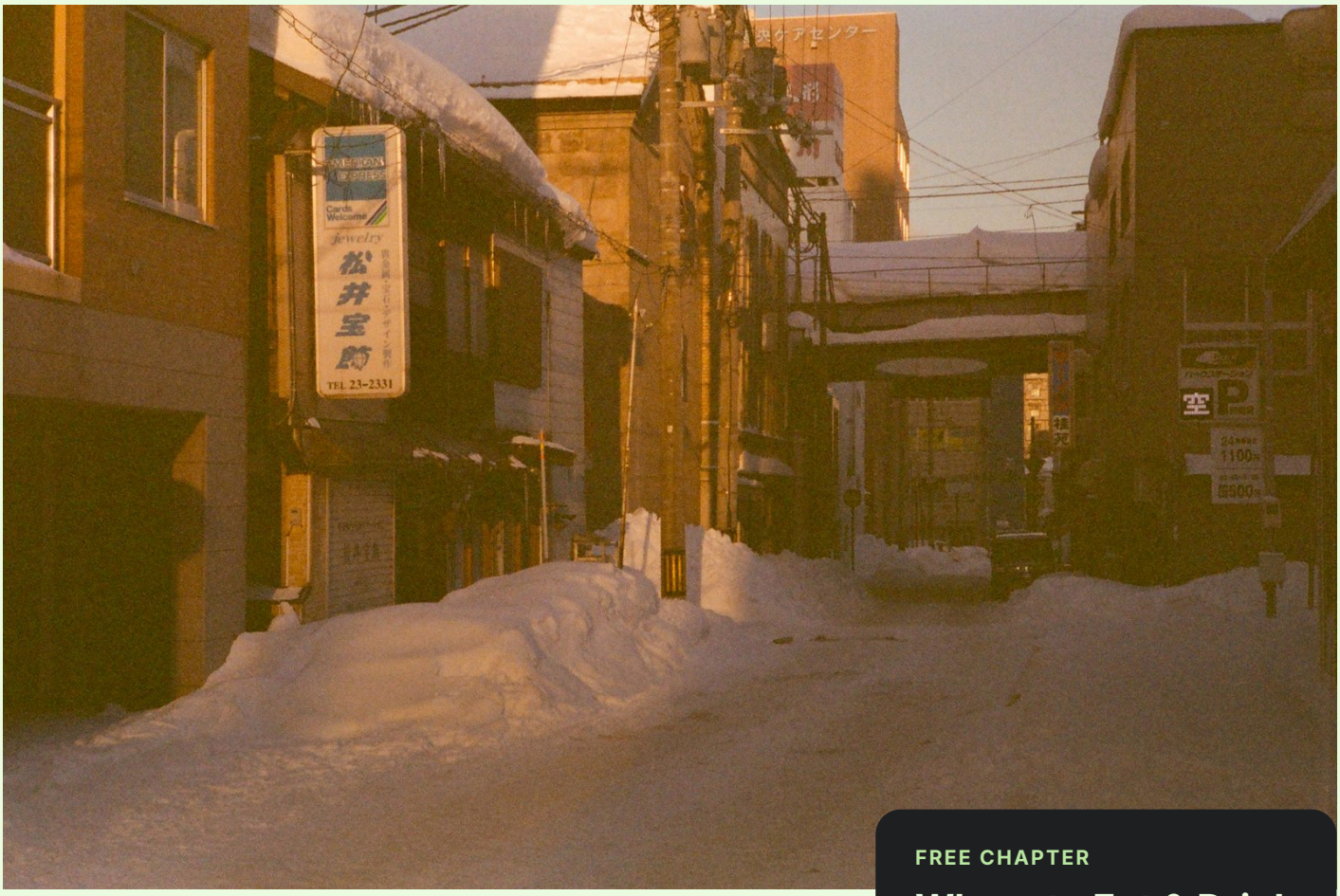
Otaru Guidebook

The YukiHomes "SECRET" guide to skiing, eating & exploring

Written by me, Derek :)



FREE CHAPTER

Where to Eat & Drink

Best Food City in Japan? Where to Eat & Drink

Otaru is full-on insane for food. If you're coming to Japan and still searching on Google Maps, you're f***ed up. Download Tabelog NOW.

Every place name in this guide is a link. Tap it, or the little MAP tag, to open it straight in Google Maps.

Bird Cage MAP

Our go-to for coffee and really good pastries. The perfect slow morning before a late start on the hill.

Yabuhan (soba) MAP

Incredible soba. The catch: reservations are needed months in advance, so plan ahead.

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We can't give away our number one favorite spot for free. Get the full guide →

Mahoro Ramen MAP

A Michelin Bib Gourmand spot and unbelievably tasty. A bowl here after a cold ski day hits different.

Uminoya (tonkatsu) MAP

If you love tonkatsu like we do, this spot is awesome.

Yamanaka Dairy Farm Otaru Shop MAP

Hokkaido cream is on another level, and soft serve is everywhere. Our favorite is Yamanaka Dairy Farm on the main street.

Otaru Beer Hall MAP

A genuinely unique one: German food and German-style beer in a gorgeous German-style beer hall, except you're in Japan. Weird in the best way.

Miyazaki Sushi MAP

With the Sea of Japan right there, Otaru sushi is unreal, and this is the spot.

Kaisen Sushi Toriton (Teine) MAP

You can't always eat expensive five-star sushi. Sometimes you want some nice, affordable tuna at a conveyor-belt sushi spot, and this place is sick. It's sooo much better than any sushi you'll get in your hometown, and it's affordable. It's in Teine, between Otaru and Sapporo, so it's an easy stop after a day at Teine.

Yakiniku Sanji (Zenibako, Otaru) MAP

Our dear friend and local legend Matt took us here, in his hometown of Zenibako. Who doesn't love yakiniku? Cooking your own wagyu with friends is always a great time. Really great spot, and it's right on the way home from Sapporo Teine or Sapporo city itself. Closed Wednesdays.

Yama no Saru (Otaru Station): big-group dinners MAP

Sometimes you're with a group of 6 or even 8, and it's impossible to find a place to eat that can fit you all. That's the trouble with eating in Japan as a group, and this is your spot. Is it the best food on earth? No. But it's good, solid food in a little dungeon spot downstairs, and every table is its own private room. They do all-you-can-eat and all-you-can-drink plans, with the drink plans running 90 to 120 minutes. Heads up: like most izakaya, there's a small per-person table charge that comes with a starter dish.

nøa coffee & sandwich (Sapporo) MAP

Our good friend Mon's spot in Sapporo. Amazing coffee and amazing Italian-style sandwiches.

Kiraito Ramen (Sapporo) MAP

Your bowl comes buried under a mountain of onions soaked in ice-cold water. Some of the best ramen you'll ever have, hands down. It's near Tanuki Koji, so pair it with your Sapporo day. Closed Thursdays.

Ramen Alley (Ganso Ramen Yokocho), Sapporo MAP

Worth a stop for sure. Tight little ramen shops packed into a classic Japanese alley, and the restaurants are insanely good. Especially Sapporo Ramen Haruka: I once waited an hour for it just to have the real experience, and it was amazing. Controversial opinion: you can get just as good ramen elsewhere, but this is definitely a cool experience.



The neon sign at the entrance to Ramen Alley.

Rakkyo Soup Curry (Sapporo) MAP

We were driving from the airport starving, and trusty Tabelog sent us here. If you didn't know, soup curry in Japan is something very different from the curry you're imagining: a spiced, brothy curry loaded with chicken and vegetables. It was born in Sapporo and it's famous across Hokkaido for a reason. It's delicious. Check this spot out, it's really good. This is the Kotoni shop, on the west side of Sapporo toward Otaru. There's also a downtown branch in the Marui Imai building with a view of the TV Tower.

That was one chapter

There are seven more.

The full Otaru Guidebook is everything we know about skiing, eating and exploring this town.

Buy the full guide $19 →
All 8 chapters, my side-country maps, 43 pins on one map

- **Where to Ski**
  8 resorts, plus my own side-country maps for Kokusai, Teine and Kiroro
- **Gear Up & Get Around**
  Guides, rentals and the YukiHomes car-rental discount
- **Where to Soak After Skiing**
  The onsens worth the drive, and the ones in town
- **Where to Eat & Drink** — INCLUDED HERE
  You just read it
- **Wander Otaru**
  Glass, music boxes, rubber boots, beaches and a sick coastal hike
- **Surfing Otaru**
  Cold water, rare days, three spots
- **Nightlife & Drinks**
  Six-seat bars and where we shoot pool
- **Day Trips**
  Sapporo, Yoichi, Lake Shikotsu, Shakotan
- **Every Spot on One Map**
  All 43 pins, numbered

QUESTIONS? EMAIL ME

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