




2020 DEPARTURES TBA

LAND COST TBA

 Hanamaki | **TYPE** Freeride | **DURATION** 7 nights, 8 days | **SKILL LEVEL** Level 4 | **FITNESS LEVEL** Level 1

*Group participants to 6 people*

## Guided freeride trip to the area of Japan called Tohoku, or Northern Honshu. This is the last ski frontier of Japan

### WHY HOKKAIDO POWDER GUIDES?

**Local Knowledge** We are based in Japan and have been in operation for 15 years. Having an intimate knowledge of the mountains and locales enables us to craft amazing ski journeys.

**Your Safety** Our daily operation involves monitoring the weather and snowpack, and this dictates all our decision making. A safety plan is in place for each of our guiding areas. We also maintain good communication with the local emergency authorities which is essential for backcountry trips in Japan.

**Exclusivity** We seek exclusivity with the terrain that we ski, and our snowmobile accessed areas guarantee fresh tracks.

**Preparation** We have excellent pre-trip support and each destination includes an information package specific to the area.

**Travel Agency** We are also a registered travel agency and book all of your accommodation and transfer requirements.



**OUR GUIDES** bring together a collective experience gained from years working for guiding operations in Japan and abroad. They are certified through their individual country's guiding associations as ski guides, or full mountain guides IFMGA/UIAGM.

# ITINERARY Tohoku Road Trip

The following is a 'general' outline for the trip. Hokkaido Powder Guides reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.



## DAY 1 Hanamaki Transfer

Arrive by bullet train or flight to Iwate. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a hot spring before a traditional Japanese dinner. The hot spring is reputed to have a 1,200 year old history.

## DAY 2 Tohoku's Largest Resort

Ski the largest resort in northern Honshu. The resort is spread over two mountains which provides for accessible side-country skiing. The resort always delivers as the north facing terrain maintains good quality powder, days after a storm. We will have a hot spring locally and dine at a renowned sushi restaurant on the return journey.

## DAY 3 Local Resort

We travel north again to a local's ski area, to some of the best quality snow in Tohoku. It's location on the lee side of 'Nambu Fuji,' or Mt Iwate provides good protection on windy days. We finish the day in a cave-like hot spring built into the side of a mountain.

## DAY 4 One of Tohoku's Snowiest

We will be skiing a nearby resort known for deep accumulations of snow. It receives precipitation from a number of different directions. We will be eating a traditional style of noodles called 'wanko soba.' in the evening. Legend has it that this local eating custom originated from the visit of a territorial lord to the area in feudal times.

## DAY 5 Ski Through Forests of Beech

Our destination resort for today sits on the flank of 'Nambu Fuji' and has some of the best tree skiing in Tohoku. You will ski through widely spaced forests of beech typical of Tohoku forests. A short tour will take us down to a forest shrine, then finishes at a local hot spring.

## DAY 6 Akita Transfer

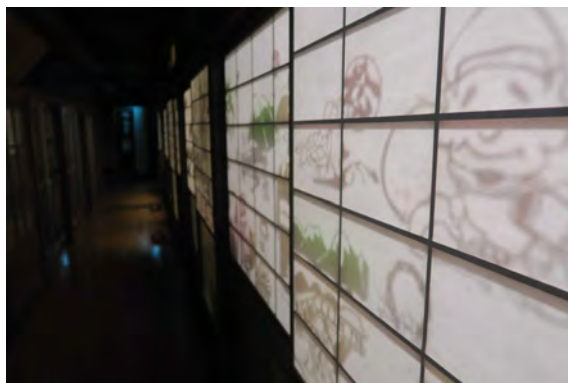
We will relocate to Akita prefecture and ski a resort by the side of a caldera lake. The volcanic area is surrounded by hot springs and we will stay for the next few nights in a spring which dates from 1638. The four baths all feature different mineral properties. You will sleep in tatami rooms on futon bedding.

## DAY 7 The Most Isolated Resort in Tohoku

On our last day we will travel to one of the more isolated resorts in northern Japan. The out of the way location means minimal skiers. The resort only has three lifts, but accesses great tree skiing. We celebrate our last night over a delicious traditional meal featuring the local specialties.

## DAY 8 Morioka Transfer

We transfer you to Morioka for your return journey.



## TRIP LEVEL

This trip ski level is rated as a LEVEL 4. You should be competent skiing in the trees in powder snow. The fitness is rated as LEVEL 1. These are typical days around ski resorts where we ski the side-country terrain, mostly traversing out of the boundaries. There may be a short ascent of a half hour skin climb.

# DETAILS



## SKIS AND EQUIPMENT

Skis which have a mid ski width of 100-115 mm with 'touring' bindings are recommended for this trip. Please contact us if you would like to rent skis. Avalanche equipment such as beacon, probe and shovel are essential.

## MOUNTAINS AND SNOW

Iwate prefecture is on the Pacific Ocean side of Tohoku. Iwate's resorts are located in the Kitakami Range which run from north to south. These are capped by the live volcano of Mt Iwate. Akita prefecture is located on the Japan Sea side where the predominant snow comes from.

From both locations we have a choice of multiple resorts to ski depending on the weather and snow conditions. The drive may be up to an hour each way.

## LODGING AND FOOD

You will be staying in a hot springs hotel just outside of the township of Hanamaki for the first 5 nights. It includes multiple hot springs, including an outdoor spring located next to the adjacent river. We will eat in the hotel on two nights and at local restaurants on the other nights.

In Akita we will stay in a traditional hot spring hotel. The rooms are tatami flooring with futon bedding. The bathing facilities are the indoor and outdoor springs. We will be eating traditional Akita cuisine at the hotel.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE



**World  
Nomads**

Medical Insurance is mandatory on all trips and Travel Insurance is strongly

recommended. Please visit our recommended insurance provider World Nomads to learn more.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 6 guided days
- 7 nights accommodation
- 7 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Scheduled Airport Bus transfers & all transportation on guided days
- Detailed pre-departure information & trip extension assistance
- Lift Passes

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Lunches and dinners out
- Airfares
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Optional tipping to guides
- Ski equipment rental
- Drinks



## WHY HOKKAIDO POWDER GUIDES

*We are a Japan based guiding company in operation for fifteen years. Having an intimate knowledge of the mountains and locales enables us to craft amazing ski journeys. Japan is not just about the skiing, but also the cultural and culinary experience, and it is this combination that truly makes for an unforgettable ski trip.*

## DETAILS *continued*



### BOOKING PROCESS

Call us at +81-167-225655 or email at [to confirm there's space on this trip](mailto:info@hokkaidopowderguides.com). If Skype is preferred, please send us an email to arrange a time.

Make sure you have read and understand our 'Terms and Conditions' and also our 'Waiver' which we will send to you.

To confirm your spot please complete our secure 'Individual Form' on our website.

### PAYMENT

Once you've completed our on-line registration form and we've confirmed that we have the number of participants for the trip, we will send you the booking policy. Please review our 'Terms & Conditions' for the full details on payment, cancellation and refund policies. The amount payable will need to be made in Japanese yen.

If you are paying with credit card there is a 5% processing fee. Another option is to pay via a bank remittance. Please contact us anytime to discuss your options.

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The single supplement is an additional fee for solo travelers who wish to have their own rooms during the trip.

### QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call us at +81-167-225655 or email [info@hokkaidopowderguides.com](mailto:info@hokkaidopowderguides.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

### CONTACT US

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