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The Hokkaido Wilds
Atsubetsu-ku, Sapporo City
JAPAN

Hokkaido local launches online database of Hokkaido ski touring routes

Finally. A dirtbag's guide to Hokkaido backcountry ski routes in English.

URL: <https://hokkaidowilds.org/ski>

Sapporo City, Japan: Today, Rob Thomson, a New Zealander resident in Hokkaido, launched an independent, free, online English-language database of Hokkaido backcountry ski touring routes. The database so far has 38 established ski touring routes across Hokkaido, with new routes added weekly during the Hokkaido winter. [The Hokkaido Wilds](https://hokkaidowilds.org) is Japan's first, fully filterable and searchable database of ski touring routes offered in English.

"Good quality information about Hokkaido backcountry ski routes simply doesn't exist in English," explained founder Rob Thomson. "The Hokkaido Wilds changes that. Our aim is to be one point of inspiration for independent and experienced backcountry skiers wanting to get off the beaten track in the Hokkaido winter hills." Ski touring routes on The Hokkaido Wilds were previously hosted on Thomson's personal blog 14degrees.org. He provides the information on The Hokkaido Wilds for free: "When I plan to do a ski tour, I'll do my due diligence by collecting intel on huts, established routes, maps, locations etc. from local, freely available Japanese sources. Essentially I'm just sharing my planning notes and trip reports that would otherwise just collect dust."

The Hokkaido Wilds ski touring database includes:

- Location-based search (find routes near you).
- Route guide plus photos.
- GPX and KML route files.
- Printable PDF topographical maps and official topo map references.
- Trailhead locations including public transport information.
- Hokkaido mountain hut information (<https://hokkaidowilds.org/huts>).
- *Onsen* hotspots nearby each trailhead.
- Safety tips and frequently asked questions, etc.

About The Hokkaido Wilds and Rob Thomson: [The Hokkaido Wilds](https://hokkaidowilds.org) is a non-profit website that exists to inspire people to explore and enjoy Hokkaido's extraordinary outdoors by ski, bicycle and foot in an informed and responsible way. Founder Rob Thomson, fluent in Japanese, has lived in Japan for 12 years (8 in Hokkaido), and works as an assistant professor of media and communications at Hokusei Gakuen University in Sapporo City. He worked with Polish skier and graphic designer Dominika Gan on the design and layout of the site. Rob previously cycled from Japan to Switzerland, and still holds the Guinness World Record for the Longest Journey by Skateboard (12,159km).

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