



## **2020 Japan Powder Sessions Program**

Join us on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido for 12 days exploring some of the hidden gems of Japanese ski areas. We will base ourselves in 2 distinctive zones; Otaru on the central west coast of Japan and Furano, further north in the center of the Hokkaido powder belt. We will have 5 nights in each location and each group will have its own guide and van which they can use to chase the storms and visit as many resorts as possible. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> season in Japan and we can't wait to show you around the powder capital of the world. Come and experience what all the fuss is about. Japow is not one to be missed!

### **Suitability:**

Intermediate to expert level, skiers and snowboarders. Intermediate guests will likely be starting on the groomers and looking to explore the powder at the side of the trail or in the more open trees if and when they are ready. Advanced skiers and boarders should be comfortable on black terrain and ready to ski 30cm's or less of fresh snow and open trees. Expert guests should already be comfortable skiing or riding in deep powder and are able to link fluid turns in black and double black diamond terrain. You don't have to have experience touring or using avalanche safety gear. We can teach you how to do all of that, if you are new to backcountry skiing/riding. They will predominantly be riding in the trees or open gladed terrain. Whilst the terrain is generally not that steep, some of the trees can be tight at times. The snow is definitely deep and light though!

We are still riding in potential avalanche terrain so all guests must have full avalanche safety gear (beacon, shovel and probe) and will be put through our avalanche safety training program at the start of the trip. There is only one guide per group and often they will be setting the line, so we ask that you be able to get up by yourself in the event of a fall as there is no tail gunner guide to help you up. Advanced and expert skiers and boarders will also need uphill capability (fat skis and touring bindings/skins or splitboards or powder board/snowshoes/poles) in case we need to hike.

### **Dates:**

Session 1: 5th - 16th January 2020

Session 2: 18th - 29th January 2020

Custom dates can be available on request

**Costs:**

Session 1 or 2 (Max 4): Twin-share: \$4,765 USD

Single: \$5,425 USD

(Cost is in \$USD per person, twin-share and is based on a minimum of 4 people in the group. If there are less than 4 people, then if we can run the session, then the price will be higher).

**Additional Costs/Upgrades:**

Double Room Supplement – Please add \$100 USD per person to the above rates.

(The New Furano Prince Hotel charges a supplement for a double room, due to their double rooms being larger in size than the regular twin rooms; 33m<sup>2</sup> as opposed to the 28m<sup>2</sup> for a twin room).

**Deposit:**

\$500 USD per person, per trip and is NON-REFUNDABLE, unless The Adventure Project cancels the trip. If that happens, we will hold your deposit for a later trip (max 1 year later). Payment can be made by check, bank transfer or Venmo. Please see additional sheet for details.

**Early Bird Discount:**

If you book before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 with a \$500 deposit down (payment details available on request) then there is an early bird discount on offer as follows:

Twin-share - \$260.00 USD per person discount.

Single-share - \$350.00 USD per person discount.

That means you can reduce the above prices by that amount. To book, we just need your full name and contact information (email, address, phone number) and the \$500 USD deposit prior to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Final Balance:**

Final balance must be paid into our account before November 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

**Availability:**

Availability will be on a first come first served basis. We have the capacity to run 3 groups per session, with a maximum of 4 guests per group with 1 guide, so 12 guests in total with 3 guides. Normally the minimum we need is 4 guests for a group to run, but sometimes we can run a smaller group at the discretion of the guides. If there are less than 4 people in this group, then expect that the price will be higher.

**Inclusions:**

- 12 days of hosting and guiding by The Adventure Project (TAP). There is a maximum of 4 guests per guide for our regular program. The trip starts and ends at the Sapporo International Airport in Chitose.
- Private van hire and driving from TAP.
- Comprehensive avalanche safety training.
- Opportunity to explore local restaurants and cultural sites after skiing.
- Pickup and drop off at the New Chitose Airport (must be at the scheduled time).
- 5 night's twin-share accommodation at the Grand Park Hotel Otaru, including buffet breakfast.
- 5 night's twin-share accommodation at the New Furano Prince Hotel, including buffet breakfast and free onsen.
- Up to 10 guided days on the mountain exploring as many under the radar resorts as you would like.

**Exclusions:**

- Airfare (meet at Sapporo Airport in New Chitose).
- Lift tickets (not included as we don't know where we will be skiing each day, budget \$35 a day).
- Accommodation in Chitose at end of trip. We ask that guests stay at the [ANA Crowne Plaza Chitose](#) which is only 10 minutes from the Sapporo International Airport. Guests must make their own reservation for the last night of the trip.
- Lunches (\$10).
- Dinners (\$15).
- Gratuities.

## **Logistics**

### **Visas**

Most guests should be able to receive a 90-day tourist visa on arrival, for free. It is your responsibility to check the current regulations for your passport.

### **Flights**

Fly to Tokyo, either to [Haneda](#) (HND) or [Narita](#) (NRT) International Airports, and then take a domestic flight to [Sapporo International Airport](#) in New Chitose (CTS). It is strongly recommended that you arrive at the same airport that you are leaving for Sapporo from, especially if you have a tight connection. For example, it is not recommended to fly into Haneda and then depart for Sapporo from Narita on the same day, or vice versa. Haneda and Narita are on opposite sides of the city (it can take an hour or more to travel between the two), so make sure you do not have different arrival/departure airports when you arrive in Tokyo.

### **Airport Pickup**

Guests will be expected to arrive at the Sapporo International Airport (CTS) for scheduled pickup. We will normally meet you at the arrival gate for your airline. Please note that there are multiple airline arrival gates in the domestic arrival hall at the Sapporo Airport so we will need to know your flight number and exact flight arrival time so we can meet you there.

Please also note that the airport is in Chitose, nearly an hour away from Sapporo. There will be one scheduled pickup and then we will be driving to the hotel (either in Otaru or Furano). If you cannot make the scheduled pickup, then you will need to make your own way to Otaru or Furano. We can give advice on how to travel to these locations. Any additional transportation fees are the responsibility of the guest.

### **Internet**

Both of our hotels in Furano and Otaru have complimentary WiFi for guests. You can purchase Japanese SIM cards (data or data/calls) at any of the Tokyo airports or the Sapporo International Airport. They are inexpensive and come recommended. There are several different services to choose from.

## Hotels

In Otaru, we choose to stay at the [Grand Park Otaru](#), a large hotel overlooking the beautiful Ishikari Bay. Otaru is a port city on the central west coast of Hokkaido, about 45 minutes from Sapporo. It is famous for its canal district that runs through the center of the city, lined by many shops, restaurants and converted warehouses. It is the ideal location for exploring the ski areas closer to Sapporo and getting a really traditional Japanese experience. It is an easy drive to the ski areas that we will be visiting in the area (15 minutes to 1 hour). Kokusai, Kiroro, Tengu, Teine and Asari are some of our favorites. If you want a quick meal, then the hotel adjoins onto a large shopping mall with many decent (and inexpensive eateries) or we can jump in a taxi and head down to the canal district and eat at one of the many restaurants down there.

Furano is the ideal base for our exploration of northern Hokkaido and is considered to be the capital of the Hokkaido Powder Belt. Furano has amazing skiing and it's worth spending several days exploring the resort. Furano boasts long runs with decent vertical (959m or 3,146ft) and has some great terrain. There are plenty of fun tree skiing options and secret stashes in the resort but our favorite area has to be the "Premium Zone", an awesome area of open bowls and trees accessed by a quick 25-minute hike. The powder stays fresh in this zone for days and we've had some epic turns in this area in the past (see video above). Furano is a nice blend of traditional Japanese culture and a Western ski resort feel. We also have great skiing nearby at the resorts of Kamui Ski Links, Tomamu, not to mention some other under the radar resorts that we know of. Our hotel of choice in Furano is the [New Furano Prince Hotel](#) and it offers ski in ski out access and its own onsite onsen (free admission for guests). We drive to restaurants in the main town of Furano or stay closer to the ski area at Kitanomine.

## Laundry

If you don't have enough clothes to last the trip, then you will need to do some washing. The hotel in Furano has an onsite coin-operated laundry on the ground floor that is inexpensive. You can purchase laundry detergent from the gift shop. The hotel in Otaru has an inhouse laundry service but the prices are quite high, so you might be better off doing your laundry in Furano.

## Money Exchange/Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Hokkaido. You can use them at the hotel, some restaurants and all of the ski areas (purchasing lift tickets). It is worth having some cash though, maybe \$200 or more for buying lunch out of the vending machines, paying for dinners etc. You can exchange money at any of the airports. Money exchangers can be fussy about taking in used notes, so don't risk it and bring new, unblemished notes with you. You can withdraw more if needed. There are ATM's in most convenience stores (7-Eleven, Lawsons, etc) where you can withdraw cash using foreign debit cards.

## End of Trip

We will be staying at the [ANA Crowne Plaza Chitose](#), close to the airport, on the last night of the trip (night 11). This hotel is not included in our program costs and you are responsible for making your own reservation to stay there. Please book your room for the last night of the program. On the last day of the program (day 12), we will drop off all guests at the domestic departures, unless guests have made alternate arrangements. There will be one scheduled departure time. Anyone needing an alternate time can use either the hotel's airport shuttle bus service (free, but must be booked in advance, please book early as it does fill up) or a taxi (at their own cost).

## Itineraries

There are 2 sessions on offer in 2020. Both sessions start in Otaru and then head to Furano. Both sessions end in Chitose. Here is a general overview of the trip. Depart your home city and fly to Tokyo (Haneda or Narita). You may need to overnight in Tokyo if arriving late. You will need to arrive at the Sapporo International Airport in New Chitose (CTS) by the early afternoon on your start date, for pickup by The Adventure Project. Then we will drive to the hotel for the start of the session. All trips this season start with 5 nights in Otaru and then have 5 nights in Furano, with the last night (not included) in Chitose.

When we start the trip, we will travel from Chitose to Otaru and the journey takes about 1.5 hours. Otaru is a small city on the Ishikari Bay and not a ski area as such, so each day we will drive to one of the local ski areas. There are 6 or 7 decent ski areas close by, anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour's drive away by private van. These resorts have been selected for their lack of crowds, great snow record, good terrain and amenities. We can ski as many resorts as you like, or if there are favorite resorts, we can keep going back. It's up to you what you would like to do. We are not on a set schedule so we can go where we like (within reason!). Then at night, we can hit the town and try out different restaurants and meet the local people.

When we transition from Otaru to Furano, there will be some driving to do (3 hours potentially). This is a great time to visit a small, under the radar resort called Yubari (also known as Mt. Racey). This is our go-to resort when traveling from Otaru to Furano and vice versa. We will likely be the only Westerners there and there is plenty of powder to be had in the trees between the runs. For the second half of the trip, we will move north to Furano for 5 more nights. Furano is a large ski area in the north of Hokkaido. Our hotel features ski in ski out access to the resort so on a powder day, we are right there. Most groups will ski a few days in Furano, but there are plenty of other nearby resorts that we like to visit too. Tomamu, Kamui Ski Links, Sahoro and Asahidake are popular options for us. We can even do some touring up at the active volcanos in the Daisetsuzan National Park for those that would like to try something different.

All sessions will finish in Chitose. We will stay at the [ANA Crowne Plaza Chitose Hotel](#) close to the airport (we can ski on the way back to Chitose if you would like) and then on the last day, we will drop

off the group at the airport for departure back to Tokyo and on to their home countries (unless staying on for a side trip). The resort we will ride each day will depend on the weather and the wishes of the group. The following resorts/dates are listed as examples and actual schedule may be different.

### **Itinerary for Sessions 1 and 2**

Day 1 (Arrive on the start date of your trip) – Pickup Chitose Airport (CTS) around lunchtime, transfer to Otaru (about 1.5 hours by van). Hotel orientation, early dinner and then avalanche safety talk (indoors).

Day 2 – AM avalanche safety training (on-snow) and guiding in the afternoon at Mt. Tenguyama. Dinner and welcome drinks at the Otaru brewery.

Day 3 - Explore Kokusai.

Day 4 – Explore Kiroro.

Day 5 – Explore Sapporo Teine.

Day 6 – Depart Otaru for Furano. Ski Mt. Racey on the way to Furano, with late afternoon arrival in Furano. Orientation around New Furano Prine Hotel and late dinner and welcome drinks.

Day 7 – Explore Furano.

Day 8 – Explore Kamui Ski Links.

Day 9 – Explore Sahoro.

Day 10 – Explore Tomamu.

Day 11 – potential ½ day at Furano or Mt. Racey ski resort and then transfer to Chitose for last night. Stay at ANA Crowne Plaza Chitose (not included in price, please book your own room for the last night in Hokkaido).

Day 12 – Drop off in the morning at Chitose Airport for departure.

We look forward to showing you around Hokkaido and taking you on amazing adventure! Japan has some of the best powder snow in the world and we can't wait to show you some of the hidden gems of Japow! If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to contact Matt Appleford, owner of The Adventure Project and lead guide in Japan – [matt@theadventureproject.net](mailto:matt@theadventureproject.net).