



JAPAN BACKCOUNTRY

SKI ADVENTURE

DURATION: 8 DAYS

LOCATION: JAPAN

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

 ALPENGLOW



JAPAN BACKCOUNTRY SKI ADVENTURE

Adventure Details

DURATION: 8 DAYS

LOCATION: HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED

SEASON: WINTER

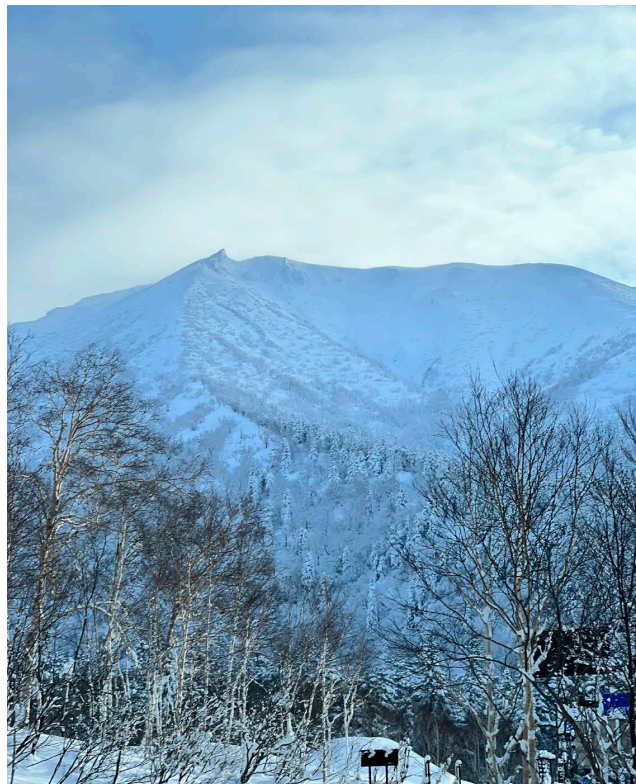
COST: \$5,600

DIFFICULTY LEVEL DESCRIPTION:

Intermediate/Advanced: Our Japan Backcountry Ski Adventure is an intermediate/advanced-level trip. You should be able to climb 3,000-5,000'+ on each touring day and be comfortable linking controlled turns down slopes up to 45 degrees.

PREREQUISITES:

Excellent physical shape, 5 days prior touring experience and/or Alpenglow's [Backcountry 1.0](#).



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[ALPENGLLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM](https://alpenglowexpeditions.com)

Adventure Introduction

Why Ski in Japan?

Japan offers some of the most rewarding backcountry skiing on the planet, and it's routinely hailed as the place to get some of the best power turns of your life.

Exploring the pristine beauty of Japan's iconic landscapes, our ski adventure offers a perfect blend of backcountry exploration and sidecountry thrills. We'll focus on two main locations, Otaru and Furano, searching for the best snow and sushi.

Led by our expert guides with a high level of expertise in navigating these zones, our Japan itinerary promises an unforgettable fusion of adventure, culture, and unparalleled skiing experiences.



SKI AREAS

We'll split our time between the coastal town of Otaru and the storied city of Furano, using a combination of lift access and uphill touring to find the best pow. Both locations offer the ideal mix of untracked powder, fewer crowds, and amazing food.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Skiing in Japan traces its roots back to the early 20th century when the sport was introduced by European missionaries and military personnel. Initially limited to small pockets of enthusiasts, skiing gained wider popularity in the post-World War II era, particularly with the development of ski resorts in regions such as Hokkaido, Nagano, and Niigata.

The 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics served as a catalyst, bringing international attention to Japan's ski culture and infrastructure. Since then, Japan has emerged as a global skiing destination renowned for its abundant snowfall, pristine powder, and unique blend of traditional Japanese hospitality with modern amenities.





About Alpenglow Expeditions

Alpenglow creates and fosters a community of climbers prepared to achieve their dreams in the world's greatest mountain ranges.



About the Company

Alpenglow Expeditions is an AMGA accredited business, and prides itself on working with guides who uphold and exemplify the highest standard in the profession of mountain guiding.

Led by IFMGA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow focuses on creating expeditions that reflect our high standards in mountain guiding by providing precision logistics, cutting edge technology, and thoughtful itineraries that combine for successful climbs.

History of Alpenglow Expeditions

Founded in 2004 by IFGMA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow Expeditions began as a boutique guide service that focused on high altitude climbing. In those 15 years we've expanded our offerings, both internationally and in the United States. We are now proud to offer courses and expeditions ranging from a climbers first experience on the Tahoe Via Ferrata, to basic backcountry education for those interested in exploring winter landscapes, to climbing the world's highest mountain for those on the Road to Everest.

About Alpenglow Expeditions



Founder — Adrian Ballinger

Adrian Ballinger founded Alpenglow Expeditions in 2004 envisioning a more holistic climbing experience for his clients than the status quo.

Adrian is the only American who has skied two 8,000 meter peaks, was the first person to ski Manaslu, the 8th tallest mountain in the world, and in 2011 became the first person to summit three 8,000 meter peaks in only 3 weeks (Everest twice and Lhotse once).

Adrian holds both an AMGA and IFMGA guide's certifications and has achieved more than 10 summits of 8,000 meter peaks (including 6 summits of Mt. Everest).



Partner / Chief Guide — Logan Talbott

Logan has been guiding professionally for over a decade in the disciplines of Rock, Alpine and Ski Mountaineering. When not out guiding, Logan spends time in the office helping the team with the day-to-day operations of the business. From one day ascents of El Capitan to big Alpine climbs in the Himalaya, or from ski descents on Denali to backyard ski tours in Lake Tahoe, he can't help but smile when out running around the hills.

Logan is an AMGA/IFMGA mountain guide, an Avalanche course leader with AIARE, as well as a wilderness EMT. In addition to guiding, Logan has extensive experience in mountain rescue, having worked for rescue teams in both Yosemite and Denali National Parks, and volunteering locally for Tahoe Nordic SAR.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL PARTNERS

We partner with local logistics companies in each country and region that we operate in. Often we have partnerships that have been with us since the beginning of Alpenglow. Whenever we bring on a new operator we have vetted them thoroughly to insure their reliability and quality. Our local and regional logistics partners are the backbone of our in-country logistics and help us achieve the success that we're known for.



Who We Are

MISSION

TO INSPIRE ADVENTURERS THROUGH POWERFUL MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCES

VISION

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF THE MOUNTAINS TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD

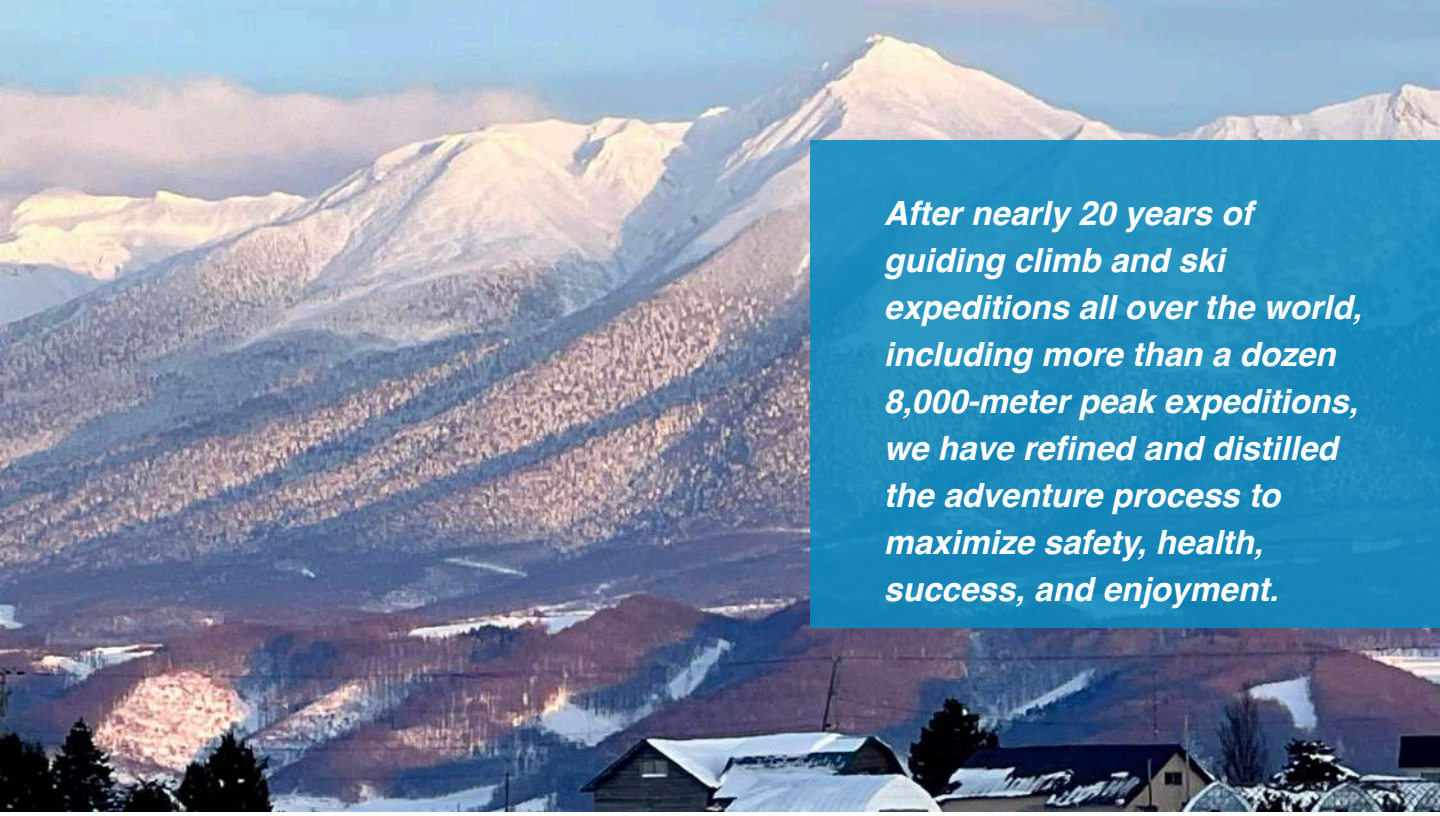
VALUES

Alpenglow Expeditions facilitates epic mountain expeditions. From Via Ferrata to summiting Mount Everest – our innovative climbing techniques, premier logistics, experienced & accredited guides, and smaller, curated teams results in an inspiring, powerful experience for every client.

Our logistical team is focused on quality and detail at every step resulting in a higher level of personal comfort with fewer delays and a better chance at success. As an AMGA accredited business, we surpass industry norms, guaranteeing that our guides are the best of the best, which includes requiring all international guides to have their IFMGA and/or AMGA certifications. Our guides are extensively trained across every route encountered - knowing the mountain inside and out makes for a smart, safe, decision process resulting in efficient, seamless trips. This training also allows our guides to focus on facilitating the best experience for our clients, including educating and teaching while on the mountain. Our guides and logistics ensure professionally managed and enjoyable expeditions, cohesive group dynamics, and an optimal trip for all.

Attention to detail extends to group dynamics and team size as well. We believe that the right people on the right mountain results in a unique and memorable adventure. We spend time understanding each participant, precisely matching them with the rest of the team. Small team size enables us to focus on each team member's goals for the trip, maximizing success and safety, which results in an outstanding curated experience.

Alpenglow Expeditions is a group of passionate adventurers with a love for the high alpine. Our mission is to inspire adventurers through powerful mountain experiences because we know the transformative power they hold. Our clients feel empowered, surprised, delighted, and changed by the possibilities and promises of the mountains.



After nearly 20 years of guiding climb and ski expeditions all over the world, including more than a dozen 8,000-meter peak expeditions, we have refined and distilled the adventure process to maximize safety, health, success, and enjoyment.

The Alpenglow Difference

Alpenglow Expeditions strives to create a holistic skiing experience that pairs education and self-sufficiency with unmatched guiding and logistical support.

Our Guides

Alpenglow Expeditions prides itself on its team of certified AMGA ski guides, whose expertise and passion for the mountains ensure an unforgettable skiing experience in Japan. With a deep understanding of the local terrain, our guides possess the skills and knowledge to navigate the diverse backcountry and sidecountry with confidence. Beyond their technical proficiency, our guides are dedicated to providing personalized attention, tailoring each adventure to the needs and skill levels of our guests. Choosing to ski with the Alpenglow Expeditions team in Japan means embarking on a journey led by professionals who prioritize safety without compromising on adventure.

Full Time Office Staff

We understand that scheduling and booking an international adventure is a big step. Therefore, we maintain a full-time office staff to provide peace of mind and support you throughout the process.

Flexible Itinerary

Time is a scarce resource in all of our lives. To maximize the value of our time, we keep our itinerary flexible to ensure that we are skiing the best snow in Hokkaido on any given day. Regardless, rest assured that your chosen flight itinerary will be accounted for even if plans change day to day.

The Alpenglow Difference

Low Guide to Skier Ratio

In order to provide you with the most individualized and memorable experience possible, we operate at a 1:3 ratio. You can expect to be skiing with up to 2 other clients and a certified guide.

Japanese Cultural Experience

The Japan Backcountry Skiing Adventure provides the opportunity to experience one of the most renowned and sought-after ski locations in the world. We'll spend our days enjoying deep powder and free refills, while enjoying the luxury of high-quality food, onsens (hot springs) to recover, and authentic Japanese hospitality.

Lodging Quality

Alpenglow strives to provide clean, comfortable lodging on all expeditions. Throughout the trip, skiers in Japan will stay in various lodges and hotels that have been vetted by Alpenglow Expeditions.

Adventure Doctor on Call

Alpenglow has partnered with multiple doctors to provide phone consultations when needed throughout the adventure. Whether we're enjoying lift-accessed sidecountry in Japan or on our summit push in the Himalayas, our medical staff is highly experienced in mountain medicine and is always ready to assist when needed.



Our Japan Backcountry Ski Adventure is an intermediate-level adventure. We have set some baseline requirements to set our teams up for success:

- Team members must be able to link turns in a variety of snow conditions and terrain types up to 45 degrees while maintaining control.
- Should feel comfortable on all blue runs and most black diamond runs at a ski resort. 1-5 days of touring experience or our Backcountry 1.0 course is required as a prerequisite for this trip.



Route Description + Itinerary

We'll begin our journey in the charming coastal city of Otaru. Here, our adventure unfolds amidst the lift-accessed sidecountry and pristine backcountry terrain surrounding renowned resorts such as Kokusai, Tiene, and Kiroro. With the help of our expert Alpenglow Expeditions ski guides, we carve through waist-deep powder, exploring hidden glades and untouched slopes that may very well offer free refills every lap.

After each day on the slopes, we retreat to luxurious accommodations amid Otaru's picturesque scenery, where evenings are spent indulging in delectable cuisine and relishing the warmth of Japanese hospitality.

As our trip continues, we venture inland to the enchanting town of Furano, a haven for powder enthusiasts seeking Japan's legendary snow. Against the backdrop of majestic mountains, we'll enjoy three days of unforgettable skiing and riding in Furano, Tomamu, Kamui, and Ashahidake, immersing ourselves in the unmatched beauty of Hokkaido's winter wonderland.

From the perfectly groomed runs of Furano to the untamed backcountry of Ashahidake, each day unfolds with new terrain to discover and impeccable snow.

In Furano, our evenings are filled with sumptuous meals and perhaps a soak in natural hot springs, rejuvenating body and spirit for what lies ahead. Every adventure to Japan is memorable in its own way, and our guides are excited to share their one of their personal favorite ski destinations in the world with the broader Alpenglow family. The Japan Backcountry Ski Adventure is all but guaranteed to be one of the most uniquely rewarding ski experiences of your life.

Our day to day ski objectives will be flexible so we can chase the best snow and make sure we're maximizing our powder turns. This flexibility alongside our guides expertise will make for an unforgettable ski experience.





Daily Itinerary Overview

DAY 1 — Today we'll start our adventure. We'll meet at the CTS Airport and take the train to Otaru, check into the hotel, and meet the team during our welcome dinner.

Activity: Arrive in Otaru

Lodging: Hotel

Meals: Dinner

DAYS 2-3 — The next two days will be full of powder skiing and amazing food. Our guides will take you to the resort with the best snow conditions, and we'll decide together what we want to ski. Whether it's off-piste, sidecountry, or untouched backcountry, it's all epic. We'll wrap up the day with amazing dinners, savoring the world renowned sushi.

Activity: Ski Otaru

Lodging: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 — We'll start the day with another round of pow skiing before taking a scenic drive to Furano, stopping in the vibrant city of Sapporo to check out the snow festival or Ramen Alley on the way.

Activity: Ski Otaru, Drive to Furano

Lodging: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

DAYS 5-7 — The next two days we'll explore untouched powder stashes in Furano, Tomamu, Kamui, Ashahidake, and hidden gems off the beaten path. We'll also unwind after a day on the slopes in soothing natural hot springs (onsens) before finding some amazing dinner spots.

Activity: Ski Furano

Lodging: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

DAY 8 — We'll wrap up the trip and take a short ride to the airport, departing anytime after 2pm.

Activity: Depart

Lodging: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Details

VISAS

U.S Citizens need a valid passport to enter Japan with proof of departure within a 90-day period. There are no visa requirements for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please check your travel requirements well in advance to ensure your entry to Japan.

GROUND TRANSPORT

We use private vehicles or buses for this adventure. Once you arrive in Japan, all ground transportation is arranged for you including your airport arrival and departure transfers.

FLIGHTS

Skiers should plan on arriving into Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan on Day 1 of the Itinerary and depart from Otaru in the afternoon on Day 8. International travel logistics can be tricky. To make it easier, we suggest you have your passport ready, book a flight with limited layovers, and purchase travel insurance.

If you do not have a travel agent, we recommend using [kayak.com](https://www.kayak.com) as a primary source for finding low-fare airfares.

Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglow Expeditions before purchasing.





General Trip Information

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

All of our expeditions and treks are physically demanding. Regardless of the skill level or experience needed, it is essential that you arrive in good physical shape, and prepared to handle extreme conditions, including cold, heat, and long tiring days. Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC and its guides reserve the right to remove any member of our trips at any time if we do not believe they are ready for the rigors of the trip.

You are responsible for your own medications, inoculations, and deciding whether you are physically able to participate in an Alpenglow Expeditions trip. You should discuss your participation in this trip, and the dangers involved, with your physician.

On Mountain Medicine

Our guides are certified in wilderness medicine, CPR, and are experienced in client care in remote high altitude locations. However, Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC is not a medical facility and Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC assumes no liability regarding medical care.

FOOD

Japan makes it easy to have access to healthy and nutritious food for the duration of the adventure. Breakfasts and some dinners will be provided, and the towns offer a wealth of unique blends of cultural cuisine.

MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Physical fitness is the primary area you can prepare for when it comes to our adventure in Japan. Any mountain training plan should be at least 12 weeks long and include cardiovascular as well as strength training. For a personalized training schedule, please reach out to Lynette at Billy Goat Swift: lynette@billygoatswift.com.



INCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip includes:

- All lodging according to itinerary
- Breakfasts and some dinners
- Lift passes
- Scheduled in-country transportation
- Airport transfers
- Certified guides

INSURANCE

We **require** that all participants carry **rescue insurance** and health insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

If you prefer a single room while we are in hotels, please let us know as soon as possible. There will be an additional cost associated for this, single supplement rates for this trip are **\$150/night**.

EXCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip does not include:

- Flights to/from the city where the adventure begins
- Lunches and Dinners in town
- Additional nights in hotel outside of the itinerary
- Airport taxes
- Visas
- Immunizations
- Tips for guides or local staff
- Travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance
- Hospitalization or evacuation costs
- Single supplement charges
- Excess baggage charges
- Alcohol
- Other personal expenses
- The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.

View our cancellation policy online at:

alpenglowexpeditions.com/cancellation-policy-international-expeditions/





Adventure of a Lifetime

Success in the mountains is only achievable with your hard work and perseverance, and, of course, the right team of people around you.

We think of ourselves as your partner in dreaming, planning, climbing and celebrating. Our entire team from Adrian, guides, support personnel and logistics partners are excited to have you along for the adventure of a lifetime.

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ALPENGLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM

BOOKING + INQUIRIES

For booking details, questions, or more information please call or email us:

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All expeditions are directed by Logan Talbott and Adrian Ballinger, AMGA/IFMGA Mountain Guides.

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