

Chisenupuri South Face















Chisenupuri (チセヌプリ, 1134m) is the classic backcountry peak in the Niseko Range. The summit affords grand views east and west along the range, as well as north to the Japan Sea at Iwanai. With a classic volcanic shape, the mountain lends itself to a number of routes. This particular route via the Chisenupuri ski area and the southern face of the mountain, is considered the safest in terms of avalanche risk. The good folk at Hokkaido Backcountry Club have marked a public up-track to the west of the ski area for easy backcountry access to Chisenupuri.

LOCATION

Chisenupuri sits about 5km as the crow flies west of the main Niseko United ski resort in southern Hokkaido. This southface ski touring route up Chisenupuri starts at the Niseko Chisenupuri parking lot at the base of the Hokkaido Backcountry Club's Chisenupuri catskiing area.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, interactive map, and extra safety notes: http://hokw.jp/chise



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GENERAL NOTES

Chisenupuri, a volcano in the eastern end of the Niseko range, is one of the Niseko region's most popular backcountry skiing destinations. A relatively short approach reveals a huge amount of skiable terrain on the mountain's flanks. Being one of the most popular mountains in the Niseko range, it's advisable to get to the trailhead early – by 9am you may be too late for an untracked backcountry experience.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. Overall, expect just over 2 hours for the ascent, and about 1 hour for the descent. Starting from the Niseko Chisenupuri Ski Area parking lot, head towards the Hokkaido Backcountry Club's catskiing base. Approaching the old wooden building, you'll see a clearly marked public-use up-track to the left, marked with the words 'Backcountry'. Hokkaido Backcountry Club's commitment to keeping the backcountry accessible to all is commendable - respect that commitment by keeping to the left of the main ski area. From the cat ski base, there's the public use uptrack. clearly marked by orange tape tied to trees once again, thanks Hokkaido Backcountry Club. Follow this uptrack to around 750m, where the marked up-track will veer uphill to the right - the uptrack heads right, towards the upper (derelict) cablecar station. Early in the season, instead of following the marked up-track, head straight ahead, following the shallow gully, eventually veering to the right. Staying in the shallow gully will avoid having to drop down from the 832m point and then up again. Later in the season, a large cornice develops above the gully to the looker's left. In this case, it's safer to follow the up-track to the lift top station, and head north from there.

Once roughly due north of the derelict lift

station, start climbing in earnest out of the shallow gully, veering to the looker's left to avoid the cornice. In about 50 vertical meters or so, you'll emerge onto the 870m plateau. If the weather is clear, you'll have a clear view of Chisenupuri's south face. The faint south-southeast ridge is where this route ascends, all the way to the summit. If visibility is low, skiers will need to be vigilant to check their bearings — the flat plateau can be disorienting.

The Hokkaido Yukiyama Guide notes that the eastern face of Chisenupuri above the treeline is classic Hokkaido avalanche terrain, so should be avoided. Also note that nearing the summit, underfoot conditions can deteriorate, with crust and rime common. This route returns the way it came from. On the descent, make sure to keep to the skier's right of the Chisenupuri Ski Area – non-paying skiers are asked to keep off the catskiing area.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is a large carpark at the Chisenupuri Ski Area carpark, but this can be full on busy weekends. Arrive early to avoid missing out on a parking spot. Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport. A taxi from central Hirafu will likely be about 6500yen one way to the Chisenupuri Ski Area.

SAFETY NOTES

Given Chisenupuri's popularity, it's easy to fall into a state of easy hubris on this mountain. It is, however, very much the backcountry — it is not patrolled, and there is no avalanche control. All skiers should be proficient in navigating on their own, have their own avalanche rescue equipment, and be versed in its use. Also note that despite its relative low height of 1134m, like other mountains in Hokkaido, temperatures can plunge to -20°C with windchill — always err on the side of bringing that extra puffer.

ONSEN NEARBY

The natural choice of post-ski onsen for this route is the gorgeous Yuki-chichibu Onsen (雪秩父温泉, 700yen). Famous for its outdoor baths and mud-infused waters, this is an onsen that should not be missed. They also have a restaurant, operating from 11:30am till 3pm each day.

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A4 printer paper (210mm x 297mm). If you've only got Letter size (215.9mm x 279.4 mm), just follow the instructions below. You'll achive an accurate scale, but the map will be clipped a little at the top and bottom.

STEP 2

Open the print window by clicking on File > Print (or hitting Ctrl + P on your keyboard).

STEP 3

Make sure "Actual Size" is selected.

STFP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STFP 5

For best results, select the highest quality print option available on your printer (settings will vary).

STEP 6

You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

STEP 7

Click "Print".

PLEASE PRINT AT 'ACTUAL SIZE' (NO SCALING)

The 1:25,000 scale used in the map is accurate if the PDF is printed without scaling (i.e., ACTUAL SIZE). Follow the instructions on this page to ensure an accurate rendering of the scale.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS









