

issue 07 Mar 15 - Mar 28 2008

powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

HOTSPOT
G8 MEETS MIT YOTEI

spring joy

Changing of the seasons

par dahn

Swedish dreadlocked pro

surfing safari

Swell times in Hokkaido



Niseko Property are the experts in finding the perfect lifestyle or investment property in Asia's premier snow resort destination. Our professional and experienced staff will show you how simple and exciting it can be finding a property to suit your needs.

Niseko has been Japan's fastest growing property market for the last three years. Niseko is now also appearing on the horizon of European and Hong Kong investors. Join the many Australian and international investors who are a part of this exciting market.

Our website is updated weekly and features a wide variety of quality listings. A complete step by step guide to buying property in Niseko is available online. Our team will guide you through every step of your purchase. Our comprehensive listings give you the inside edge on the latest developments in Japan's most dynamic property market.

Make an appointment to meet us or visit our office and let the Niseko Property team show you the potential and rewards of owning a piece of Niseko today.



We have many new listings for land in Hirafu and in outlying areas.

Please visit our sales office for more information.

Humming Bird

¥53,000,000  2  1  3+



100 tsubos (330 m2)
- Great middle village location
- Great development or investment potential
- Walking distance to shops and lifts
- Tremendous capital growth potential

Outer Hirafu Land 77-1

¥47,110,000



673 tsubos (2221 m2)
- Quiet leafy area
- Level site suitable for subdivision
- Great development or investment potential

Moiwa Land 447-11

¥30,000,000



50 m to the lift and day lodge
- Great investment
- Ski home every day
- 200 tsubo (660 m2)

Izumikyo 2 Land 83-109

¥38,500,000



220 tsubos (726 m2)
- Great development potential
- Magnificent views of Yotei
- 175 000 yen per tsubo

Sakura Apartment

¥37,000,000  2  2  1



New Development in lower village
- Undercover parking and owners storage
- Great entry level apartment
- Quiet street, close to the shuttle

Hanazono House

¥150,000,000  5  2  2



5 big bedrooms & 2 bathrooms
- Newly built house in a quiet street
- Impeccable Western design
- Open plan living area & High Ceilings

publisher's note...

March in Niseko is terrific. You can expect cheaper flights and accommodation, warmer temperatures and more blue-bird days. You can enjoy the parks at their best, it's the best time to hike Yotei or do your own backcountry adventure of choice, enjoy a massive two-plus metre base and you're very likely to get a taste of Niseko's famed powder to boot. With the increased efforts of local businesses and the Niseko Promotion Board to extend the peak of the season well into March, this may be the last time we can enjoy no lift queues and fresh tracks after four days without snow at this time of the year for the foreseeable future. Please keep the feedback and emails coming! bevan@powderlife.co.jp.

3月のニセコは最高です。航空券や宿も安くなるし、1・2月よりずっと暖かくなって、青空の出る日も多くなります。パークを満喫するにも、羊蹄山ハイクやお好みのバックカントリーを楽しむのにもいい時期です。その上ニセコにはまだ2メートル以上の積雪があります。ニセコのパウダーが味わえるかも知れません。地元の方や、ニセコプロモーションボードのおかげで、ニセコのシーズンはまだまだ続いています。この時期はリフトも空いているし、たとえしばらく雪が降らなくてもいい斜面を見つける事が出来ます。冬のニセコをいろいろと楽しめる最後の時期です。引き続き皆様からのご意見ご感想お待ちしております。bevan@powderlife.co.jp

Bevan Colless
Publisher



photo of the week

Still too cold to take the plunge...
by Eriko Mentzou

Strange as it might seem to the occasional winter sport visitor to Niseko, Hokkaido is a warm winter paradise for a myriad of bird species from Siberia. They arrive in huge numbers from November and head back in to their homeland after March.

in the loop

what's on in niseko this week

march 15 - march 28

Saturday March 15

Wonderland Terrain Park, Higashiyama Open
Wonderland Course by Wonderland chair (peak chair) in Higashiyama. Free, until April 6.

3月15日(土)

ワンダーランド パーク オープン
ニセコ東山スキー場内、山頂直下のワンダーランドコースにテレインパークがオープンします。無料にて皆様に解放! 4月6日までオープン予定です。

Saturday March 15 and 22

Hirafu March Weekends Fireworks
You can enjoy fireworks with your family and friends every Saturday in March. Starts at 9.30pm after the night skiing!

3月 15, 22日(土)

ウィークエンド花火 グランヒラフ
3月の毎週土曜日はヒラフゲレンデから花火が打ち上げられます! ご家族、お仲間と一緒に是非お楽しみください。ナイター後の9:30pm~

Saturdays March 15 and 22

Hanazono Saturday Entertainment
12 noon - 2pm at Hanazono Cafe. Kamonohashi performs with a live DJ great for the kids! There are free giveaways of Redbull and Soyjoy at the base of Hanazono #1.

イベント情報をお寄せください! Tell us about your event!

ed@powderlife.co.jp 0136 222 000

3月15日(土)22(土)

12:00~14:00 花園カフェにDJ参上!
花園第一リフトエリアでは Redbull と Soyjoy を無料配布。

Sunday March 23

Minami Ski & Snowboard Battle in Annupuri
Ski and Snowboard Cross race. Exciting race to watch. Starts from 10am at Annupuri.

3月23日(日)

ミナミスキー&スノーボードバトル
アンヌプリスキー場にて第9回ミナミクロス大会が開催されます。迫力あるレースは見応えたっぷり。レースは10時スタート。是非応援しに来て下さい!

Mondays and Thursdays March 17, 20, 24, 27

Higashiyama Prince Sushi Making Class
Learn how to make sushi the authentic way! 12pm-2pm
1F Otaru Restaurant. Japanese and English. ¥2500. Call 0136-44-1111 for reservations until 5pm the day before the class.

3月 17, 24日(月) 20, 27日(木)

東山プリンスホテルにて お寿司作り教室
海に近いニセコ、新鮮なネタでお寿司作りを体験してみませんか。寿司の作り方がその日のうちに習得できます。日本語と英語でのレッスン 参加費 ¥2,500 12:00~14:00 すし処小樽にて 予約はアクティビティカウンター tel:0136-44-1111 前日の17:00まで。

Contents

- 03 **in the loop** what's on in niseko now
- 07 **page seven** village news and happenings
- 08 **cross country** offbeat news from across japan
- 09 **niseko news** be the first to know
- 10 **snap** faces and fashions on the mountain
- 11 **flash** niseko's social scene
- 12 **powder tools** essentials for niseko powder
- 14 **shoukai** introducing niseko locals
- 16 **feature** g8 meets mt yotei
- 20 **men who ride mountains** with stirling goldman
- 21 **a thousand words** a photo essay
- 22 **restaurant review** niseko 148
- 23 **nightlife** the day really begins apres
- 24 **kutchan** nami-chan chi
- 25 **irasshaimase** great little local businesses
- 26 **in focus** par dahlin: swedish local legend
- 27 **four seasons** surfing hokkaido
- 28 **real estate views** snow and real estate
- 30 **feature property** a look at what's on the market
- 32 **local info** essential tips and info on niseko
- 34 **course map** and mountain info
- 36 **walking map** must-have village directory
- 37 **where to...** eat, drink, stay, play, etc
- 38 **the last word...** on health: ski fitness preparation

PROVIDED FREE IN ALL ACCOMMODATION MANAGED BY:
 Hokkaido Tracks, NGS, Nisade, The Niseko Company, Outdoor
 Travel Japan, Hokkaido Travel, Annupuri Village and Scott
 Adventure Sports.

PICK UP POINTS

Hirafu Australia House, Bang Bang, B's Café, A Bu Cha, Senchou 1, Senchou 2, Hotel Niseko Alpen, Komekichi Onigiri Cafe, King Bell Restaurant, Hotel Niseko Scott, Hotel Snow Universe, Niseko Kogen Hotel, Hirafutei Prince Hotel, Captain Hirafu, Sekka Deli, Sekka Landmark Deli, Gentem Café, Welcome Center, Wild Bill's, The Brick, Java Bar, The Red Bar, Dragon Wine Bar, Gentemstick Retail Store, NGS, Deep Powder Tours, Ski Japan, Larry Adler, Downtown Cafe, NAC, Nathan's, Jo Jo's, Yuki Bar, Fusion, 343, Apres Bar, The Northern Fox... and more **Higashiyama** Higashiyama Prince Hotel, Black Diamond Lodge **Annupuri** Annupuri Village, Nikko Hotel, Ikoimura Hotel, The Nook Annupuri, Mokumokutei BBQ House **Moiwa** Hotel Kanronomori **Kutchan** Kutchan Tourist Information Centre, Loaf Lounge, Be, Blue Cielo, Nami Chan Chi, Fuji Confectionary, Shunsai **Sapporo** Sapporo Tourist Information Centre, Sapporo Clock Tower Information Centre **Tokyo** Paddy Foley's, Legend's, National Azabu International Supermarket, Nissin International Supermarket, Khaosan Asakusa Backpackers Hostel **Hakuba** Hakuba Real Estate, The Powderhouse

powderlife

Niseko's first periodical magazine - published every two weeks from December 22, 2007 to March 29, 2008
circulation 3000 copies per issue / 24,000 copies this season
publisher Bevan Colless **managing editor** Kristian Lund
contributors Eriko Mentzos, Vanessa Gibson, Greg Lund, Nathan Schmid, Reg Dunlap, Magnus Alexander, Stirling Goldman
photographers Eriko Mentzos (ideapark), Niseko Photography (Mathew Hollingsworth, Aaron Jamieson, Alex Lee), Hotshots (Randy Wieman, Dave Paull and Mark Tsukasov)
editorial assistant Simone Nance
distribution manager Josh Kidd
layout Metropolis Magazine Tokyo, Mojoworks, Aaron Jamieson
advertising inquiries email ads@powderlife.co.jp
subscriptions email subscribe@powderlife.co.jp
order past issues ¥1000 email info@powderlife.co.jp

powderlife magazine

170-5 Aza Yamada Kutchan-cho,
 Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0081
 tel 0136 22 2000 fax 0136 22 2011
www.powderlife.co.jp

©2007 V&B Colless KK

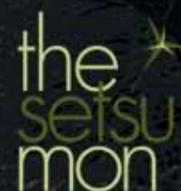
Contents of Powderlife are subject to copyright. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher is prohibited. The publication of editorial does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of views or opinions expressed. The publisher does not accept responsibility for statements made by advertisers.

cover Eriko Mentzos **location** Lake Toya

apartment sales
 luxury accommodation



the vale niseko



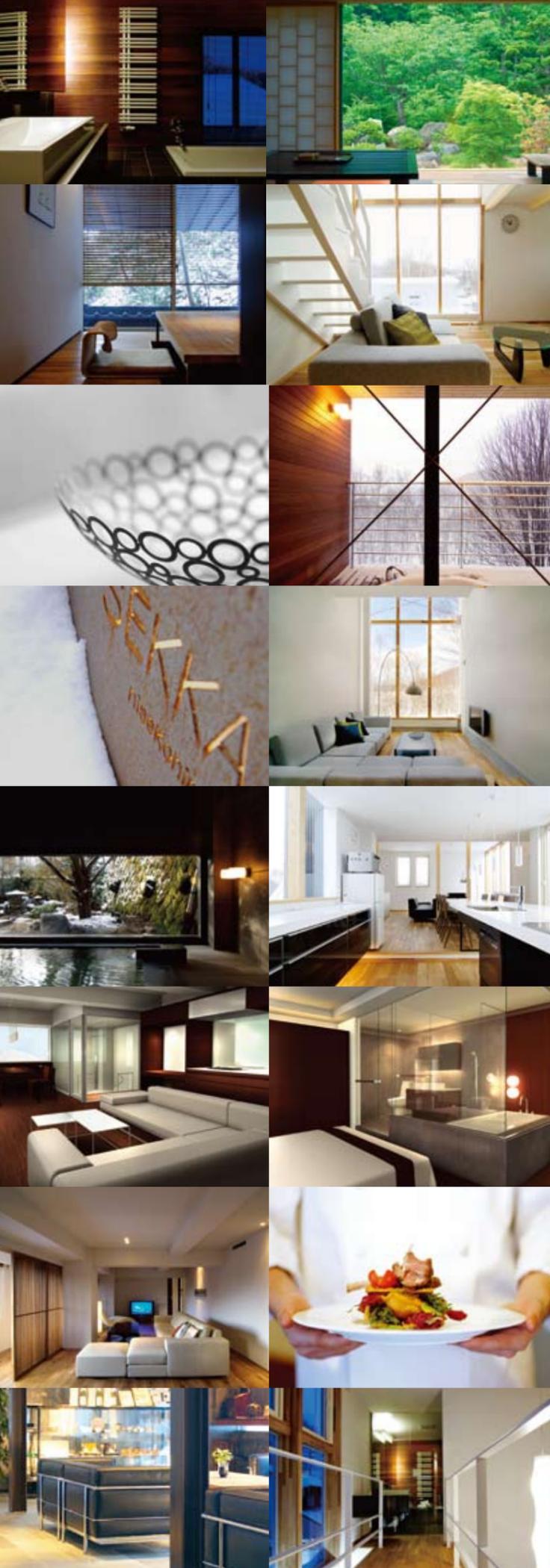
nisade luxury apartments

The Vale Niseko - luxury ski-in ski-out, swimming pool & onsen ON SALE NOW
 The Setsumon - boutique luxury in a superb location, opening Jan 08
 The Freshwater - boutique excellence, central location, opening Jan 08
 New Project - prestigious ski-in ski-out upper village location, coming soon

For Sales and Accommodation visit us at The Setsumon main street Hirafu
 OR opposite Seicomart in the Australia House building

NISADE
 NISEKO ALPINE DEVELOPMENTS





J-SEKKA

inspired living

THE J-SEKKA BUILDING IS A ONE-STOP COMFORT ZONE IN CENTRAL HIRAFU THAT INCLUDES INSPIRED LIVING WITHIN THE SEKKA SUITES, GOURMET TREATS @ SEKKA DELI, ITALIAN FUSION DINING & FINE WINES @ THE ORIGINAL SEKKA DINING BAR, JAPANESE TAPAS @ KUSHI (DOWNSTAIRS), A TASTE OF FRANCE @ RESTAURANT Q (UPSTAIRS), MYSTERIOUS COCKTAILS AND SHOTS BESIDE AN OPEN FIRE IN THE MAKI SAKE LOUNGE, BODY TREATMENT WITHIN THE MASSAGE ROOM KARADA AND SKI RENTAL FROM RHYTHM AND BEATS -- ALL NESTLED IN THE CENTRE OF HIRAFU VILLAGE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ACE FAMILY PAIR CHAIRLIFT

EACH VENUE REFLECTS THE HIP DICHOTOMY OF HARD SUMPTUOUSNESS THAT IS THE CALLING CARD OF THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF JAPANESE STAR-ARCHITECT NAKAYAMA MAKOTO AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR SHOUYA GRIGG

THERE ARE ONLY SIX SEKKA SUITES @ THE J-SEKKA BUILDING

TO GET A SEKKA LIFE VISIT WWW.SEKKANISEKO.COM



SEKKA
nisekohirafu

*The life-style photographs depicted in this advertisement are from previous projects by the J-Sekka team and are indicative of the overall appearance to be achieved in J-Sekka but remain subject to change

One last blast of winter

Niseko had its biggest one-day snowfall in six years last month. On February 24 a massive storm blew across the Sea of Japan and hammered the entire country and dumped 58cm on Niseko according to Kutchan's official statistics. The storm caused massive disruptions to Chitose Airport and wreaked havoc on local roads. Most of the deluge came between midday and about 6pm, when more than a foot of snow rapidly accumulated off thoroughfares. Locals and holidaymakers alike were salivating at the prospect of the deep powder that would be awaiting them when the storm passed. The next day only Hirafu's family lift was open and it wasn't until three days later that things had died down enough to allow the upper lifts to start working. That morning everybody's fattest, powder-specific skis and boards were out in anticipation. But rather than being the day of the season, it turned out to be the disappointment of the season - the wind had blown it all away. According to local avalanche guru Akio Shinya the surface was what is called 'skavl'. "The storm blew the soft surface away and formed a crusted rippled surface - skavl. The crust layer that was at 40-50cm under the surface a couple of days before became the surface layer." You can't have your cake and eat it too.



Snowed in...

Niseko makes top 10 resorts list

Niseko has been listed for the first time as one of the world's top 10 ski resorts this season by the UK's Association of Independent Tour Operators. British Columbia's darling Whistler topped the list for the second year running, followed by Vaujany in France and Vale in Colorado.

Meanwhile Niseko was the best performing of this year's rookies, jumping straight to number 6. The other newbies, Zakopane in Poland and Riksgransen in Sweden took up the eighth and ninth spots. And what did the AITO have to say about Niseko? "With an average of 14 metres of snowfall through the winter, Niseko is known for its abundance of high quality powder, and is fast becoming a destination for skiers and boarders looking for that something extra. While the old reliables such as Austria, Canada and France will always prove popular, there are up-and-coming destinations that intrepid skiers want to visit and cross off their list."

So what has Whistler got that Niseko could improve on? "Not only is it North America's largest resort, it had a whopping 46ft (15m) of snow last winter. In addition to masses of runs and plenty of off-piste and snowboarding, it has lively nightlife and great hotels and apartments."



World class... Looking across Higashiyama to Yotei.

International flavour enters Niseko bar and beer scene

Over the past 10 years Belgian beer bars have grown in popularity to the point where they are almost as common as Irish bars across the world. It seems every major city has one and now we're lucky enough to have one in Niseko. Belgian beer bars are particularly popular in Japan, but Niseko's Paul's Café owner Paul De Connick is the only Belgian to own and operate one. In the old Aroy bar building in the middle village, the bar has proved very popular with locals and holiday-makers alike. Paul's hoping to move into a larger venue for the 08/09 winter and we all hope to see him back here then!

Niseko history 101

Those with a basic knowledge of the Japanese language will have noticed that Niseko is written in katakana, the Japanese alphabet used to write foreign words. '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 name until today include Chisenupuri and Iwaonupuri. Another snippet for trivia buffs... Niseko was called Kaributo between 1901 and 1964 and it was tourism that demanded the name be changed back. The local station was called Kaributo Station, but tourism authorities thought it was strange that the gateway to Niseko had a different name. The town's name was changed and soon after, so was the station's.



'cliff jutting over a riverbank deep in the mountains'



Beer + Milk = ??

"I've got an idea... how about we mix our surplus milk with beer and sell it." The conversation may not have gone exactly like that, but whatever was said, the head honchos at Abashari Beer factory liked what they heard. The idea came from Chitoshi Nakahara, the son of a manager of a liquor store in Nakashibetsu, a dairy farming region in Western Hokkaido. He came up with the idea while trying to figure out a way to utilise surplus milk that was being thrown out by local dairies. One third of Bilk is milk, and it's said the flavour of the milk 'faintly drifts into the beer giving it a mellow taste and a sweet smell'. Milk consumption has been declining in Japan, and Hokkaido disposed of nearly 900 tonnes of milk in one month recently due to over-production, according to the Japan Dairy Association.

Frozen motion

Freeze TV recently rolled into Niseko to film for its popular magazine-style snowsports television series. Freeze TV screens on Fuel TV in the US and Australia with over 35 million subscribers world wide. Producer Anthony Hansen was fresh from a tour of the hottest resorts in North America but was taken by Niseko's snow and the cultural experience at the resort. "You might get great powder in Utah but you still have American food. In Japan the food and culture make this area so great. We'll definitely be back in future years". Anthony got a few great powder days while he was here so keep an eye on Fuel TV for some great footage in the coming months.

NEW AND IMPROVED

A company called Bio International Japan has released an **earplug-like device** called the Nose Mask Pit, which is intended to provide relief to hay fever sufferers.

It was reported that the number of Japanese **retailers that accept the China Paycredit card** has risen 50% in the past year.

Matsushita unveiled an **electric bicycle that can travel about 150 kilometers** on a single charge and costs up to ¥725,000 (\$7250).

AND NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS

The cover of the February 23 Economist declared "JAPAIN: Why you should be worried about the **world's second biggest economy**".

It was reported that the Imperial Household Agency is fed up with the profligate **eating habits of Princess Masako**, who has apparently been splurging on 13-course Mexican dinners and 'roast duck and shark's fin soup at a top Chinese eatery'.

A South Korean Asiana Airlines passenger jet that took off from Fukuoka Airport



without permission **narrowly avoided colliding with a helicopter** that was taking off near the same runway.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

In dismissing an appeal by a disgraced architect, a Tokyo court ruled that he must serve a five-year jail sentence for **falsifying earthquake-resistance data** on six buildings.

Miss Japan 2008 Eri Suzuki, announced that she would donate part of her ¥1 million prize money to Japan's contingent at this summer's Paralympic Games in Beijing.

BULLIES 'R' US

An NPA report asserted that the number of **bullying incidents decreased by 13%** in 2007, the first decline in five years. Some 76% of the **perpetrators were junior high school students**, while 5.7% were in elementary school. Thirteen percent of the bullies said they acted because their victims were **'goody-goody' or 'cocky'**.

OH, THAT EXPLAINS IT

After being arrested for **punching a convenience store clerk** in Kyoto while drunk, noted film director Koichi Yamashita (Kyoto Meikyū Annai) claimed, 'I never hit him'.

A 50-year-old Sapporo man who **claimed to be blind but who could actually see** well enough to hold a drivers license was arrested for welfare fraud.

A female high school student in Oita was found in violation of both the **Cannabis Control Law and the Narcotic and Psychotropic Control** after cops busted her with weed and ecstasy.

THE HIGH SEAS

An Australian anti-whaling ship called Steve Irwin was reportedly **harassing the Japanese merchant marine** in the Antarctic Ocean.

Shortly after 24 **members of Japan's Peace Boat delegation were injured** in a bus accident in Durban, South Africa, nine more Japanese people—including six employees of Toyota Motor Corporation—were hurt when the second floor of a restaurant in the city collapsed and fell three meters.

Three people were killed and 35 injured when **fierce winds battered the coast** along the Sea of Japan.

A think tank called the Japan Forum on International Relations recommended that 'no compromise' be made in the **territorial dispute with Russia over four islands off the coast of Hokkaido**.

BUSTED!

A 55-year-old professional driver who was giving a lift to a friend to renew his license was busted for **arriving at the testing center while drinking a beer**.

Chinese authorities said three Japanese people were arrested in Dalian as they **boarded a JAL flight to Tokyo with over 1,100 pirated CDs**.

A **¥2 coin minted in 1880** was bought for ¥32.1 million at an auction held by the Finance Ministry in Tokyo.

Officials in Akita Prefecture who seized a **stuffed eagle from a delinquent taxpayer** planned to auction the bird until it was pointed out that the animal is on Japan's endangered species list.

STATS

113

Age of Tsuneyo Toyonaga, Japan's oldest person, who died of natural causes last month in Kochi Prefecture

171

Number of emails sent by a high school teacher in Tochigi Prefecture to a female student asking her for a date

15

Number of staffers answering emails and phone calls from troubled police at the Metropolitan Police Departments new Workplace Improvement Hotline

62.2

Percent of husbands who make daily visits to their hospitalized wives, according to a survey by Mitsui Direct General Insurance

47.3

Percent of women who visited their hospitalized husbands

Compiled by Reg Dunlap from reports by Japan Today, The Japan Times, The International Herald Tribune/Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Daily News, AP, Kyodo and Digital World Tokyo (www.digitalworldtokyo.com)

Higashiyama opens its gates

Not to the Mizuno no Sawa (yet), but to the media. On February 29, Higashiyama resort hosted a demonstration to the press about the steps it has been taking to allow access into Mizuno no Sawa (the closed bowl under the Niseko Gondola). For the past 2 years, the resort has been practicing bombing avalanche-prone areas in the bowl to encourage a slope to slide before the resort is open, when no people are in danger. Bombing is commonplace in North American and European resorts but Higashiyama is the first to implement this strategy in Japan. Many locals and holiday-makers have been somewhat perplexed as the terrain in the closed bowls does not appear to be too extreme, but three people have died in there. Higashiyama resort public relations head Luke Hurford said "Perhaps the previous Japanese management did

not see the potential in opening the bowls". Current management has recruited Canadian avalanche expert Chris Steffen and Hakuba avalanche chief Motomura-san to assist with their research and planning. Higashiyama will be presenting its case to the Shiribetsu government over the summer and expectations are high they will receive the approval to open them. They are considering how to control access to the bowl with compulsory beacons, sign in/sign out, compulsory attendance of a safety lecture or the gate system used by the other three resorts all being considered. Yu no sawa (the bowl between Higashiyama and Annupuri) and Haru no Taki (between Higashiyama and Hirafu) are believed to be up for consideration, but they may be some time off.



Making the cut... avalanche testing.



Making explosives...



... and making Mizu no Sawa safe.

Powderlife goes global

The Niseko Promotion Board (NPB) has asked Powderlife to produce a special edition to showcase the resort at international ski expos in 2008.

The NPB is a non-profit organisation formed by business owners in the Niseko area, who are working together for the good of the resort.

The special edition will have a print run of around 12,000 and be distributed at ski expos, resorts and ski stores in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK.

It will feature a review of the 2007/8 season and a preview of the events and activities for the 2008/9 season. A key goal of the NPB is to increase occupancy in March, which is growing in popularity each year, but considering all the attractions during this period, still remains well short of its potential. For more information on the NPB see www.NisekoTourism.com

Mad land grab continues

Property buying and trading continues at Mt Annupuri's little brother, Moiwa.

The little two-lift ski resort, on a separate mountain altogether, bookends the Niseko United on its western side, beyond Annupuri Resort.

Speculation is rife that Moiwa will eventually link with the Niseko United by lift and as part of the all-mountain lift pass.

Should this happen, the property values that the speculation has inflated will be justified. Big investors at Moiwa are confident it will happen but others in the area aren't.

It's believed Annupuri Resort in particular is reluctant to join as it would only lose business to skiers who may have otherwise stayed at or stopped in their resort for dining and other activities.

Panorama released for sale

Apartments in Hirafu's biggest ever development have been released for sale.

Panorama Apartments - a 70-apartment, ski-in-ski-out development in the upper village below J-First Hotel and near the Grand Hirafu Gondola - is expected to be completed by December 2009, in time for the 2009/10 season.

"It's the biggest development Niseko's ever seen," said Ruskin McLennan, director of marketing agent Niseko Property.

The development will cost \$50million to build and individual apartment prices will range from \$800,000 up to \$1.8million.

Features include a private concierge, fully equipped gym, holistic day spa, 25m swimming pool, three restaurants and cocktail bar and lounge.

PROFESSIONAL!
Powder Action & Portraits

Check out why Hot Shots is so Hot!
Photography at www.hotshots.net.au

Call Dave 080-3542-1124 or Mark 080-3542-1123
to book your private photo shoot NOW!

スキーヤー、スノーボーダーを撮影している「ホットショット」です。
あなたの滑りを撮らせていただきました。ご覧になりたい場合は来店いただくか、
www.hotshots.com.auから見る事ができます。

場所は「ガーマッシュハウス」で営業しています。ニセコパークホテル前、バス停
#11から歩いて30秒です。コースからだと、ファミリコースの途中にある橋(ひら
ふす橋)を渡ってすぐのところにあります。

08-09シーズンは「ニセコパークホテル」の隣りにある「アルペンリッ
ジ」の中に新しい店舗をオープンします。

HOTSHOTS
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

DVD Ski Movies on www.youtube.com
and search "Randy Wieman"

Call Randy 080-3542-1125

Bring this voucher in to Hotshots at time of booking to receive **¥4,000 OFF** your next private shoot!*

*Ad must be presented to receive discount

NISEKO HIGASHIYAMA

NISEKO AUTO

- ◆ RENTALS
- ◆ SALES
- ◆ EXPORT
- ◆ REPAIR

RENTALS from 45,000yen/1week

website: www.nisekoauto.com
phone: +81(0)90-2055-6074
e-mail: cars@bdlodge.com

BLACK DIAMOND

RESTAURANT

◆ serving our own mix of Japanese and western cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere.

DIKKER from 900yen

OPEN 4-12 closed Monday

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE (when available)

website: www.bdlodge.com
phone: +81(0)136-44-1144
e-mail: reservations@bdlodge.com

BD TOURS

HOKKAIDO'S PREMIERE SNOW SPECIALISTS

- ◆ RUSUTSU TOURS
- ◆ NISEKO TOURS
- ◆ BACK COUNTRY
- ◆ SAPPORO TOURS

website: www.blackdiamondtours.com
phone: +81(0)90-2054-TOUR
e-mail: tours@bdlodge.com

SNAP

by eriko mentzos

faces on the street

What do you think of the Japanese people / foreign visitors in Niseko?



When asked what they think of foreigners in Niseko, Kazuhiro and Miyuki from Yokohama reckon they're 'very cool' and good at skiing and boarding!



HK stands for 'hard kore'! These cool characters from the real HK (Hong Kong) - Sunny, Wing, Matthew, Janice and Siu - said: "The Japanese are so polite and helpful. We love the food too."



Risa, Sayaka and Kana from the Osaka - Kyoto area reckon all international visitors are 'so cool!'



Yuko, Takumi and Kana from Himeji have been staying with the Nepalese crew at Red Bar and Restaurant and said they have been very kind to them.



UK expats living in Singapore, Simon and Karen, are amazed at how polite the Japanese are: "They're very orderly and so polite in the lift queues - in Europe it's a free for all!"



Monika and Will from Sydney reckon the locals are 'lovely!': "They're such great people - the lifties are so nice and so are the bus drivers, helping you with your gear. That doesn't happen anywhere else in the world!"



Local Caitlin says: "The Japanese are the coolest people in the world!" Offsider Yuki loves everybody (especially if they have food) but reckons sometimes drunken visitors are a little 'ruff!'

mountain style

This week's Mountain style goes to mad hatter Scottish HK expat Bruce Walker. (Robert the) Bruce got his jacket in St Anton in 1987 and it's proof that eccentricity never goes out of style. His beanie is made from 100% New Zealand sheep, and his RED-brand snowboardies add to the overall 'out there' look but also keep his coccyx protector in place. Bruce sang 'Don't you Want Me Baby' throughout the photo shoot, and yes Brucey baby, we do want you... to have a Niseko fleece courtesy of Fusion!



FLASH

niseko social scene

by jimmy edwards

Black Diamond Lodge's Bash at the Gash

Those crazy Canadian cats at BDL have built a huge jump and rail in front of the lodge and are having a party every Saturday from now until the end of the season. Several pros and even more amateurs hit the jumps and rails all night. Watch out for that parked car!



Kat, Dylan, Mika, Yuki, Saiorse and Jess pulled themselves away from the action for just long enough to get their pic taken for posterity.



"Let me at it, I wanna go of the rail!" Jess and Radek had a hard time keeping park rat Mowa out off the jump and away from the barbecue.



Mika and Robbo cuddled up for the camera while Trigger noticed neither was doing the peace sign.



Beauty and the boss... Black Diamond Lodge owners Clayton and Ayami enjoying the bash.

NisekoDarts.com Grand Final

After 10 gruelling weeks of competition among 50 locals and seasonal staff, **Dart Attack** took out Hirafu's 2nd Annual International Darts Grand Slam at Wild Bill's. Well done to runners up **Smokin' Darts**, coming into the comp as rookies. Also throwing true throughout the season but not quite hitting the mark in the end, **Seicodart** and **COS. Who Darded** ended up with a piddly three wins, but have vowed to 'try harder' and take the competition next season under a new and improved dart pun. And **wooden-spooners I'll Take 2 For That...** take a leaf out of Smokin' Darts books and buy yourselves a board for the staff accom!! Photos Niseko Photography.



Triple 20 Tom Rourke wasn't even in the comp but turned up and had a few wayward shots at the bullseye anyway. Here he gives Sophie a throw-by throw commentary of the match.



DART ATTACK!! The oldest team in the comp, Dart Attack proved they were in top shape and showed the young punks in the comp how to throw a dart. Paul, Shukin, Jay, Paul and Martin. Congrats guys! Good daaaartss!!!



Danger Dart simply turned up to support his beloved darts and wasn't quite sure what Jo Westerman found so funny...



Beer in one hand, trophy in the other, Dart Attack team captain Shukin basks in the warm glow of post-victory adoration. Simone, Martin, Shukin, Paul and Junko.

Powder tools

by bevan colless



Vector Glide Genius

Vector Glide only makes the best. Whether its skis, teles or boards this emerging boutique Japanese brand's gear is all hand made in Niigata from only the finest of materials. Like the Burton Fish but with more street cred, The Genius is a 160cm fish shaped board perfect for Niseko's powder-packed stashes. The narrow pin-tail really bites in the powder ensuring the nose stays up in the deep stuff without you having to put your back leg through the wringer. It's not just a one trick pony though as the tail will still allow you to ollie, and despite the long piece of timber in front of your front leg it won't chatter on the groomers. ¥137,000 on order only, from Toyru -near the Hirafu gondola.

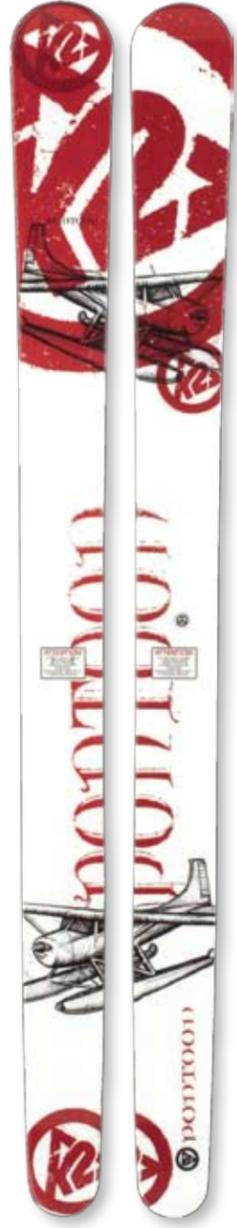


Patagonia Down Sweater

Layered until you can't layer anymore and still cold? Try ditching the fleece under your shell and replacing it with the Patagonia Down Sweater. Stuffed with high-quality 800-fill goose down this will keep your torso toasty on even the coldest days Siberia can throw at Niseko. Wrapped in a windproof, tear-resistant, and water-repellent shell, it works great as an outer layer that will see you from Apres to bed time in style. You want more? Well it can also be stuffed down into a sack without taking much room in your pack. ¥28,350 from Toyru.

K2 Pontoon

It has been said that you're not a powder skier if your waist is under 100cm. The K2 Pontoon Alpine Ski pushes the envelope when it comes to powder ski innovation. K2's powder rocker design uses an anti-camber shape, bowing the tip and tail up to provide maximum float over the light stuff. The shovel's staggering 160mm width gradually cuts down to a 130mm waist providing surprising manoeuvrability. It then tapers to a lifted 120mm tail, creating an innovative, powder-hungry beast. The K2 Pontoon Alpine Ski results in a powder hover craft with just enough manoeuvrability to get you back to the lift without flailing. ¥126,000.



NOASC ADVENTURE TOURS

"Hokkaido's Adventure Tour Specialists"

- * SKI & SNOWBOARD LESSONS
- * SKI & SNOWBOARD RENTALS
- * BACKCOUNTRY TOURS
- * SKI AREA GUIDING
- * SNOWSHOE TOURS
- * CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- * WINTER RAFTING
- * AND MUCH MORE...

NOASC.Co.ltd.
170-138 Yamada Kutchan-cho
Abuta-gun Hokkaido 044-0081
Tel: 0136-23-1688 Fax: 0136-23-1690
Email: info@noasc.com

WWW.NOASC.COM

LARRY ADLER

SKI & OUTDOOR

スキーとスノーボードレンタル

Rent-a-Ski

SKIS • BOOTS • POLES
SNOWBOARDS
SKI & BOARD TUNING
BOOT FITTING
HELMETS • FASHION
& ACCESSORIES

LOCATED NEAR THE ACE FAMILY PAIR CHAIRLIFT
8am - 8pm • Ph: 21 4050

"Over 16 years experience serving customers in Hokkaido Japan"

Niseko, Asahikawa, Furano, Kurodake, Kamui Ski Links, Mt. Rusutsu, Tomamu, Sapporo, Asahidake, Moiwa, Lake Toya

Ski & adventure travel specialists offering discount package holidays to destinations throughout Hokkaido Japan for individuals, families and small to large groups.

Outdoor Travel Japan
ski & adventure holidays .com

Email: info@outdoortraveljapan.com
Tel: +81 (0)136.21.2171 Fax: +81 (0)136-21-2172
www.outdoortraveljapan.com

NISEKO Powder Boards & Skis

www.nisekopowderboards.com

ph: in japan 0901 384 5772
ph: outside japan +81 901 384 5772
Java House Sakura St. Hirafu Village

Powder boards are more fun!

Rent a powder board or skis!

Fusion is Niseko's premier retail store.

Its breadth of product has something for everyone, a stylistic fusion where both Japanese and international design come together to deliver a complete selection of the latest high tech snow fashions for men, women and children.

demo

Demo Equipment Hire has a diverse range of skis, ski boots, snowboards, snowboard boots and helmets for adults and kids.

Demo is committed to being the best rental store in Niseko and strongly supports local trade by only buying Japanese supplied equipment.

Demo's quality service will ensure customers are on the snow in minimum time and with the best equipment available.

FUSION & DEMO

Open 7 days
8.30am - 8.30pm

Fusion
T (0136) 21 6633

Demo
T (0136) 21 6633

skihanazono.com

LOCATION

SAS SNOWSPORTS

- SAS Hire
Range of ski and snowboard gear for hire, from beginner to powder skis and boards.
- Ski and Snowboard Lessons
- Mountain Guiding and Snowshoeing Tours
- Exciting Summer activities!
Rafting, ducky, canyoning, mountain bike tours...

Tel. 0136-21-3333 www.sas-net.com

Located centrally, next to the Ace Family pair lift and Hotel Snow Universe, near the main intersection.



LIFTIE Layla-chan

name Reira Mizushima
age 26
hometown Sapporo
time in niseko Three seasons
what do you do in summer? Forrestry
This summer I just want to surf!
do you like powder? Yes!
ski/board Snowboard
when did you start? Eight years ago
why did you move to niseko? Because I love this mountain!
what languages do you speak? Just Japanese
trips overseas? Korea, Jamaica, Thailand
where do you want to go next? New York, Australia, Canada
favourite... colour White and Pink
brand ROXY food Curry restaurant Hanazono Cafe bar BAGUS Cafe onsen Yusenkaku course Roy's
where else in the world do you want to go skiing? Whistler
how long will you be in niseko for? Just until Spring
what does Niseko need? A beauty salon, a McDonalds, and a nightclub!
niseko secret? That's a secret!
what's a must have item for niseko? Heat Tech
what's your life philosophy? Follow the flow of nature, smile always!

名前 ミズシマ レイラ
年齢 26
出身地 札幌
ニセコ来てどのくらいですか? 3シーズン
夏は何してですか? 今年はサーフィンがしたいです
パウダースノーは好きですか? はい
スキーヤー?スノーボーダー? スノーボーダー
スノーボーダーボード歴 8年
なんでニセコに来たんですか? ニセコの山が好きだから
話す言語は? 日本語
海外に行った事ありますか? ソウル, ジャマイカ, タイランド
次はどこに行きたいですか? N.Y., オーストラリア, カナダ
好きな...
色は? 白, pink
ブランドは? ROXY
食べ物? カレー
レストラン? 花園カフェ
バー? バグースカフェ
温泉は? 幽泉閣
コースは? ロイズ
ニセコ以外でどのスキー場に行きたいですか? ウィスラー
ニセコにはどのくらいいる予定ですか? 春まで
ニセコに必要なものは? 美容室, マック, クラブ
ニセコの秘密? 秘密 ^^
ニセコで絶対必要だと思うアイテムは? ヒートテック
あなたの人生観は? 自然の流れに身を任せる。笑って過ごす。

SKI PATROL Hiraku-kun

name Hiraku Chiba
age 35
hometown Furano
time in niseko About five years
what do you do in summer? Forrestry
do you like powder? I love it!
ski/board Ski
how long? Five years
why did you move to niseko? To work on the mountain
what languages do you speak? Japanese
trips overseas? Canada, America, Thailand, Nepal.
where do you want to go next? Latin America
favourite... colour Green
brand Patagonia food Natto, Curry rice restaurant I don't eat out much... bar don't go out drinking much either!
onsen Yusenkaku, which is next to my house
course Shirakaba at Moiwa and Super Course at Grand Hirafu
where else in the world do you want to go skiing? Teine, Asahidake
how long will you be in niseko for? I'll be here for a while
what does niseko need? book store
niseko secret? The mush line at Moiwa, and the moca roll from Baigetsu in Kutchan
what's a must have item for niseko? friends that you can ski with!

ADMIN Omizu-san

name Tomohiro Kobune
age 42
hometown Saitama
time in niseko 11 years
what do you do in summer? Mowing
do you like powder? Yes!
ski/board Snowmobile
when did you start? 11 years ago
why did you move to niseko? I wanted to escape Saitama!
what languages do you speak? Japanese
trips overseas? Australia
where do you want to go next? China, Mongolia
favourite... colour blue
brand GENTAROU food Ramen restaurant Aji-no-Tokeidai bar Nami-chan Chi
onsen Makkari Onsen
course Jumbo course
where else in the world do you want to go skiing? Tomamu
how long will you be in niseko for? Forever!
what does niseko need? A mind that wants to enjoy!
niseko secret? Hanazono's adventure park's tour courses are fun! Summer is good here - golfing is fun too!
what's a must have item for niseko? Japanese language
what's your life philosophy? Have a can-do spirit!

名前 コブネ トモヒロ
年齢 42
出身地 埼玉
ニセコ来てどのくらいですか? 11年
夏は何してですか? 芝刈り
パウダースノーは好きですか? はい
スキーヤー?スノーボーダー? スノーモービル
モービル歴 11年
なんでニセコに来たんですか? 埼玉から逃げてきました
話す言語は? 日本語
海外に行った事ありますか? オーストラリア
次はどこに行きたいですか? 中国, モンゴル!
好きな...色は? 青
ブランドは? げんたろう
食べ物? ラーメン
レストランは? 味の時計台
バー? 波ちゃん家
温泉は? 真狩温泉
コースは? ジャンボコース
ニセコ以外でどのスキー場に行きたいですか? トムム
ニセコにはどのくらいいる予定ですか? ずっと
ニセコに必要なものは? 楽しむという気持ち
ニセコの秘密? 花園ネイチャーアドベンチャーパークのツアーコースが楽しい!!夏もとても良いです!ゴルフも楽しいです。
ニセコで絶対必要だと思うアイテムは? 日本語力
あなたの人生観は? なんとかなる!!

Ski and Snowboard Photographers

For Bookings Contact:
 090 1307 7146 or 090 9431 9693
 info@nisekophotography.com



恵比須
EBISU
EBISU
遠平



WWW.ZEKKEI-PROPERTIES.COM

+852 91306202



WEST CANADA PROPERTIES
 NISEKO JAPAN

TEL: 0136-21-7500

The grand Windsor Hotel Toya... with Mt Yotei looking on.



© Press and Information Office of the Federal Government



Steam rises from volcanoes above the village of Toyako Onsen

HOKKAIDO HOTSPOT

G8 meets Mt Yotei

by Kristian Lund
photos Eriko Mentzos

One of Japan's most spectacularly beautiful and admired landscapes is just an hour's drive from Niseko on the far side of Mt Yotei. Lake Toya is an almost-circular volcanic caldera lake, 10km across at its widest point. At its centre three densely vegetated lava domes rise from the lake's transparent waters – from space it looks like a giant blue doughnut on the dark green backdrop of Shikotsu-Toya National Park, known for its nature reserves and untouched forests. Tokyo, Sony and Japan's status as the world's second biggest economy are distant relatives to this peaceful, pristine countryside. The village of Toyako Onsen, renowned as one of the nation's top onsen resorts, lies on its western shore and attracts holidaymakers from across the country in search of peace, wide-open spaces and an escape from the pressure of life in densely populated Japan. But belying this exquisitely beautiful, serene setting is a fiery alter ego. Active volcanoes surround the lake and throughout the resort town English and Japanese signs adorn lamp posts identifying 'eruption escape routes'. In 2001 Mt Usu, on the town's edge, exploded causing widespread damage and forcing the evacuation of its 15,000 residents and

visitors. Steam still rises from Usu-zan's newly forged crater, and in scenes reminiscent of a bomb blast, lamp posts are still snapped backwards concentrically from 'ground zero'. Houses were wiped out and are barely recognizable, warped and windowless on 45-degree slopes that were formerly flat ground. In three months Lake Toya looks like it will reawake from its semi-somulent state when the world's most powerful leaders converge for the 34th Group of Eight Summit.

The G8 member-countries are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States. Their combined populations represent about 14% of the world's people, but they account for nearly two-thirds of its economic output and a majority of its military power. Each year, member states of the G8 take turns assuming the presidency of the group. The holder of the presidency sets the group's annual agenda and hosts the summit for that year. This year it's Japan's turn.

When the Group of Eight met in July 2001, half the world away from Hokkaido, hundreds of thousands of protesters from across the globe gathered in Genoa, Italy. The summit's main agenda was reducing global

poverty. Despite its seemingly good intentions, the streets were bombarded with rocks and Molotov cocktails, cars were set on fire and storefronts were smashed and looted. Italian police reacted the only way they knew how – they fought fire with fire, arresting dozens of protesters, injuring hundreds and in the aftermath a 23-year-old Italian was dead.

Since that infamous 27th G8 Summit in Genoa, the violent reaction to G8 summits has resulted in a policy to base meetings outside major centres. In fact, resorts in the host nation's outlying regions known for being naturally beautiful have been chosen. As it once again came to Japan's turn to host the meeting - previously held three times in Tokyo and most recently in the semi-tropical southern island of Okinawa - former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chose Lake Toya, a place he regards as epitomizing pristine environment in Japan, to highlight the meeting's underlying environmental theme. "This place is endowed with beautiful and dynamic nature so it's a fitting place for the world's leaders to talk about global environment," Abe said in an address announcing the meeting in April last year. "I have chosen this place because I want to send a message to the world in July next year."



Niseko's leading real estate agency

- Property sales
- Rental property management
- Preparation of Japanese and English contracts
- Property registration
- Legal advice

Niseko Real Estate Co., Ltd.

Email: info@nisekorealestate.com

Realtor License Hokkaido Governor Shiribeshi [1] No. 303

www.nisekorealestate.com



Book direct with Niseko's finest rental properties!



Niseko's premier property management company

- Property maintenance/renovation
- Accounts/bookkeeping
- Cleaning services
- Tax management and consulting
- International and domestic promotion of properties

Niseko Management Service Co., Ltd

Email: info@nisekomanagement.com

Travel Agent License Hokkaido Governor No. 3-527

www.nisekomanagement.com



Photos © Glen Claydon Photography



*Backcountry Adventures
Top Machines
Qualified Guides
Maximum Fun!*



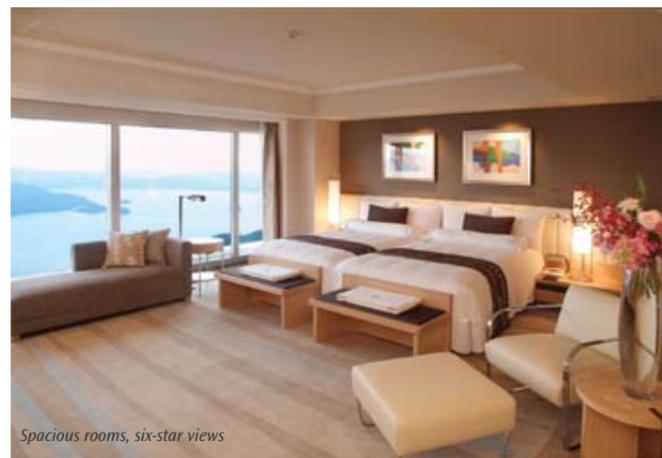
For bookings call : 0909-757-4083
www.go-nsa.com



But perhaps the real reason for choosing Lake Toya was its relative isolation. Wherever it's held, the G8 summit attracts conflict. As the annual summits are so high profile, they are subject to extensive lobbying by advocacy groups and street demonstrations by activists. The most popular criticisms centre on the assertion that members of the G8 are responsible for global issues such as poverty in Africa and developing countries due to debt and trading policy, global warming due to carbon dioxide emission, the AIDS problem due to strict medicine patent policy, and other issues related to globalisation. G8 leaders are pressured to take responsibility to combat problems they are accused of creating. For example, Live 8, a series of concerts in July 2005 to coincide with the 31st G8 summit, was intended to promote global awareness and to encourage G8 leaders to 'Make Poverty History'. Live 8 organizers also proposed that G8 member nations adjust their national budgets to allow for 0.7% to go towards foreign aid as outlined in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit.

Despite its isolation, Lake Toya won't be immune from demonstrations and lobby groups are planning to crash the G8 party. While delegates and official summit participants will largely be accommodated in the onsen hotels of Toyoko, anti-G8 visitors are expected to stay further afield, and many are likely to stay in Niseko. Unlike past summits, access to the building accommodating the leaders will be almost impossible. They will stay in The Windsor Hotel Toya, situated on a hill overlooking the lake. The hill is covered with dense bush and the only road up will be blocked. In the confines of the hotel, the meeting should be able to progress as intended without interruption.

The Windsor Hotel Toya itself houses an interesting story. Truly a five-star hotel, it could be argued its location adds another star. Perched on the 600 metre-high ridge it towers above the lake to its north, and Uchiura Bay, the 'Bay of Volcanoes', on the Pacific Ocean to its south. The whole dramatic scene can be taken in from the hotel's opulent grand lobby to the sounds of live flute and piano as guests first enter the building. The lake or sea, or both, are also visible from every one of the 334 guest rooms. Nightly accommodation ranges from ¥35,700 (\$350) for a double or twin bedroom to ¥1.36 million (\$13,600) for the biggest suite. About one in six customers is a foreigner who tends to stay for up to two weeks — far longer than the average guest. Guests have a true smorgasbord of 12 restaurants to choose from, including one of the world's few three-star Michelin chefs Michel Bras's signature restaurant. Of course there's a gym, tennis court, swimming pool and, among the entire island of Hokkaido renowned for its onsens, one which stands above them all, overlooking both Lake Toya and Uchiura Bay.



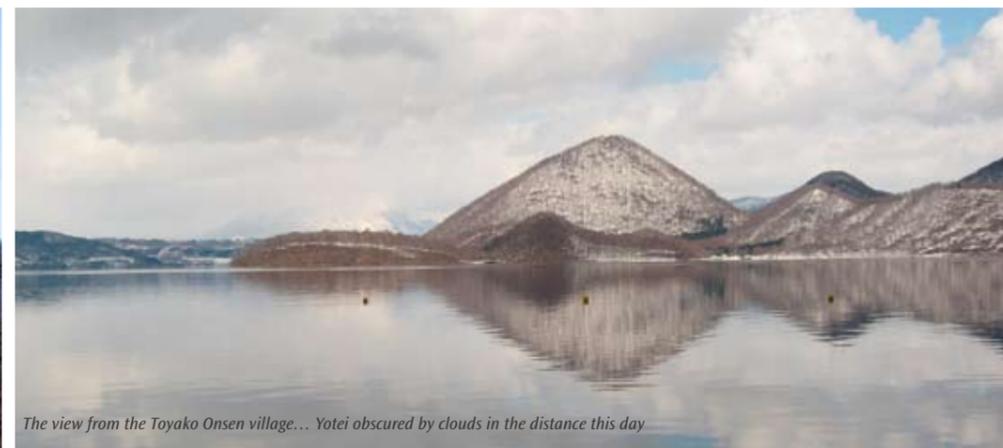
Spacious rooms, six-star views



The grand lobby with floor to three-storey ceiling windows overlooking the lake



Towering above the lake...



The view from the Toyoko Onsen village... Yotei obscured by clouds in the distance this day

Initially built during the highflying days of the Japanese property bubble of the 1980s and 90s, it was designed to cater to the overtly wealthy. So while the Windsor's is not exactly a rags-to-riches story, it could be described as a riches-to-rags-to-riches story. It's hard to believe now, but 10 years ago it was broke and forced to shut its doors. Solely thanks to its optimistic president, Tetsuo Kuboyama, The Windsor has received the ultimate compliment by being asked to host the G8 Summit. Kuboyama-san has worked at some of the best hotels around the world, including the Waldorf Astoria in New York. "That is the most luxurious hotel I have ever seen," Kuboyama told Powderlife. "All the biggest name stars have stayed there - Elvis, Emperor Hirohito, Frank Sinatra, the Queen of England, Jack Nicklaus. Working in that environment taught me to do everything to the highest possible standard."

"The highest possible standard" is a good way to describe everything about the Windsor. "It was built in the middle of the bubble in 1990 and prestige was the overriding theme," Kuboyama-san says. "When it opened it was only for private members of the Windsor Club (memberships cost up to ¥30 million, or \$US300,000), so the general public couldn't stay there. It was built to the highest standards imaginable. Then when the bubble burst, Windsor memberships declined and the standards of service dropped. The staff began to worry about themselves and not so much about the guests."

In 1997, the regional lender Hokkaido Takushoku Bank went bankrupt and as the main bank for the hotel's real estate developer, this spelled doom for The Windsor: "On December 9, 1997, soon after I became manager, we were granted entry into the Leading Hotels of the World. Ironically two weeks after that, the bank that was supporting us folded. We

had to close our doors on March 21, 1998." Japan was still languishing in the wake of the bubble economy's implosion and the situation was particularly severe in Hokkaido. Investors weren't interested in injecting money into expensive resort hotels for the wealthy.

"I knew that it was such a special site and had so much potential, we couldn't just leave it there as a white elephant. We decided to go back to the drawing board, scrap the members-only policy, but we didn't want to decrease the standards. The Governor of Hokkaido asked me to keep the prices and services up if we were going to re-open. That motivated me to search for the absolute finest in facilities, services and food and beverage. I convinced three-star Michelin chef Michel Bras to open his restaurant here. He came here when it was still closed and fell in love with the outlook over the Lake. He said it reminded him of a favourite location he once worked at in France. I also got a world famous baker, and we are one of the only bakeries in Japan to import all our flour from France. We convinced a very famous Japanese chef – Miyamaso-san, who has a very exclusive restaurant outside Kyoto – to open here. Finally Mr Takahashi opened his Duram soba restaurant, the finest of its kind in Japan." In 2002, four years after it closed, the Windsor Hotel Toya made a spectacular comeback with a refurbished interior and the finest collection of restaurants in Hokkaido, if not Japan. If it was impressive before it closed, now it was something else. The Windsor Hotel Toya was back, and better than ever.

The G8 Summit will be held on July 7-9 and the hotel is closed to the public for 10 days in the lead up to and after it. As visitors to Niseko will know, the Japanese are among the most attentive hosts in the world, so the leaders can expect to receive the finest hospitality. Traditional Japanese dancers will perform in the lobby and a famous koto (traditional Japanese harp)

player will perform for the leaders and their spouses. They will receive special gifts including sake from Japan's most famous sake maker presented in handmade pots. A new executive chef will be brought in to oversee catering for the event. The Michel Bras menu will be modified to include more Japanese food so the leaders can experience the finest Japanese cuisine.

During that period, Hokkaido will be the centre of the world's media attention. While Niseko has managed to attract the international tourist market, the rest of the spectacular island of Hokkaido is still relatively unknown outside of Japan. The man with the golden touch, Kuboyama-san, is confident the G8 summit means bigger and better things for Hokkaido. "I think this will only grow and grow. Hokkaido is the jewel in Japan's tourism crown and even now I can see an increase in travellers from Asia, Australia and Europe. We should all turn the summit into a springboard. It's a great opportunity for tourism in Hokkaido and we must show Hokkaido's face to the world."



Toya hotel pres Tetsuo Kuboyama Satoko Kawasaki, Japan Times

by Stirling Goldman

Hailing from the extreme terrain of Mt Baw Baw in Australia, Stirling Goldman was bred on waist-deep, man-made powder and extra steep chutes. Stirling has conquered the most beastly mountains across the world, and recently moved to Niseko. Stirling soon sensed that both local and international punters needed to be taught a thing or two and luckily for us, has decided to settle here for good. Stirling Goldman: a man who rides mountains.



Hokkaido Brown Bear who had decided to come out of hibernation early. Understandably the ladies were a little distressed. But I said, "Relax ladies, Stirling has it covered". I eye off the bear. It's big. Beyond Stirling big, but I can take it. The bear charges me. It's strong. Beyond Stirling strong, but I can handle it. Like David on Goliath, Stirling on bear. I wrestle it and we engage in an epic tussle worthy of any Don King event. I start to dominate the bear and eventually I put the bear in a sleeper hold. In my signature showman style I lift its arm up. It drops. And twice more - it drops. Should I kill it? I ponder.... No, it is not this bear's time. I release the grip around its neck and it comes to. It taps out on the canvas. Stirling has experienced victory. The bear meanders back to hibernation nodding to the ladies as it goes. The ladies love it and Stirling is victorious again twice more. The ladies are victorious multiple times.

Q: Stirling, which is more challenging – the bowls of Mt Baw Baw or the backbowl of Niseko? P.S. You're so sexy ;) Denise, Sydney, NSW.

A: Well baby, The Backbowl here does hold some challenges but nothing like the infamous Baw Baw Bowl. If it were any steeper you'd be skiing upside down. Any deeper you'd need scuba equipment. As we say back home: "The Baw is the Best".
P.S. I know. Call me you might get lucky.

Q: Stirls, can you snowboard also? Peter, Perth, WA.

A: Yes Pete, of course I can. Just thought after I'd done Alaska with Jeremy Jones there wasn't much more to it. Mate there is nothing Stirling can't do. I can snowboard, skiboard, and telemark. Hell, Pete, during

the 80s I even rode a monoboard from Niseko to the South pole. Name the hill, name the device and I've probably slid down it or on it.

Q: Stirling is it true Giro helmets created a helmet with an inbuilt snorkel for you? Derek, Pretoria, South Africa.

A: Dez, all true champ. I was tired of holding my breath for over two minutes as I hammered down neck deep powder, so my people spoke to Giros' people and developed the 'Snorky Stirls' helmet. But if you want one, get it while you're here in Niseko, as I told my people not to distribute in South Africa, as I hate the Springboks....and the All Blacks, from South East Australia.

Q: Stirling; You seem to know Niseko so well. How long have you been here? Katrina, Hong Kong.

A: Well Kat, with all these new blow-ins I'm glad you brought this up. Although I am and always will be a Baw-Boy at heart and only recently re-settled here, I have been coming here for longer than your Dad could remember. The first time I skied on Mt Annupuri there weren't even any lifts on it. In fact there weren't even any Japanese people here, and I used to chill with my Hokkaido-natives Ainu brothers after a day ripping the mountain to pieces together. Just when I was starting to get used to these Japanese taking over, these Aussies, Asians and Europeans come and do it all again. So Kat, you imposter, I guess you could say I've been here a while.

Got a question for a man who knows? Fire it to stirling@powderlife.co.jp.



photo: glen claydon

Riding switch... sliding down Yotei, looking at Annupuri. Nic Brunner, Spring 2008.



Open air hot spring bath

Swimming pool



<http://www.grand-hirafu.jp>



Restaurant Slalom

Restaurant Supur

Nearest from ski area!

 ひらふ温泉郷
Hotel Niseko ALPEN
 TEL 0136-22-1105
 From ¥10,650 (for per person, per night)
 * including : tax, breakfast, lift ticket.

Ski in! Ski out!

NISEKO KOGEN HOTEL
 TEL 0136-22-0117
 From ¥9,500 (for per person, per night)
 * including : tax, breakfast, lift ticket.



photo: dave pauli, hotsprings

Nathan finds a natural rail



photo: alex lee, niseko photography

Michael loves the groomers in spring.

KAMIMURA

FIRST FLOOR, YAMA SHIZEN WEST



"A delectable blend of Japanese seasonal cuisine, and classic French technique"

Head Chef Yuichi Kamimura, originally from Tetsuya's in Sydney
reservations essential - 0136 21 22 88

Graubunden

Sandwiches, cakes and delivery.....
"Graubunden" where quality is always assured!!!
Come in for lunch or dinner and choose from our amazing 30 plus variety of sandwiches and mouth watering original sweets.



www.graubunden.jp
11:00am~8:00pm

Izumikyou 2 Hirafu area
We are closed on thursdays
Tel 0136-23-3371

Wine & Food Bar DRAGON



Inspired by the ancient art of Japanese temple carpentry, infused with a menu of the finest local ingredients... The Dragon Bar is an experience into the culture of Japan. Sit at the bar on the first floor, or the restaurant on the second which serves contemporary cuisine together with wines selected by our sommelier. Enter the DRAGON.

dinner 6pm~11pm (10pm L.O.), bar~2am
tel: 0136-21-7700

fine dining in the comfort of your own home



niseko cuisine

"stylish, unpretentious food, quality wine and first class service"

seven menus available with wine to complement
080 5584 1313 / 0136 556 885 www.nisekocuisine.com



niseko 148

by vanessa gibson

Niseko 148 is the sister restaurant of the well established Hiroo 148 in central Tokyo. Founder Marcus Yip is a 4th generation Australian of Indonesian & Chinese background, who comes from a long heritage of restaurateurs and foodies. He was inspired to create a culinary fusion of Asian & European foods to emphasize the multicultural influence of Australia. Housed in an old lounge bar Bob Cat at the entrance to Annupuri, the story goes that it was built by a wealthy Tokyo-based businessman who had a mistress in the area who ran the bar while he was in Tokyo. The businessman passed away and the mistress sold up and moved on, leaving a great building constructed to the highest levels - perfect for a new dining experience in Niseko.

On visiting Niseko 148 we were greeted by Marcus's partner in the restaurant and man on the ground, Gerard Eady. Gerard is a fellow Aussie who developed his maître de skills and fluency in Japanese through working in restaurants in Tokyo over a number of years.

The Niseko 148 menu has about 6 choices of entrees priced reasonably at around ¥1000 and six mains costing between ¥2,000 and ¥3,600. For entrée we chose the popular Thai fried prawns that I was familiar with from Hiroo 148, and we looked forward to renewing our acquaintance. These are delicate, tender and bursting with Asian inspired flavours. They come with a generous amount of chili cream & native lemon myrtle sauce. We tripped up on the entrees and really enjoyed the homemade salmon gravalax and fresh Vietnamese spring rolls with a Japanese twist.

For our mains we chose steak with blue cheese and wasabi butter and salmon with yuzu cream. The salmon, served with a very mild creamy sauce was as flavoursome as one would expect being sourced fresh from Hokkaido waters. The blue cheese and wasabi sauce was a curious combination, but seemed to work well to enhance the flavours of the meat, which was a fabulous cut from Australia. There was a good selection of wines, not only Australian but also the ever-popular New Zealand Sauv Blanc and a couple of choice selections from Californian too.

A classy oval-shaped long bar spans the restaurant, perfect for a couple sitting side by side. They also have private rooms, and they are one of the few places in the area that can seat large groups with ease.

Niseko 148 is positioned 10 minutes out of Hirafu, just before the turn off to Annupuri. The surroundings are very quiet and peaceful. Pick up can be arranged.

Niseko 148 opens daily for dinner. For reservations: 080-3426-5732 niseko148@lapis.plala.or.jp

night life

by Kaori-chan

イベント情報をお寄せください!
Tell us about your event!
nightlife@powderlife.co.jp 0136 222 000

- Saturday March 15**
Bash at the Gash
Black Diamond Lodge's rail jam party. Hit the big jump and big rail while enjoying a spring barbecue and tunes.
- Blo Blo's Spud bake**
¥100 Kutchan potatoes, straight from the fire with sour cream and butter. From 7pm.
- Monday March 17**
Jam Bar Dance Party
DJ Go-roku (56), DJ Inuneko Cox, DJ Watermelon. 9pm - 3am. ¥1,000 entry fee includes one drink.
- Tuesday March 18**
BBQ night at Blo Blo
¥1000 for plate of BBQ, salads, a beer and free Fire dancing show from 10pm.
- Niseko Darts Singles @ Wild Bills**
¥500 entry fee, winner and runner up get a bar tab. Registration 6.30pm.
- Wednesday March 19**
POWDERLIFE KUTCHAN PUB CRAWL
¥1,000. Pay at Powderlife office 2F Australia house. Girls free. See the quirky places that make K-Town great. Leaves from Seicomart bus station at 7.30 sharp. Includes some free drinks and more.
- Wednesday March 22**
Bash at the Gash
Black Diamond Lodge's rail jam party. Hit the big jump and big rail while enjoying a spring barbecue and tunes.
- Blo Blo's Spud bake**
¥100 Kutchan potatoes, straight from the fire with sour cream and butter. From 7pm.
- Tuesday March 25**
BBQ night at Blo Blo
¥1000 for plate of BBQ, salads, a beer and free Fire dancing show from 10pm.
- Niseko Darts singles @ Wild Bills**
¥500 entry fee, winner and runner up get a bar tab. Registration 6.30pm.
- Wednesday March 26**
POWDERLIFE KUTCHAN PUB CRAWL
¥1,000. Pay at Powderlife office 2F Australia house. Girls free. See the quirky places that make K-Town great. Leaves from Seicomart bus station at 7.30 sharp. Includes some free drinks and more.
- Saturday March 29**
Locals' End of Season Saionara Party
Wild Bills is putting on the bash to end all bashes... for this season anyway. Traditional Japanese 'Nomihoudai' - all you can drink - ¥2500 for three hours 7-10pm.



100% fresh local ingredients
come alone or bring your friends everyone can enjoy their time here!

Happy Hour 5pm~7pm
All drinks ¥100 off

JAM cafe bar 5pm~2am
tel: 0136-23-0700

Java Bar

Hirafu's Lounge & Cocktail Bar



Open from 4pm til late
FREE Internet Hotspot

Live Music, DJs & Events

Check daily events in Niseko Powderlife Gig Guide

Best Cocktails & Espresso in Niseko!

Sakura St. Mid Hirafu Village, Shuttle Stop 4. t: 0136 23 0788

NisekoDarts.com



Darts culture has been sweeping Niseko like a full thickness slab avalanche - taking all in its wake. Gone are the ubiquitous pool tables and their myriad of different rules, replaced by dart boards in most of Niseko's popular haunts. Niseko Photography's Matt Hollingsworth and Aaron Jamieson have brought the dart culture from Mt Hotham in Australia, where the winter darts competition has three grades and is the largest competition in the southern hemisphere. The team competition was a highlight for many seasonal workers and many visitors have had a throw or two in Hirafu's favourite darts haunts: Splash, Wild Bill's, Yuki Bar and Pow Pow. The singles comp, open to visitors, has just begun. Tuesdays at Wild Bill's. Registration by 6pm, ¥500 entry fee.

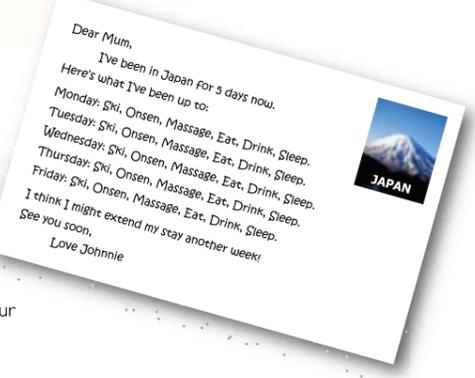
NISEKO Massage



Come and visit Niseko Massage to soothe your tired muscles and revitalise your body and mind. Our highly qualified and experienced massage therapists will tune your body and prepare you for your next day on the mountain.

Our rooms are luxuriously appointed with comfortable massage tables, all with arm rests. We are conveniently located on the second floor of Australia house, opposite the Seicomart. If you prefer we can visit your hotel and perform the massage in the comfort of your own accommodation. Appointments are preferred but not essential.

2F Australia House, 170 - 5 Aza Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0081
Tel: 0136 22 0399 • Fax: 0136 22 2011 • physio@gol.com • www.NisekoMassage.com



Dear Mum,
I've been in Japan for 5 days now.
Here's what I've been up to:
Monday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Tuesday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Wednesday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Thursday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
Friday: Ski, Onsen, Massage, Eat, Drink, Sleep.
I think I might extend my stay another week!
See you soon,
Love Johnnie





Ads below correspond to the map in order from 1-6 from top to bottom.

hours:11:00~21:00
closed on Sundays
tel:0136-23-1882

旬彩 Shunsai

Top local Japanese chef, seasonal Hokkaido ingredients, Western flavour... the ultimate fusion. Pick up service available if you book the dinner course (from ¥3000).

FUJII Confectionary Store

Don't miss Kutchan's famous Cream Puffs. With the Crispy Shell being baked here in the kitchen. We stuff fresh cream into every order just before we serve you. You will also find authentic Japanese sweets that are unique to the area. Come and enjoy the flavours with us.

8:00am ~ 8:00pm [closed on tuesdays]

波ちゃん家 NAMI CHAN CHI

Authentic traditional Japanese izakaya casual dining restaurant. Big servings, good prices. Serve with plenty of cold beer... on top of course!

6pm ~ closed on Sundays tel:0136-21-2258

Loaf Lounge

Since its establishment in 2006 the exciting LOAF LOUNGE has quickly established itself as a local favorite. Come out and enjoy the good food, and a wide selection of cocktails. The lounge opens at 4:20. Stay deep into the night telling stories around the hot fire. Please check the website for details of weekend events, and don't forget to try out some of the games. A hotspot that would not be missed. <http://loafounge.wordpress.com/>

Bleu Cielo hours:12:00~22:00 closed on Mondays tel:0136-22-3255

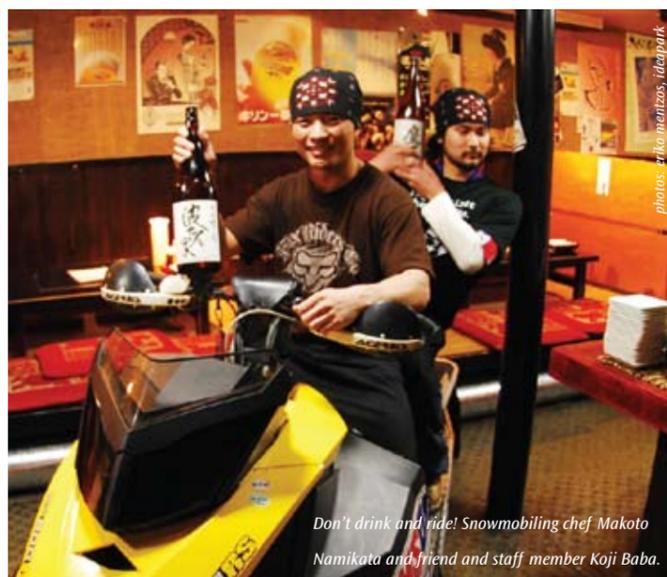
Feast on delicious Hokkaido fare prepared in an iron pot

- Seafood spaghetti tomato sauce...¥1,000
- Margherita...¥1,000
- Hokkaido Chicken herb steak...¥1,000
- Cappuccino...¥450
- Draft Beer...¥500
- Bottle Wine...¥2,000~

*Kids Room Available

Be. 7 PM ~ 3 AM tel:090-7515-3328

pool, darts, dj, eat, drink, relax... be. Bring a friend or bring a party. Spend a night in Kutchan at Be. 1F of Oowaki Bldg *No Cover Charge



Don't drink and ride! Snowmobiling chef Makoto Namikata and friend and staff member Koji Baba.

the snowmobiling chef in kutchan

by magnus alexander

Would you leave the love of your life out in the cold? If you're wondering why there's a massive \$20,000, 150 horsepower snowmobile inside the door of Kutchan izakaya Nami-chan Chi, it's because it's owner Makoto Namikata's baby. Not only is Namikata – Nami-chan – a talented chef, he's also one of Japan's top snowmobile racers. Two years ago he was the third ranked snowmobiler racer in the whole of Japan. This year's competition has just wrapped up and he's ended up a creditable 15th.

Nami-chan was born and raised in Kutchan, and like most teenagers in the area, took up snowboarding and spent a good part of his late teens and early 20s sliding down Mt Annupuri. But all that changed when he was 26 and tried snowmobiling. From that day on, he was converted and has been up on the mountain only a handful of times since (regular readers of Powderlife may remember a very similar story from Powderlife Issue 4).

Snowmobile racing is basically the snow version of the dirt-based motocross motorbike racing. High-powered snowmobiles race around a 1km circuit complete with massive jumps and tight turns. Nami-chan says the vehicles often launch distances of up to 30m! He's in love with the thrill of the competition and puts his success down to the fact that he's not afraid to go hard.

While snowmobiling pays the bills in winter, Nami-chan has always needed to work in a real job over summer. For a long time he worked as a chef in Hirafu restaurants and hotels. But from the time he was 16 he always wanted to start his own restaurant, a dream he finally realised several years ago. His mellow izakaya (casual Japanese dining restaurant/pub) suits his relaxed personality and the food is similarly simple but delicious. He selects his ingredients from the most renowned areas for each ingredient in Hokkaido. His parents own an organic farm and most of his vegetables like asparagus and potatoes are sourced from there. Their specialty is red and green Yotei melons so be sure to order his melon for desert. Their most popular dishes are the kimuchi horumon, sashimi, and half chicken.

The name of the restaurant is quite interesting too. Nami is short for Nami-chan's family name Namikata, and the suffix -chan is used like the well known -san at the end of a name. It is generally used for children and girls but often used endearingly for close friends. Meanwhile chi means house, so the restaurant name basically means 'Nami's house' and lets people know he's a well known and liked local character.

To find Nami-chan Chi walk up Kutchan's main street - Eki Mae Dori - from the train station until you find Cocoroya souvenir store. Turn left and you'll see the bright orange vertical sign.

Buses to Kutchan leave from the main street near Seicomart. The bus stop is a few small signs on the roadside opposite PowPow. Buses leave every half hour or so during the day and cost ¥380. The night bus is free and leaves every hour or so from 5pm. Timetable on the back of the resort's course map.



Look for the orange sign...

by Eriko Mentzos



Akiko Shimono

Mozart, Izumikyo

Mozart is a peaceful little café in Izumikyo Village, just outside Hirafu on the way to Kutchan. Its owner Akiko Shimono was introduced to Niseko more than 20 years ago by friends who invited her to go hiking on the area's mountains in summer. She thought Niseko was absolutely fantastic and decided to start a pension in Annpuri 18 years ago. It too was called Mozart and was very successful with lots of repeat customers. However 13 years ago she got very sick and was forced to close down and take a few years off. When she had recovered enough she decided she wanted to start working again but the idea of running another busy pension was too much. So she decided to start the café. It wasn't enough however, and she decided to turn it into a restaurant as well. The name comes from her love of Mozart music and generally when you go in his music will be playing. The only exception is when there are a lot of people in there and the atmosphere demands a bit of jazz. Prices are very reasonable. To get down there take the free Grand Hirafu Resort shuttle and get off at Unitas II. Closed Tuesdays.

Pension Island, Hirafu Lower Vilage

People who can read Japanese will know Pension Island, or Ai-land, is actually a very clever cross-lingual pun. When owners Yoshiyuki and Kazuko Ishikawa decided they had had enough of farming 15 years ago, they decided to move to Niseko and open a pension. And rather than make it simply a shell where visitors could shelter from the snow at night, they wanted to make it a place where people really felt at home. Ai means love in Japanese, and visitors can definitely feel the love when they stay there. Two hot meals are served everyday and each new visitor is introduced to everyone else staying there on their first day. Kazuko is actually a qualified ski and snowboard instructor and is more than happy to give guests free lessons. Yoshiyuki is the chef and specialises in Chinese food cooked in a Japanese style so it's much lighter and less oily. Contact them through their website (made for free by a satisfied customer) at www.niseko.ne.jp/island.



Yoshiyuki and Kazuko Ishikawa

Milk Kobo, Higashiyama

Every good entrepreneur recognises that a problem is an opportunity in disguise, and Higashiyama's Milk Kobo is a great example. Dairy farming is one of Niseko's biggest agricultural industries so it hit the town hard 15 years ago when there was a milk glut across the country. The price of milk plummeted and farms had excess milk they couldn't get rid of. Working 15-hour days – from 5am until 8pm – the owners couldn't bring themselves to throw any away, so they started an ice cream shop. The quality of their milk is as good as it gets - cows are hand milked, bred on all-natural feed and the purest water in Japan from Mt Yotei, and exercised daily even in winter – so it was no surprise their ice cream was a hit. After four years they decided to expand their range and started selling drinking yoghurt, which soon gained a reputation as well. These days they're also known across Japan for the quality of their chou cream puffs, roll cakes, and puddings and are a major domestic summer Niseko tourist attraction. On the road to Higashiyama Prince Hotel, open 10am - 6pm daily.



Milk Kobo manager Yuko Takahashi

Ruhiel

While a day on a cold mountain generally makes people envision the hot meal they're going to have afterwards, there's one gelato shop visitors to Niseko must visit. Ruhiel Gelato is located just outside Hirafu on the back road to Kutchan. Owner Koji Sasaki was formerly a 'salaryman' in Ebetsu, just outside Sapporo, and after visiting Niseko in the early 90s fell in love with the beautiful countryside and abundance of fresh spring water. He bought a block of land and dreamed of the day he could move here permanently. That day came in July 1997. With a love of sweets, Koji-san decided Niseko needed a gelato shop and opened Ruhiel to fund his new lifestyle. His gelato is all natural with no colours or preservatives and is based on seasonal ingredients - in winter they specialise in mandarin, apple and strawberry and in other seasons things like greapefruit, melon and persimmon. Catch a taxi or or ask your accommodation provider if they can take you.



Koji Sasaki

powderhouse

Boutique Lodge located at the base of Hakuba 47 resort. Magnificent views of the Hakuba Valley and surrounding mountains. Fabulous food, personalized service transfers to and from Nagano.

TEL INT.....81.261.75.3343 LOCAL.....0261.75.3343 FAX.....0261.75.7008 MOBILE....090.8892.1224

〒399-9211 NAGANO-KEN KITAAZUMIGUN HAKUBA MURA OAZA KAMISHIRO 27436-7

www.powderhouse.jp
info@powderhouse.jp

FUSION HOMES
 Quality, innovative building in the Alpine Region of Hakuba.

- Design
- Construction
- Renovations
- Project management

TEL INT.....81.261.75.3073 LOCAL.....0261.75.3073 FAX.....0261.75.7008 MOBILE....090.3145.9636

〒399-9211 NAGANO-KEN KITAAZUMIGUN HAKUBA MURA OAZA KAMISHIRO 27436-7

www.fusionhomes.jp
info@fusionhomes.jp

in focus
par dahlin

Par is a well known Swedish skier and snowboarder who has been riding Mt Annupuri for more than 19 years, but still retains a zest for the sport like it was his first season. His long, blonde dreadlocks streaming out from under his rasta-style helmet are a familiar sight for those who frequent Moiwa, Annupuri and Higashiyama. One of the most highly regarded guides in the area, Par has tried his hand at an interesting array of work in his time in Japan.



How did you end up in Japan?

As an 18 year-old Swede, I just put my backpack on and tried to get as far as possible from Sweden without ending up in Australia like most Swedish backpackers.

When did you first arrive here in Japan?

24 years ago. The first five years I spent in Sapporo and Takikawa, and I didn't even ski! I worked lots of different jobs.

How did you arrive in Niseko?

I had planned to move to Furano to get back into skiing, but my friend, mogul ski champion Yamasaki Osamu, said Niseko was better so I came here 19 years ago.

What were you doing when you came here?

I got a job shovelling snow with the 'Aspen' pension, which is now Crossroads. I also worked with pension BAB and J First, mostly shovelling snow! I tried to work as little as possible, I just wanted to ski.

When did you begin guiding?

About 15 years ago, mostly for pro skiers and boarders for filming.

What do you think of all the changes that have happened in Niseko in the past five years?

Well as for all the new international people coming here to holiday and live, I think good for them. My main concern is mountain safety. There are so many people heading out of the gates and guides that haven't even spent a season here. I do worry for the safety of people.

Have you seen many accidents here?

The last few years have been OK, but previously the backbowl has avalanched almost all the way down to the Annupuri resort, and that was when only the best went there. These days it's almost like a groomer. There would be big trouble if that avalanche happened again. I think they should give away four sets of avalanche safety gear with those million-dollar apartments they're selling in Hirafu.

Do you ever get bored with skiing or snowboarding?

Never. I still love it. I just widen my horizons to find things that are interesting.

What do you do in summer?

I paint houses, cut down trees, work an excavator and my landlord occasionally gets me to work on a Japanese road-maintenance crew!

And the dreads.....how many years?

Eight to 10 I guess.

What is a typical week for you?

Maybe one day instructing, one or two days guiding, one day shovelling snow (I'm still doing that, but now I use a machine!), one day snowmobiling, and a few days free-riding/skiing. If the conditions are bad I spend more time with my family, but there aren't too many of those days, it's always pretty good.

What are your top three tips for all visitors to Niseko to do?

- 1 Hike up Mt Yotei. I've done it close to 100 times, but I usually only go about 70% of the way. I don't want to end up with blood in my boots like the guy from the first issue (Captain Hirafu's Liam from PL Issue #1)!
- 2 Have an onsen – my favourite is near Moiwa, the Niseko Grand Hotel. It's the only one in the area that the whole family can have a soak together.
- 3 Go for a snowmobile ride. I do some tours where you can be towed behind the snowmobile. It's like wake-boarding; there is always a bank to ride on, lots of fun on a snowboard!



Par's preferred method of snow clearing.

WINTER ACTIVITIES
 BACK COUNTRY (CLIMBING)
 BACK COUNTRY (LIFT ACCESS)
 SNOWSHOE
 SKI, SNOWBOARD AND TELEMARX LESSONS
 CAT TOURS
 X-COUNTRY SKI

NAC TEL:0136-23-2093 www.nac-web.com
 FAX:0136-23-2094 179-53 yamada kutchan
 NISEKO ADVENTURE CENTRE abuta-gun hokkaido JAPAN

Hirafu kids
 child minding

a safe, fun and exciting environment for your children while you enjoy the Niseko snow!

8:00 am - 4:00 pm (closed on saturday) including a delicious, healthy lunch!

6 months - 6 years
 Yama Shizen Building, First Floor

0136 23 35 31 www.hirafukids.com

Business Hours from 7:30 to 23:00

Nathan's
 SINCE 1911
 BURGERS

TANCHO CENTER 1F 179-8
 Aza-Yamada Kutchan-cho
 TEL:0136-21-3121

Niseko Grand HIRAFU
 Nathan's
 Seicomart
 NAC
 Niseko Kutchan

We are your guide to homes and property for sale in Niseko
Real Estate & Management

二世古生活計画

Niseko Life Plan Co.,Ltd
 27-1 1 Aza Higashiyama Niseko-cho Abuta-gun Hokkaido
 Tel: (0136) 44-3584 Fax: (0136) 44-1445
 E-mail: e-info@nisekolifeplan.co.jp
 www.nisekolifeplan.co.jp Region 1 Real Estate Licence #324

summer surfing safari
 having a swell time in hokkaido
 by kristian lund

Hokkaido is one of the world's great undiscovered tourist treasures. As global warming increasingly impacts on popular tourist destinations around the globe, Hokkaido is just starting to come into its own. The powder snow that blankets the ski resorts in winter is one legacy of its location off the coast of Siberia, but it's also just far enough north of the equator to escape the humidity which makes mainland Japan almost unbearable in summer. In short, it's the ideal all-year round holiday destination. As more foreign ski visitors come to feel comfortable with Niseko, they might think about spreading their wings and taking in the best of the rest of this magic island – 'The Garden of The Gods'.



photo: kal bragg



photo: kal bragg



photo: allen davyden



photo: kal bragg

Hokkaido... looking like Australia or Indonesia!

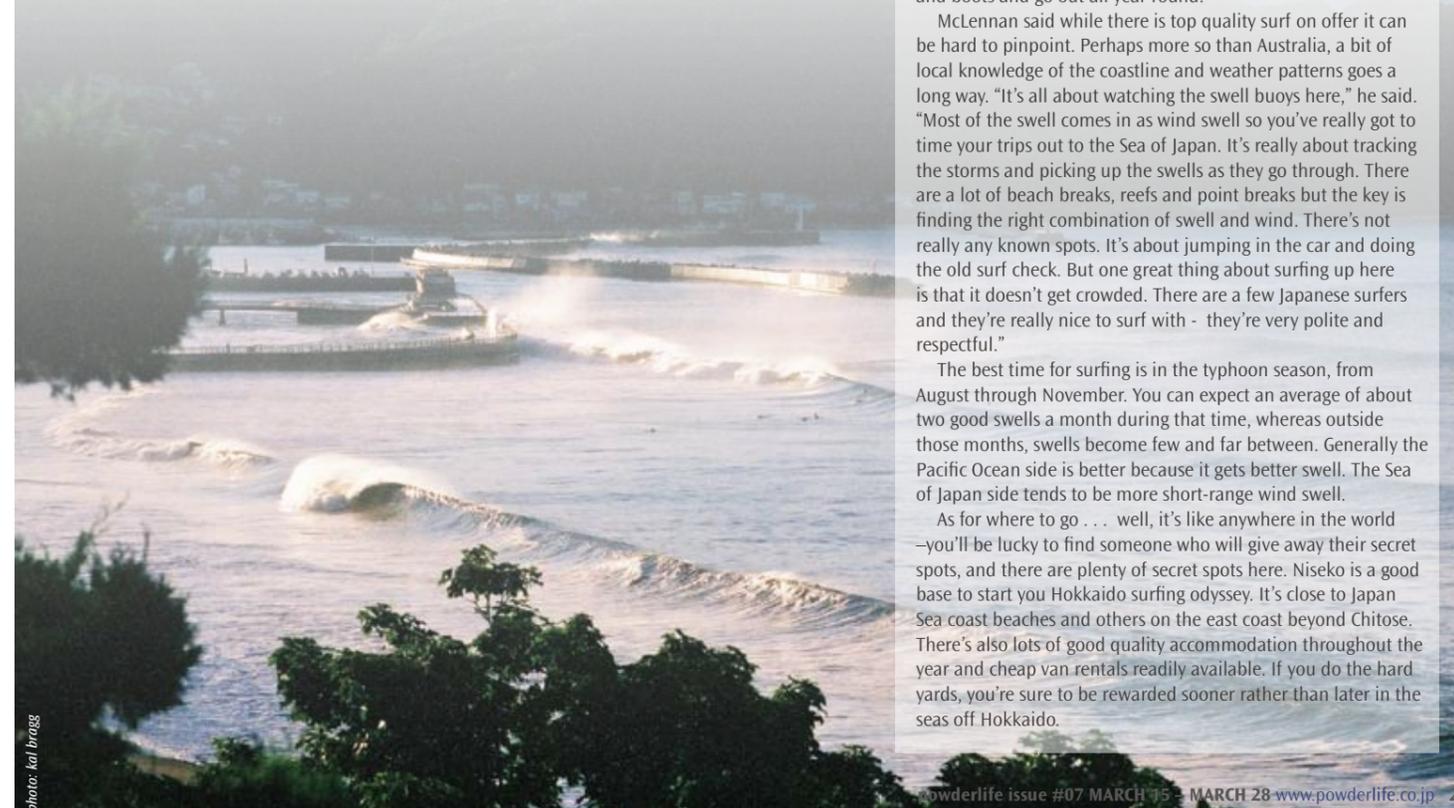


photo: kal bragg

While Niseko has put Japan firmly on the list of top international skiing and boarding destinations, there is no similar association with Japanese surfing. Apart from occasional stories that drift out of the better known beach areas around Tokyo (the Shonan Kaigan has a "sister" relationship with the Gold Coast in Queensland) the surfing scene is generally a bit of a black hole. Those snippets suggest waves are small, the water and beaches are dirty, and they are very, very overcrowded.

But rumor has it that it can get really, really good during the annual typhoon season. With so little documented, however, the hard part is knowing where to look. While Japan is largely an unchartered surfing destination, Hokkaido is truly a surfing frontier. The sport has only gained popularity among Japanese over the past 10 to 15 years. While around Tokyo and Japan's tropical southern islands that has been enough time to cultivate a young but genuine surfing culture, it still hasn't really taken root in the north. There are plenty of local Japanese surfers about in Hokkaido but there's so much coastline and such a sparse population that it doesn't seem to have really taken hold of a generation.

As a result when it is good, the waves are virtually deserted meaning you can take your pick of the best waves that come through – the surfing ideal and a rarity anywhere in the world these days. The traditionally beach-obsessed expat Australian community living in Niseko is revelling in the situation given the chronic overcrowding of Australian waves.

"When the typhoons come up it's fantastic," says Kal Bragg, president of Niseko Alpine Developments (Nisade).

"It's uncrowded and very often it's got some power - it's a surfer's dream. It does get very, very good, touching on world class. Not far from Niseko, there's a multitude of points to choose from at the horseshoe-shaped Uchiura Bay (on the Pacific Ocean side) so there are lefts and rights and heaps of places to choose from. There's reefs, sand bottom - everything. Uchiura Bay is one of the best places to go from here but there are waves all over. There are really remote waves up over on the northeast of the island which is still pretty much uncharted territory."

Another local expat, Ruskin McLennan, director of Niseko Property, said he and his buddies - including colleagues Peter Murphy and Mick Davis, go surfing in Hokkaido all year round. "The water temperature on the Sea of Japan side doesn't drop much below 10 degrees and the quality of wetsuits is so good these days you can wear a 4mm (thick) wetsuit with hood, gloves and boots and go out all year round."

McLennan said while there is top quality surf on offer it can be hard to pinpoint. Perhaps more so than Australia, a bit of local knowledge of the coastline and weather patterns goes a long way. "It's all about watching the swell buoys here," he said. "Most of the swell comes in as wind swell so you've really got to time your trips out to the Sea of Japan. It's really about tracking the storms and picking up the swells as they go through. There are a lot of beach breaks, reefs and point breaks but the key is finding the right combination of swell and wind. There's not really any known spots. It's about jumping in the car and doing the old surf check. But one great thing about surfing up here is that it doesn't get crowded. There are a few Japanese surfers and they're really nice to surf with - they're very polite and respectful."

The best time for surfing is in the typhoon season, from August through November. You can expect an average of about two good swells a month during that time, whereas outside those months, swells become few and far between. Generally the Pacific Ocean side is better because it gets better swell. The Sea of Japan side tends to be more short-range wind swell.

As for where to go . . . well, it's like anywhere in the world –you'll be lucky to find someone who will give away their secret spots, and there are plenty of secret spots here. Niseko is a good base to start you Hokkaido surfing odyssey. It's close to Japan Sea coast beaches and others on the east coast beyond Chitose. There's also lots of good quality accommodation throughout the year and cheap van rentals readily available. If you do the hard yards, you're sure to be rewarded sooner rather than later in the seas off Hokkaido.

SNOW OR real estate

what's your priority

by Jason King

From dinner parties in Hong Kong penthouses to lunch at the bistro in Thredbo, real estate and snow in Niseko are regular conversation topics. People's ears prick up when they hear:

- "I've doubled my investment in 2 years" or
- "positive cash flow and I get 2 weeks free skiing" or
- "I skied every day in chest-deep powder"

Why is real estate booming? Well, there are two simple reasons: 1 real estate in this area is inexpensive using any evaluation method; and 2 the snow is as good as or better than anywhere else in the world.

The beginning:

- The Yen was cheap (ironically, it is even cheaper now)
- The Japanese real estate market was severely undervalued, and particularly so in the depressed Kutchan market
- For the first time ever, Japanese property could be purchased by foreigners
- Pioneering travel companies (the Goulding brothers, Peter and Reiko Murphy, Ben Kerr and Ian McKenzie) evolved from attracting backpackers to bringing in higher wealth customers who all said... "hang on - this property seems too cheap to believe!"

This market began only five seasons ago when Matt Denning and Simon and Joasia Robinson saw an opportunity. They got together, bought land and developed. Typically, everyone was quick to criticise. Ironically, even the critics look back and say 'it was obvious'. Let me tell you it wasn't obvious at the time, and it took courage to do what they did. I challenge the critics – go and find another ski resort where nobody is developing yet – you too can be the pioneers!

Why is real estate good value here? Your accountant will give you any number of ways to measure value – let's consider a few.

- RETURNS. In a rental market where demand far outweighs supply, and where nightly rates are less than for worse properties in other resorts, it is no wonder that people get net returns of 3% to 6%.
- COMPARATIVE VALUES. Don't take my word for it, check for yourself the prices of 2-bedroom apartments in Vail, Whistler, or even Hotham – and again Niseko has better and more consistent snow than all those places!
- THE LOCAL MARKET. I'm not an economist, but supply and demand are simple concepts and there are multiple buyers bidding for nearly every Niseko listing.

• MARKET DEPTH. We all know that PCPD has bought Hanazono. Nobody understands the Chinese and HK markets better than these guys. There has been no slowdown from any region despite concerns with stock market and mortgage markets.

• JAPANESE MARKET. Many savvy investors are investing in the Japanese economy because the Yen is likely to appreciate radically due to the Yen carry trade (try a Google search on Mrs Wattanabe).

Why is the snow so good? We sit in between two very different oceans. Indeed, their air masses meet over our heads without rising more than about 100 metres above sea level. Go onto Google Earth and check it out for yourself! Niseko is in a wind tunnel where vastly different air masses meet. It snows because warm and moist air meets cold and dry air. That's why we get so much snow, and why this snow is unlikely to be affected by global warming.

So, will the snow keep coming? Will real estate prices keep rising? Which is more important to you?

Jason King is president of Hokkaido Real Estate.



Snow and rising real estate prices... can we have both?

photo: niseko photography

hakuba real estate

SALES & PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Property sales and building development in the Hakuba Valley.
World-class winter resort and year round activities at the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

TEL: 399-9211
INT.....81.261.75.3073
LOCAL.....0261.75.3073
FAX.....0261.75.7008
MOBILE....090.3145.9636

NAGANO-KEN
KITAAZUMIGUN
HAKUBA MURA OAZA
KAMISHIRO 27436-7

www.hakubarealestate.com
info@hakubarealestate.com

WEST CANADA PROPERTIES
NISEKO JAPAN

Niseko's Finest Properties

Region 1 Real estate licence #333
宅地建物取引業 / 北海道知事免許 様 第 (1) 第 333 号

Wild Bills
Seicomart
HERE
Route 343

West Canada Properties
ウエストカナダプロパティーズ株式会社

tel : (0136)21-7500
www.westcanadaproperties.com

**Niseko
Linwood
Village**



Nature Inspired Niseko Living

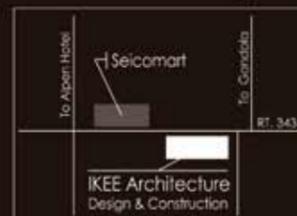
INFORMATION AND SALES

IKEE Architecture
Design & Construction
170-138 Aza-Yamada
Kutchan-cho, Hokkaido
〒044-0081 JAPAN

TEL: +81 (0)136.21.2333
FAX: +81 (0)136.21.2334

EMAIL:
info@nisekolinwoodvillage.com

WEBSITE:
www.nisekolinwoodvillage.com



IKEE ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

LINWOOD
CUSTOM HOMES





Real Estate Land Sales
Apartments
Developments
New Home Construction
Architectural Services
Property Management
And More...

feature property

Luxury log house

¥195 million (\$1.95million)

On the south facing escarpment in the lower vil-
lage, walking access from above, car access from
below

Traditional Japanese style with modern
convenience

Designed for two families - two master bedrooms
with ensuites

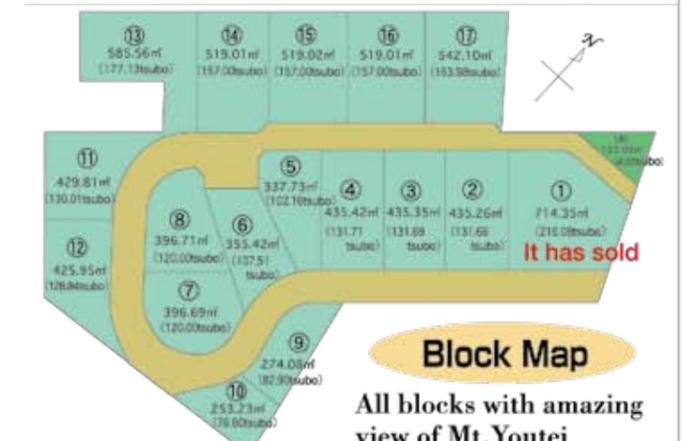
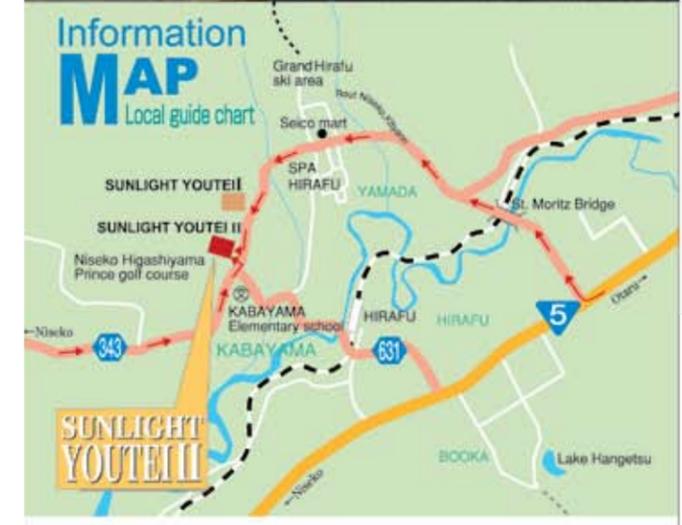
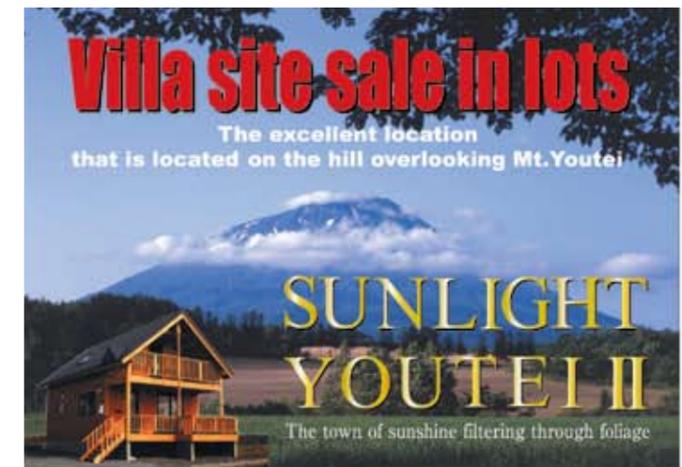
Extra guest room plus two large bunk rooms

Large separate media area

Top floor stone fireplace, two lounge areas and
large dining and kitchen area

Traditional Japanese construction techniques

Inquiries to Hokkaido Real Estate
0136 21 6211 or overseas +81 136 21 6211



Block Map
All blocks with amazing
view of Mt. Youtei

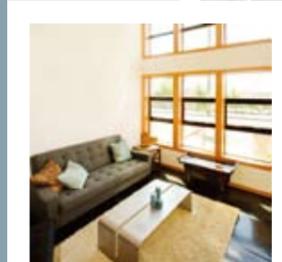
- Property Overview**
- Location/114-12 Aza Kabayama Kutchan-cho Abuta-gun,ets
 - Access/12 min from JR Kutchan station by car Building coverage/40%
 - Total floor-area ratio/150%
 - Electricity and telephone facilities load money/250,000 yen~350,000 yen One Division (Type of laying underground)
 - Water service load money/250,000~300,000 yen
 - Facility/Water supply-Public management water service, Electricity: Hokkaido Electric Power Co.,Inc, Telephone:NTT, gas:Individual propane, Drainage: U-type side ditch(set up septic tank)

Company overview
License:No.2(6660), certified by Governor of Ishikari Prefecture in Hokkaido
Member of the whole country Corp. Business Society Housing Land and building

COSMO Maruzen Cosmo Firm limited liability company
2-2 Kita 14 Higashi 5 Higashi-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido, 065-0014 JAPAN
http://www.mz-cosmo.jp
e-mail cosmo@hscb-jsd.com phone: (011) 733-6611

Local Business Partner
License:No. (5)3455, Certified by Governor of Shiribeshi Prefecture

YUI HOME PLANNING CO.,LTD.
Kita 2-jo Higashi 1-choume Kutchan-cho Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, 044-0002, JAPAN
e-mail yuihome@extra.ocn.ne.jp phone: (0136) 22-2711



Niseko Realty Sales
170-138 Aza-Yamada, Kutchan-cho
Hokkaido, 044-0081 JAPAN
TEL: +81 (0)136-23-2221
FAX: +81 (0)136-23-3339
info@nisekorealtysales.com
www.nisekorealtysales.com
Located in Niseko Hirafu across
from the seicomart.

AIRPORT

New Chitose Airport 0123 23 0111
www.new-chitose-airport.jp/language/english

New Chitose was opened in 1991 and became Japan's first 24-hour airport in 1994. It services Sapporo and Niseko with direct international flights from various Asian cities and Australia. The Tokyo to Chitose route is the busiest domestic route in the world. It is the largest airport in Japan by land mass.

Getting From New Chitose To Niseko

On arrival at Chitose international airport, visitors not on a full travel package have a few options to complete this last leg of their journey to Niseko and back. Although the trip is only 110kms, due to icy roads and no direct train route, it takes two to three hours.

BUS

The bus is the most convenient and commonly used form of transport from the airport. Buses depart about every 30 minutes from the airport to Niseko. They take about three hours, including a rest stop halfway and a dropoff at Rusutsu. ¥2,300 - one way and ¥3,850 for a round trip.

The buses disembark at six designated bus stops within the greater Niseko United Resort. You will find two different points to get off at each of the main ski areas.

Whiteliner Buses

www.whitelinerbuses.com.....011-242-2040

Chuo Buses

www.chuo-bus.co.jp/kikan/ski...011-231-0500

Donan buses

www.donanbus.co.jp/ski.....0123-46-5701

Hokkaido Resort Liner

www.access-n.jp/ski_info.html.011-219-4411

CAR RENTAL

If you are comfortable driving in the snow, renting can be convenient as it allows you to take a trip to Kutchan to stock up the fridge before returning the car. One way hire from Chitose to Hirafu is about ¥7,000 for six - 24 hours. Nippon Rentacar, Mazda and Orix have offices in the Niseko area. If you want a car only in Niseko, you can contact Black Diamond Lodge in Higashiyama.

Mazda Rent a Car : Chitose airport 0123-45-8756, Niseko 011-231-0118 (drop off and pick up in Niseko only available on weekdays)

Nippon Rent a Car : Chitose airport 0123-26-0919, Niseko 0136-43-2929

Orix Rent a Car: Chitose airport 0123-22-0543, Izumikyō (Hirafu) 0134-25-0543, Black Diamond Lodge : 0136-44-1144

TAXI

A standard taxi from Chitose to Hirafu will cost about ¥30,000. Prai Taxi charges 20,000 for a small taxi (3-4 people) or ¥33,000 for a jumbo (8-10 people). Call 011 207 5166 or www.prai.co.jp.

TRAIN

This is the most scenic way to get to Niseko. Unfortunately there is no direct train from Chitose to Kutchan station (the closest major station). All trains run through Sapporo and Otaru. The journey takes about three hours and the cost is about ¥2,600 for an unreserved seat. If you want a reserved seat, you can ask at JR information desk, B1 Chitose airport. www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/index.html The train schedules are subject to change so it is best to call the numbers below or visit: www.japanrail.com.

Airport.....0123-45-7011
Sapporo.....011-222-7111
Otaru.....0134-22-0771
Kutchan station.....0136-22-1310
Niseko station.....0135-44-2104

INTER-RESORT TRANSPORT

A shuttle bus connects the Grand Hirafu, Hi-

gashiyama and Annupuri ski areas. There is a private company bus which costs ¥500 and a free shuttle bus which is included in your all mountain pass. See the timetable on the course map for more information. If you have a 12-point ticket, one point per trip is needed. Others need ¥500 for adult and ¥300 for child per ride.

Kutchan Night Bus

A free bus runs from Grand Hirafu ski area to Kutchan station every night. Step out from Hirafu village and enjoy shopping, eating, and drinking in Kutchan.

Taxis

Kutchan hire.....0136 22 1212
Misora hire.....0136 22 1171
Niseko hire.....0136 44 2635

AIRLINES

ANA.....0120 029 222
British Airways.....03 3570 8657
Cathay Pacific.....03 5159 1700
China Airlines.....03 5520 0333
JAL.....0120 255 971
Korean Air.....0088 21 2001
Qantas.....0120 207 020
Singapore Airlines.....03 3213 1174
Thai Airways.....03 3503 3311
United Airlines.....0120 114 466

BANKING

Yes, we all know Hirafu needs an international ATM! Until then, use the post office in Kutchan open 8.45am to 7pm on weekdays, 9am to 5pm on weekends and holidays. You can also withdraw from the 24-hour Citibank ATM at 3F Chitose airport and the 7-Eleven near Kutchan station. Most of the cards with Cirrus and PLUS marks are accepted at these places, but round cornered cards are not.

CREDIT CARDS

Japan is still a predominantly cash society. Most small bars and restaurants in Niseko do not accept credit cards, but larger hotels, restaurants and hotels often do.
American Express.....0120 020 120
MasterCard.....03 5728 5200
Visa Card.....00531 44 0022

CURRENCY

You can exchange your money into Yen at the bank, post office, and most inbound travel operators. Please bring your passport - it may be more convenient to change with your hotel. You can also exchange USD travellers cheques at banks or at Kutchan post office.

DRIVING

When driving on icy roads the number one thing to remember is to drive slowly. Make sure the windscreen and back and side windows are thoroughly de-iced on the outside and de-steamed on the inside before setting off - don't simply clear a 'porthole' to look through. Maintain at least a five-second gap between you and the vehicle in front. Use a high gear to avoid wheel spin, but take care not to let your speed creep up. Brake gently to avoid locking the wheels. Never brake if the vehicle skids, instead, ease off the accelerator and steer slightly into the direction of the skid until you gain control.

ELECTRICITY

Standard voltage is 100v AC. You can use many higher watt items without a problem but higher wattage devices such as hair dryers may not run on full power. Plugs are the flat two blades type. Many recent buildings have 240v with Australian shaped plugs.

EARTHQUAKES

In the event of an earthquake, stay out of elevators, stand in a door frame and watch for falling objects. The safest places are in large open areas such as parking lots of ski areas, schools, parks etc. Your accommodation is likely to have an emergency earthquake pack.

EMERGENCIES

Police110
Ambulance and Fire.....119
Emergency Interpretation.....03-5285-8185
Japan English Helpline (nationwide emergency assistance).....0570-000-911

ETIQUETTE

Japan is perhaps the most courteous country in the world. Say excuse me (sumimasen) and thank you (arigato) regularly. Do not eat while walking, or wear your shoes on tatami mats or in most indoor residences. A bow can be used to say thank you, sorry, hello, goodbye and excuse me. It is impolite not to return a bow. The deeper the bow, the more polite it becomes.

EATING

At most casual dining Japanese restaurants (izakaya) meals are ordered for the table and shared. You will often receive a small snack with your first drink which may or may not be billed. Rest your chopsticks across the top of the bowl or plate - never leave them sticking out of the rice!

DRINKING

It is tradition in Japan to pour from a bottle into your guest's small glass regularly. Kampai is the Japanese word for cheers - use it readily! Also please remember to stay well behaved when under the influence. Poor behaviour by drunken Australians in Niseko has received national media attention in Japan. Remember you are an ambassador for your country at all times while you are abroad.

TIPPING

Although tipping is not generally done in Japan, some restaurants and bars will include a service fee for groups.

GARBAGE

Hokkaido has some of the strictest garbage separation rules in the world. Please try to follow them, follow the signs on the bins to the letter.

ONSEN (HOT SPRING BATH)

Buy a ticket, strip down - no swim suits allowed, keep your clothes in a basket, your valuables in a locker. Take a little towel only into the onsen with you, wash and scrub your body well before you go in to the bath. You can fill your towel with cold water before you enter the onsen. Do not put your towel into the onsen water - leave it on your head and squeeze the cold water out when you get too hot (it's best not to bring drinks into the onsen). After bathing rinse off under the shower. Finally dry your body well before you walk back into the changing room.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Although there are rumours of an English speaking clinic opening in Hirafu in 2008/9 season presently you will need to go to Kutchan for most medical services. If you can't speak Japanese you will need to bring a translator, or one may be provided at the hospital.

Kutchan Kousei Hospital

The major hospital servicing the area is located 4 blocks from the main intersection of Kutchan. They have an X-ray, a slightly ageing MRI and medical dispensary. No appointment necessary, orthopaedics cases taken in the morning only. It will take you most of the day. Address: North 4 East 1-2, Kutchan-cho Tel: 0136-22-1141

Niseko Physio

Located on the second floor of Australia House, staffed with Australian physiotherapy graduates from North Sydney Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Centre (Australia's leading knee clinic). Primary care also available. Sports injuries, back and neck pain, braces and taping. Appointments preferred but not essential. www.NisekoPhysio.com Telephone 0136 22 0399.

Ueda Orthopedic Clinic

A privately run orthopaedic clinic providing

more time efficient service than the hospital. X-ray, medical dispensary. 1-4, South 3-jo West3, Kutchan 0136-22-1386

INTERNET

Most accommodation in Niseko will have internet access. If you have a laptop, you can try finding the free wireless hotspots in cafes and bars around the village. Try Pow Pow, the Java Bar or B's café.

MOBILE PHONES

3G phones only will work in Japan. You can hire a phone from IXSM travel 0136 21 5855 or Go Mobile 03 4496 4344. For longer term stays the three big carriers have stores in Kutchan:

au.....0136-21-5616
Soft Bank.....0136-21-2588
NTT DoCoMo.....0136-21-6868

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Domestic Calls

Green and grey public phones take coins or pre paid telephone cards, available from convenience stores or at some phone card dispensers in some booths. Local calls don't require the "0136", unless made from a mobile phone.

Directory Assistance

Dial 104 (toll call) and then ask for an English speaker. You must know the location and name to get a number.

International Calls

International direct dial can be made using any of the following prefixes, 001 (KDDI), 0041 (ITJ) and 0061 (IDC). They will cost you.

Calling Cards

Brastel The most popular international calling card service is available in Niseko. Known for its flat 24 hour rates as low ¥6 per minute to Australia from any type of phone using a non-toll free access number. Brastel has excellent customer service available in over 20 languages and the card is available at several locations in Hirafu and can be recharged at IXSM travel or by your credit card. New subscribers get five free minutes. Toll-free: 0120 659 534. www.brastel.com

Kazak Rates from ¥20 for one minute to Australia. The kazak card is the highest selling card in the Niseko area. Kazak card is available from your hotel front desk, Piz Gloria convenience store and from most inbound tour operators. 0123 36 4000

POST OFFICES

Look for the red "T" symbol. Stamps and the post office box are at Piz Gloria convenience store. For other services you will need to go to the post office in Kutchan.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Kutchan Tourism Information Centre

Located on Eki-mae Dori opposite Best Denki, the newly opened tourist information centre provides an excellent English speaking service for visitors. They dispense brochures and can help you book accommodation. 0136 22 1121

The Niseko Grand Hirafu Welcome Centre

At the main bus stop in Hirafu parking lot the Welcome Centre has a wide range of brochures and transport information. They can also help with booking accommodation if you've arrived without a booking - you risk taker you. 0136 22 0109.

WALKING ON ICY ROADS

About 1/3 of all injuries in Hirafu are caused by people falling on the street. Wear shoes with good grip, buy and attach rubber sole covers with metal studs. Take small steps, walk slowly and never run, keep both hands out of your pockets and free for balance. Walking with two ski stocks is a great idea and protect yourself instead of the objects being carried.

Premier Properties For Sale



YAMA SHIZEN PENTHOUSE - ¥175,000,000

- Brand new - Ultimate penthouse in prized upper village with elevated position, light, space & luxury - close to all amenities
- Spectacular 270° view of Mt Youtei & across the valley - never to be built out
- 3-bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, laundry, massive heated decks with jacuzzi
- Underground car park - private ski storage & separate owners storage
- 280 sq m (including two huge decks) - the best of Hokkaido Tracks, indeed this is one of their flagship properties
- Exceptional design, extreme comfort, every western luxury (surround sound, Miele dishwasher, large flat screen tv's... too many to list)
- Will be a popular rental property with extraordinary quality and uniqueness
- A one-off opportunity to secure the ski residence of a lifetime



UNIQUE LUXURY HOUSE - ¥195,000,000

- The newest luxury house in town
- On the south facing escarpment, walking access from above, car access from below
- A new level of spaciousness, never before built in this area
- Stylish Japanese taste with every modern luxury convenience
- Designed for 2 families - 2 master bedrooms with en suites
- Another adult room plus two other large bunk rooms
- Huge separate media area
- Top floor with stone fire place, two lounge areas and enormous dining and kitchen area
- Extraordinary traditional Japanese construction techniques



Hokkaido Real Estate is one of Niseko's market leaders, extremely professional and with a strong track record. Find out more about the lifestyle or investment opportunities of our diverse range of properties - please call us on 0136 21 6211 or drop by our office at 2F Mountain Side, 190-6 Aza Yamada (50 metres east of Seicomart - towards Kutchan).

Contact JASON KING for further information

Mobile: 080 5587 5052

Email: jason@hokkaidorealestate.com

Web: www.hokkaidorealestate.com



Realtor Licence Hokkaido Governor Shiribeshi (1) #332 Hokkaido Real Estate
宅地建物取引業免許北海道知事 後志(1) 第332号 株式会社Hokkaido Real Estate



NISEKO United.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Regardless of how you enjoy your snow sport, always show courtesy to others and be aware that THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS in all snow recreation activities. These risks include rapid changes in weather and surface conditions, collisions with other people as well as natural and artificial hazards such as rocks, trees, stumps, bare spots, mo towers and snowmaking equipment. Common sense and personal awareness can reduce such risks. Observe the code below and share with others the responsibility for a great experience.

- ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE**
1. Know your ability and always stay in control.
 2. Take lessons from qualified professional instructors to learn and progress.
 3. As you proceed downhill or overtake another person, you must avoid people below and beside you.
 4. Do not stop where you could obstruct a trail a run or are not visible from above.
 5. When entering a trail, a run or starting downhill, look uphill and give way to others.
 6. Always use chairlift restraining devices where provided and always use proper devices to prevent runaway equipment. Ensure equipment is in good condition.
 7. Observe and obey all signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails or runs and keep out of closed areas.
 8. Before using any lift you must have the knowledge and ability to load and unload safely.
 9. Do not ski, snowboard, ride a lift or undertake any other alpine activity if you are impaired by drugs and alcohol.
 10. If you are involved in, or witness an accident, alert the Ski Patrol, remain at the scene and identify yourself to them.

KNOW THE CODE: IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Strictly off limits

- Entry into areas marked "Strictly Off Limits" is prohibited even to experts with special equipment (e.g., avalanche beacon, shovel, radio).
- Those who wish to enter an uncontrolled area are required to comply with Niseko An'nupuri rules posted at designated gates and lift bases.

Niseko Free Passport Bus
- ski area shuttle bus

The 'Niseko Free Passport Bus' conveniently links each of the ski slopes in free to holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass.

More runs this season make the shuttle even more convenient. See reverse for timetable.

※Holders of the Niseko All Mountain Pass must present pass on boarding the bus. (12-point ticket holders forfeit 1 point).

※Those without the All Mountain Pass can ride the bus for the regular fare.

※Period of operation is subject to change due to amount of snowfall.

※Hours of operation are subject to change due to weather conditions.

Niseko All Mountain Pass

Use days (valid)	Regular Season Price			Reduced-rate season & Spring Season Price		
	Adult	Senior (Age 60+)	Age 7-12	Adult	Senior (Age 60+)	Age 7-12
12-point	¥3,000	¥2,800	¥2,400	¥3,000	¥2,800	¥2,400
8-hour	¥1,800	¥1,600	¥1,200	¥1,800	¥1,600	¥1,200
12-hour	¥2,400	¥2,200	¥1,800	¥2,400	¥2,200	¥1,800
24-hour	¥4,000	¥3,800	¥3,000	¥4,000	¥3,800	¥3,000
3-Day	¥13,800	¥13,000	¥10,800	¥13,800	¥13,000	¥10,800
4-Day	¥18,400	¥17,200	¥14,400	¥18,400	¥17,200	¥14,400
5-Day	¥23,000	¥21,600	¥17,600	¥23,000	¥21,600	¥17,600
6-Day	¥27,600	¥26,000	¥20,800	¥27,600	¥26,000	¥20,800
7-Day	¥32,200	¥30,400	¥24,000	¥32,200	¥30,400	¥24,000
8-Day (10 Days)	¥36,800	¥34,800	¥27,200	¥36,800	¥34,800	¥27,200
9-Day (11 Days)	¥41,400	¥39,200	¥30,400	¥41,400	¥39,200	¥30,400
10-Day (12 Days)	¥46,000	¥43,600	¥33,600	¥46,000	¥43,600	¥33,600
11-Day (13 Days)	¥50,600	¥48,000	¥36,800	¥50,600	¥48,000	¥36,800
12-Day (14 Days)	¥55,200	¥52,400	¥40,000	¥55,200	¥52,400	¥40,000
13-Day (15 Days)	¥59,800	¥56,800	¥43,200	¥59,800	¥56,800	¥43,200
14-Day (16 Days)	¥64,400	¥61,200	¥46,400	¥64,400	¥61,200	¥46,400
15-Day (17 Days)	¥69,000	¥65,600	¥49,600	¥69,000	¥65,600	¥49,600
16-Day (18 Days)	¥73,600	¥70,000	¥52,800	¥73,600	¥70,000	¥52,800
17-Day (19 Days)	¥78,200	¥74,400	¥56,000	¥78,200	¥74,400	¥56,000
18-Day (20 Days)	¥82,800	¥78,800	¥59,200	¥82,800	¥78,800	¥59,200
19-Day (21 Days)	¥87,400	¥83,200	¥62,400	¥87,400	¥83,200	¥62,400
20-Day (22 Days)	¥92,000	¥87,600	¥65,600	¥92,000	¥87,600	¥65,600
21-Day (23 Days)	¥96,600	¥92,000	¥68,800	¥96,600	¥92,000	¥68,800
22-Day (24 Days)	¥101,200	¥96,400	¥72,000	¥101,200	¥96,400	¥72,000
30-hour	¥45,000	—	—	¥45,000	—	—
Season Pass	¥150,000	¥120,000	¥75,000	¥150,000	¥120,000	¥75,000

※8-hour tickets are valid for 8 hours after entry through the gate on the day of purchase.

※A deposit is required for the key card.

※All day tickets are good for night skiing on the final day of the ticket.

Regular Season
December 15 (Sat), 2007 - March 16 (Sun), 2008

Reduced-rate Season
November 23 (Thu) - December 14 (Fri), 2007
March 17 (Mon) - April 6 (Sun), 2008

Spring Season
April 7 (Mon) - May 6 (Tue), 2008
※Spring Season: 8-hour Ticket ¥3,500

Hours and days of operation are subject to change according to snow and weather conditions.

※The senior's rate applies to patrons age 60 and over. (Preschoolers go free of charge.)

※Proof (student card, driver's license) is required for age 13 - 15 and seniors' discounts.

※For Point Ticket holders, each gondola ride costs 4 points, each high-speed lift, 2 points, and other lifts, 1 point.

※Night skiing tickets are available at each ski area.

※Lift rates are subject to change.

※Business hours in night ski season are 8:30 to 21:00 (9:00 to 16:00 in Hanazono Area). On other days 8:30 to 16:30 (9:00 to 16:00 in Hanazono Area).

Deposit for Niseko All Mountain Pass Keycard

A deposit of 1000 yen is added to the lift fee when the ticket is purchased. The deposit is refunded when you insert the key card to a refund machine.

※Refunding machines are located at each ski area.

※The deposit will not be refunded for damaged or expired cards.

※For more information, please contact our staff.

In Case of Emergency

Should you require assistance as a result of illness or injury, or discover someone in need of help, contact a nearby member of staff or phone one of the emergency numbers below.

Niseko An'nupuri TEL.0136-58-2080
Niseko Higashiyama TEL.0136-44-1111
Niseko Grand Hirafu TEL.0136-22-2167

*Niseko Mountain Patrol will immediately come to your assistance.

N·F·P·P Niseko Mountain Patrol
Rescue Patrol crews are identified by their black or red uniforms with NFPP on the back.

Niseko Local Rules

Niseko Local Rules are official rules that stipulate the freedom and the safety of all skiers, snowboarders and hikers. These rules have been officially established by the Niseko An'nupuri Avalanche Prevention Committee, the Niseko Mountain Resort Committee, the Niseko Free Passport Committee and the Hokkaido Shiribeshi Alpine Accident Prevention Committee.

1. Nunosawa (Gully between An'nupuri & Higashiyama area), Mizuno no Saw (Gully under earth Higashiyama Prince Gondola) and Haru no Taki (Gully/Gulf west of Hirafu area) are designated "strictly off limits areas" by the Niseko Local Rules. Whoever riding these areas WILL have their lift pass confiscated.
2. Ducking the boundary ropes is prohibited. If you do, your lift pass WILL be confiscated. Use designated access gates to go out of bounds. These gates are the gateways to the Back Country.
3. The area outside the mountain resort boundaries (Back Country, including the Peak) are National Forests & Parks, and are not controlled or supervised by the resort. Niseko Local Rule proclaims that hiking & riding these area involves danger and if you do, do it AT YOUR OWN RISK.
4. During hazardous conditions, the gates will be closed and out of bounds riding will be strictly restricted.
5. The "Niseko Avalanche Information" is the official information posted by the "Niseko Avalanche Research Center". These info can be found at lift stations and access gates.
6. You will be responsible for the cost of your rescue in the back country area.
7. Niseko Local Rules insist that all resort users respect the instructions of the Ski Patrol and Shiribeshi Mountain Patrol.
8. The Mountain resort and the locals respect the freedom of the visitors, are concerned about their safety, and in turn, expect the visitors to respect the Niseko Local Rules.

on piste and off

Even though we are entering into the early spring season this is the time of the year that the base is at its largest, so the avalanche risk must be considered at all times. Avalanche cracks are starting to form in many leeward steep faces just below the ridge, such as around 1100m elevation in the Backbowl and the run from Moira to An'nupuri. These cracks can become the cause of a major full depth avalanche which is the fastest, most powerful and most dangerous form of avalanche and often happens in early spring. Have a look at the pictures posted at the gates of previous avalanches that have happened at this time of year. They usually slide all the way to the dirt and take out all in their wake. Often it is not the rider or skier that causes the avalanche that gets caught in it, it can be someone below who is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Don't rest at the bottom of the gully as this is where the snow will head in the case of a slide.

Backcountry gear and courses

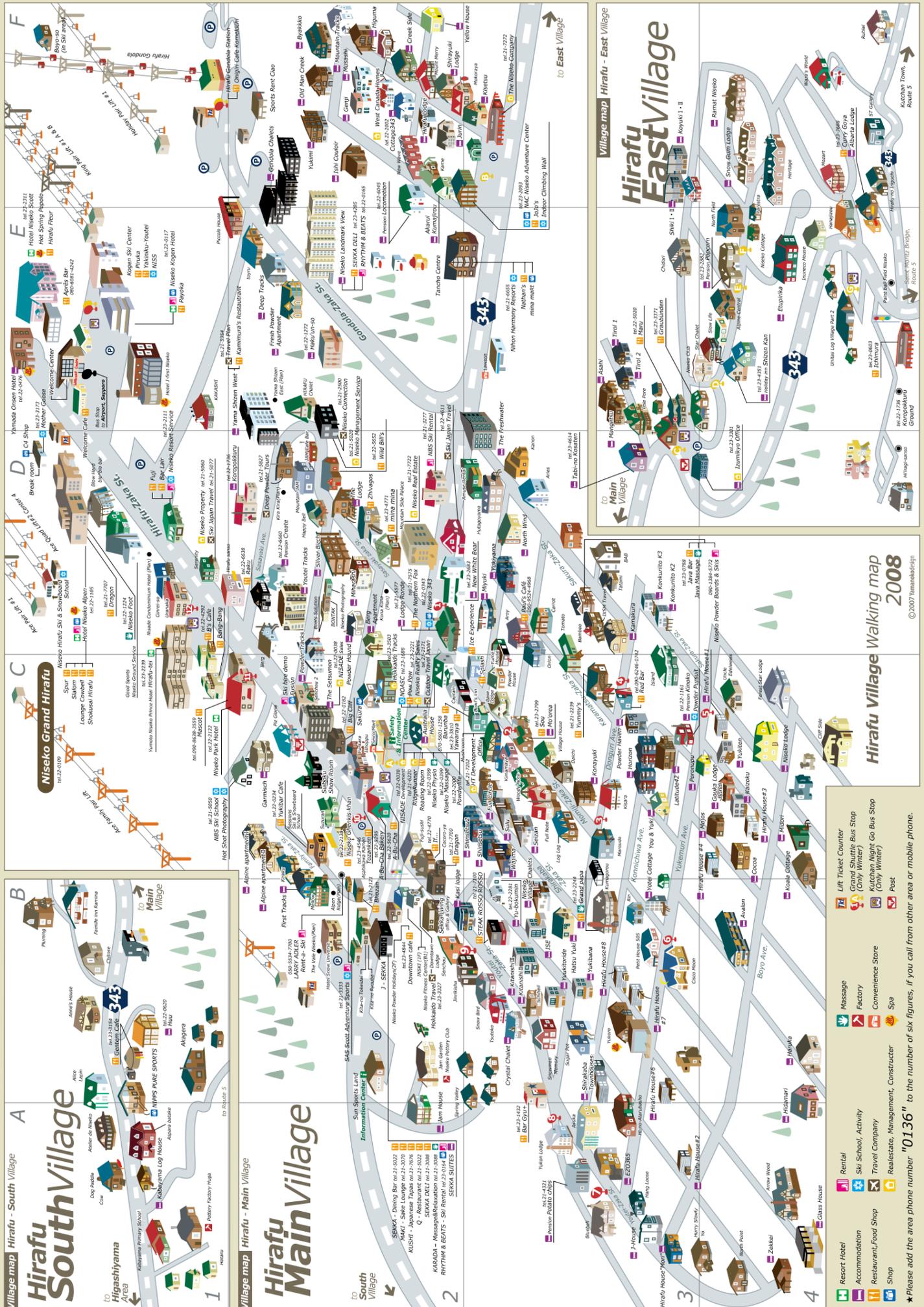
If you love backcountry skiing and boarding then you should love it enough to buy a beacon, shovel and probe and keep them on you at all times. Encourage your riding partners to do the same.

Imagine you hit a tree and become unconscious or break a leg and you don't have a functioning mobile? A beacon will be the only way for people to find you. It's always a good idea to have a metal shovel and a strong 3.3 metre probe. It's a good idea to do an avalanche course - try to arrange one with Chuck Olbery at Furano's Hokkaido Powder Guides www.HokkaidoPowderGuides.com. They will likely have one in English in January 2009. Scott Bowman of www.go-nsa.com also runs courses in Niseko.

Surfanic Stack of the Week



John Segal and son are not preparing to engage in a spot of synchronised snowboarding, they just ended up like this after a classic stack! After coming down off the peak with minimal visibility John ended up face down looking up the mountain. His son rode down a similar track and didn't see his prone Dad until the last minute. He promptly did a backside grind to try stop himself from collecting him, but was going too fast to stop and was about to take off his head. Quick-thinking Dad dove through his son's legs, narrowly avoiding decapitation. They sat there laughing for 20 minutes! A Surfanic Stack of the Week if there ever was one! Submit your stack of the week pic to ed@powderlife.co.jp.



where to...

- Eat & Drink
- Stay
- Play
- Relax
- Outside Hokkaido

Captain Hirafu Pension



Captain Hirafu B&B is one of a kind. Liam & Mika have created a beautiful "home in the heart of Hirafu" for their guests with their great hospitality. Warm, cozy and comfortable with outstanding Japanese service.

Map ref: C2
www.CaptainHirafu.com T. 0 136 22 60 28

Australian Alpine Club Niseko



The Australian snowsports club with its own Niseko lodge. The lodge has eight western style guest rooms (with ensuites), dining, bar and kitchen facilities. Membership is available (to all nationalities) for A\$6,500 and members also enjoy reciprocal rights at five other Australian Alpine Club lodges. Commercial bookings are available.

Map ref: D3 www.aacniseko.com T. 0136 22 3006

Niseko's Black Diamond Lodge and Restaurant



Located just a short 300m from the Higashiyama resort lift the Black Diamond Lodge is a local favourite. Ski to the lodge or take the free shuttle bus and come and check out our great Western and Japanese menu or our private snow park. Meals from 900yen, rooms from 5500yen.

www.bdlodge.com T. 0136-44-1144

Java Bar & Java Massage



The Java Bar has some of the best coffee & cocktails in Hirafu. A relaxing lounge bar that is perfect for a quiet drink after a long day's skiing. Mix of local & overseas visitors. Live music, reggae and local DJ Maco. Open till late. Wireless Internet Hotspot during the day. Java Massage has qualified Australian massage therapists for your essential massage. Open 10am to 9pm daily. Simultaneous massage available.

Map ref: C3 www.Niseko-Info.com T. 0136 23 0788

Restaurant Maru



We are a traditional Japanese "Don Buri" restaurant with a great atmosphere. Expect huge servings of pork, tempura, sashimi, seafood and more on rice. We have set menu or 'Izakaya' style to share dishes with your friends.

11.30-15.00, 17.00-21.00
ボリューム満点の丼物、定食、居酒屋メニューヒラフ近郊は送迎有り(要予約)
Map ref: E3
www.NisekoMaru.web.fc2.com T. 0136-22-5020

Paul's Café Niseko



The only Belgium beer café in Japan owned by a Belgian, comes to Niseko. Specializing in Belgium beers and rotisserie chicken. More than 30 beers on tap and on bottles. Real Belgium waffles and more... A full meal or just a beer, don't hesitate and come in.

Map ref: D3
www.paulscafe.jp T. 090-9524-4968

Bang Bang



Owner Masa Saito chooses some of the best ingredients in Japan for his extensive menu. Wagyu beef, Hokkaido crab, 5 types of salmon and yakitori are the highlights.

アフタースキーの楽しいひと時を厳選食材で創る料理と飲み物で過ごしてください。
5.00-11.30pm. Closed Wednesdays.
Map ref: C1
http://www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang T. 0136-22-4292

Ichimura Soba



Ichimura soba serves top quality soba (buck wheat noodles) that are made fresh on the premises. A beautiful wooden premises looking out towards Mt Yotei is the perfect location to enjoy some of the best soba you will find anywhere in Japan. Tempura Soba ¥1,300

11.00-15.00, 18.00-20.00 Closed Tuesdays
Map ref: E4
www.Niseko-Ichimura.com T. 0136-23-0603

SAS Snowsports



Scott Adventure Sports (SAS) provides Ski and Snowboard Lessons in English and Japanese. Kids semi private lessons, Mountain Guiding and Snowshoeing Tours are favourites. SAS Hire provides a range of ski and snowboard gear from beginner to powder skis and boards. Summer activities are exciting - rafting, ducky, canyoning and mountain bike tours. Our office is next to Hotel Snow Universe.

Map ref: B2
www.sas-net.com T. 0136-21-3333

Grand Hirafu Ski Hire



Try on Japan made ski! Japan made high performance skis are available at Niseko Alpen Rental corner and Niseko Kogen Ski Centre Rental. We select Ogasaka skis which are popular in Japan. Ogasaka is available only in Japan. Let's have a trial run to see difference.

Map ref: C1
www.grand-hirafu.jp/en/mountain/rental.html
T. 0136-22-0109

Niseko Hirafu Ski & Snowboard School



Ski & Snowboard school in Niseko mountain resort GRAND HIRAFU. From beginner to expert. Our specially trained ski pros who speak English help you to improve your skiing or riding!

Map ref: D1
www.grand-hirafu.jp/en/mountain/school.html
T. 0136-22-0921

Black Diamond Tours



We offer Hokkaido's best ski and snowboard trips period. Our guides will take you straight to the best lines, hidden zones and secret stashes wherever we go. Choices range from resort tours, multi-day trips, backcountry tours, snowmobile adventures, lessons, backcountry gear rental and car rentals.

BDのバックカントリーツアーは、自分のレベルに合わせてツアーを組み、ツアー後は五色温泉も楽しめます
www.blackdiamondtours.com T. 0902054TOUR(8687)

Niseko Auto



Niseko Auto is a licensed auto and auction dealer offering weekly and monthly 4wd rentals, sales and repair as well as exporting overseas. Add a vehicle to your rental property or take the ultimate souvenir home and save thousands of dollars by letting us locate and send you your dream car.

www.nisekoauto.com T. 090-2055-6074

Bonbori Souvenirs & Foot Massage



The perfect souvenir shop also does foot massage during the day! We specialise in original Japanese character calligraphy based souvenirs including 3,500 T-Shirts and much more. We also offer foot massages from 1pm - 3pm.

Souvenir shop opens from 3pm - 8pm.
Map ref: B2
T. 0136 21 2366

Niseko Massage



Sports and relaxation massage in five star luxury. Niseko Massage has highly qualified Australian massage therapists using a range of essential oils in beautifully appointed rooms. Conveniently located in Australia house opposite Seicomart. Amy and Carmen will assist your recovery from skiing and revitalise your body and mind.

Map ref: C2
www.NisekoMassage.com T. 0136 22 0399

HAKUBA REAL ESTATE



Property sales and development in the Hakuba Valley and surrounding area. Hakuba Real Estate provides a professional and experienced service to our valued foreign clients. We offer the best selection of local properties and guarantee you trouble free results.

www.hakubarealestate.com T. 0261 75 3073
mobile 090 3145 9636

POWDERHOUSE



Powderhouse is a boutique lodge at the base of Hakuba 47 resort. Magnificent views of the Hakuba Valley and surrounding mountains. Fabulous food, personalized service, transfers to and from Nagano.

www.powderhouse.jp T. 0261 75 3343
mobile 090 88921224

Khaosan Tokyo Guesthouse



Tokyo expensive? No way! Stay at No.1 hostel group, Khaosan Tokyo Guesthouse for just ¥2000/night! Located at a central part of Tokyo, Easy access to Narita Airport and a big bonus of FREE 24 hour internet! Just one minute from Asakusa station with great riverside view from the rooftop. If you come once, you'll be hooked!

www.khaosan-tokyo.com T. 03-3842-8286

the last word...

on health: preparation

by Nathan Schmid



Nathan Schmid
Nathan Schmid is a Tokyo-based personal trainer, founder of Versatile Fitness and new gym, Tokyo Fitness. Nathan has a special interest in core-based resistance and flexibility training.

How many times do you hear it on the slopes, bars, restaurants and shops "My legs just couldn't go any more, I had to call it a day." Or "My first day I skied 'till 4, next day 'til 3, and yesterday I came in after lunch." Not adequately preparing for the rigors involved in a skiing holiday, will not only decrease the amount of time you are able to ski, but it greatly increases the likelihood of getting injured, and experiencing post exercise aches and pains. With a little commitment to preparation; an ounce of prevention may be worth a pound of pleasure on your holiday! Particularly if you are involved in sedentary work and a little out of shape, a week or two of skiing can come as quite a shock to your body. Even if it's too late for you this season, you're probably planning for next season, so here are some sure fire ways to ensure you are can get maximum pleasure on the slopes when you come back to Niseko next time!

Increase flexibility and improve riding posture

Skiers and snowboarders should primarily focus on increasing the flexibility in their trunk and leg muscles to ensure they are able to assume the correct positioning when going down the mountain. Tight muscles can hinder you from making nice turns, absorbing bumps and also increases your chances of being injured. Here is some of our favorite snow conditioning stretches:

The following stretches should be performed before going to bed and again before hitting the slopes.

Lower calves

- Stand near a wall, bring a leg forward for support.
- Draw your belly button inward.
- Keeping the rear foot flat on the floor bend your

rear knee until slight tension is felt.

- Do not allow your foot and/or knee to collapse inward or roll outward.
- Hold for 20-30 seconds, repeat for 2-3 reps.

McKenzie press up

• Lie on your stomach. Place hands just outside the tops of your shoulders.

- Inhale deeply and begin pressing upward (push up). As you slowly push up, exhale and leave your pelvis on the floor! It is very important to relax the buttocks & spine muscles.
- As you inhale, slowly lower your body to the floor.
- Repeat 10 times.

Twists

- Lie on your back with knees bent to 90 degrees keeping the lower legs relaxed.
- Place your hand on your thigh while keeping the other arm outstretched to help stabilize.
- Slowly let your legs roll to one side until you feel a stretch in the lower back.
- Hold for 5 seconds and then repeat other side.
- Repeat 5-6 reps each side.

Quads

- Stand with "tall" posture and grasp one ankle.
- Tilt your pelvis upwards whilst squeezing the butt muscles of the stretching leg.
- Hold for 20-30 seconds, repeat for 2-3 reps.

Hip flexors

- Take a staggered stance.
- Draw your belly button inward.
- Tighten butt muscles and do a posterior pelvic tilt.
- Hold for 20-30 seconds, repeat for 2-3 reps.
- Avoid arching low back!

Adductors

- Begin with one leg straight and the opposite bent.
- Both feet face forward.
- Draw your belly button inward.
- Next, slowly move in a sideways motion toward the bent leg until you feel a stretch in the straight leg groin area.
- Hold for 20-30 seconds, repeat for 2-3 reps.

- Switch sides and repeat directions.

Set the core

Most people don't realise that all movements of the extremities originate in and emanate outward from the 'core' of your body. Core activation is essential to stabilize the pelvis and rib cage, which in turn provide the working foundation for the legs and shoulder girdle. Below is our favorite pre-ski core activation exercise:

Alternate knee raise

- Lie on the ground with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor.
- Place your hand directly under the belly button.
- Draw your belly button in towards your spine until you can feel moderate pressure on you hand.
- Raise one foot off the ground until your thigh is perpendicular to the floor, keeping the pressure on the hand at all times.
- Place foot back on the ground and repeat.
- Perform 12-20 each leg.

Improve balance

The undeniable relationship between balance and on-snow performance needs no explanation! It could almost be said that the worse your balance, the poorer your chances of achieving high level performance. Below is our favorite pre-ski balance exercise (always performed after stretching).

Single leg diagonal reach

- Start by standing on one leg, with the knee slightly bent (to about 20°).
- Extend the arms straight out in front of the chest.
- Rotate the arms in the direction of the stance leg, keeping them at chest height.
- Return to the starting position.
- Maintain a tall posture throughout the exercise and good stability through the abdominal complex.
- Repeat 10 reps each side.

With the body limber, and the core activated, all that's left to do is put it to the test on the mountain! Enjoy the feeling of free movement, and responsive turns as you sail by the unprepared.



Make the most of the conditions while you're here - be prepared.

二世古

THE NISEKO COMPANY

PREMIER ACCOMMODATION
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DREAM DEEP...

www.thenisekocompany.com

+81-(0)136-21-7272



W

C

H



We can help with

- ✓ Sports Injuries
- ✓ Neck and Back Pain
- ✓ Braces
- ✓ Taping
- ✓ Post-operative rehabilitation



Niseko Physio was established as a branch office of Tokyo Physio, to provide quality physiotherapy care for the English speaking residents and visitors to Niseko. We are committed to providing a standard of care that is up with the best in the world. Our Australian trained physiotherapists specialise in winter sports injuries, and are experienced in accelerated rehabilitation techniques to get you back on the slopes as soon as possible. We also stock a large range of braces to further assist your recovery.

2F Australia House, 170 - 5 Aza Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido 044-0081
Tel: 0136 22 0399 • Fax: 0136 22 2011 • physio@gol.com • www.NisekoPhysio.com



CUSTOM HOMES

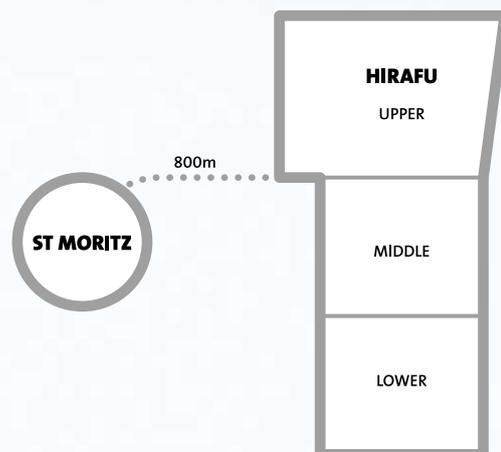
www.westcanadahomes.com

Niseko. Like heaven. With houses for sale.

Available for under 50 million yen, Hokkaido Tracks Resort Properties' house and land packages in St. Moritz offer an excellent entry point into the thriving Niseko market. Choose from nine luxurious, fully furnished packages located in the tranquil forest right next to Hirafu village. Each lot boasts:

- Breathtaking scenery with views of Mt. Youtei
- Extraordinary value in an upscale area
- Easy access via shuttle bus to ski slopes, golf courses, and the best Niseko hot springs
- A minimum size of 59 tsubo (considerably larger than the smaller blocks in Hirafu village).

Hokkaido Tracks Resort Properties is the leading western developer in Niseko, known for its innovative market insight, distinctive style and high levels of investor confidence. For more information contact Tom Rourke or Paul Butkovich at (0136) 21 6960 or email sales@hokkaidotracks.com



PROPERTIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ENJOY THE DIFFERENCE

www.hokkaidotracks.com



HOKKAIDO TRACKS RESORT PROPERTIES