

SNOW MACHINE

NISEKO • JAPAN
RESORT GUIDE



WELCOME TO SNOW MACHINE NISEKO 2025!

It's our first time in Niseko and we're excited to celebrate it with you! We have put together our Niseko Resort Guide for this year. It has all the answers to your questions about our festival - the "how to's" and the "where is" - to make your holiday the best it can be.

As always the Snow Machine team is here to help so get in touch for anything you need! Remember it's going to be cold so wrap up warm!

FESTIVAL WRISTBANDS

If you have purchased a Snow Machine Accommodation Package, your festival wristbands will be in your welcome pack when you arrive at your accommodation.

If you have purchased tickets separately, you can get your tickets scanned in exchange for your wristbands at the Snow Machine Store or at the Main Arena.



LIFT PASSES

Snow Machine Lift passes for 4-6 days can be used throughout Snow Machine Week (9th-16th March), and **must** be used on consecutive days. Your lift pass grants you access to all the resorts on the mountain so you can decide on the day where you'd like to go and explore!

Collecting your lift passes - If you have an accommodation package, your lift passes will be in your welcome pack at your accommodation. If you have purchased lift passes on our online store separately, you can come and collect your passes from us at the Snow Machine Store.



RESORT SHUTTLES IN NISEKO

There are 2 shuttles operating in Niseko:

(1) **Niseko United Buses** run from Hanazono, through Hirafu and Niseko Village, To Annaupuri and Ikoino Yuyado Iroha.

If you scan your lift pass on this bus, it will remove a day's lift pass, so make sure to pay separately. You can pay by tapping your credit card or ApplePay.

You can see the bus stops and schedule [here](#).



APRÈS STAGE



Après Stage:

- Niseko Village - First Base

From the **11th - 14th March** from **11am - 1:00/2:00 pm** you'll find the Après stage pumping at the top of Niseko Village Resort during the daytime. If you're not intending to ski or snowboard, you'll need to be carrying skis/snowboard down to the stage to be able to enjoy all the mountain action at Après.

You will need a Gondola Pass for this if you don't have a lift pass already.

THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF NISEKO



Niseko Village is nestled between Hirafu and Annupuri, and is the home of our Main Arena. Shuttle buses bring you to the main Hirafu centre to ensure you are ready for a day on the slopes. Although further out, both hotels in the area have everything you need from bars, restaurants and knowledgeable staff to help with everything you need during your stay.



Located along Niseko's main bus route, or a quick 10 minute walk to the town centre, lies **Hirafu**. As it's located slightly further out of the main village, and away from the hustle and bustle, you'll find this to be a peaceful stay! There are scheduled shuttle services that will drop you to the main ski lifts, allowing for an effortless stay during Snow Machine.



Upper Hirafu is a real hub in Niseko. The easiest access to all of the ski fields, and a center for accommodation. There are a variety of shops, bars and restaurants, along with several onsens to relax before going to the main arena in the evenings. Definitely a fan favourite area in Niseko!

Lower Hirafu area is quieter than Upper Hirafu with the bonus and ease of having some of the best restaurants and bars dotted around the area. There is also the free shuttle bus that will connect you to the lifts.

Just a short walk to Hirafu village centre, **Izumikyo** has an abundance of lodges. The Hirafu shuttle buses drive through this area for easy access to and from the lifts. With many cafes and restaurants it is a perfect place to have a bit more peace and quiet at night. Just a short stroll to the centre of the main village where you can enjoy Niseko's nightlife before going to the main arena.



GETTING AROUND NISEKO



Car Rental

For the easiest way to get around, we recommend hiring a car. Please note you will need to be 25 and have an international driving licence.

Shuttle bus Services

The Niseko United Shuttle is the official inter-resort bus that connects Anupuri, Niseko Village and Grand Hirafu, and also heads into the local town, Kutchan.

There is also the Hanazono Shuttle that runs from Hirafu to Hanazono from 7:50am to 5:10pm in the winter season. This is a free bus.

Taxis

Local taxis are relatively inexpensive:

Hachiriki Taxi- +81 136-44-2800

GO Taxi – Can book rides through their app.

Arriving in Niseko

When you arrive in Niseko, you will most likely be dropped off at the Hirafu Welcome Centre, which is centrally located. A lot of accommodations offer pickup services from here which you can pre-arrange with them directly. If this is not available to you, we recommend taking a taxi to your accommodation. Some transport will drop you straight to your accommodation, so make sure to check this. Arrival day will be busy so make sure your transport is pre-organised.

We recommend googling your hotel and having a research of where it is so you're ready for when you arrive. Your hotel staff are also great resources for helpful information for getting around - be sure to chat to them.

MAIN ARENA



The Snow Machine Main Arena is being held in Niseko Village; our first ever ski in, ski out Main Arena! You'll catch live performances from our massive lineup of international artists in the evening to top off an epic day on the slopes. **Wednesday 12 - Friday 14 March**

Set times and location are available on the Snow Machine App!

Getting to Main Arena

We have main arena shuttles collecting from the following stops:

- Midtown
- Hirafu Welcome Centre

Shuttles will start dropping off at the Main Arena from **3pm-7pm**, and start dropping back at the bus stops from **7:30 - 10pm**.

Make sure to go to the afterparties nearest your accommodation so you can get home easily!

Niseko Village and Niseko United buses also running on their usual schedule.



SIDE EVENT

We have an awesome side event happening on the 11th March - **POOF DOOF SKI CLUB WELCOME PARTY** from **6pm - 12am**

This event is separate to your festival ticket, so please present your side event ticket on the door to gain entry.



SNOW MACHINE STORE

If you have any questions or would like to talk to some of our staff, come and see us at the Snow Machine Store. You can also collect your ticket only wristbands here and check out the latest merch. Check the Snow Machine App for our location and opening times!

PAYMENT METHODS

Cards are accepted at all events. Après and the Main Arena will be cashless. Please be sure to bring your credit/debit cards or make sure your phone is fully charged if you're planning to use Apple Pay or Google Pay. Don't forget to let your bank know about your overseas travel!

Please note that some bars and restaurants in Niseko are cash only.

SNOW MACHINE APP

For the latest updates and access to all your vouchers, make sure to have the Snow Machine App downloaded. On the app, you can check out the Set Times, have a look at our interactive map and redeem your travel vouchers.

We will be posting updates throughout Snow Machine week on the App, so make sure to keep the notifications on!

You can also plan your week, by liking different set times.

JAPANESE CULTURE & RESPECT

We have a responsibility to be respectful when visiting this incredible country! You're not expected to know everything about the culture but understanding the basics will help to have a positive impact on tourism and make sure we can bring Snow Machine back to this beautiful part of the world!

Respect Japanese customs, traditions, culture and local wisdoms, as well as sacred sites and act and dress appropriately when visiting.

Try to learn some basic Japanese phrases as not everyone will be English-speaking.



Behave politely in public places and when interacting with locals and authorities. Unruly behaviour can result in imprisonment and deportation. Don't risk it!

Japanese streets are squeaky clean. Let's not litter! When walking around, stick to pathways! Do NOT walk through rice fields as a 'shortcut' and be careful not to fall in 'gaijin traps' (aka one-meter deep street gutters or onsen rivers covered in snow).

Japan's drug laws are incredibly strict. Not only do police have the power to detain people for up to 23 days without outside contact, but use or possession of small amounts of drugs may result in a prison sentence of between 1-10 years and fines of up to ¥5,000,000. Security will be conducting bag searches on arrival at the main arena. Anyone found with illegal substances will have their wristband cut off immediately.

The service of alcohol will be enforced throughout the festival. If you are deemed to be intoxicated, you will be refused entry. Please acknowledge that the legal drinking age is 20 years old.

We have a zero tolerance policy for anti-social behaviours and harassment of any kind. If your mates are being disrespectful, aggressive or behaving in a disorderly manner, pull them up on it. Those who fail to comply, will at our discretion, have wristbands cut off, be removed from the event and not refunded.



CONTACT US

If there's something you still need answering, feel free to reach out to us!

You can email us at info@snow-machine.com or, go to our socials and shoot us a DM.

We can't wait to be partying with you in the snow!

