JAPOW HQ / HOKKAIDO 2027

THE RIDER FIELD GUIDE

Sessions 01-06 | Jan 10 - Feb 24, 2027 | Flight planning, airport runs, houses, resorts, gear & insurance

WELCOME TO JAPOW

This is a homie-led Hokkaido snowboard trip built around good snow, good people, and a rotating crew. Use this guide to coordinate flights and prepare for your week. Expect flexibility: mountain choices, pickup runs, weather and the final northern house are still being organized. Dates below are the planned session windows, not confirmed flight pickup appointments.

FIRST: WHICH WEEK ARE YOU IN?

SESSION	ARRIVE / CHECK IN	DEPART / CHECK OUT	BASE
S1	Sun Jan 10	Sun Jan 17	Yoichi / Otaru
S2	Mon Jan 18	Mon Jan 25	Yoichi / Otaru
S3	Tue Jan 26	Tue Feb 2	Yoichi / Otaru
S4	Wed Feb 3	Wed Feb 10	Yoichi / Otaru
S5	Wed Feb 10	Wed Feb 17	Asahikawa / north
S6	Wed Feb 17	Wed Feb 24	Asahikawa / north

Each session is 7 nights. The dates shown are local Japan dates. Our Yoichi/Otaru accommodation is planned through Feb 10; S5/S6 move to a separate Asahikawa-area base. Multiweek riders stay with the crew, but between-session gap nights (Jan 17, Jan 25, Feb 2) need individual confirmation - do not assume they are included unless Cole has agreed.

BOOKING FLIGHTS - PLEASE READ BEFORE BUYING

1. Search for NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT (CTS), the Sapporo / Hokkaido gateway. 'Sapporo' may show another airport (OKD), which is not our planned group meeting point.

2. Arrive on your session START date if possible. Favor a CTS landing late morning or early afternoon (roughly 9 AM-2 PM local) so I can group people into one or two airport runs. This is a target window, NOT a confirmed shuttle schedule. Fly in a day early if you want a buffer, but arrange your own extra-night hotel until we confirm whether the house has room.

3. On your FINAL day, aim for a late-afternoon or evening departure, not an early-morning flight: winter roads and group drop-offs take time. Send me the flight options before you purchase so I can confirm your group transfer; S5/S6 departures are a longer transfer from the north.

4. Flight options from the US often connect through Tokyo (HND/NRT) or another Asian hub. Watch airport changes, checked-board rules, immigration connection times, and the date-line jump (US -> Japan often arrives a calendar day later).

5. If you want to use Asahikawa Airport (AKJ), ask first. CTS is the shared-transport default; do not assume AKJ pickup or dropoff is included.

SEND ME YOUR FLIGHT PLAN

Before booking: screenshot or link the proposed flights. After booking: send FULL NAME, SESSION(S), ARRIVAL FLIGHT NUMBER + LOCAL LANDING DATE/TIME, DEPARTURE FLIGHT NUMBER + LOCAL TAKEOFF DATE/TIME, and HOW MANY SNOWBOARD BAGS. I will batch flight arrivals/departures around the shared runs and send a final meet-up spot as we get closer.

AIRPORT-DAY PLAN

The first day is mostly landing, luggage, grocery stops, a van run, house check-in, and getting the crew dialed. Expect the first full ride day the morning after arrival. Final day is packing, a clean house handoff, and airport transport. Transfer timing can change for snowfall, road closures, delayed flights, or baggage.

Planned turnover days: Jan 10, Jan 17-18, Jan 25-26, Feb 2-3, Feb 10, Feb 17 and Feb 24. We'll aim to consolidate pickups and dropoffs into 1-2 runs where practical; some arrivals may need to wait for the next group run or arrange another transfer.

OUR BASE / THE HOUSE

S1-S4: Yamori House #2, Yoichi, Hokkaido (near Otaru). A furnished shared house with 106 square meters, four single beds plus four Japanese-style futon setups, kitchen, laundry, Wi-Fi, and room for up to 8 people. Bed assignments are shared/flexible, not individual private-room reservations. Respect the space, keep boots/outerwear organized, and help with turnover cleaning.

Yoichi house address: 11-chome 22-5 Tomisawacho, Yoichi, Yoichi District, Hokkaido, Japan. House photo preview follows at the end of this packet. Only use this location for planning; final arrival and key/entry instructions will come directly from Cole.

S5-S6: a NEW Asahikawa / central Hokkaido base. The exact property, layout, sleeping plan and address are still being finalized. Northern-week riders will get a separate confirmed pin and photos once booked. Do not go to the Yoichi house for S5/S6.

THE CREW VAN

Vehicle plan: Toyota HiAce Grand Cabin (10-seat configuration by vehicle specification), pickup from CTS Jan 7 and return there Feb 28. We will use it for group logistics and mountain days. With riders, boards and winter luggage, useful occupancy can be much lower than the seat count; please pack smart and tell me your board-bag count. Example vehicle photos are at the end; your exact van/color may differ.

WHAT WE MIGHT RIDE

These are the mountain options, NOT a booked daily itinerary. We'll follow storms, conditions, lift operations and crew ability. Lift tickets are separate from the trip price; each person buys the right pass for the day once the plan is set.

YOICHI / OTARU ZONE - S1-S4

Kiroro Snow World - core powder option near Otaru / Yoichi. Official resort, passes and conditions: https://www.kiroro.co.jp/snowworld/

Asarigawa Onsen Ski Resort - smaller local option with ocean views: https://www.asari-ski.com/en/

Sapporo Kokusai - another snow-friendly resort option: https://www.sapporo-kokusai.jp/en/

Niseko United (Grand Hirafu / Hanazono / Niseko Village / Annupuri) - a bigger mission and longer drive, subject to the day and crew: https://www.niseko.ne.jp/en/

Rusutsu Resort - another longer-distance mission, not a daily guarantee: https://rusutsu.com/en/

ASAHIKAWA / NORTH ZONE - S5-S6

Kamui Ski Links - accessible Asahikawa-area resort with groomers and designated tree terrain: https://www.kamui-skilinks.com/en/

Asahidake Ropeway - alpine terrain, weather sensitive and NOT ordinary marked resort riding; only with proper preparation / expertise and suitable conditions: https://asahidake.hokkaido.jp/en/

Other north-zone options can include Furano and nearby resorts; the actual mountain list will be set when lodging and transport are finalized.

GEAR / WHAT TO BRING

Bring: passport, snowboard/boots/bindings, helmet, waterproof outerwear, warm layers, mitts, goggles + extra lens, winter shoes, chargers/adapters, medicine, daypack, and personal spending money. A single bag plus one board bag is much easier for shared van runs than multiple hard cases.

Helpful for short bootpacks: Verts Snowshoes. If you're bringing these, make sure you understand the model and binding compatibility first. They are OPTIONAL and not an avalanche safety substitute: https://www.sparkrandd.com/gear/verts/

For any travel outside controlled resort boundaries, follow resort rules and use qualified local guides/partners where appropriate. Avalanche training, beacon, shovel, probe, partner procedures and conditions matter; Verts alone do not make backcountry travel safe.

INSURANCE / PAPERWORK

Every rider needs individual travel insurance with medical care, emergency evacuation and snow-sports coverage appropriate to the riding they intend to do. Read exclusions for off-piste, terrain parks and backcountry carefully. Ask your insurer exactly what is covered - generic travel insurance is not necessarily sufficient. You can compare airline-ticket coverage and independent policies, but your policy must fit the trip.

A separate building/lease insurance policy on the house does NOT replace your personal travel / medical coverage. If you are interested in being added as an authorized driver on the rental vehicle, speak with Cole first: approval, driver's licence / international driving permit requirements, and actual rental-company insurance terms must be confirmed before anybody drives.

Rider agreement, any outstanding payment, insurance proof, and required guest identification details need to be completed before your place is fully finalized. Use the SAME email address on your rider portal and payment checkout whenever possible.

Check passport and entry requirements for your nationality. For US tourists, review Japan's official short-stay guidance and Visit Japan Web before flying: https://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa-short-term-visit.html

FOR EVERYONE - QUICK CHECKLIST

[ ] Confirm which sessions you're joining and whether any extra night was individually approved.

[ ] Send Cole your proposed CTS flights BEFORE purchasing.

[ ] Send final flight numbers, landing/takeoff times (Japan local), and board bag count.

[ ] Make sure your passport / Japan entry requirements are sorted.

[ ] Complete your rider agreement, payment and travel-insurance proof.

[ ] Pack for deep snow, shared house space, and winter van logistics.

[ ] Wait for the final arrival meeting point, van runs and house entry instructions.

THE VIBE

Good riding, good humans, good times. Expect flexibility, shared chores, weather calls, food stops and plenty of filming. We will make the most of whatever Hokkaido gives us. This is a group snowboard trip, not a private guiding package. Flights, lift tickets, meals and personal insurance are not included unless you have an explicit written arrangement otherwise.

COLESENDS / JAPOW HQ

House and van pictures on the following pages. All resort and product URLs above are live, clickable references.

PHOTO LOOKBOOK | BASE + TRANSPORT

YOICHI HOUSE - REAL LISTING PHOTOS (REFERENCE)



Yoichi house / outside - actual property reference photo

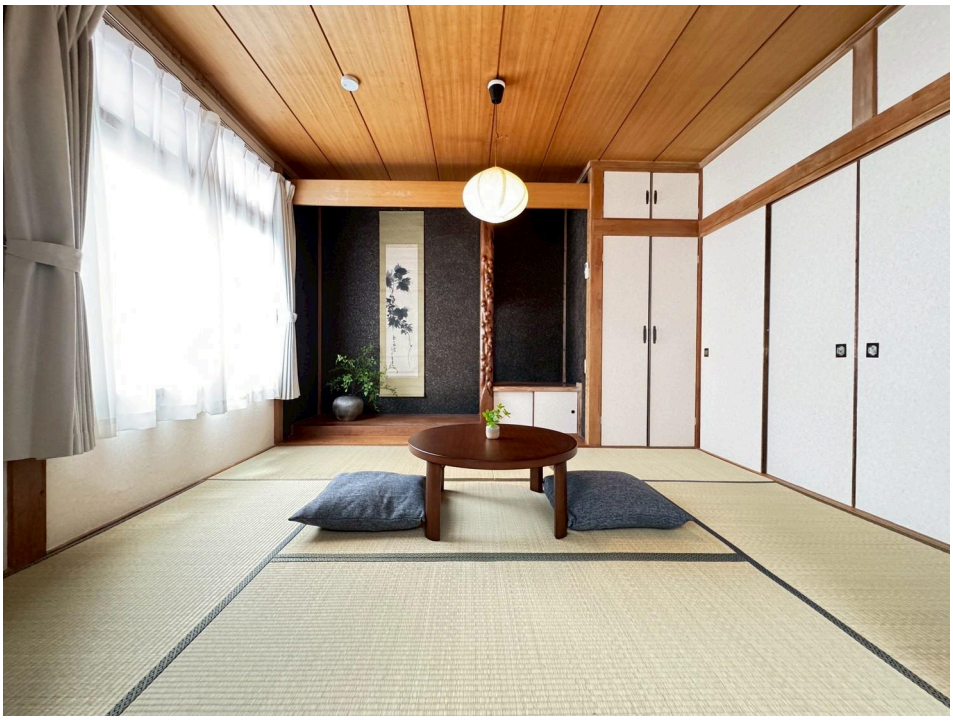
Living room - shared hangout space



Bedroom - example of single-bed arrangement



Japanese tatami room - futon sleeping area



Toyota HiAce Grand Cabin - representative model exterior



Toyota HiAce Grand Cabin - representative seating example

