

DAY 1 – SAT, FEB 22ND | ARRIVAL IN NAGANO

We will meet in Nagano Station this afternoon. After driving to Suzaka for a tour of a 200 year old Miso brewery, we will have dinner at a country style izakaya restaurant, famous for their ginger pork stir fry. We drive the remaining hour to Nabekura Kogen this evening and check into the cabins in the woods.

- Hotel: Nabekura Kogen Mori no Ie
- Facilities: Cabins (en suite)
- Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 – SUN, FEB 23RD | SNOWSHOEING IN NABEKURA KOGEN & HOKURYUKO

After making breakfast in the cabins, this morning we go for a snowshoe and sledding adventure in the area around Nabekura Kogen. After eating lunch at a farm to table restaurant nearby, we continue onto Lake Hokuryuko and snowshoe around the frozen lake. Afterwards, we take a dip in a mountain onsen with spectacular winter views. After soaking, we visit a charismatic soba instructor where we make and eat our own noodles for dinner.

- Hotel: Nabekura Kogen Mori no Ie
- Facilities: Cabins (en suite)
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

DAY 3 – MON, FEB 24TH | NABEKURA KOGEN - TOGAKUSHI VIA SHIGA KOGEN

After making breakfast in the cabins, we drive 1.5 hours to Shiga Kogen where we snowshoe through the serene forests and spectacular mountain views on a clear day. The lift we take to the top of the mountain is the highest in Japan. Lunch is at the ski resort restaurant and from here we drive 30 minutes to Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park to visit the world-famous attraction. From here we drive 1 hour to Togakushi and check into tonight's ryokan, famous for their chicken soba.

- Hotel: Chikuyama
- Facilities: Ryokan
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 – TUE, FEB 25TH | NABEKURA KOGEN

Today we snowshoe in the beautiful area around Togakushi Shrine and Joshinetsu National Park. We begin the day by snowshoeing through the woods, before coming to an opening and a frozen lake. On clear days, the view of Mt. Togakushi in the background is stunning. We continue onto a cedar lined avenue with 400 year old trees and a famous thatch gate. We snowshoe down to the shrine entrance, where we get picked up for a late lunch in Togakushi village. In the afternoon, we drive 1.5 hours to Tsunan and check into our quaint ryokan, complete with a cave onsen.

- Hotel: Ryokan Kawatsuya
- Facilities: Japanese Style (not en suite)
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 – WED, FEB 26TH | SNOWSHOEING IN TSUNAN

After breakfast in the inn, we visit Bijinbayashi forest for a locally guided snowshoe experience. After lunch in a local restaurant, we visit a sake brewery for a tasting and tour. Dinner is in a local restaurant serving seafood.

- Hotel: Ryokan Kawatsuya
- Facilities: Japanese Style (not en suite)
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 – THU, FEB 27TH | TSUNAN - OKUHIDA ONSEN

We drive 3 hours this morning through Nagano City, Matsumoto and eventually into the Northern Japanese Alps. Once there, we take the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway to the middle station, where we begin our day's snowshoeing. Today is a gently winding path through the forest, with occasional views of the surrounding peaks on a clear day. We return to the inn for dinner, where we enjoy a bath and a Hida Beef steak.

- Hotel: Kazeya
- Facilities: Ryokan
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 – FRI, FEB 28TH | OKUHIDA ONSEN - TAKAYAMA

After breakfast, we return to the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway where we ascend to 2,000 meters to begin the day's trek. If we have enough time, we will complete a 4-hour round trip journey through a beautiful alpine forest and reach the mountain hut where climbers ascending Hotaka stay. We return to the car, where we drive the remaining 1 hour to Takayama City and check into our accommodation, a beautifully restored model home in the heart of Takayama's old town. Dinner is in a local restaurant serving Hida Beef.

- Hotel: Renovated Japanese Style Home
- Facilities: Shared Bathroom and Toilets
- Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 – SAT, FEB 29TH | SHIRAKAWAGO

This morning we transfer from Takayama City to Shirakawago, a 1 hour journey. Shirakawago is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site, famous for its original thatch roof buildings. After a soba noodle lunch, we walk around the village and enter one of the residences where the Wada Family lived. There is a famous view from above the snow-covered village where we will stop by,

before driving back to Takayama City. Dinner is in a local restaurant.

DAY 9 – SUN, MAR 1ST | ONWARD TRANSFER

The tour ends in Takayama this morning and you will transfer to your onward destination. Centralia International Airport in Nagoya is the closest airport from Takayama, although airports in Tokyo and Osaka are also easily accessible.