


Hearty Hakuba



THE Hakuba valley is located deep within the Japanese Alps inside the Nagano Prefecture. The valley incorporates 10 ski resorts, more than 200 runs, 139 lifts, huge towering peaks, a local village, ski/snowboard shops, a combination of traditional or western dining and apres ski entertainment.

The area is the heart and soul of snow sports in Japan and played host to many events during the 1998 winter Olympics, including downhill skiing, ski jumping and the super G.

The Hakuba valley receives on average 11m of snow each winter and combines this with regular blue bird days through the season. This combination of culture, facilities, huge mountains, accessibility and lots of snow makes Hakuba the perfect ski destination for family and individual ski holidays.

When to go: Mid December to April

How to get there: Liquid Snow Tours run all-inclusive packages including flights from Melbourne, seven nights in Hakuba, six days multi-resort lift passes, all transfers, breakfast each day, and two nights in Tokyo, from \$2399 a person. They cater to singles, groups and families.

Stay: There are a range of accommodation options depending upon your requirements. Self-contained houses such as Kiki Cabins are ideal for families, while the dorm rooms (or private rooms) and lively bar at The Lab makes it perfect for younger travellers. For couples or those looking for a bit more luxury, the Traumerei hotel is a stunning deluxe 4.5 star French hotel that will not disappoint.

More: www.ski-hakuba-japan.com, www.thelabhakuba.com, or www.ski-resorts-japan.com