

Nitonupuri SE Face













The southeast face of Nitonupuri ニトヌプリ (1080m) is a steeper, more complex zone than most on this popular Niseko backcountry peak. Mounds, natural kickers, and inviting drops await those who make the longer, steeper trek along the deep southeast gully. As with any mission to the twin peaks of Nitonupuri, the views from the false peak (1076m) here are inspiring. Chisenupuri's eastern faces beg for attention, as does the volcanic peaks of Iwaonupuri and Niseko Annupuri.

LOCATION

Nitonupuri sits in the heart of the Niseko range, between the obvious conical peak of Chisenupuri to the west, and Iwaonupuri to the east. It is probably the busiest of the region's ski touring spots, and the trailhead will usually be obvious for the number of cars parked there on any given morning. The trailhead is at the Yusato Gate the which closes route 66 for winter; about 800m drive up the road from Chisenupuri village.

GENERAL NOTES

This SE aspect of Nitonupuri is one of the lessvisited aspects on this very popular backcountry peak in the Niseko Range. This may be due to the steep-sided gully that constitutes access to

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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A4 MAP CONCEPT | Markus Hauser IAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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the SE face. The terrain on this face is also a little more complex than the SE and W aspects of the peak. Knolls, bumps, small bluffs, and a compact valley floor all make for much less inviting prospects in all but the most stable of snowpack conditions. Approach this route with the utmost care and caution.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

A simple out-and-back mission with no lapping would likely take a fit party around 3 hours. Add another couple of hours if lapping the face.

Start at the end of the snow clearing on Route 66, and from the road clamber up the 2-3m high snow walls to the snow above you. Head northeast for 200m along the snowed in Route 66 before veering right (east southeast) along the deep gully below Nitonupuri's southern face. This is classic terrain-trap sort of topography, so would be a bad place to be in anything but the most stable snowpack conditions. Either take a long climbing traverse up to the southerly 'nose,' or keep skinning above the gorge floor ESE towards the base of the SE face proper. You'll hit the treeline quite soon, at around 950m, and from there skiers will be exposed to the elements. This SE side of Nitonupuri's treeless peak is subject to more wind-loading than other aspects, so particular care should be taken above the treeline.

From the false summit, bask in the views of the Japan Sea, Chisenupuri to the west, Iwaonupuri and Niseko Annupuri to the east. A conservative descent would see skiers ski close to the southern nose. A more dynamic run can be had by dropping down the steep SE face. From the false peak, this SE run is first in the alpine, then beyond a small plateau, there is excellent, playful skiing to be had with some small drops and jumps on the way down to the valley floor.

On the return to the trailhead, maintain a high traverse – keep out of the gully floor. There's a waterfall part way down, and particularly in early season, there will be holes and/or very weak snow bridges over the stream where a skier could easily be swallowed up.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is a small area at the end of the snowclearing on Route 66, where four or five cars can fit without having to park on the side of the road. If this small area is already full, you may see others parked on the side of the road, hard up against the snowbanks on the left side of Route 66. Technically, this is illegal for a number of reasons – parking within the lane, parking too close to an intersection, etc. It can also effectively reduce Route 66 to one lane, causing traffic headaches. While we haven't heard of vehicles being towed, please obey any signs posted, and always make as much effort as possible to not obstruct traffic. As backcountry user numbers continue to increase, we hope to see a feasible solution. In the meantime, however, it's up to users to make good decisions and be careful not to cause inconvenience to others.

Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

Nitonupuri is a heavily trafficked ski touring area. This may lead you to a false sense of safety/security. The area includes plenty of steep avalanche prone terrain and we've had days when we've turned around based on the snow stability.

The downhill ski terrain can be steep, particulary on this SE aspect; it is absolutely avalanche terrain with considerable terrain traps in gully floors. Check the forecast and familiarize yourself with the snowpack conditions for the aspect you intend to ski.

It is a busy area; be aware of backcountry users above and below you at all times. By following the recommended routes youll have good spatial separation between skiing and skinning.

ONSEN NEARBY

There are two obvious Onsen options for this run. Goshiki Onsen 五色温泉 (800yen, 10am till 7pm) is a gorgeously rustic natural onsen a few km drive up the road (route 58) from the trailhead. It is a must visit onsen for the region, with 100% pure hot spring water, flowing into outdoor baths surrounded by meters of snow. Yukichichibu Onsen 雪秩父温泉 (700yen, noon till 7pm, closed Tuesdays) on the way back to Hirafu (800m down route 66) is also a good natural onsen option, with a larger outdoor bath area. Yukichichibu also has an attached restaurant (11am till 2pm). Yukichichibu is a very sulphurous onsen and so you do tend to stink for a bit afterwards.

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).

STFP 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









