



2019/11/13

The Hokkaido Wilds
11-16-1 Aoba-cho, Atsubetsu, Sapporo City

HokkaidoWilds.org: The Tohoku Ski-Tour Schedule

The popular not-for-profit Hokkaido website HokkaidoWilds.org has announced a backcountry ski tour of the Tohoku region in northern Japan, to document in English up to ten ski touring routes in the area. The routes will be published in detail on HokkaidoWilds.org, free and open-access. The Tohoku region is at the northernmost tip of Japan's main island of Honshu, and receives on average 18m (60ft) of snow per year. Famous for its epic yet largely 'undiscovered' potential for 'real Japan' backcountry skiing, Tohoku and its acres of snow-bound 'snow-monster' trees are easily accessed via an overnight ferry from Hokkaido, or three hours on the bullet train from Tokyo.

On this tour, we will spend nine packed days of backcountry exploring (2020/1/25~2/2), covering established ski touring routes in Aomori (Hakkoda and Mt. Iwaki), Iwate (Mt. Iwate and Hachimantai), and Akita Prefectures (Mt. Moriyoshi and Mt. Komagatake).

Tour Schedule

Besides the arrival and departure dates (24th Jan and 2nd Feb), locations are tentative and subject to change.

Date	Location	Details	Accommodation
2020/1/24 (Fri) SET	Hachinohe (Aomori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chris, Andy, Katie <i>Arrival in Japan, transfer to Hachinohe by bullet train (Hayabusa 35/67/37)</i> 	Comfort Inn Hachinohe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rob <i>Catches 9:15pm ferry from Tomakomai (Hokkaido) with car, arrival in Hachinohe (Aomori) at 4:45am next morning</i> 	Overnight ferry
2020/1/25 (Sat)	Hakkoda (Aomori)	<i>Transfer to Hakkoda by car. Ski Hakkoda in late morning/afternoon.</i> Ski tour route 1: Hakkoda Dozo Ski Tour Route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31337590 Ski tour route 2: Hakkoda Onsen Ski Tour Route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31337729	TBD (Possibly Sankeyu Onsen)
2020/1/26 (Sun)	Hakkoda (Aomori)	Ski tour route 3: Takada O-dake Ski tour route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31337532	TBD (Possibly Sankeyu Onsen)



2020/1/27 (Mon)	Mt. Iwaki (Aomori)	<p><i>*Early morning transfer by car to Mt. Iwaki area</i></p> <p>Ski tour route 4: Mt. Iwaki Shrine ski tour route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31337684)</p>	TBD Mt. Iwaki area
2020/1/28 (Tue)	Mt. Iwaki (Aomori)	<p>Ski tour route 5: Mt. Iwaki Nishi-hojimori Backcountry Route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31337716)</p>	TBD Mt. Iwaki area
2020/1/29 (Wed)	TBD (Mt. Moriyoshi by evening)	<p>Rest-day (sightseeing and culture tour)</p> <p><i>*Transfer to Mt. Moriyoshi area by late afternoon.</i></p>	TBD Mt. Moriyoshi area
2020/1/30 (Thur)	Mt. Moriyoshi (Akita)	<p>Ski tour route 6: Old Mt. Moriyoshi ski area to summit ski tour route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31354448)</p>	TBD Mt. Moriyoshi area
2020/1/31 (Fri)	Mt. Iwate (Iwate)	<p><i>*Transfer to Mt. Iwate by car</i></p> <p>Ski tour route 7: Mt. Iwate Yakehashiri Ski Tour Route https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31354575)</p> <p><i>NOTE: As a free-standing volcano, Mt. Iwate is known for high winds, stripping snow from slopes in deep winter. Chances are we may end up heading straight for Hachimantai.</i></p> <p>Ski tour route 7a: Hachimantai Mt. Chausu https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31354502)</p>	TBD Mt. Iwate area
2020/2/1 (Sat)	Lake Tazawa Onsen (Akita)	<p>Ski Tour route 8: Akita Mt. Komadatake https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31354546)</p> <p>Ski tour route 9: Mt. Nyuto https://ridewithgps.com/routes/31354533)</p>	TBD Lake Tazawa area



2020/2/2 (Sun) SET		<i>Return to Hachinohe by car, catch evening ferry to Tomakomai (Hokkaido)</i>	Ferry
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Tour Team

1. **Robert Thomson** (New Zealand) is the founder of HokkaidoWilds.org, and has penned over 100 English-language online route guides for the Hokkaido area. For this tour, he's involved in planning, photography, writing, and map-making duties. He works as an assistant professor at a university in Sapporo (digital media/communications). He has lived in Japan 14 years and is fluent in Japanese.
2. **Chris Auld** (New Zealand/UK) is a writer for HokkaidoWilds.org, owns a cabin in Niseko, Hokkaido, and has extensive skiing experience in Hokkaido, North America, and New Zealand. He is also a qualified ski guide. For this tour, he's involved with drone photography, writing and driving duties. He works in the data science field for Microsoft in Singapore.
3. **Katie Basham** (United States) is an American backcountry skier, whitewater rafter and Onsen enthusiast. She has spent her life attempting to blend these activities with a love for exploring new places and cultures.
4. **Andy Pressman** (United States) is a USA-based adventurer with a passion for skiing, mountain biking and rivers. He loves traveling and exploring wilderness areas across the globe. An Emergency Medicine physician by trade, he has studied, instructed and researched medicine in austere and extreme environments.

Invitation to be Involved | We're inviting ski and tourism industry related organizations, groups, and companies to become involved in this Tohoku initiative. This might take the form of tie-ups with local tourism promotion efforts, accommodation or guiding service promotion, or gear to be featured in route guide photos. Contact us if you'd like to talk (details below).

About HokkaidoWilds.org | [The Hokkaido Wilds](#) is a non-profit website that exists to inspire people to explore and enjoy Hokkaido and the surrounding areas extraordinary outdoors by ski, bicycle, foot and canoe in an informed and responsible way. With around 10,000 unique visitors per month, the site ranks at the top of Google searches for "Hokkaido backcountry skiing". We're committed to safe exploration of northern Japan's outdoors, so in addition to detailed written route guides with great photography, for each route guide published on the site we also provide GPS route files, custom English-language GeoPDF topographical maps (based on Japan government map data), and safety notes. HokkaidoWilds.org enjoys the support of a number of NPOs and local Hokkaido tourism promotion bureaus, and has presented a number of keynote addresses at events in Hokkaido.

Contact

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