

Urabandai

The closest powder snow destination to Tokyo

Urabandai is located in Fukushima Prefecture in the Tohoku Region (northern part of mainland Honshu), approximately 260 km north of Tokyo. It belongs to Bandai-Asahi National Park, which is an all-season resort area. It also boasts Mt Bandai, one of the most famous volcanoes in Japan. The area north of Mt Bandai is called Urabandai.



Popular ski resorts in Japan

The closest powder snow destination to Tokyo! Urabandai is a powder snow paradise and closer to Tokyo than other well-known snow destinations.



Urabandai Tourist Information Centre

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www.urabandai-inf.com/en



Urabandai

The Lake District of Japan

Urabandai Tourist Information Centre

Summer

Urabandai, at 800m above sea level, experiences an average summer temperature of around 20°C. It's a great place to escape the city heat.

Goshikinuma Ponds (Bishamonnuma Pond)

A scenic highlight of Urabandai is the Goshikinuma Ponds (Bishamonnuma Pond). Eight differently coloured, unique ponds can be accessed along a 3.6 km hiking path.

Goshikinuma Ponds (Bentennuma Pond)

Bentennuma Pond is the second largest of the eight Goshikinuma Ponds. Different kinds of colours can be seen in different seasons, making it an interesting place to visit at any time of year.

Nakatsugawa Valley

A famous photo spot for the changing of the leaves in autumn is Nakatsugawa Valley. It can be reached in just a 15 minute walk from the car park. You'll also enjoy the sounds of nature such as the running stream and the birds chirping.

Autumn

Autumn is famous for its changing leaves. In Urabandai in October, the leaves of the forest change from green to yellow and red, and it's especially beautiful when reflected on the lakes and ponds. This change, known as kouyou in Japanese, only lasts for a short time.

Summer Activities

The many activities of summer include canoeing, hiking, cycling, bass fishing, insect and bird watching. On a clear night, don't forget to look up at the stars of the Milky Way.

Hiking

Hiking on one of the signature mountains of Japan, Mt Bandai. Enjoy the magnificent view from top of the mountain.



Junsai picking

Junsai picking. Watershield (Brasenia), or junsai in Japanese, is an aquatic plant that lives only in clean water. The young shoots are usually picked from a small, one-person boat, and then eaten.



Camping and barbecue

There are many campgrounds in Urabandai, many of which are located by lakes in which rowing, fishing and barbecuing are enjoyed by visitors.



SUP

If you'd like to try stand up paddleboarding(SUP), lakes are the best place for beginners to do it as the water is naturally calmer than seas or rivers.



Shower walk

Shower walk. Enjoy a walk in the river. You can dive in, splash around and play, and come out feeling refreshed.

Canoeing & kayaking

Canoeing & kayaking are summer's iconic sports. Kids and adults trying it for the first time will have fun, too. Enjoy the scenic landscape from the water level as you glide along.



Nakasenuma Pond

Nakasenuma Pond. It's a 15 minute walk from Urabandai Site Station to the observation area from which you'll see natural ponds and islands and have a great view of Mt Bandai.



Autumn

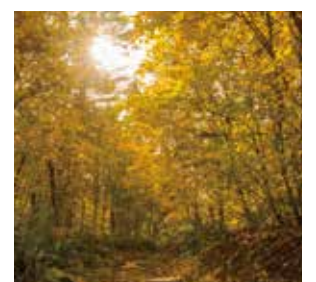
Urabandai is a popular Tohoku location for enjoying the changing of the leaves in autumn.

Ride the gondola on a sunny autumn day for a stunning view of the golden colours of the mountain.



Dekodaira Marsh

To visit Dekodaira Marsh, ride the gondola to the mountain's top station at 1390 m above sea level, and go on a 20 minute walk to reach the marsh.



Winter

In winter, when all the trees have lost their autumn leaves, rain turns to snow, and a long white winter starts. Snow builds up on the ground and the lakes freeze over.

Lake Hibara

Lake Hibara, the largest lake in Urabandai.
As a result of the eruption of Mt Bandai, many beautiful islands on the lake were created.
The circumference of the lake is about 31 km. Usually the lake is covered in thick ice in late January.

Mt Bandai

Even today you can see the steam coming out from the collapsed cliff of Mt Bandai which erupted in 1888.
It's a reminder that the mountain is still alive.

Sakuratoge Pass

Spring comes late in Urabandai. On the Sakuratoge Pass, as many as 3000 Oyamazakura cherry blossoms bloom around the Golden Week holidays (late April to early May).

Spring

When the long and cold winter has ended, a new year starts not only for humans, but also for the plants and wildlife which await the warm seasons. New growth starts to sprout underfoot.

Winter Activities

Winter activities in Urabandai are not limited to skiing or snowboarding. The colourful tents you can see on the lakes are for people who enjoy ice fishing. Snowshoeing in the forests is another popular activity. Winter in Urabandai is much livelier than you'd imagine!

Smelt fish

When the lake is covered in ice, you can enjoy ice fishing in a hut on the lake. The small fish called wakasagi (smelt fish) is very tasty when eaten deep-fried (tempura).



Blue Falls

The scene of the dynamic 25 metre waterfall within the blue coloured ice. The ice sheets surrounding Onogawafudotaki Falls are known as the "Blue Falls".



Yellow Falls

This large, frozen, yellow ice waterfall is found in the explosion crater of Mount Bandai and is only visible in winter.



Goshikinuma Ponds

The Goshikinuma Ponds in the snow are mysterious. The contrast of the white snow against each pond is marvellous.



Snowshoeing

Observe the ponds which appear in this white world whilst snowshoeing. You can snowshoe into the forest or walk on the lake.

Hot Spring

You can enjoy onsen bathing in many hotels and traditional inns (ryokan) in Urabandai. Especially so in winter, when you can take in the snowy view while you bathe.



Active Resorts Urabandai Hotel



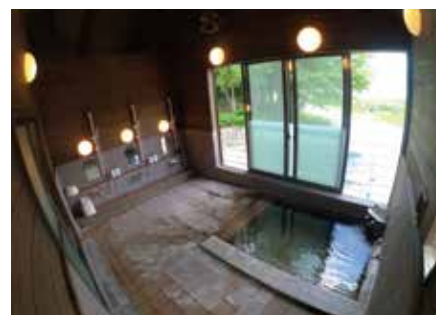
Urabandai Lake Resort Hotel



Kyukamura Urabandai Hotel



Urabandai Grandeco Tokyu Hotel



Hot Spring Kobo



La Vie Spa Urabandai

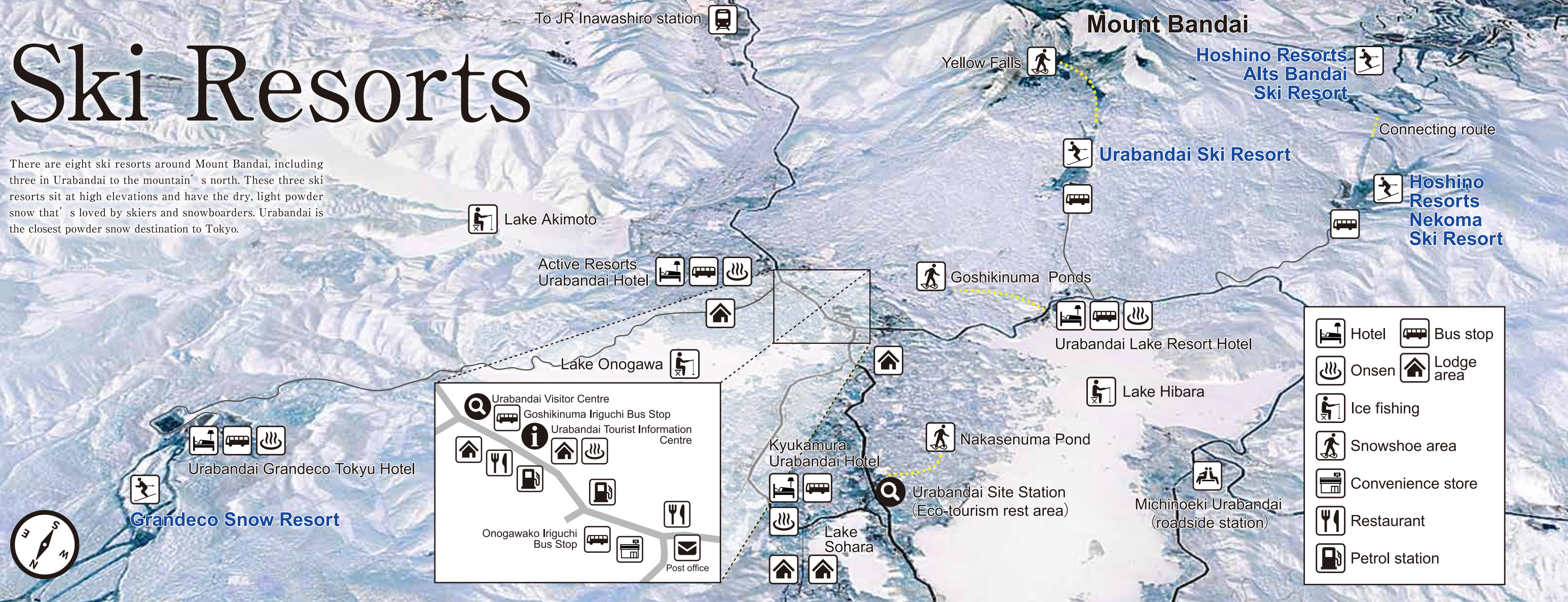
Sakurajima Island (cherry blossoms Island)

A small island in the middle of Lake Hibara. It's an isolated island of splendid cherry blossoms (sakura) which bloom in early May. They are many places in Fukushima to enjoy sakura watching from early April through to early May.



Ski Resorts

There are eight ski resorts around Mount Bandai, including three in Urabandai to the mountain's north. These three ski resorts sit at high elevations and have the dry, light powder snow that's loved by skiers and snowboarders. Urabandai is the closest powder snow destination to Tokyo.



Grandeco Snow Resort

One Gondola and four quad lifts.
13 courses.
20% Advanced, 40% Intermediate, 40% Beginner
Ski season Early Dec. - Late April

information



Urabandai Ski Resort

Three chair lifts.
3 courses.
20% Advanced, 30% Intermediate, 50% Beginner
Ski season Late Dec. - Late March

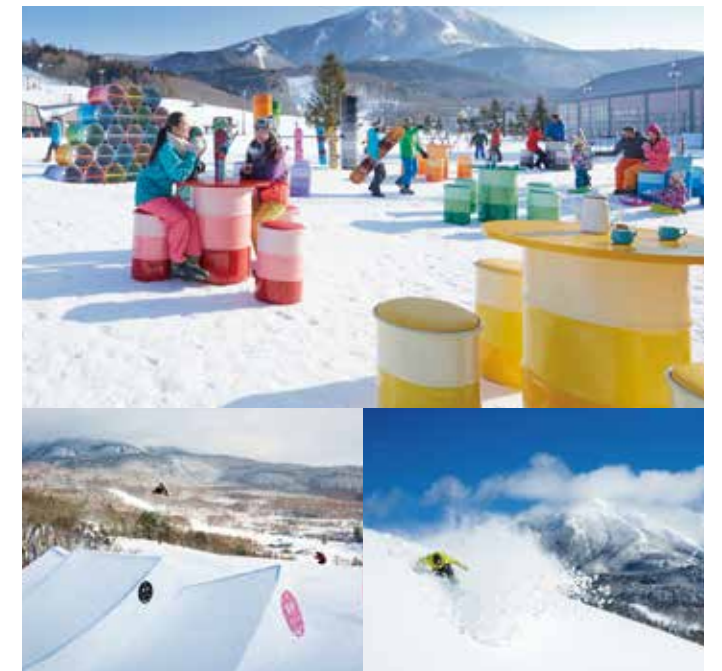
information



Hoshino Resorts Nekoma Ski Resort

Five chair lifts.
11 courses.
40% Advanced, 30% Intermediate, 30% Beginner
Ski season Early Dec. - Early May

information



Hoshino Resorts Alts Bandai Ski Resort

One gondola and 7 chair lifts.
25 courses.
25% Advanced, 40% Intermediate, 35% Beginner
Ski season : Late Dec. - Late March

information

