

From the beach to the ski slopes

[PR]

From the emerald green sea to an endless silver paradise. In just one night the 40-degree-plus heat of Perth's summer can be left behind for a world of sub-zero temperatures. Why not experience the contrast for yourself?

Well-known as the 1998 Winter Olympics meeting place is Nagano prefecture's Hakuba village. Starting with one of Japan's biggest ski resorts, Happoone, Hakuba possesses seven ski sites, all of which are representative of the quality of Japan's stunning ski resorts. With variety that caters to everyone from newcomers to professionals, high quality powder snow and diverse facilities, Hakuba's ski slopes also have a natural topography that fascinates skiers and snowboarders from around the world.

The secret of these ski resorts' popularity lies firstly in its ease of access. Only three hours from Tokyo and this silver land can be yours. And from Perth? The most popular route are direct flights to Narita airport, which is close to Tokyo. Direct evening flights are available, so you can close your eyes and open them in the morning to Japan. From there it's easy – a train will take you to Tokyo station in about an hour, and then from Tokyo you can transfer to the bullet train and be

at Nagano station in around two hours. It's then an hour's bus ride to Hakuba. In other words, you can be pulling on your ski mask about 15 hours after leaving Perth, including connection time. You'll feel like you've flown from the beach straight to the ski slopes. If you think of skiing or snowboarding,



View the superb scenery and warm yourself in a hot spring.



Free yourself and enjoy the splendid nature at ski sites.

Canada and Europe tend to spring to mind, but it's hard to imagine winging down the slopes the very next day. Another bonus is that the time difference between Perth and Japan is just one hour, a far cry from other ski resorts, so you'll be in fine form when you hit the slopes.

If you still need convincing, another good reason to choose Hakuba is the extraordinary natural environment, complete with natural hot springs. Hakuba village is located at the base of the Northern Alps of Japan, mountains that soar to 3,000 metres. In the winter, these mountains suddenly start to glitter with metres of fine powder snow. Watching this fairytale scene from the natural hot springs, you can lose all sense of time. A 360 degree panorama of picturesque scenery from the bliss of natural hot springs – this is luxury.

From Australia's midsummer to Japan's midwinter. In magnificent conditions, you can enjoy skiing and snowboarding to your heart's content. And when you've worn yourself out, you can revitalise your body in the hot springs, surrounded by the natural beauty of Hakuba. Truly, happiness can be found here. 

For information about skiing in Hakuba, visit Hakuba Sightseeing Bureau's English site at <http://vill.hakuba.nagano.jp/english/>

In addition to skiing, H.I.S. Westralia's courteous staff will be pleased to arrange tours by request.

Information:

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