can find Mayumi in the bar pouring pints of Guinness, serving up delicious Irish fare and making sure everyone is happy. Before owning Paddy McGinty's, she was the marketing manager at Harmony Resorts for four years – she is still a consultant for the company. Even though she had never worked in hospitality before, Mayumi started running Paddy's because she thought it would be a good challenge. Attracted to the area's beauty, clear air and tasty spring water, Mayumi hopes that Niseko will become world-class and that more people visit the area.

九津見真由美さんパディーマクギンティーズアイリッシュパブアッパーヒラフ

東京出身の九津見真由美さんが、札幌での生活を終えニセコに移住してきたのが1998年。現在、年間を通してここパディーマクギンティーズで、全てのお客様が満足していることを確かめるように、美味しい地元農家の野菜をふんだんに使ったアイリッシュ料理を提供し、クリーミーなギネスビールを注いでいる真由美さんを見かけることができる。飲食業の経営は初めての経験で、大きなチャレンジだったと話す真由美さん。海外で多くのリゾートを訪れ、接客の品質の必要性を常に感じていたという。4年間の日本ハーモニーリゾートでのマーケティングマネージャーとしての経験、人脈の形成、接客術を生かしてこの挑戦に挑んでいる。多くの人々が、ニセコの魅力である自然、美味しい水、新鮮な空気そして食べ物に引き付けられてやってくる。そんなニセコを国際的リゾートとして、世界に通用するホスピタリティーが提供できる場所になってほしいと語った。

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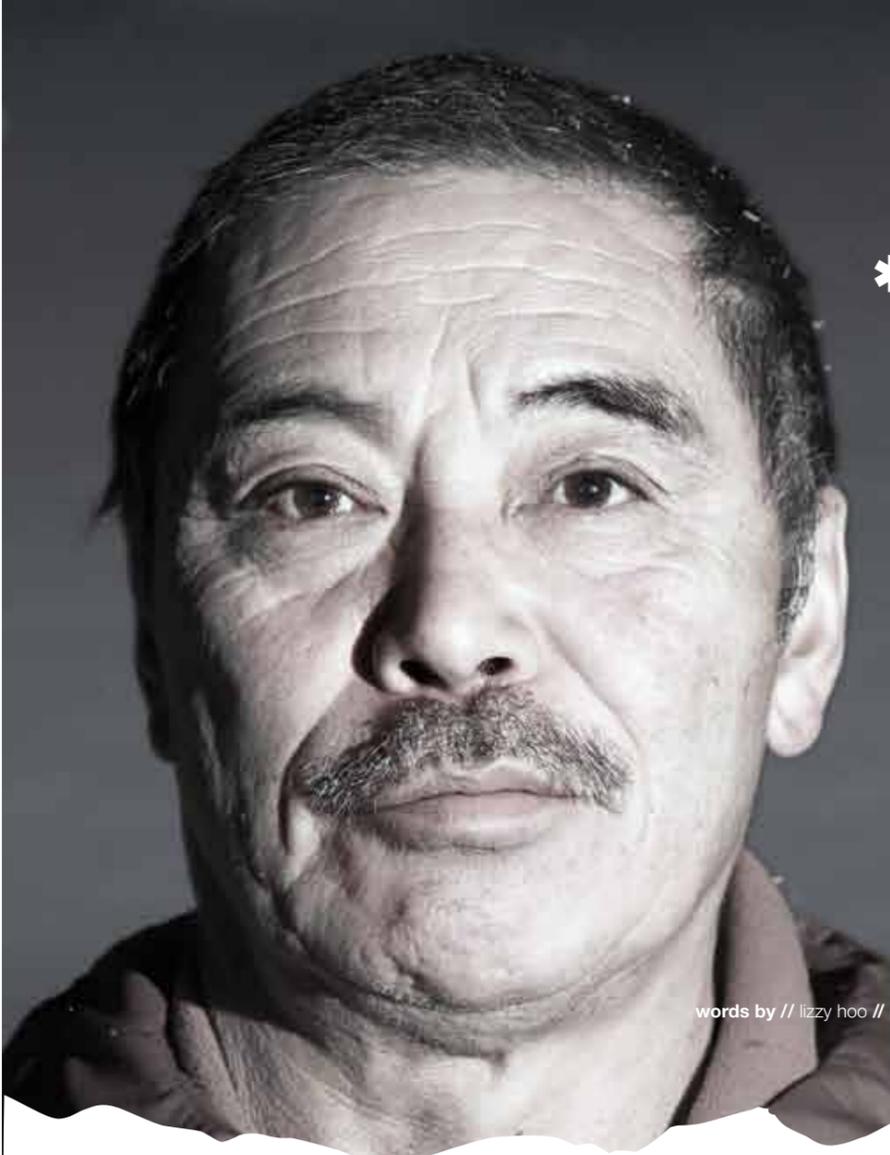
Niseko - New Chitose Airport		New Chitose Airport - Niseko		Niseko - Sapporo City	
Departs Niseko	Arrives Airport	Departs Airport	Arrives Niseko	Departs Niseko	Arrives Sapporo
08:00	10:30	12:00	14:30	09:30	12:00
09:00	11:30	14:00	16:30	Sapporo City - Niseko	
10:00	12:30	16:30	19:00		
11:00	13:30	19:00	21:30	Departs Sapporo	Arrives Niseko
15:00	17:30	21:30	23:59	12:30	15:00
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* FEATURE //

akio shinya

words by // lizzy hoo // photography by // joey corcoran // translation by // yuri pangier

A LOVE of the outdoors can stem from a desire to test your limits, go where few people have gone before and reach great heights – both personally and physically. For the head of Niseko Avalanche Institue Shinya-san his love of the outdoors would seem to be associated with supporting others to experience the same sense of enjoyment that he gets from the outdoors.

In Niseko, Shinya-san is well known for his tireless efforts with the area's avalanche control. During the summer months, he also works hard at providing a safe place for recreation in Hokkaido's northern Shiretoko Peninsula. His desire to enjoy life and nature and to uphold community safety comes from a simple and kindhearted aspiration: to make everyone happy.

Born in Sapporo, Shinya-san started skiing when he was only three years

自身の限界まで挑戦する、まだ誰も行ったことのない地へ足を踏み入れる、自己を高める。これらの願望によってアウトドアに対する強い思いが芽生える。『自分と同じ様に人々が自然を楽しむためのサポート』。ニセコ雪崩調査所のリーダーである新谷暁生(しんやあきお)氏のアウトドアへの思いの原点はここにある。

氏が雪崩防止のために精力的に働き、努力する姿はニセコでよく知られている。そのほか、夏期には知床半島のレジャーシーズンにおける安全な環境作りにも力を入れられている。『みんなを幸せにする』—この偽りのない優しさこそが新谷氏の人生、自然を楽しみたい、そしてコミュニティーを支えたいという気持ちへとつながっている。

札幌で生まれた新谷氏は3歳の時にスキーを始め、14歳の時には登山の魅力にとりつかれた。幼少のころからアウトドアが大好きで、20歳から25歳にかけて北海道の難易度の高い山々を冬季5シーズンに渡って登り続けたという。数年後、体力の疲れから登山を中断し、37年前に現住所であるモイワへと引っ越された。モイワでの生活は次なる冒険に備えるためには最適な場所だった。

モイワスキー場のふもとに氏が営むロッ

old and mountaineering when he was 14.

Since childhood, he has always had a passion for the outdoors, which saw him spend five winters, from the age of 20 to 25, trying to climb the most difficult mountains in Hokkaido. A few years later, he felt tired after all the climbing and needed a break. Moving

“ Don't only think about yourself, you have to think about others safety & enjoyment. ”

to his current address at Mount Moiwa 37 years ago provided the perfect elements to recharge for his lifetime of outdoor adventures.

Tucked away at the base of the Moiwa ski hill sits Woodpeckers – Shinya-san's lodge he built himself. It is a quaint building adorned with mountain gear and memories. Posters from events, weathered black and

ジ・ウッドペッカーズが

ひっそりとたたずむ。そこには登山道具と思い出があふれ、何とも言えないおもむきがある。地元イベントのポスター、エクスペディションの古い白黒写真、知名度のあるヒマラヤ登山家たちからの手紙、ダライラマの顔写真、新谷氏の子どもたちが描いた絵などがどれも誇らしげに壁に飾られている。なぜこの地を選んだのかを聞いてみると新谷氏はこう答えられた。「モイワは今も昔も静寂な山。この山を見たとき、ああ、これが自分の山だ。これこそが自分の場所だと思いました」。

モイワ山のふもとで奥さまと営む生活は、訪問者のおかげもあってか活気のある日々を送っているように見える。冬、新谷氏の一日は通常朝5時半に起床することから始まる。スキーパトロールに電話をかけ、気象庁、海上保安庁からデータを集め、そしてニセコなだれ情報デシリレポート (http://niseko.nadare.info) を作成し、8時までにレポートを各所に提出する。ここに移ってから新谷氏はヒマラヤ、アラスカ・アリュシャン山脈など多くの山々に挑戦している。今までの中で一番難しかった山は、パキスタンのあまり知られていない山、ラカボシとバツラだったと言われる。これらの危険な山々を登ることは体力と精神の限界に挑戦することと同じ。このような状況下でどれだけ前向きな考えを保

てるかで生死が決まることもある。「他のメンバーの安全を考慮することが一番大事でした。それが私の責任でしたから」と、過酷な状況の中でもメンバーを優しく、懸命に励ましたことを語ってくださった。新谷氏自身も精神の限界を感じる中でも落ち込まない様に気を保ったそうだ。「私の仕事はメンバーに自信を与えることです。ニセコでの仕事でも同じです。スキーヤー・スノーボーダーたちに声をかける

white photos of expeditions,

letters from Himalayan climbing dignitaries, portraits of the Dalai Lama and his children's drawings are just some things that take pride of place on the walls. When asked what made him choose this location, he says, "Moiwa is a quiet mountain – the same as now. At that time, I thought to myself, this is my mountain ... my place."

Living at the lodge with his wife and its steady flow of guests seemingly provides the perfect place to reenergise. Shinya-san's typical winter day involves waking up at 5:30 am, calling ski patrol, collecting data from the Japan Meteorological Agency and the coast guard to write his daily avalanche report (http://niseko.nadare.info/), all before 8:00 am. Since moving to Moiwa, he has also found the energy required to climb countless mountains including the Himalayas and the Aleutian Ranges in Alaska. However, the most difficult climb of his career so far is less known mountains Rakaposhi and Batura in Pakistan.

Climbing these perilous ranges is as much about mental endurance as it is physical strength; remaining positive is the difference between life and death. Shinya-san has a wise and

Annupuri peak elevation 1,308.5 m

てるか
で生死が決まる
こともある。「他のメンバ
ーの安全を考慮することが一番大
事でした。それが私の責任でしたから」

と、過酷な状況の中でもメンバーを優しく、懸命に励ましたことを語ってくださった。新谷氏自身も精神の限界を感じる中でも落ち込まない様に気を保ったそうだ。「私の仕事はメンバーに自信を与えることです。ニセコでの仕事でも同じです。スキーヤー・スノーボーダーたちに声をかけるときも自信を与えることは忘れませんね。危ないよ。でも経験があるなら自分でどの道を行ったらいいかきつと分かるはずだつてね。一生懸命やれば大丈夫だつて。前向きに考える事、そして仲間たちと笑いながら緊張をほぐし、山を楽しむ。こうしていれば事故を防ぐこともできます」。

「自身のこと、安全だけを考えるのではなく他人の安全、喜びこそを考えるべき」

時に、スキー場での事故は避けられない。骨折や韧带損傷などさまざまな事故は起こるが、かけがえのない命を失ってしまった場合、それを取り返すことはできない。2011年元日、札幌在住の経験豊富なスキーヤーがアンヌプリのバックボウルで亡くなられた。過去12年間で始めての雪崩による死亡事故だった。「悲しいですね」と、新谷氏は自身がパトロールをしている山で死亡者が出たことへの気持ちを語る。ニセコを訪れるスキー客の安全を守ることは新谷氏が常日ごろから

compassionate approach for staying motivated during tough situations: "I have a responsibility for my fellow climber. Their safety is very important." Even though Shinya-san might be feeling the same tiring effects of a climb, he says "his job is to give people confidence ... my job here in Niseko is the same thing. I tell them (skiers or snowboarders) it's dangerous, but you have experience and if you try your hardest you will be okay. Being positive, joking and cheerful is actually a good way to prevent accidents."

Ski resorts are breeding grounds for accidents. Whilst broken bones and torn ligaments can heal, lives cannot be replaced. On New Year's Day, an experienced skier from Sapporo died in the back bowls of Annupuri, the first avalanche fatality in 12 years. "I feel sad," Shinya-san remarks to someone dying on the mountains he watches over. The responsibility of looking after the people that visit Niseko is something Shinya-san wholeheartedly acknowledges. He also thinks his concern for safety should be echoed by those that know better. "It's important to lower and remove barriers between local people and visitors. It (safety and responsibility) shouldn't just rest on the shoulders of the ski patrol. I feel if everyone communicated there wouldn't be accidents like this."

Whilst winter can be a challenging time, seeing people enjoy themselves

責任を感じていることだ。また、氏はこうも考えている。山をよく知っている人々によって情報をもっと流すべきだと。「観光客と地元の人々の間にある垣根を下げる。むしろ、取り去ることが大切です。スキーパトロールだけに頼るのではなく人々がコミュニケーションを図ることでこのような事故は防げたのではないのでしょうか」。

新谷氏にとって冬は正念場である。スキーヤー・スノーボーダーたちが思い思いに山を楽しむ間、氏は懸命にパトロールをする。そのほか、氏は夏には北海道北部にある世界遺産・知床半島でシーカヤックツアーにも力を注いでいる。過去20年間に渡り、『手つかずの宝』である知床海岸沿いをシーカヤックによって人々に紹介している。「毎日熊をみる事ができます。たくさんね。茶色い熊、小さい熊、大きな熊。皆、とてもおとなしいですよ」。将来、アラスカ・アリュシャン列島の周りをシーカヤックで回りたいと新谷氏は言われる。また、氏はシーカヤックでパタゴニアの最南に位置するホーン岬を冬季に2度挑戦している。「ホーン岬に2度挑戦したのは世界で私ひとりだけです」。

スキーとカヤックとどちらが好きかという問いに、新谷氏は迷いもなくスキーと答えられた。夷(えびす)フィルムスの新作『Persona (ベルソナ)』(パウダーライフ)による上映会は1月24日、Sekkaにて)の中でも氏は山の上ならスキーレースが一番好きだと答えられている。「1972年の札幌オリンピックがあった年、私はただの登山

continued from previous page

* FEATURE // akio shinya

keeps Shinya-san going. He is also inspired by his summer vocation – leading sea-kayak tours in the World Heritage Listed Shiretoko Peninsula, Northern Hokkaido. For the last 20 summers, Shinya-san has been guiding people around the coastline of this pristine location. “Everyday we see bears, many bears, brown bears and small bears and big bears. Very gentle bears.” In the future, he hopes to do the same kind of trip around the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. He has been to Patagonia five times and kayaked twice around the southern most point, Cape Horn, during winter. “I’m the only person in the world to do this twice.”

When asked what he likes better – kayaking or skiing – Shinya-san responds immediately with the latter. In recently released *Persona* by Ebis Films (*Powderlife* presents January 24th at Sekka, details page 13),

家でした。しかしオリンピックでアルペンスキー写真家のアシスタントのアルバイトをさせてもらいました。その時の衝撃は今でも忘れません。それからアルペンスキーに興味を持ち始めました。

この冒険心・探究心は新谷氏がいつも持ち続けているものである。現在の時点でカヤックとスキーをやめる気持ちはない。「仕事、人生をやめたくないですね。本当にやめるときが分かるまで今の仕事を続けます」。

もしかしたら新谷氏が山のパトロールをやめる日が来るかもしれない。実際、氏は現在、雪崩事故防止のために講習会で教えている。山に来るみんながそれぞれ安全に山を楽しんで欲しいというのが新谷氏の思いである。「山には事故のリスクが多いです。常にね。雪の状況は毎日違います。リスクを避けるためには天候によって自分自身でどのルートを行けばいいのか考えるべきです。そして、自身のこと、安全だけを考えるのではなく他人の安全、喜びこそを考えるべきです」。

Shinya-san describes ski racing as his favourite thing to do on the mountain. “In 1972, during the Sapporo Olympics, I was only a climber at the time. At the Olympics, I did a part-time job – assistant photographer for the alpine races – it left a huge impression on me and I started to get more interested in alpine racing.”

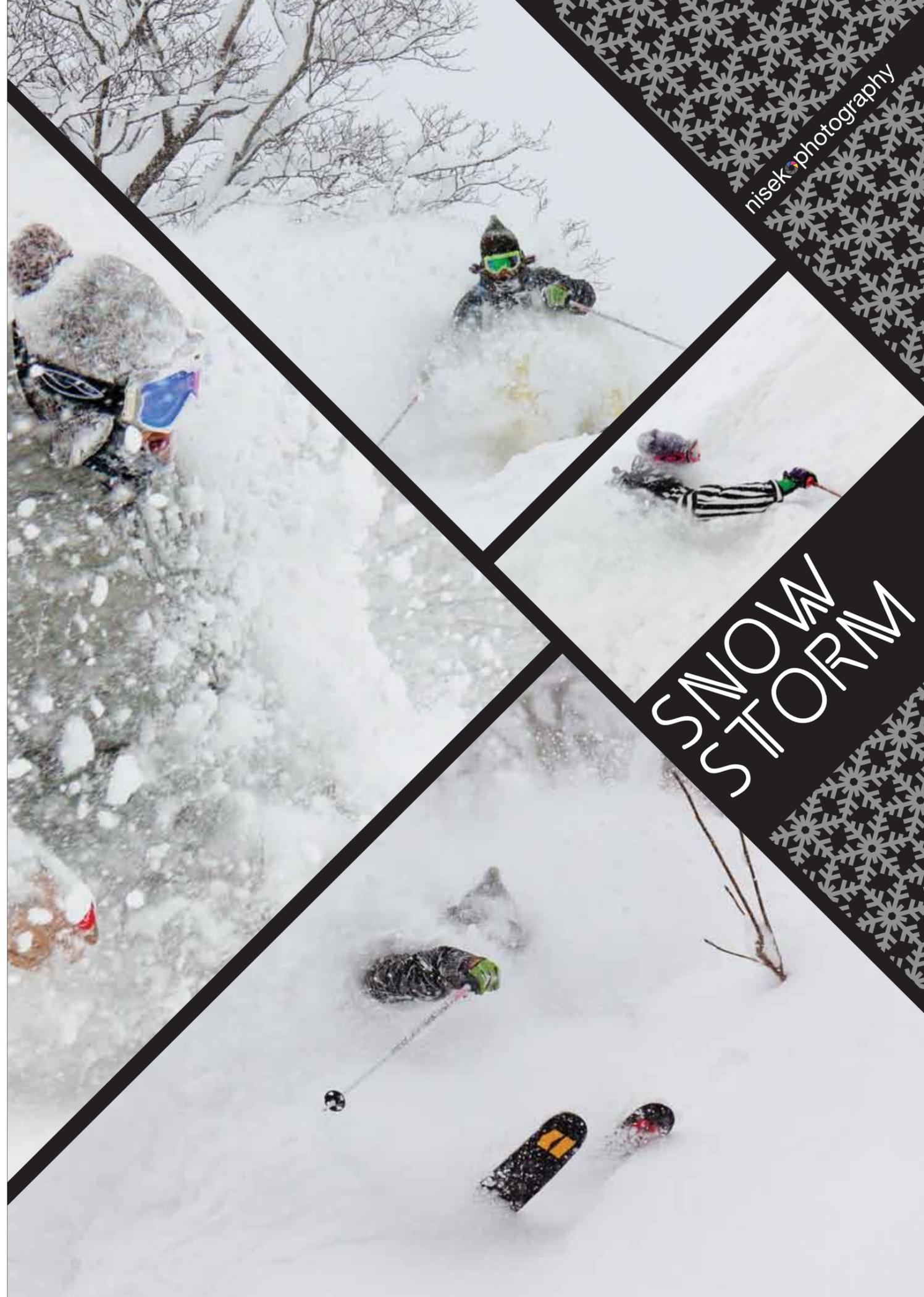
This sense of adventure is something Shinya-san will always be instilled with. For now, he is sure that he will keep kayaking and skiing: “I don’t want to stop my job or life. I will keep doing my job until I truly know it’s time.”

But, there will be a time when Shinya-san will no longer watch over these mountains – he is currently training his protégé in the fine art of avalanche control. But, what he wants is for everyone to have fun and enjoy themselves well into the future by

staying safe: “On the mountain, there are many risks – always risks. To avoid risks, you have to think about which route you take and this depends on the weather. Don’t only think about yourself – your safety – you have to think about others safety and enjoyment.”

For avalanche information see Shinya’s daily report : <http://niseko.nadare.info/>

新谷氏のデイリーレポート、ニセコなだれ情報は<http://niseko.nadare.info/>をご参照ください。



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* EAT & DRINK

we

Top chef Kamimura-san (www.kamimura-niseko.com) tells us his favourite things to eat and drink in Niseko.

- Tomato juice from LALALA Farm (see article p 27)
- Local veges from Niseko View Plaza in Niseko Town
- Cafe latte from Sprout, Kutchan
- Tempura SEIRO soba noodle from Ichimura, Izumikyō2
- Shio Saba Teisyoku (salt mackerel fish-set menu) from Hokui 43 do, Iwanai
- Brett and Takayo's smiles at The Barn, Hirafu
- Risotto from V&B, Hirafu
- Juicy Fried Chicken from Lawson, Hirafu

RECIPE // ochazuke by Yosaku



OCHAZUKE

Ingredients – serves 1

- TEA SOUP
- A cup of dashi (konbu and bonito flakes)
 - A dash of saké, salt and soy sauce

- 150g of cooked white rice
- A moderate amount of salmon flakes (alternatively ume, or japanese pickles)
- 1tbs of white roasted sesame
- 1tbs of arare (popped rice)

TOPPING

- A small amount of wasabi
- Some sliced nori

Ochazuke means rice with green tea. It's great for when you feel sick or hungover. The rice gives you energy and the tea has antioxidants, and is easy to eat. The soup is sometimes made from dashi instead of using green tea.

Method

1. Make the tea soup first. Put the dashi soup, saké, salt and soy sauce into a pot and boil.
 2. Put the cooked rice into a bowl. Put the sesame, arare and salmon flakes onto the rice.
 3. Pour the soup into the bowl. Garnish with a pinch of nori on top, and a dash of wasabi on the side.
- Itadakimasu!

WILD BILL'S THE IZAKAYA

If you've returned to Niseko and were thinking of heading to Wild Bill's for some Mexican, you may be in for a surprise. This year, Wild Bill's is now managed by ex-Powderlife Cafe and ex-Sekka chef and man behind Niseko Green Farm, Dennis van den Brink. He has inspired a new Wild Bill's menu with loads of delicious Japanese bar-style offerings, including succulent fried chicken, meat-stuffed capsicums, nabe (hot pot), tempura, sashimi, steak, salads and more, and where possible, they are made with local organic ingredients.



BRUCE WILLIS AT BARUNBA

NO, he's not making a special guest cameo, he's the newest action hero to have a cocktail named after him at Barunba, joining the likes of Bruce Lee and Jet Li. This new cocktail is described as, "f**king strong" by bar manager, Kawanaka-san. So, it came as no surprise when the ingredients included are 96% Polish vodka, and a 75% Puerto Rican rum. It should be overwhelmingly strong, but it's actually deceptively tasty, which could catch those unprepared off their guard. Please drink this safely.



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* RESTAURANT REVIEW // chiharu sushi



WORDS BY // lizzy hoo PHOTOGRAPHY BY // niseko photography

COMPACT and unassuming, Chiharu Sushi in Kutchan is packed full of one-time and regular customers grazing on platters of fresh Hokkaido seafood.

CHIHARU Sushi is just one of Kutchan's great hideaway dining locations and the kind of place that makes you really feel like you've stumbled upon something typically Japanese.

Stepping in from the cold snow-covered streets in Kutchan's bar and restaurant district, a warm and jovial face greets us. Maeda-san looks proud of his restaurant and asks us to find a seat, of which there is only a small four-top table remaining on the floor, for four foreign-sized bodies.

This restaurant fits about 25 people in total and has been here for 27 years. Each table setting has a clear view of Maeda-san at work as he works diligently behind the counter. With his head down, Maeda-san glances up only to smile, take orders, grate fresh wasabi, and

pluck fresh abalone, shellfish, clams and scallops from the bubbling tank on the counter. Maeda-san's wife weaves through the tables and delivers the delicious platters of *sushi* and *sashimi*. She is relaxed and happy, and together, they create a convivial feeling that's often lost in the sleek composition of Japanese dining.

Whilst contemplating the menu, Maeda-san calls over the ambient chatter and asks us if we want *sushi* or *sashimi* – we want both, but he offers us a "Sashimi Scramble", as in a mixed selection of *sushi*. As we sip on glasses of beer, a plate arrives with deliciously fresh sashimi prawns, abalone, scallops, yellow tail, salmon, squid, tuna and octopus. Having just skied all day, we are famished and this plate disappears before we have

a chance to finish our drinks. For our sushi selection we opt for sea urchin, salmon, eel and mackerel. The sea urchin should be eaten first so that it's as fresh as possible. It's creamy, delicious and something that should be tried while in Japan; admittedly it's not to everyone's liking. Both the salmon and tuna shine under the lights; their orange and deep pink colour glistens. Best described as 'fishy', the mackerel is also a personal favourite with its oily texture and sharp taste.

Also on offer are sets of sushi rolls or 'maki' and hand-shaped rolls, as well as various rice bowls such as *uni-don* (sea urchin with rice), *ikura-don* (salmon roe with rice) and *tekka-don* (tuna with rice).

Best of all, Chiharu Sushi is a place where everyone is welcome – Maeda-san will make sure you have the best sushi experience at his restaurant. It's definitely a winning mix of casual atmosphere, some of the freshest local seafood around and ambient surroundings.



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* TASTE THE REGION // lalala farm

HATTORI Yoshihiro is now worlds away from his Civil engineering degree he studied at Nihon Daigaku (University of Japan) and his old job at Douro Kabushikagaisha (Japan Rooding limited). After five years of working for this company, Hattori's urge to become a farmer was so strong he moved to Hokkaido to embark on a very different journey.

With a love of the countryside, winter sports, genuinely good people and food, Hattori found Hokkaido to be the best place to start his farming career. From August 2006 to 2007 he trained in Niseko working on potato, sweet corn and pumpkin crops, and from 2008 to 2009 he worked in

nearby Yoichi training on properties growing tomato and green peppers. In 2010 Hattori branched out and started the LALALA Farm in Niseko. The farm produces mainly tomatoes but he also grows pumpkin, sweet corn, onions, zucchini, carrots, peppers, eggplants, paprika and daizu beans.

In the growing process of LALALA Farm's tomatoes no chemical pesticides or fertilizers have been used when at all possible, and all of the crops from LALALA Farm are produced in an organic fashion for the health and safety of the farm's customers. This helps explain the extraordinary taste of his tomato juice.

Along with ensuring his products

are safe and healthy, Hattori's mission is to make farming 'cool' for younger generations, by achieving this goal he is certain that this will translate to financial and social economic success for the region.

Driving a dream to reality is this young individual's shining point. Look out for his amazing tomato juice in retailers throughout the district. It is truly amazing how the effort and dreams of this young individual come across strongly in the flavor profile.

LALALA Farm tomato juice is available at the following outlets: Hilton Niseko Village, Niseko Club Restaurant, J-Sekka, Alpen Hotel, JoJo's, Hanazono 308, Sprout in Kutchan, Restaurant Kamimura, Maccarina Restaurant Makkari.



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* EYE SPY // art and culture in japan



CHAIR BY // masafumi sawada

LOCAL HAMMER ARTIST

BEAUTIFULLY constructed iron and wood structures meet you as you walk into local hammer artist Masafumi Sawada's gallery Niseko Ram.

MOVING to Niseko 16 years ago, after living in Sapporo and establishing Atelier Ram, Sawada-san can attribute luck and fate to finding his current gallery location. If he arrived one week later, this old house would have been knocked down, but Sawada-san instinctively knew this position would be perfect for his life in Niseko and asked if he could take up residence in the soon-to-be-demolished building.

The gallery is located under the Niseko Town Bridge next to the flowing river. Looking out from the gallery you can see bare trees covered in white snow and various iron animals residing outside submerged in white. A quick glance up above and you can see the big yellow bridge from a far-less viewed angle. This isolated location is the perfect place for Sawada-san; as a hammer artist, Sawada-san makes a lot of noise when he practices his art. Here, he doesn't distract anyone and can make as much noise as he wants.

This local artist has been making wood and iron

furniture for more than 20 years with his hammer tools. His custom tables are sought after because of their natural aesthetic that can complement many styles of home design, from modern to more traditional alpine houses. Lately he has been experimenting with making stylised animals out of his trademark combination of wood and iron.

His works can be as large as they are small. Some are bold and curvy and others are intricately detailed. What they share is his love for raw materials, which perfectly complement the Niseko area.

Sawada-san's stand-out works have seen him become quite renowned in Hokkaido. He has had countless exhibitions all over the prefecture and has works on display permanently at Hokkaido's Windsor Hotel, New Chitose Airport and closer by at The Hilton Niseko Village. However, a trip to his gallery in Niseko Town is the best way to experience Sawada-san's works.

@ www.niseko-ram.com

ROSE ARTIST KOHARU

KOHARU, the rose artist, looks within to find inspiration.

INSPIRED by roses, Koharu is a print artist from Tokyo. She graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and after graduation she went on to complete an after-graduate degree at the same University in Art Design. She then married and spent the next 25 years of her life as a mother. Just before she reached her 50's, she visited New York and discovered it was the place she could work as an artist. Now she resides in New York, Tokyo and Shanghai, actively working on her art in three cities.

Koharu's work is introspective. When creating her roses, Koharu looks within to visualise the garden of flowers that exists in her heart. Capturing the essence and fragrant aroma of her rose, she is able to translate both onto paper. Using monotype print-making techniques, she creates unique, one-of-a-kind artwork.

Her prints are associated with the Japanese 'sho' or calligraphy – a powerful art from inspired by spirit. The sense of 'Ma' or room and 'Kukan' or space, which are unique to Japan, are integral to her work. Instead of covering space she embraces it and incorporates it into her work. In the universe of Zen, she utilises space to enhance a rose and its blossoms beautifully in the feeling of the artist Koharu.

@ www.koharuart.com



rose print // by koharu

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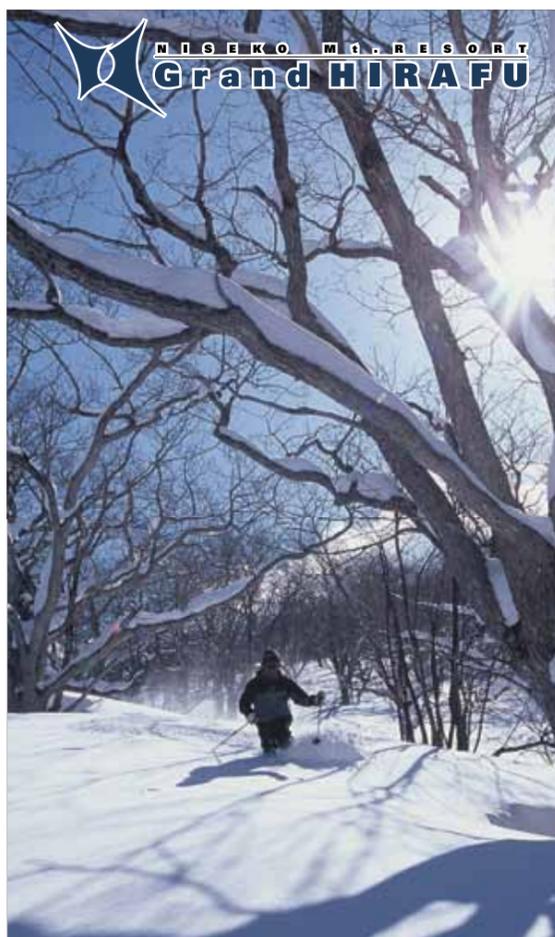
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WITHOUT question Niseko's most sumptuous accommodation, the ten luxurious industrial lofts of SUIBOKU have just won ELLE Magazine's 'Stylish Destination of the Year'.

SUIBOKU has also recently been featured in The New York Times and Architectural Digest.

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There are two, three and five bedroom lofts available for rent. And, from the deliciously spacious ski room that has already created a buzz on Twitter, the family pair ski lift is only 30-seconds away.

Only one loft remains for sale. Enquiries can be addressed to sales@suibokuhirafu.com.

The SUIBOKU website is as stylish as the lofts and can be viewed at www.suibokuhirafu.com.

SUIBOKU is managed by Niseko Management Service, who provide the bespoke SUIBOKU concierge staff and tip-top service throughout the year.



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WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

Le Fromage DJs (Cut Master Camembert and Beat Master Brie) sent us their Cracker Barrel v1.5 Playlist, absolutely full of cheese.

If you want to win a ski shot from YETI BAR for you and four friends (or five shots for yourself) email your playlist to ross@powderlife.com

- 1// **RJD2** // Ghost Writer
- 2// **Souls of Mischief** // 93 til Infinity
- 3// **US3** // Cantaloop
- 4// **Shinehead** // Jamaican In New York
- 5// **Boney M** // Born To Be Alive
- 6// **Warren G** // Regulators
- 7// **Ozomatli** // Super Bowl Sunday
- 8// **Bill Medley & Jennifer Warnes** // I've Had The Time Of My Life
- 9// **DJ Shadow** // Organ Donor (Extended Overhaul)
- 10// **The Coasters** // Yakety Yak



FIRST IMPRESSION



Name: Olivia Meehan.
Nationality: New Zealander.
Ski or snowboard? Snowboard, 8 years.
Why Niseko? Heard stories about the amazing snow and had to come check it out!
First thoughts? Even though everyone is talking about how bad the snow was when I arrived at the start of the season, it's still better than what I was used to at home.
Going anywhere else in Japan? I want to travel around and see, but I especially want to visit Osaka.

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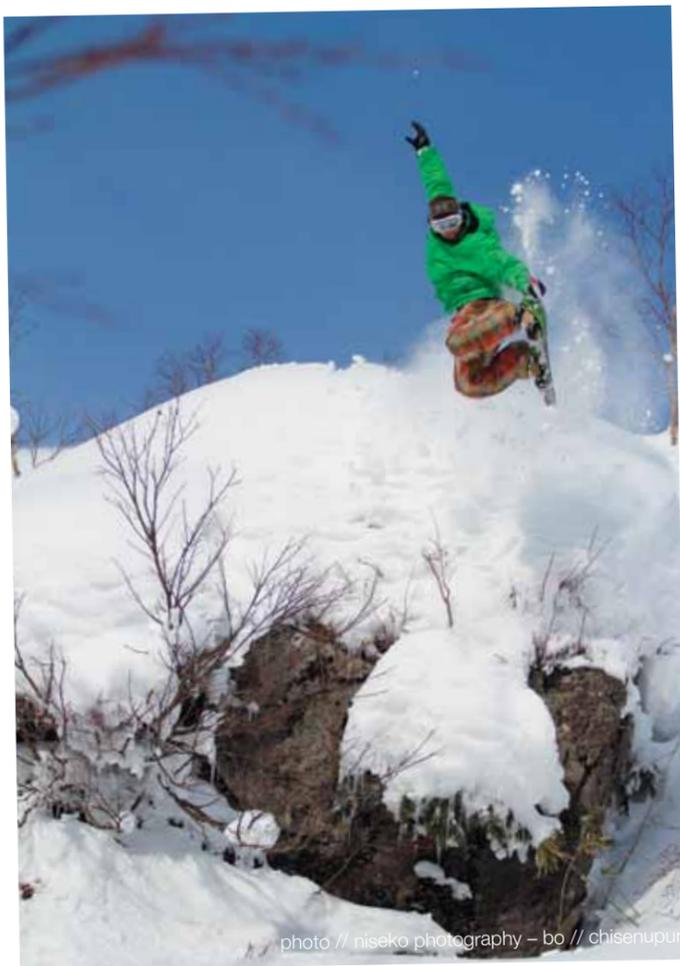


photo // niseko photography - bo // chisenupuri



photo // glen claydon // hanazono



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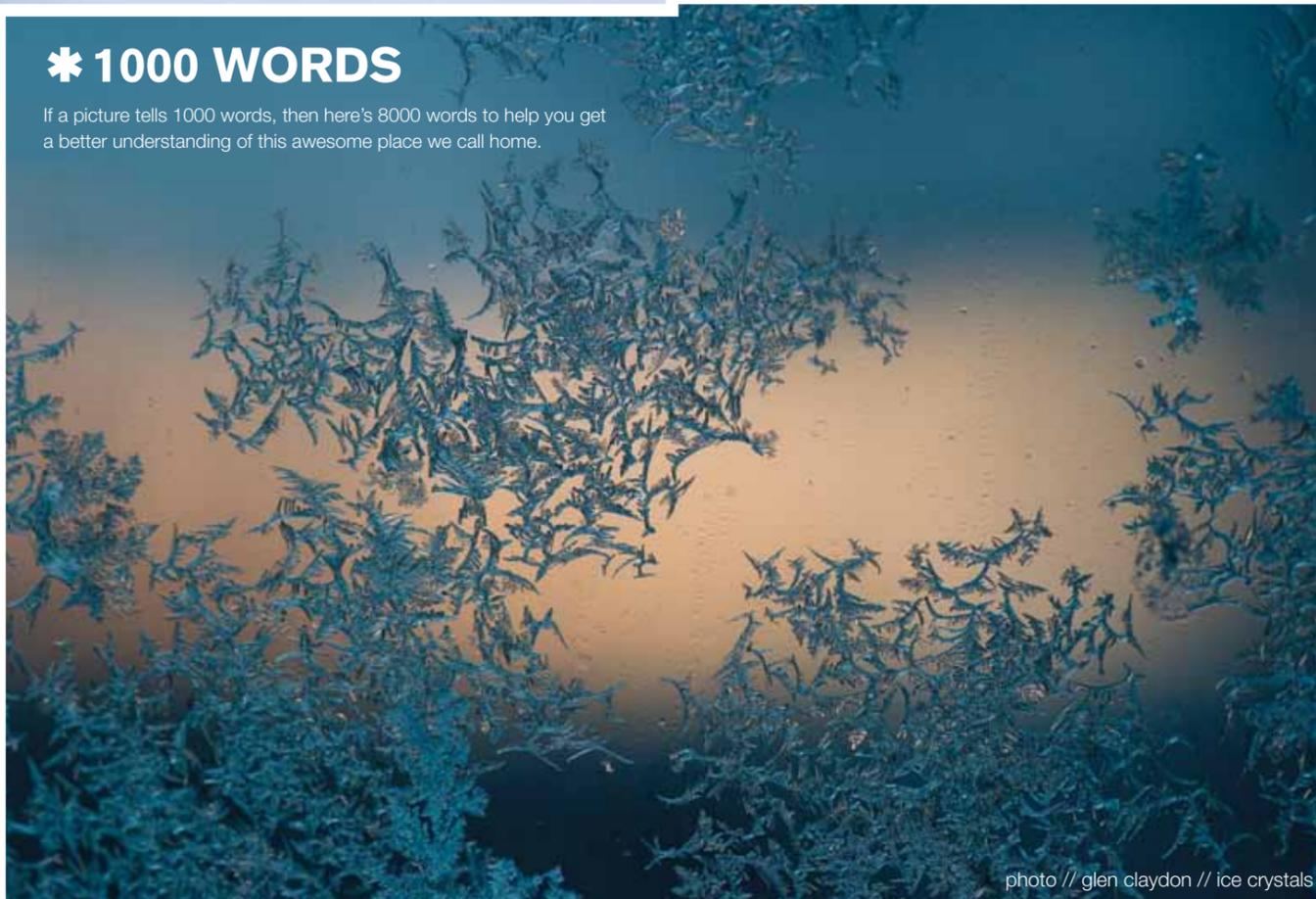


photo // glen claydon // ice crystals



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* 1000 WORDS

If a picture tells 1000 words, then here's 8000 words to help you get a better understanding of this awesome place we call home.

* HANAZONO // park abc and private lessons advertising promotion



PARK ABC

RIDING park is fun! Learn to ride park with NISS's PARK ABC program. From grabs, board slides to 360s and 180s, allow your park riding to progress with NISS.

MOST of us have seen the radical moves of snowboarders in a DVD or up close in the park, thinking to ourselves that looks wicked. NISS this year has designed a program to give boarders the opportunity to reach those dreams and become a rider that rips in the Park.

PARK ABC is the name of the program and it caters to all levels from beginner riders trying their first boxes and reaching for their first grabs, to Advanced riders throwing down big spins and jibbing rails with style. The program runs out of our exclusive park riding facili-

ties in Hanazono. The program is priced as a group rate and starts at 10:00 am in Hanazono. The ground breaking program lasts for 5.5 hours giving you good time to develop your new progressive park moves. The program is available every day and can be booked through our NISS sales offices.

The anchor behind this program is Allie Coates and he is supported with a talented crew of park rider's to make this program possible. We guarantee you will come away with new tricks and the knowledge to take on the park.

NISS PRIVATE LESSONS

PRIVATE lessons make sense, as it is a forum for you to join with your instructor to learn and experience the best from the day.

WITH this in mind the environment is an essential part of the day. NISS is suggesting the premium meeting and learning area of secluded Hanazono is the logical point to schedule your private day. With the base support of the world-class 308 restaurant, the protection and warmth of riding the modern bubble quad-chair lifts, the ease of the covered carpeted beginner area and the less travelled slopes of Hanazono are the obvious reasons to choose Hanazono.

In addition this year NISS, is offering complimentary hot chocolate and cookies from 11:00-11:30 am for all those private guests venturing to and from the Hanazono meeting area. We are providing a

ski and valet service to assist you with arrival and time while riding the mountain of Hanazono.

The private-lesson choices are our Premium Private – the classic all day that allows up to six participants. There are also 2.5-hour morning and afternoon privates that offer up to 4 participants.

A good innovation is the Children's Specialist Privates. Your instructor arrives with a back pack full of specially chosen teaching aides that provide fun for the children, while learning technical components of skiing.

Keep the memory of the holiday? NISS has joined with Niseko Photography to provide an afternoon option to have a photo shoot with



a lesson. The instructor will make your team is looking good and the photographer will capture the holiday moment for you to remember.

In short there are some great private programs and Hanazono is a premium place to start.

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THE ROCKS REDEFINING LUXURY IN NISEKO

AN innovative new development, The Rocks, is expected to redefine luxury accommodation in Niseko. Powderlife caught up with Lucas Fuller from Summitt Properties to find out the details.

WHAT is the vision behind The Rocks?

To create luxury accommodation options that allow owners and guests to enjoy the best of Niseko's assets, as never before. Firstly, the location of both parts of The Rocks is unrivalled: The Rocks – Edge, already on sale, comprises four luxury properties on the Middle-Hirafu bluff, with uninterrupted views of Mount Yotei, which will never be compromised because of Niseko's building height restrictions. The Edge will benefit from full access to The Rocks – Strata facilities including owner storage, onsen, gym, parking and ski-concierge.

Tell us about building the first hotel-condominium development within the boundaries of a national park?

The Rocks – Strata (the second phase of The Rocks development) is the first hotel-condominium development within the boundaries of the Hokkaido Quasi-National Park. A lot of work has been undertaken with the local and national authorities to ensure there are no restrictions on freehold ownership at The Rocks, despite the unique national park setting. Located on the site of the existing Scot Hotel, this setting offers 360° protected views of the area as well as ski-in/ski-out access to six lifts and the gondola.

How about the development itself – what can potential buyers expect?

To do these locations justice, the architecture and design as well as the

facilities and finishes are truly cutting edge, combining luxury and sustainability. Niseko's famous hot springs will fill the onsen baths and private *rotenburos* (outside onsens) at The Rocks, as well as contribute to heating rooms, pathways, plazas and driveways. The Edge and Strata have panoramic glass windows to exploit natural heat input in winter and large solar panels on the roofs to generate electricity, which is sold back to the grid.

What about the hotel's management once completed? Operating like a hotel, all staff will be employed by the hotel rather than outsourced to third-parties. This will ensure a year-round consistent and professional level of hotel service. Facilities include a ski-in/ski-out ski-concierge service, owner storage, onsen and day spa, gym/fitness facility, kids club, designated parking and a selection of restaurants, bars and cafes.

How are investors responding to The Rocks so far and where is the interest coming from?

We're finding that competitive pricing and the unique investment opportunity The Rocks offers has fuelled great interest in The Edge, particularly from Hong Kong and Singapore buyers. The scale of the projects, along with strong rental rates means estimated returns are in excess of 3%.

With all the development offers, we believe that we will see very strong interest and anticipate a rapid sell-down.



AGENT PROFILE

Name Grant Mitchell **Agency** Tracks Real Estate **How is business in Niseko?** Always full of variety and excitement. **What's your forecast for 2011?** Increasing Niseko real-estate sales and growing visitor numbers enjoying Niseko's beautiful seasons. **What projects in Niseko are you excited about?** Hokkaido Tracks Development has several top-quality projects – Hangetsu apartments and The Escarpment. YTL's vision for Niseko Village holds great promise for Niseko as a destination. **From what countries are interested buyers coming from?** Hong Kong is the biggest market, for both Hong Kong Chinese and expats. Singaporean and Australian buyers always show good interest and mainland China has potential. **What type of real-estate investment would you recommend to buy in Niseko?** Established apartments away from the ski lifts can be up to half the price of ski-in/ski-out properties with the same or better build quality. Land on the fringes of Hirafu is another excellent investment. **What are your words of wisdom for potential buyers?** Consider a variety of property types and location. Research the property management company who will run your property – this is very important for returns and ongoing maintenance. **What do you think will make more people come to Niseko?** Hirafu Zaka redevelopment is a good start. Resort companies and local government need to coordinate to improve infrastructure.

(Image: Miharashi 1, 2-bedroom apartment, Upper Hirafu, ¥32,000,000)



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



Alpen Ridge 104
¥35,000,000 5 1 1 1



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

Alpen Ridge 202
¥45,000,000 1.5 1 1 1



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

Alpen Ridge 504
¥79,000,000 3 2 1 1



Ski-in Ski-out, luxury 3 bedroom apartment. Spacious rooms with finest finishes. Well maintained & managed. The last 3 bed Alpen Ridge apartment for sale.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 120m²

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



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

Alpen Estate
from ¥5,000,000 LAND



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

Glasshouse
¥250,000,000 3 3 2 2



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

Setsumon Penthouse 502
¥150,000,000 3 3 1 1



Luxury penthouse in the heart of Hirafu Village with a view of Mt Yotei. Highest level of customer care by the on-site property management
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 224m²

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



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

Hatsuyuki 2
¥61,000,000 5 3 1 1



Split over three levels, this Japanese inspired townhouse is exceptional value. Motivated vendor.
LOCATION: Middle Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 158m²

Landmark View 105
¥45,000,000 2 2 0 0



Spacious apartment, adjacent to the Hirafu Gondola. Restaurants and bars are all within 2 minutes walk. Good returns with repeat customers.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 93m²

Yuki Sawa
¥46,000,000 3 3 1 1



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

Yama Shizen East Penthouse
¥99,000,000 3 3 1 1



Superime location. Fully furnished spacious apartment with basement parking. Long term capital appreciation for the most discerning buyer.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 120m²

* REAL ESTATE NEWS

by lizzy hoo



INSIDE SESHU

FOR months, the construction of Seshu left those walking past wondering what it would eventually look like. Many long-nights later, and all was revealed.

WITH 374-square meters of internal space, 30-square meters of balcony space, and 5 fully ensuited bedrooms, there is plenty of room to spread out at Seshu. The massive open living/dining/kitchen area is located on the top floor to take advantage of the best views towards Mount Yotei. And, on the bottom floor you'll find a spacious media room, which opens out to the 16-person jacuzzi. Furnishings include works by top Hokkaido furniture maker Conde House, and a 14-person oak dining table by Australian designer Khai Liew.

Concept design and coordination of Seshu was handled by Keith Rodgers of Taiga Projects, who

collaborated with architect Kazuhiro Ishide of Sapporo. "My goal was to create a chalet that is unmistakably alpine in its usage of authentic, natural materials, while incorporating certain key elements of Japanese design." Says Keith.

Incorporating elements of eco design, the building is oriented due south for the maximum amount of passive solar heat gain, while the extended eaves will help to keep the house cooler in summer. The entire house is wired with LED lights and sensors, to reduce electrical consumption.

From the outside, this house is striking and impressive – the detail inside, is even more alluring.

IZUMIKYO'S NEW MULTI-HOME COMMUNITY

IZUMIKYO has done the impossible in order to release its newest multi-home community located in St. Moritz – one kilometre south of the Hirafu intersection. Based on a 5-year handshake agreement with a local farmer, Izumikyo has been able to successfully change the land category of an 18,000 tsubo farm from undevelopable farmland to a development site. In Japan, companies can only purchase farms with the proper farming licenses due to the strict regulations on agriculture. In order to develop a farm,

it must remain fallow for a number of years before being able to change the registration and develop.

Ground breaking will begin next summer and 40 new houses with unique features can be expected. Homes will be backing on to a central park area with a koi pond and boardwalk, overlooking the Shiribeshi Valley below, as well as Mount Yotei and the ski hill. Izumikyo will use its recently completed boutique cottage development in Izumikyo 2 to showcase its intended 'Japanese-chic' style.



Our long term goal is more than selling property in Niseko. It is to build trust, a solid reputation and strong relationships.

Meikle & Associates
will work for you.

MEIKLE & ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE

Please come and visit us in our new showroom in The Vale this winter.

MSM REALTY LTD.
NISEKO

(81) 0136 55 5338
craig@msmrealty.com
www.msmrealty.com

Real Estate License No. Shiribeshi (1) 354

EZO VIEWS
A NEW ERA OF LUXURY LIVING IN NISEKO

Prime resort location in Hirafu with ski-out proximity
Floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing views of Mt. Yotei, Hirafu resort and Oyaji River
Eco-friendly design combined with modern high-spec furnishings
Completion of first of two buildings 'Blackcomb' autumn 2010:
Luxury 5 bedroom • 6 bathroom private residence with elevator

WWW.EZOVIEWS.COM

* BACK COUNTRY



Name Kevin Nicholas **Company** Hokkaido Powder Guides (15 years experience) **Ski or board** Both, 38 years ski, 10 years snowboard **What's your best backcountry experience?** Helisking Manali in the Himalayas

Best tip for backcountry skiers/boarders visiting Niseko? Use a guide, they will safely get you to the best spots, and back quickly for an onsen at the end of the day.

FREE BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION SEMINAR //

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

Location // Above Proski Demo shop, opposite The Vale Niseko

Time // 6-7pm every Tuesday during winter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Explore the backcountry with experienced riders and skiers.

AVALANCHE INFO //

Shinya-san's daily avalanche report: www.niseko.nadare.info

Powderlife's Backcountry Guide is online – www.powderlife.com

- // 'Backcountry basics'
- // 'Inside a 2-day avalanche course'
- // 'Lost in the backcountry'
- // 'How to build a snowcave'

ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT (ACL) //

THE anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) rupture is the bane of skiers everywhere and we diagnose over 100 a season at Niseko Physio.

The ACL is the main stabilising ligament of the knee, wholly contained in the knee-joint capsule. It's primary role is in twisting. If you don't need to twist you don't need an ACL.

As it is deep inside the capsule it does not receive blood supply, and blood supply = ability to heal, so once you tear an ACL its career is pretty much over. Although many people have been diagnosed with a partially torn ACL by MRI, the smart money will tell you that tearing an ACL is like being pregnant, you've either done it or you haven't; it's either fully ruptured or it's fine.

Once you've 'done it' you will need to decide whether to have an operation to replace it or to live your

life without an ACL. Your age, future sporting goals, life situation, spare time for the operation and extensive rehab, and your level of instability will all influence your decision to have surgery and replace your ACL.

Of the 100 ACLs we see, about 95 are skiers, 4 are snowboarders and one lucky person who has slipped on Niseko's famous icy footpaths! The snowboarders invariably have done theirs either by hitting a strong thin tree just below the knee or landing badly from a big jump, we almost never see snowboarders doing their ACLs from a normal stack. The best way to avoid one is to get your legs strong and agile before your ski holiday.

If you decide to go for an ACL replacement (generally known as a knee reconstruction), I'd advise finding a surgeon who specialises in knees, rather than a general

orthopaedic surgeon who may only do a few ACLs a year. If you have the surgery done in Japan you'll be incarcerated in the hospital for about three weeks. In other developed countries the operation is only day surgery. Wait about four weeks after the injury before the operation so the swelling reduces and strength improves. Many people get into bad habits of over-

protecting their injured knee, so we always tell people that their ACL is as torn as it can be so try to keep using the knee where possible.



- Of the 100 ACLs we see about 95 are skiers, 4 are snowboarders and one lucky one done on Niseko's famous icy footpaths!

- The best way to avoid an ACL injury is to get your legs strong and agile before your ski holiday.

- We always tell people that their ACL is as torn as it can be so try to keep using the knee where possible.

RESORT GUIDE

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

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



TOURIST INFO

Kutchan Information Centre

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

The Niseko Grand Hirafu Welcome Centre

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

GETTING HERE & THERE

New Chitose Airport.

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

Getting from New Chitose to Niseko

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

Door-to-Door Transfer Skybus offers a door-to-door transfer service to and from the airport to Niseko, or Sapporo. See p.18 for details.

T: 011 788 4994 **W:** www.skybus.co.jp

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

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

T: (0123) 45 7011 – Airport Station

T: (0136) 22 1310 – Kutchan station

W: www.japanrail.com

CAR RENTAL

Niseko Auto Rentals

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

Toyota Rent-a-Car ShinSapporo

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

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

TRANSPORT AROUND NISEKO

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

Bus

Niseko United Shuttle: Connects Hirafu, Niseko Village and Annupuri resorts. Pickup/drop-off points in Hirafu include Hirafu Gondola and the bus stop near Hirafu intersection.

¥: Free if you have an all-mountain pass // 1 point if you have a 12-point mountain pass //

¥500 Adult and ¥300 for child.

Grand Hirafu Village shuttle bus:

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

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

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

MONEY

ATM Locations

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

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

7 Eleven

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

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

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

RESORT GUIDE

SHOPPING

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

Seicomart – Hirafu

Location: At the main intersection in Hirafu

Lawson – Hirafu (24 hours)

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

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

Kutchan Shopping

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

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

Location: p.53, B4

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

Location: p.53, B3

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

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

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

Location: p.53, B4

SHOPPING

Internet

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

Mobile Phones

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

Domestic Calls

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

International Calls

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

0 and dial everything else.

Post Offices

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

ELECTRICITY

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

STAY SAFE AROUND TOWN

No skiing/boarding on roads or footpaths

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

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

Be careful when walking or parking your car under roofs

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

Drinking Dangers

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

Kutchan Kousei Hopsital

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

Location: p.53, A3

T: 0136 22 1141

Niseko Physio

The only acute sports injury specialist in the village.

Location: p.54, B2

T: 0136 22 0399

LOCAL LINGO

GREETINGS

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

BASIC QUESTIONS

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

RESTAURANT TIPS

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

OUT AND ABOUT

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

RESORT GUIDE

ONSEN GUIDE

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

Yukoro Onsen

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

Hotel Niseko Alpen

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

Hot Spring Poporo

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

Yumoto Niseko Prince Hotel Hirafutei

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

Hilton Niseko Village

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

Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village

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

Niseko Grand Hotel

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

ONSEN ETIQUETTE

What to bring?

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

How much?

Most onsens range between ¥600 to ¥1000.

What to do?

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

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

LOCAL HISTORY

WHAT does Niseko mean?

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

SKI RESORT HISTORY

1911	Theodore von Lerch ascends Mount Yotei
1949	Mount Yotei is designated a National Park
1956	Rope tow installed at Asahigaoka ski area
1961	First ski lift in Grand Hirafu ski area completed
1962	40th All Japan Ski Championships (Alpine)
1963	Niseko mountain range is designated a Quasi-National Park
1966	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

Information courtesy of the Niseko Promotion Board



Jagata-kun: Little fat skiing potato boy



Jagako: Jagata-kun's snowboarding girlfriend

GOMI GUIDE

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

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

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

PET bottles and cans (ペット、缶)

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

Compost (生ゴミ nama-gomi)

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

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

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

What can you do to help keep Niseko beautiful?

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

C2 A-Bu-Cha 2
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

www.abucha.net

A wide variety of meals and drinks – top marks

E7 Black Diamond Restaurant
p57 HIGASHIYAMA

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



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

www.bdlodge.com

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

A1 Country Grill
p58 COUNTRY RESORT

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



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

www.nisekocountryresort.com

Grilled favourites, relaxed dining, casual atmosphere

A4 Ebisutei
p58 LOWER HIRAFU

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



Open daily
5pm – midnight

www.ebcbar.com

Have fun with our genki and laughing oden bar staff

☎ 0136 22 6544

D2 Bang Bang
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang

We take great pride in our fresh seafood

C3 Cocoro Okonomiyaki
p57 KUTCHAN

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



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

www.nisekokabuki.com

Great Food, Great Value!

B3 Downtown Café
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

www.nisekokabuki.com

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

C4 Half Note
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



6pm–midnight
Open daily

www.nisekohalfnote.com

Hirafu's only jazz bar!

☎ 0136 23 2727

F5 Hana Jizoh
p58 IZUMIKYO 2

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



8.00am – 4.30pm
Closed Wednesdays

☎ 0136 23 0331

Creative and delicious breads from a local baker

D4 Java Lounge
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Come and relax on the Java Lounge sofas, try our

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



Daily
7am to 8pm

Early morning breakfast, lunch and après drinks

E2 Kamimura
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



Dinner 6pm – 11pm
Occasionally closed

☎ 0136 21 2288

www.kamimura-niseko.com

Blessed by land, sea and a creative chef

B3 Maki Lounge
p58 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, shochu and plum wine as well as classic and house-blend cocktails, spirits and glass wine.



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

www.j-sekka.com

Japanese whiskey, sake and shochu by the fire

B3 J-Sekka Café and Delicatessen
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



open from 7am daily

☎ 0136 21 3088

www.j-sekka.com

A taste of Hokkaido

C3 Kabuki 1 and 2
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

www.nisekokabuki.com

Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki Restaurant

E8 M's Cafe (Saison Club)
p57 HIGASHIYAMA

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



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

www.saison-club.com

Warm your body with our big hearty hot-pots

B4 NICHII Shokudou
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



Open daily
4pm to midnight

☎ 0136 22 2161

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

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

D2 Niseko Pizza
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

www.nisekopizza.jp

Dine in, Take-away and delivery

B2 Sekka Dining
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

www.j-sekka.com

Showcasing the best of Hokkaido

A5 Shunsai
p57 KUTCHAN

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



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

Creative fusion cuisine from land and sea

C3 Steak Rosso Rosso
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



Dinner 6pm–11pm
Occasionally closed

www.rossorosso.net

A must for steak lovers!

☎ 0136 21 7100

D2 Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub & Restaurant
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



Open daily
1pm till Late
☎ 0136 55 8020

www.paddymcgintrysirishpub.com

Value Drinks, Hearty Meals, Live Sports and Music

D1 Senchou 2
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

www.senchou.com

Best choice for gourmet seafood

C3 Souan Genghis Khan Lamb BBQ
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

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

F3 Taj Mahal
p58 IZUMIKYO 1

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



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

www.tajmahalgroup.com

Visit India in Taj Mahal Niseko

C4 The Barn
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

www.nisekobarn.com

Hokkaido's one and only alpine bistro

E4 Tsubara Tsubara
p58 IZUMIKYO 1

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



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

www.tsubaratsubara.com

Spicy, flavoursome and local Hokkaido curry soup

B2 Wabi Sabi
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



Open 7 days
5–10pm
☎ 0136 21 5115

www.nisekowabisabi.com

Specialty Yakitori restaurant

F3 Yakitori Yosaku
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



Open daily
6pm to 3am

Serving yakitori every night until 3am

☎ 0136 23 4390

D2 Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

New location this winter!

C2 VBG – Vale Bar and Grill
p58 UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

www.nisekoalpineaccommodation.com

Ski-in ski-out bar and dining

D3 WAGYU DINING SOU
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

Carefully selected Japanese wagyu beef and special soup

B3 Yummy's
p58 MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



www.yummypizza.com

Yummy homemade crust pizza and western foods restaurant

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

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

C2 Black Diamond Tours

UPPER HIRAFU

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



www.blackdiamondtours.com

Niseko's backcountry powder specialists

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

B4 Japanese Cultural Tours

KUTCHAN/HIRAFU

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



www.niseko.co.jp/plat/

"Setsubun Ceremony"
3rd Feb (Thursday)

3-7.30pm
Dec 28/Jan 9,21/Feb 3,18
Bookings essential
☎ 0136 23 0222

E1 Niseko Foot

UPPER HIRAFU

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



www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot

Closest healing relaxation therapy spot to Centre 4 lift

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

F1 NISS

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO 308

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



www.hanazononiseko.com

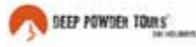
Kids are our speciality Hirafu and Hanazono

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

E2 Deep Powder Tours Ski Holidays

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

The ultimate ski and snowboard experience

7 days
10am-6pm
☎ 0136 21 5827

D1 Niseko Photography Tours

UPPER HIRAFU

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

Niseko's professional photographers

Gallery: midday-8pm
On the mountain:
all day, everyday
☎ 0136 22 5764

B2 Niseko Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Experienced massage therapists, specialising in oil massage for recovery and relaxation. Early bird special offers discounted rates for massages before 2pm. From ¥6,000 per hour. Gift vouchers available.



www.nisekomassage.com

Sports and relaxation massage in the middle of Hirafu

7 Days
8am to 8pm
☎ 0136 22 0399

E3 NOASC

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

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

8:00am to 7:00pm
All year round
☎ 0136 23 1688

RETAIL & SHOPPING

B3 Cocoroya

KUTCHAN

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



www.cocoroya.jp

Take home a unique piece of Japan

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

D1 Fusion Sports Shop

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO

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



www.hanazononiseko.com

Gear for the elements at two locations in Niseko

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

D1 Niseko Photography Gallery

UPPER HIRAFU

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



www.nisekophotography.com

Photo gallery - fine-art prints and souvenirs

7 days
midday-8pm
☎ 0136 22 5764

B3 SEKKA STYLE Shop & Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



www.sekkastyle.com

You can never get enough SEKKS

1-7pm
Closed Mondays
☎ 0908 274 4814

D3 Ezo Seafoods

MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



www.ezoseafoods.com

Niseko's seafood supplier

7 days
Open from 4pm
☎ 0136 22 3019

E3 Momiji Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



www.momijigallery.com

Art and Photo gallery, gifts and antiques

Open 7 days
2-7.30pm
☎ 0136 55 8585

D2 Sakura

UPPER HIRAFU

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



www.sakura-niseko.com

Your one-stop Japanese souvenir shop

Daily
1-7pm in winter
☎ 0136 21 7007

D2 Yukara

UPPER HIRAFU

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



www.yukara.com

Reopen on 2nd floor of Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen Restaurant

7 days
9am-10pm
☎ 0136 23 4546

RENTAL & SERVICES

D1 Demo Equipment Hire

UPPER HIRAFU/HANAZONO

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



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

Free drop off at Hirafu
Free O'night Storage 308

C3 Hermosa Angel Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



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

Relax and rejuvenate in the heart of hirafu

F7 Niseko Auto Rentals and Sales

HIGASHIYAMA

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



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

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

E3 Niseko Realty Sales

UPPER HIRAFU

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



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

Secure your future in Japan's premier powder ski area

☎ 0136 23 2221

E3 Glen Claydon Photography

HIRAFU

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



www.glenclaydon.com

Complete photographic services

☎ 080 6098 7244

NA J-Build

HIRAFU

- Consulting
- Project Management
- New Homes
- Renovation
- Building Supplies



We never close

18 years' experience in Japan

☎ 090 9380 5729

B2 Niseko Physio

MIDDLE HIRAFU

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



www.nisekophysio.com

Niseko's sports injury centre in the middle of Hirafu

7 days
8am–8pm

☎ 0136 22 0399

D1 Travelplan

UPPER HIRAFU

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



For more information contact Travelplan.

www.travelplan.com.au

The world's best ski holidays

7 days
8am–8pm

☎ 0136 21 5354

www.powderlife.com



* AFTER THE MELT



BARBEQUE

photo // ross cole-hunter



TRIATHLON

photo // gien claydon



SHIKOTSUKO



JAGA MATSURI

photo // gien claydon

DOSANKO (people from Hokkaido) love their barbeque. This is because of the brevity and beauty of the summer here. A normal Japanese-style BBQ is different to Western-style in several ways. Instead of a small group of people slaving away roasting giant slabs of cow over a gas-fuelled grill, a Japanese BBQ is a much more socially inclusive event. Here guests sit around grilling bite-sized pieces of meat over a charcoal fire.

THE climate in Hokkaido during summer is ideally suited to endurance sports. This is just one of the reasons people are starting to come to Niseko to participate in Triathlon camps. Swimming is done in the Alpen Hotel's indoor heated pool, or Lake Hangetsu and Lake Toya. The combination of sparse traffic and a mix of flats, rolling hills and mountains provide ideal cycling terrain. Scenic running trails are also plentiful.

ANOTHER one of the many scenic locations surrounding Niseko that is absolutely perfect for a few nights camping is Lake Shikotsu. This area is probably familiar to many visitors to Niseko as the bus between Chitose Airport and Niseko passes it. There are all the usual lakeside activities to do, plus two fabulous mountain hikes, including one that takes you to the black steaming core of Tarumae-zan, or the more challenging Eniwa-dake.

THE Potato Festival is Kutchan's biggest summer festival and a huge taste of Japanese culture. There are many events over the weekend-long festival, including taiko drum performances, fireworks, yosakoi dancing, giant illuminated paper floats, potato bagging competitions as well as some traditional music and singing. To satisfy your non-aural, non-visual senses, there are dozens of street vendors selling an assortment of festival foods.

SUMMER // rafting

WHAT happens to the metres of snow that falls on the mountains in Hokkaido come springtime?

IT MELTS, but fortunately it isn't wasted. This sudden and protracted supply of water turns the ordinarily placid rivers into fast-flowing rapid-filled monsters, perfect for an exhilarating rafting experience.

Rafting is the biggest attraction in Niseko, outside of skiing and snowboarding, bringing in busloads of (mostly domestic) tourists every weekend. School groups especially love the thrill of rafting – busloads of children during the summer make their way to Niseko for whitewater fun. The busiest period, however, is during the end of spring when the water levels in the rivers and tributaries are at their highest and most frantic. Even though the temperatures are quite pleasant at that time of year, the waters can still be frigid, even to thrill seekers with anti-freeze flowing through their veins.

No need to worry about being cold though, before you set off on your voyage down the river, you're given a dry suit that tightly seals around your neck, wrists and ankles to keep water out, and you dry and warm.

Of course, rafting doesn't have to be an adrenaline-fuelled ride through violently engorged rivers, calmer options exist for those who would rather just gently glide along and take in the scenery that is rarely seen by the average person, such as secluded beaches, hidden woodlands, cliffs with waterfalls and unsuspecting wildlife.

There are several local tour operators in and around Niseko, including NOASC, NAC and SAS who can cater a journey to suit your requests, be it an adrenaline-fuelled ride through white water rapids, or just a calm day out floating down a river.



photo // niseko photography

Looking for a budget hotel in Sapporo?

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

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

HOTEL SHOW SAPPORO
+81-(0)11-511-2221 (sending mail preferable)
info@sho-susukino.com
www.sho-susukino.com/eng

JAC

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

Understand your business; Take Control of your accounts; Get Up-to-Date reports at anytime and Peace of Mind with On-Site Assistance, Training & Trouble-shooting.

Bringing 30 years of accounting experience to your Niseko investment, J Amos Consultancy ensures a powerful, easy to use, customizable and affordable suite of Accounting services, backed up by the internationally acclaimed 'MYOB' accounting software package.

www.jonathanamos.com • 090 2650 4909

MYOB
Certified Consultant

holidayniseko.com
Affordable Accommodation & Ski Packages

photo: Glen Claydon

INSKI
SKIS, BOARDS & SNOW WEAR

MasterFit University Certified Master Bootfitters

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

First Class WINTERSTEIGER Ski & Board Tuning

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

INSKI
OPEN 8AM to 9PM

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

Java Massage

Sports Remedial Relaxation

30 mins 4500Y
60 mins 8000Y

Bookings Phone: 0136 23 0788

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

Java Bar
Hirafu's Coolest Lounge Bar

Open from 7am til 9pm
FREE Internet Hotspot

Live Music & DJs

Best Espresso Coffee in Niseko!
Sakura-Zaki St. Mid Hirafu Village, Shuttle Stop 4. t: 0136 23 0788

* TRAVEL FEATURE // kishiwada danjiri matsuri



PHOTOGRAPHY AND WORDS BY // ross cole-hunter

HUNDREDS of children walk one after the other around a corner, all dressed uniformly in happis (Japanese summer festival clothing). Their size and age steadily increase from children to teenagers. They hold a giant rope, pulling something around the corner that we couldn't yet see. The sounds of drumming, cheering, cymbals and festival flutes got louder and faster and the hidden object, a giant wooden danjiri (a portable shrine on wheels), came into view.

After several minutes under the relentless baking summer sun in Osaka, the cavalcade stopped pulling the danjiri as it approached the corner. The music quietened and the rope slackened. One last quick breath was taken before charging at full pace, pulling the rope with as much zest and zeal as their fatigued bodies could handle, jerking the cart violently around the corner with the use of wooden levers underneath the cart. The men pulling the danjiri don't slow down and

keep running and pulling the wooden chariot off into the distance, with as much vigour as they can muster. Their stamina and flamboyant performance is as much of a representation of their community as is the craftsmanship of their danjiri.

The Kishiwada Danjiri Matsuri is steeped in history, dating back to early 18th century when the ruling lords would allow peasants a single day to enter the castle. Carpenters, musicians and fisherman from each community

“ A festival that is frequently touted as being Japan's 'most dangerous festival' ”

would race to be the first to show off their wares, and to bask in the attention and admiration of their lord. This tradition has continued, though it has adapted to match a modern Japan. There are 32 communities, each with their own danjiri that they race around the streets between Kishiwada station and Kishiwada Castle. Children are introduced to the festival in simple

and safe roles, and as they age they are given more significant roles in the festival.

There are many danjiri festivals in Japan, but Kishiwada City's is considered to be the most famous and also the most dangerous with deaths, severe injury and property damage not uncommon. The festival involves hundreds of people pulling a 4,000kg ornately carved wooden cart at high speed through narrow alleys and around tight corners. These exquisitely

carved carts are quite top heavy, and because of the rapid changes in direction that are required, they are prone to topple over, causing damage not only to the cart, but also to the people riding it and any spectators and property in the way. Buildings in the area actually have special danjiri insurance policies in case of such an accident occurring.

It may sound sadistic, but there is something strangely fascinating about watching a festival that is frequently touted as being Japan's 'most dangerous festival' and waiting for the carnage to unfold in front of your vulturous eyes. It's not that I would wish that any of the people would be hurt; but anticipation and uncertainty is certainly cause for excitement.

To the people of Kishiwada, this festival is the most important day of the year. In fact, their calendars start and finish in September to coincide with the festival.

As the sun goes down you can feel the festival dropping a few gears. The once frenetic danjiri are now decorated in dozens of illuminated lanterns and the exhausted men can relax and perform a slow victory lap to the crowd.

Details:

Where: Kishiwada City, Osaka Pref.

Getting there: Frequent trains from Osaka City

When: Mid September

PROPERTIES FOR SALE | 售房



LAND

All locations

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



FREERIDE LODGE

Higashiyama

12 from ¥39,000,000

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

Featured Properties



EZO 4

Middle Hirafu

4 ¥89,000,000

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



MIHARASHI 1

Upper Hirafu

2 ¥32,000,000

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



IZUMIKYO LAND

Izumikyo II

¥33,600,000

Substantial 925 sqm block with panoramic Mt Yotei views and a quiet, natural environment. Adjacent 926 sqm block is also available to purchase.



MOUNTAIN TRACKS

Izumikyo I

6 ¥39,900,000

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



FUBUKI 2

Middle Hirafu

3 ¥80,000,000

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



HIRAFU HOUSE 7

Lower Hirafu

2 ¥42,000,000

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



FOREST STAR LODGE

Lower Hirafu

Price on Application

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



ASAHI PLAZA 201

Chitose

2 ¥6,500,000

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



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Big mountain. Big dream. Big picture.

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

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

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

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



THIS WEEK'S FEATURE



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