



**JAPAN**

**“HOKKAIDO POWDER”**



<b>Region</b>	Hokkaido	<b>Daily Elevation</b>	800m - 1600m
<b>Month</b>	February	<b>Number of Onsens</b>	6
<b>Duration</b>	8 Days	<b>Favourite Run</b>	Yotei crater
<b>Difficulty</b>	Intermediate/Advanced	<b>Guide to Guest Ratio</b>	1 : 6

If Japan is not on your “Bucket List”, it should be! Japan has the most consistent snowfall anywhere in the northern hemisphere. Imagine skiing waist deep powder, summiting volcanoes, soaking in natural hot springs, and enjoying great authentic Japanese food. The amazing skiing and cultural experience will make this the trip of a lifetime.

Don't expect to be skiing in one place for the entire trip, we will be traveling to the absolute best locations throughout Hokkaido. The main goal is to take you away from the crowded ski hills and explore the backcountry where even the locals rarely ever go. Our Lead Guide, Ben Johns, has 7 seasons of exploring and guiding Hokkaido exclusively in the backcountry. With his knowledge and experience you'll be sure that you will be skiing the best and the deepest powder that Japan has to offer.

**#notracksnopeople**



# EXAMPLE ITINERARY



## **DAY 1 - 2pm Sunday, Onsen at the Airport.**

- Arrive in Sapporo (New Chitose International Airport)
- Meet your guide and get on the road towards Niseko.
- Arrive at accommodation, get settled, eat dinner
- Game plan for next day. Early bed... Jet lag recovery.

## **DAY 2**

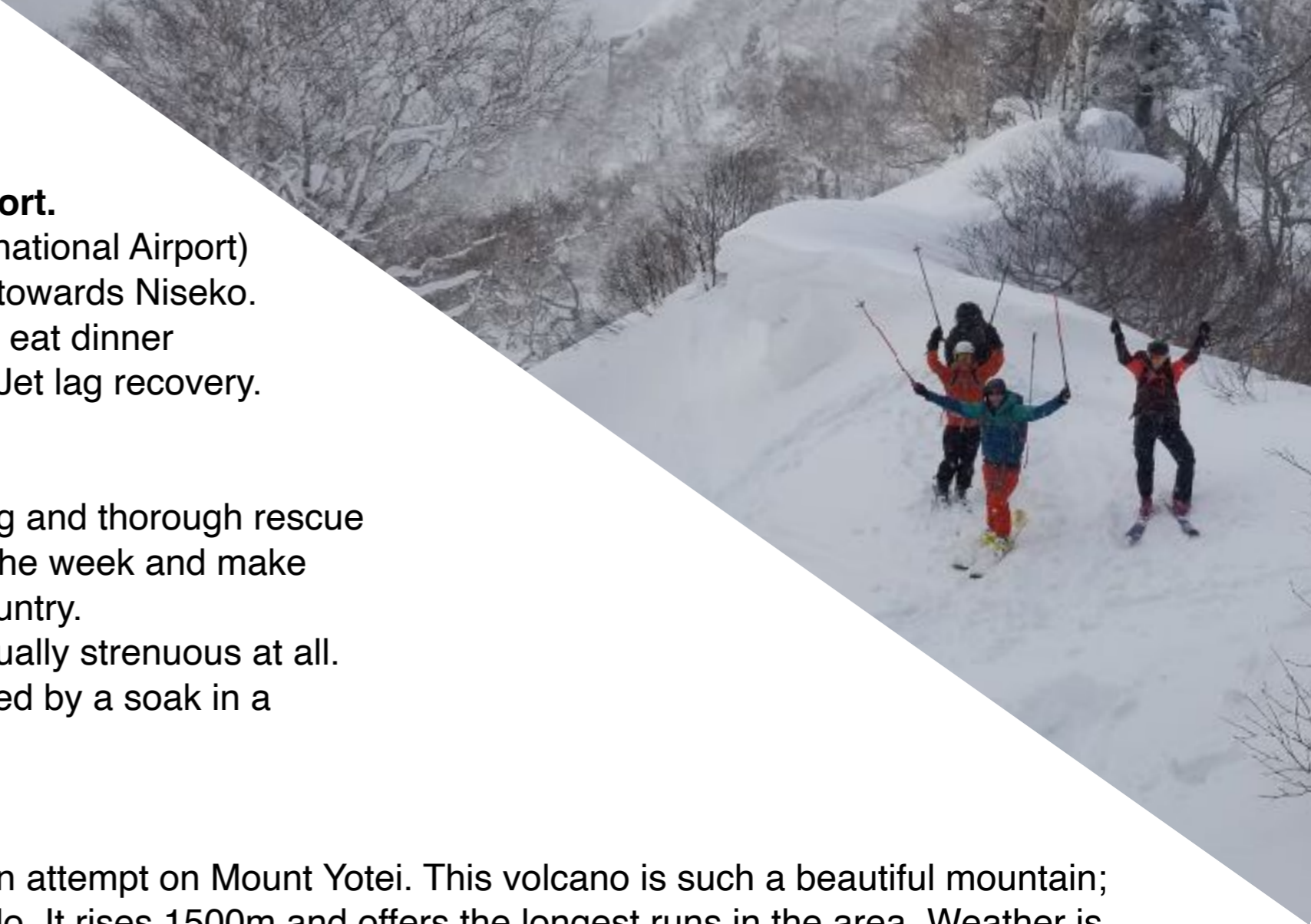
- **Safety First!** A detailed safety briefing and thorough rescue training session will prepare you for the week and make you much more skilled in the backcountry.
- Easy Ski Tour. The first day is not usually strenuous at all. Most likely a tour off the ski hill followed by a soak in a natural hot spring called an Onsen.

## **DAY 3**

- Today we will be skiing and making an attempt on Mount Yotei. This volcano is such a beautiful mountain; some call it the Mount Fuji of Hokkaido. It rises 1500m and offers the longest runs in the area. Weather is not an issue today, on clear days we summit, on storm days we ski in the shelter of the trees.
- If you summit Yotei, you get to take part in the tradition of eating at the Yotei Sushi bar in the nearby town of Kutchan.... If you don't summit, well, we go there anyway.

## **DAY 4**

- The Kiroro Traverse. We travel about an hour away to the ski resort called Kiroro. Kiroro consistently get some of the deepest snow packs of all the ski hills. We take advantage of the gondola that brings us to the foot of the mountain Yoichi Dake. From here we ski a total of 1500m making our way back to the Van. We finish this day at the local Onsen before driving back to the Niseko area.



## DAY 5

- Today we head out on a short drive to Mount Shiribetsu for a ski tour up yet another volcano.
- After a solid tour on Shiribetsu we relax in a small local Onsen and head out for yet another amazing dinner.

## DAY 6

- Today we pack up and ski the backcountry on our way to Sapporo. Most people and other groups tend to drive strait to Sapporo and in doing so miss out on some underrated terrain that rarely gets skied. We spend the night in Sapporo.

## DAY 7

- The last day of skiing is based out of Sapporo. There are a number of options that all offer something different. Teine and Kokusa are the best bets. We will go where the best snow is.
- Party night in Sapporo!! Always good to finish with a party :)

## DAY 8

- Airport transfer day. Sleep in, eat a late breakfast, organize your gear and get dropped off at the airport. There are a few Places to visit in the city if your flights are later in the day.





**GET THE VIBE**

# VOLCANOES

**HAVE YOU EVER  
SKIED INSIDE A  
VOLCANO? SOUND  
INSANE, RIGHT? IT  
IS! BUT THE MOST  
AMAZING INSANE  
THERE IS.**





# POWDER

**A METER SNOW IN 24H?  
NO PROBLEM! IT IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
INCREDIBLE HOW MUCH  
SNOW CAN FALL IN THIS  
POWDER PARADISE. IT  
WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!**



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# VIEWS

ENCHANTING FORESTS  
AND VOLCANOES AS A  
BACKDROP. JAPANS  
MAGIC IS UNDENIABLE!



# ONSENS

**DID WE MENTION THAT WE END EVERY DAY RELAXING AND RECOVERING IN SOME OF THE BEST ONSENS HOKKAIDO HAS TO OFFER? YOU'LL COME HOME WANTING TO GET A CHAIR IN YOUR SHOWER.. TRUST US!**





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**OK! NOW YOU'RE EXCITED!**  
**KEEP READING TO GET ALL THE DETAILS..**

A skier wearing a bright orange jacket, blue pants, a black helmet, and colorful goggles is captured in a dynamic pose, carving through deep snow. The skier is leaning forward, with their right ski planted in the snow and their left ski trailing. A black ski pole is extended to the right. The background consists of a dense forest of bare trees, suggesting a winter setting. The overall scene is filled with soft, diffused light, and a fine mist of snow is visible around the skier, emphasizing the depth of the snow.

**WHEN, WHAT, HOW MUCH?**

## **COST**

Please see website for current prices.

## **TRIP DATES**

See website for details

**Securing the trip requires a 25% non-refundable deposit. Please visit our Cancellation Policy for more information.**

**We HIGHLY recommend purchasing Trip Cancellation Insurance.**

## **PRICE INCLUDES**

- Guiding and logistics
- All transportation and fuel
- All accommodation with breakfasts
- Lift tickets when needed

## **PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE**

- Dinner
- Lunch
- Alcohol
- Plane tickets
- Onsens

### **Term and Conditions of Booking**

All bookings are subject to our Terms and Conditions of Booking, which include our cancellation policy and waiver requirements. Please review these carefully before booking [CANCELLATION POLICY](#)

# ARRIVAL DAY

All members of the team will have to sort out their own airfare to Japan and land at the New Chitose airport (CTS) in Hokkaido. We recommend landing one day early. Most flights arrive to New Chitose in the evening. Once you arrive head directly towards the **Chitose Airport Onsen** and book yourself in for the night. The price is an extremely affordable 3000 YEN. Here you can relax and soak your travel exhaustion away in the Onsen and even get a Massage! In the morning take your skis and baggage to the baggage storage located in the Departure Terminal C.



Luggage storage

## MEETING DAY

Once you have stored your bags you will be free to wander the airport, or zip into Sapporo on the train for a quick adventure. The airport has multiple restaurants and shops for you to enjoy. The Airport also has free Wifi so communication is possible when you land via email or messenger etc.

**MEETING TIME & PLACE IS 2PM SUNDAY AT THE ONSEN ENTRANCE ON THE 4TH FLOOR ON THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR TRIP. FIRST DAY IS ALWAYS A SUNDAY.**







## WHAT DO I BRING?

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING EVERYTHING IN YOUR CLOSET!!**

We strongly encourage you to bring as little as possible. During travel days we have to be able to fit everything into our Vans so if you have too much stuff this can be difficult and very uncomfortable with 6 people.

Here is a list of what we recommend that you bring:

### EQUIPMENT

- Touring skis
- Skins
- Poles
- Boots

### BACKPACK STUFF

- Transceiver
- Probe
- Shovel
- A proper day touring backpack.. 30-40 litres
- Camera
- Headlamp
- Ski straps

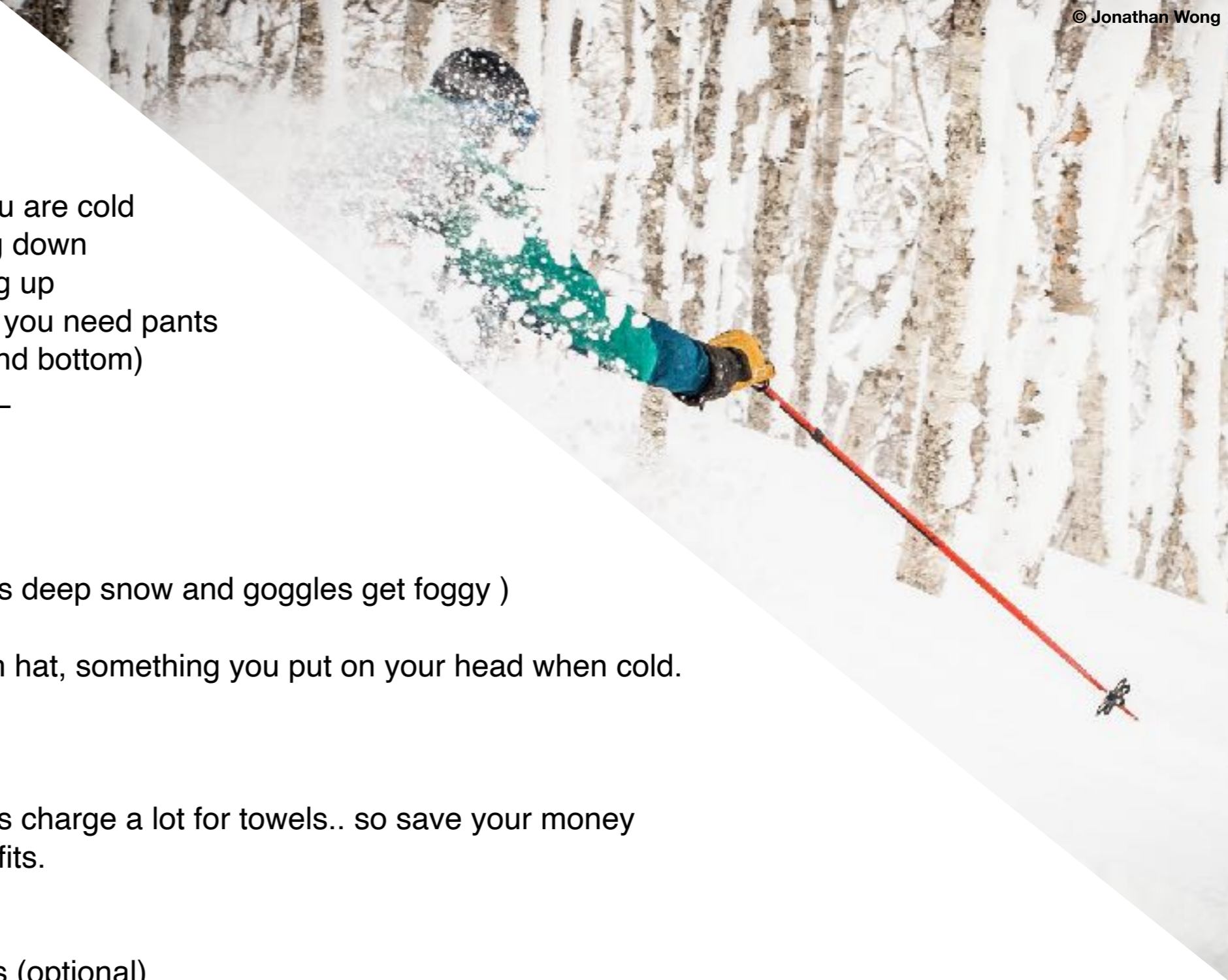
## TECHNICAL CLOTHES

- Down jacket - for when you are cold
- Gore Tex jacket - for going down
- Soft Shell jacket - for going up
- Gore Tex pants - because you need pants
- Long underwear x2 (top and bottom)
- Ski Socks x4 - stinky feet L
- Thin Gloves
- Medium gloves
- Thick gloves
- Face mask or Buff
- Goggles with extra lens (its deep snow and goggles get foggy )
- Sunglasses
- Toque - Its a beanie, warm hat, something you put on your head when cold.
- Helmet

## AFTER SKI STUFF

- Light Travel Towel. Onsens charge a lot for towels.. so save your money
- 5 comfortable evening outfits.
- Toiletries
- SNOW BOOTS
- Flip flops for the ski lodges (optional)

This is about all you will need for your 10 days. If you are traveling with a lot of “stuff” we will probably have to store some of it at the airport for the duration of the trip in a group bag.



A person is seen from behind, ascending a steep, snow-covered slope. The person is wearing dark winter gear and has a large backpack. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. Bare trees are silhouetted against the sky. The overall scene is serene and captures a moment of winter recreation.

**THE LITTLE THINGS..**

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **MONEY**

Japan is still very much a cash country. Credit cards are becoming more popular but don't be surprised if some places only take cash. I recommend having at least 30000 YEN available to you.

### **DRIVERS LICENSE**

If you plan on driving in Japan before or after our trip you **MUST HAVE** an international drivers license. You can get these easily at a local CAA office in Calgary or Vancouver if you are coming from Canada. They cost about 80\$.

### **THE LANGUAGE**

Have Google Translate downloaded on your phones and download the offline function.. this is handy when you need it.

### **GETTING AROUND**

If you are planning to travel Japan before or after the trip I also recommend purchasing the JR pass for all trains. It's a one-time pass for tourists and it can only be purchased when you are outside the country. It gives you fee train passes to all JR trains. <http://www.japanrailpass.net/en/>

### **DOGS**

The Gooseberry Lodge that we stay at has very nice dogs that you will most likely encounter. If you have any extreme allergy to dogs please let us know so that we can notify the owners to keep them out of the main house during your trip.

# RISK DISCLOSURE AND SAFETY

We strive to ensure the highest levels of safety on all our trips. However, it is essential to recognize that no adventure, especially those involving backcountry travel and sea voyages, can ever be entirely free of risk. Promising absolute safety would diminish the very essence of the experiences we offer, which include excitement, exploration, and a degree of unpredictability.

Our guides are certified by associations under the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), ensuring a high level of expertise. Each trip begins with a morning meeting where our guides assess current weather conditions, terrain risks, avalanche potential, group abilities, and other critical safety factors. While objectives are planned in advance, they may change on the day of the trip based on real-time conditions and the guide's judgment.

By participating in our trips, you voluntarily assume the inherent risks, dangers and hazards associated with backcountry travel and skiing, including but not limited to avalanches, tree wells, rapidly changing weather, and variations in terrain. Other hazards include cliffs, extreme terrain, trees, crevasses, rockfalls, open creeks, and hidden obstacles. Participants are responsible for skiing or riding within their skill level.

Additionally, sea-based travel carries its own risks, dangers and hazards, such as seasickness, claustrophobia, anxiety, nausea, vomiting, and other potential discomforts inherent to life aboard a vessel.

You are responsible for maintaining the necessary physical fitness, dexterity, and skills required to navigate a full day of travel over varied terrain in winter conditions.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

You acknowledge that you are aware that guided backcountry and sea travel involve significant risks, dangers, and hazards and you agree to participate knowing these risks, dangers and hazards and you freely accept and fully assume all such risk, dangers and hazards and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting therefrom. You further accept responsibility for your own safety and well-being.

Furthermore, you agree to follow the instructions of the guides and crew at all times, stay alert to hazards, act prudently throughout the trip and notify the guides and crew of anything you perceive as unsafe in a timely manner.

**PLEASE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE BOOKING.**

## Participation Agreement and Waiver

All participants must review and agree to the Waiver as a condition of participating in this trip.

**PLEASE READ THE WAIVER CAREFULLY!**

By signing you will waive or give up certain legal rights, including the right to sue for negligence, breach of contract, or breach of any Occupiers Liability Act or claim compensation following an accident. The form of Waiver can be viewed here [WAIVER](#).

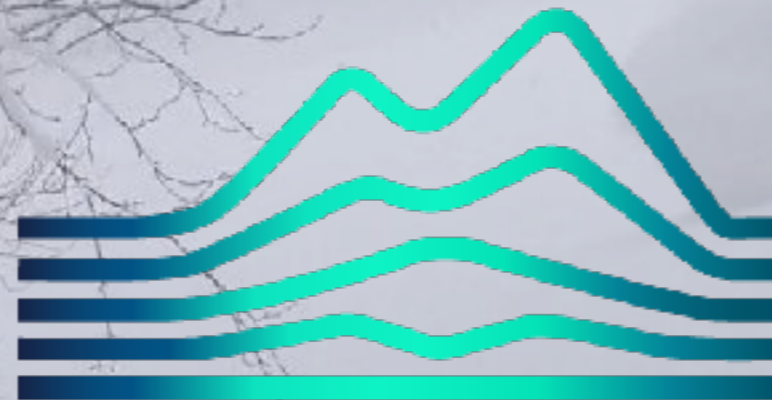
All participants must also complete the Participation Agreement as a condition of participating in this trip. To ensure that all participate information is collected and that all participates of the Ski and Sail trips are prepared for the requirements of the trip. The Participation Agreement can be viewed here [PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT](#).

**PLEASE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE BOOKING.**

PLEASE contact us! We would love to talk about your trip  
and answer any questions you have.

Please Visit our website to book your trip now!

**BOOK NOW**



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