



JAPAN

“HOKKAIDO POWDER”



Region	Hokkaido	Daily Elevation	800m - 1600m
Month	February	Number of Onsens	6
Duration	8 Days	Favourite Run	Yotei crater
Difficulty	Intermediate/Advanced	Guide to Guest Ratio	1 : 6

If Japan is not on your “Bucket List”, it should be! Japan has the most consistent snowfall anywhere in the northern hemisphere. Imagine skiing waist deep powder, summiting volcanoes, soaking in natural hot springs, and enjoying great authentic Japanese food. The amazing skiing and cultural experience will make this the trip of a lifetime.

Don't expect to be skiing in one place for the entire trip, we will be traveling to the absolute best locations throughout Hokkaido. The main goal is to take you away from the crowded ski hills and explore the backcountry where even the locals rarely ever go. Our Lead Guide, Ben Johns, has 7 seasons of exploring and guiding Hokkaido exclusively in the backcountry. With his knowledge and experience you'll be sure that you will be skiing the best and the deepest powder that Japan has to offer.

#notracksnopeople



EXAMPLE ITINERARY



DAY 1 - 2pm Sunday, Onsen at the Airport.

- Arrive in Sapporo (New Chitose International Airport)
- Meet your guide and get on the road towards Niseko.
- Arrive at accommodation, get settled, eat dinner
- Game plan for next day. Early bed... Jet lag recovery.

DAY 2

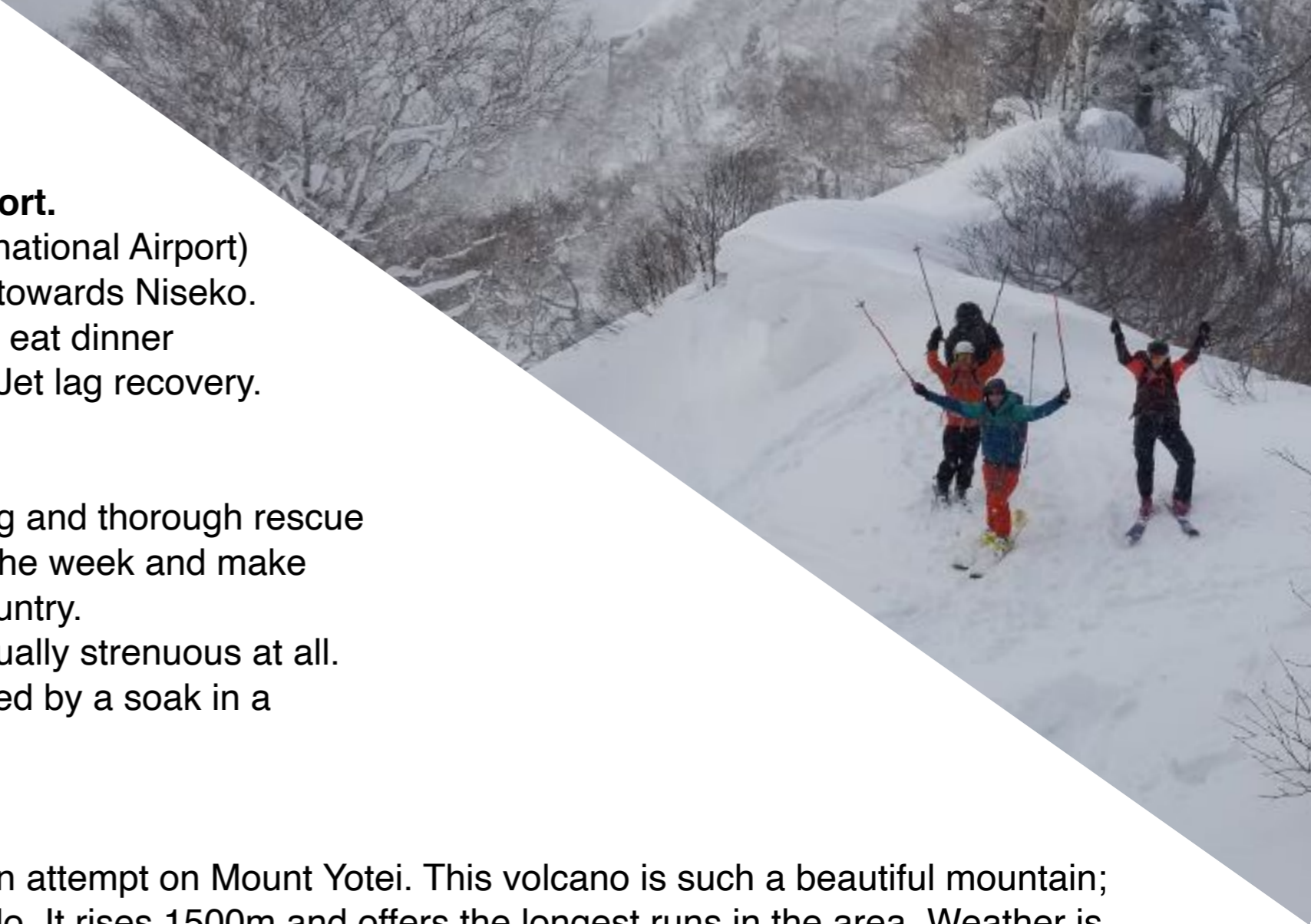
- **Safety First!** A detailed safety briefing and thorough rescue training session will prepare you for the week and make you much more skilled in the backcountry.
- Easy Ski Tour. The first day is not usually strenuous at all. Most likely a tour off the ski hill followed by a soak in a natural hot spring called an Onsen.

DAY 3

- Today we will be skiing and making an attempt on Mount Yotei. This volcano is such a beautiful mountain; some call it the Mount Fuji of Hokkaido. It rises 1500m and offers the longest runs in the area. Weather is not an issue today, on clear days we summit, on storm days we ski in the shelter of the trees.
- If you summit Yotei, you get to take part in the tradition of eating at the Yotei Sushi bar in the nearby town of Kutchan.... If you don't summit, well, we go there anyway.

DAY 4

- The Kiroro Traverse. We travel about an hour away to the ski resort called Kiroro. Kiroro consistently get some of the deepest snow packs of all the ski hills. We take advantage of the gondola that brings us to the foot of the mountain Yoichi Dake. From here we ski a total of 1500m making our way back to the Van. We finish this day at the local Onsen before driving back to the Niseko area.



DAY 5

- Today we head out on a short drive to Mount Shiribetsu for a ski tour up yet another volcano.
- After a solid tour on Shiribetsu we relax in a small local Onsen and head out for yet another amazing dinner.

DAY 6

- Today we pack up and ski the backcountry on our way to Sapporo. Most people and other groups tend to drive strait to Sapporo and in doing so miss out on some underrated terrain that rarely gets skied. We spend the night in Sapporo.

DAY 7

- The last day of skiing is based out of Sapporo. There are a number of options that all offer something different. Teine and Kokusa are the best bets. We will go where the best snow is.
- Party night in Sapporo!! Always good to finish with a party :)

DAY 8

- Airport transfer day. Sleep in, eat a late breakfast, organize your gear and get dropped off at the airport. There are a few Places to visit in the city if your flights are later in the day.





GET THE VIBE

VOLCANOES

**HAVE YOU EVER
SKIED INSIDE A
VOLCANO? SOUND
INSANE, RIGHT? IT
IS! BUT THE MOST
AMAZING INSANE
THERE IS.**



POWDER

**A METER SNOW IN 24H?
NO PROBLEM! IT IS
ABSOLUTELY
INCREDIBLE HOW MUCH
SNOW CAN FALL IN THIS
POWDER PARADISE. IT
WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!**



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VIEWS

ENCHANTING FORESTS
AND VOLCANOES AS A
BACKDROP. JAPANS
MAGIC IS UNDENIABLE!



ONSENS

DID WE MENTION THAT WE END EVERY DAY RELAXING AND RECOVERING IN SOME OF THE BEST ONSENS HOKKAIDO HAS TO OFFER? YOU'LL COME HOME WANTING TO GET A CHAIR IN YOUR SHOWER.. TRUST US!





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OK! NOW YOU'RE EXCITED!
KEEP READING TO GET ALL THE DETAILS..



WHEN, WHAT, HOW MUCH?

COST & DATES

Up to date prices and availability can be found on our website

PRICE INCLUDES

- Guiding and logistics
- All transportation and fuel
- All accommodation with breakfasts
- Lift tickets when needed

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Dinner
- Lunch
- Alcohol
- Plane tickets
- Onsens



ARRIVAL DAY

All members of the team will have to sort out their own airfare to Japan and land at the New Chitose airport (CTS) in Hokkaido. We recommend landing one day early. Most flights arrive to New Chitose in the evening. Once you arrive head directly towards the **Chitose Airport Onsen** and book yourself in for the night. The price is an extremely affordable 3000 YEN. Here you can relax and soak your travel exhaustion away in the Onsen and even get a Massage! In the morning take your skis and baggage to the baggage storage located in the Departure Terminal C.



Luggage storage

MEETING DAY

Once you have stored your bags you will be free to wander the airport, or zip into Sapporo on the train for a quick adventure. The airport has multiple restaurants and shops for you to enjoy. The Airport also has free Wifi so communication is possible when you land via email or messenger etc.

MEETING TIME & PLACE IS 2PM SUNDAY AT THE ONSEN ENTRANCE ON THE 4TH FLOOR ON THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR TRIP. FIRST DAY IS ALWAYS A SUNDAY.





WHAT DO I BRING?

PLEASE DO NOT BRING EVERYTHING IN YOUR CLOSET!!

We strongly encourage you to bring as little as possible. During travel days we have to be able to fit everything into our Vans so if you have too much stuff this can be difficult and very uncomfortable with 6 people.

Here is a list of what we recommend that you bring:

EQUIPMENT

- Touring skis
- Skins
- Poles
- Boots

BACKPACK STUFF

- Transceiver
- Probe
- Shovel
- A proper day touring backpack.. 30-40 litres
- Camera
- Headlamp
- Ski straps

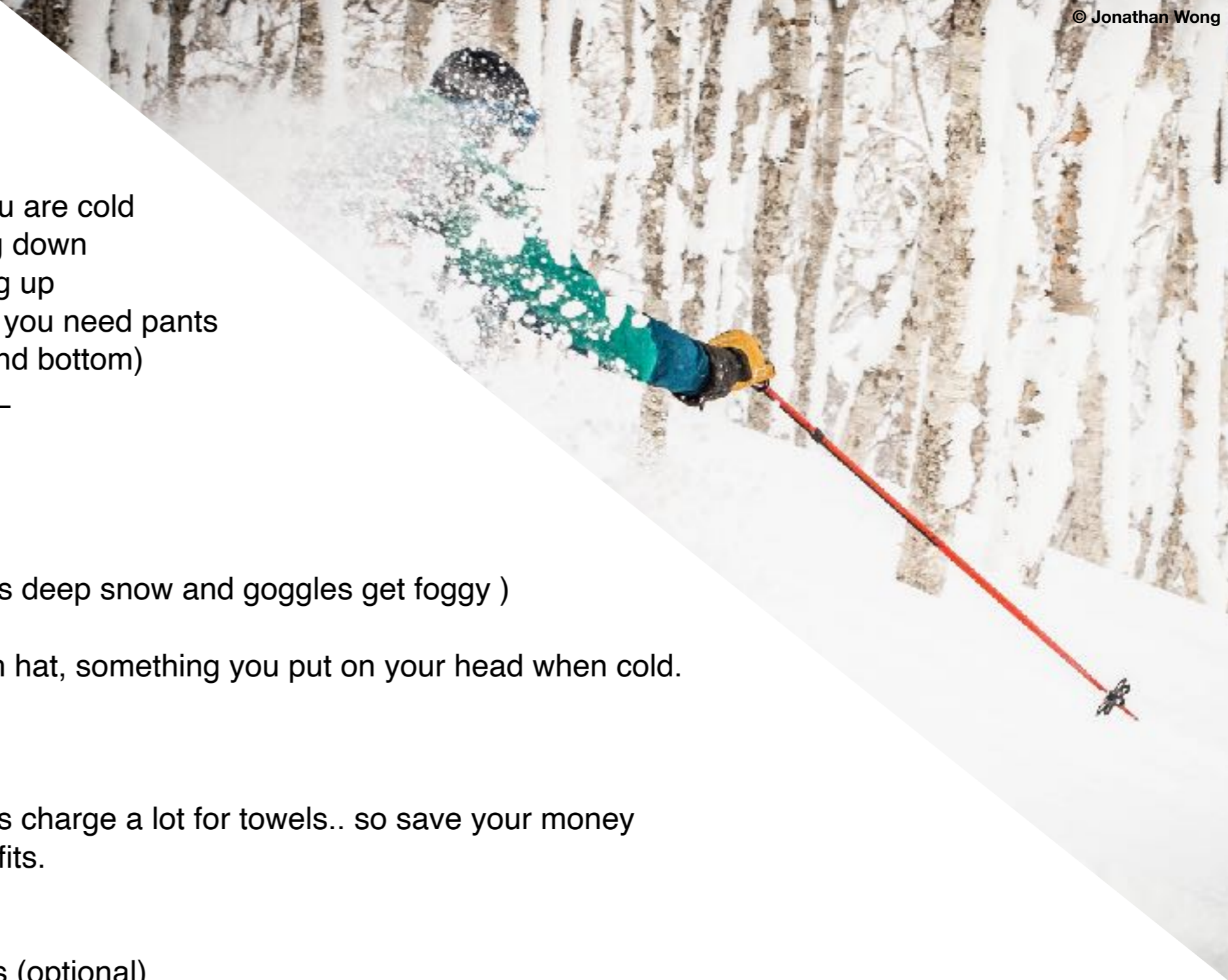
TECHNICAL CLOTHES

- Down jacket - for when you are cold
- Gore Tex jacket - for going down
- Soft Shell jacket - for going up
- Gore Tex pants - because you need pants
- Long underwear x2 (top and bottom)
- Ski Socks x4 - stinky feet L
- Thin Gloves
- Medium gloves
- Thick gloves
- Face mask or Buff
- Goggles with extra lens (its deep snow and goggles get foggy)
- Sunglasses
- Toque - Its a beanie, warm hat, something you put on your head when cold.
- Helmet

AFTER SKI STUFF

- Light Travel Towel. Onsens charge a lot for towels.. so save your money
- 5 comfortable evening outfits.
- Toiletries
- SNOW BOOTS
- Flip flops for the ski lodges (optional)

This is about all you will need for your 10 days. If you are traveling with a lot of “stuff” we will probably have to store some of it at the airport for the duration of the trip in a group bag.



A person is seen from behind, skiing down a snowy slope. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and casting long shadows. Bare trees are silhouetted against the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

THE LITTLE THINGS..

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MONEY

Japan is still very much a cash country. Credit cards are becoming more popular but don't be surprised if some places only take cash. I recommend having at least 30000 YEN available to you.

DRIVERS LICENSE

If you plan on driving in Japan before or after our trip you **MUST HAVE** an international drivers license. You can get these easily at a local CAA office in Calgary or Vancouver if you are coming from Canada. They cost about 80\$.

THE LANGUAGE

Have Google Translate downloaded on your phones and download the offline function.. this is handy when you need it.

GETTING AROUND

If you are planning to travel Japan before or after the trip I also recommend purchasing the JR pass for all trains. It's a one-time pass for tourists and it can only be purchased when you are outside the country. It gives you fee train passes to all JR trains. <http://www.japanrailpass.net/en/>

DOGS

The Gooseberry Lodge that we stay at has very nice dogs that you will most likely encounter. If you have any extreme allergy to dogs please let us know so that we can notify the owners to keep them out of the main house during your trip.

RISK DISCLOSURE AND SAFETY

As much as we would like to say that our trips are 100% safe we cannot. Nobody can guarantee safety, and attempting to do so would strip the experience of the very elements that make it engaging and worthwhile. There is NO adventure without risk. There is nothing reckless about being exposed to risk. In order to become good at managing risk you must be exposed to it. True and quality risk management starts well before the actual action of risk mitigation occurs. We are more than happy to discuss our risk philosophy and management processes while on the up-track. Guests are encouraged to ask questions and have a duty to bring to attention anything they perceive as unsafe (no matter who it involves).

All of our guides are certified through the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides or other IFMGA mountain guide certified associations. They have at a minimum professional level avalanche training with 80hour advanced first aid training. All trips begin with a morning guides meeting that involves, but is not limited to, a thorough assessment of the weather, mountain hazards, specific avalanche hazard, group abilities, and risk assessment. All objectives may be planned in advance but are ultimately determined the morning of the trip. It is not uncommon to have plans change if the guide deems it necessary.

Other hazards and associated risks that you may be exposed to that are not inherent to mountain/wilderness environments are, but not limited too, winter driving conditions, food poisoning, infectious disease, self-inflicted alcohol impairment or poisoning (please drink responsibly on our trips), or any hazard that can be associated with international or domestic travel.

Our Guides are expert risk mitigators, but to be blunt, Shit Happens.

By signing up to any of our trips you understand that there are inherent risks and agree to participate regardless. A participation agreement and release waiver of Liability is required for all participates to sign at the time of booking.

If you have questions please feel free to contact us!

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