



JR Hokkaido Mail Magazine – Let’s enjoy spring skiing!
 Traveling HOKKAIDO by Train

Feb, 2010

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Let’s go skiing together!

Let’s enjoy spring skiing in Hokkaido—warm sunlight and wide vistas!



Let’s enjoy spring skiing by using the Ski Trip Ticket “Tebura Skip” !

In March in the Kanto region of Japan, the forecast is for cherry blossoms and spring is just around the corner. But in Hokkaido, the spring comes much later and you can still enjoy the skiing. People in Hokkaido enjoy the extended season, and call the skiing on powdery snow under warm sunlight “spring skiing.” It has a distinctive pleasure all its own. There’s nothing more exhilarating than taking off a jacket and skiing with just a sweater. If you try spring skiing just once, the freedom of it will keep calling you back for more. Please come experience it in Hokkaido!!!


Ski Trip Ticket “Tebura Skip” offered by JR Hokkaido is a set of discount tickets that include a roundtrip for the train and bus, and that cover the ski lift and the rental of ski equipment. There’s no need to pack your ski equipment or rent a car. From first timers to repeaters, everyone can enjoy the skiing and avoid the hassles of planning and carting equipment.

NISEKO Grand HIRAFU Ski Mountain

NISEKO Grand HIRAFU Ski Mountain is one of the greatest in Hokkaido. Covering an area of over 300 hectares, this ski resort is visited by skiers and snow boarders from all over the world. Here you can enjoy the best powder snow on a grand scale. You will be amazed by the view of Mt. Yotei directly in front of you as you ski. And the supply of quality powder snow keeps falling until the beginning of March.







Dates / Fares	A.~Feb.21,2010	Round-trip Limited Express Adult :¥5,500 Child 6-11:¥4,250	
	B.Feb.22,~Mar.22,2010	Round-trip local train Adult :¥4,500 Child 6-11:¥3,750	
Includes			
	<p>Day Trip</p> <p>JR Round Trip Ltd.Exp.Reserved Seat or Local Train + Niseko Bus Round Trip + 8 Hours Lift & Gondola Ticket + Rental Ski or Snowboard Kit</p>		

Sample Route

To Niseko	8:04Dep.	>>>	9:41Arr.	9:52Dep.	10:10Arr.	
	Sapporo	Niseko Ski Express	Kutchan	Bus	Grand Hirafu Skiing	
To Sapporo	15:27Dep,	>>>	15:42Arr.	16:22Dep.	18:24Arr,	
	Grand Hirafu Skiing	Bus	Kutchan	Niseko Ski Express	Sapporo	

Kiroro Ski Mountain

Everyone from the beginner to the experienced can enjoy Kiroro Ski Mountain. This resort is located deep in the forest and is known for its quiet and calm atmosphere. Also, its powder snow, always replenishing itself, is extremely attractive.

Dates / Fares	~Mar.22,2010	Adult: ¥6,300 // Child 6-11: ¥ 4,500
Includes	     	
	<p>To the mountain, there are two access patterns to select from:</p> <p>1.Sapporo – Otaru Stations by JR train + Otaru Station – Ski mountain by bus</p> <p>2.Sapporo Station – Ski mountain by bus</p>	

Sample Route JR+バス

To Niseko	7:05Dep.	>>>	7:50Arr.	8:05 Dep.	8:55Arr.
	Sapporo	Train	Otaru	Bus	Kiroro Ski Ground

To Sapporo	16:40 Dep.	>>>	17:30Arr.	18:04 Dep.	18:36Arr.
	Kiroro Ski Ground	Bus	Otaru	Train	Sapporo



■Chuo Bus timetable for Otaru Station stop and Kiroro

<To Kiroro>

Otaru Station Bus Terminal	Hotel Piano	Mountain Hotel (Kiroro Ski Mountain)
8:05	8:52	8:55
11:30	12:17	12:20
13:10	13:57	14:00
15:10	15:57	16:00
16:10	16:57	17:00
18:10	18:57	19:00

<To Sapporo>

Mountain Hotel (Kiroro Ski Mountain)	Hotel Piano	Otaru Station Bus Terminal
9:50	9:52	10:40
10:50	10:52	11:40
13:30	13:32	14:20
14:30	14:32	15:20
16:40	16:42	17:30
19:30	19:32	20:20

■Chuo Bus&JR Bus timetable for Otaru Station stop and Kiroro

<To Kiroro>

Sapporo Station Bus Terminal	Hotel Piano	Mountain Hotel (Kiroro Ski Mountain)
7:50	9:25	9:28
8:20	9:55	9:58
14:00	15:35	15:38

<To Sapporo>

Mountain Hotel (Kiroro Ski Mountain)	Hotel Piano	Sapporo Station Bus Terminal
11:00	11:02	12:36
16:30	16:32	18:06
17:30	17:32	19:06

A ski resort everyone can enjoy: Alpha Resort Tomamu

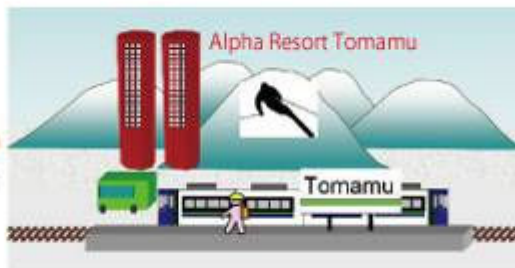
“Alpha Resort Tomamu” is a highland resort surrounded by nature’s grandeur. Large in area, it is easily accessed, and has many lovely places to lodge. This mountain has various trails for skiers of all abilities, and the exciting slopes are always covered with fresh snow.

“Ice Village,” limited to the winter season, offers a fantastical night world created by lights and snow and ice. (Open 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. till mid-March)

Besides skiing, snow-shoeing and many other activities are offered. There’s a challenge snow course for children if you’re travelling with your family. Also the popular VIZ SPA house is a water paradise. The indoor wave pool, 80m in length and 30m in width, creates an everlasting summer. Playing in the waves, you forget that winter’s just outside the door. From children to grownups, everyone can play and relax and be refreshed.



Access: From Sapporo to Tomamu Station by a limited express train for Obihiro. At minimum, an 82 minute ride. A shuttle bus runs between the station and the hotel according to the train timetable.



Special service:

For passengers of the Tomamu Sahoro Ski Express train, porter service is offered. The hotel staff welcomes you at the station, and without worrying about your luggage, you can go directly to the hotel after getting off the train.



Tomamu Sahoro Ski Express On a train

Tomamu Sahoro Ski Express
Operation date: Everyday till March 22, 2010.

From Sapporo to Shitoku			
Sapporo	Minami-Chitose	TOMAMU	Shitoku
11:05Dep.	11:48Dep.	12:59Dep.	13:33Arr.
From Shitoku to Sapporo			
Shitoku	TOMAMU	Minami-Chitose	Sapporo
14:40 Dep.	15:12 Dep.	16:34 Dep.	17:08 Arr.



A train with windows decorated by stacked empty beer cans has arrived at the platform. Smiling faces getting off from the train tell us they’ve had a happy journey.