



Press Release 2019/11/13

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

Popular Hokkaido English-language outdoor website announces plan to document Tohoku ski touring routes

Sapporo City | Popular not-for-profit English-language website HokkaidoWilds.org has announced a tour of the Tohoku area of northern Japan this winter, to document up to ten of the region's most popular ski touring routes. From January 25th till February 2nd, the team will document established routes in Aomori Prefecture (Hakkoda and Iwaki-zan), Iwate Prefecture (Hachimantai), and Akita Prefecture (Moriyoshi-zan and Komaga-dake) - see attached tour schedule.

Why Tohoku? The Tohoku region has come onto the international backcountry skiing radar in recent years for good reason. The region gets even *more* snow than well-known areas in Hokkaido, and it has something Hokkaido doesn't—the 'real Japan' experience of thousand-year old architecture and Japanese history. With overnight ferries from Hokkaido allowing travelers to fall asleep in one snow apocalypse and wake in another, the region is extremely accessible, with very little time lost to travel.

Documentation Team

1. **Robert Thomson** (New Zealand) is the founder of HokkaidoWilds.org. He's penned over 100 English-language online route guides for the Hokkaido area. He's involved in planning, photography, writing, and map-making duties. He's 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.

About HokkaidoWilds.org | [The Hokkaido Wilds](http://TheHokkaidoWilds.org) 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. In addition to detailed written route guides with great photography, we also provide GPS route files, custom English-language GeoPDF topographical maps (using Japan government map data), and safety notes. HokkaidoWilds.org enjoys the support of local Hokkaido NPOs and tourism promotion bureaus.

Contact

Rob Thomson (Founder, The Hokkaido Wilds)
TEL: +81 (0)80-4228-6132 (Japan mobile)
Email: rob@hokkaidowilds.org
Instagram: [@hokkaidowilds](https://www.instagram.com/hokkaidowilds), [@rob_thomo](https://www.instagram.com/rob_thomo)