

The Myoko week checklist.

Five decisions before you book. Written in Tokyo, for Australians doing Myoko Kogen this winter. By Steve.

01

WHICH BASE

Akakura Kanko vs Onsen — pick your village

Bases connect at the top via Ikenotaira, but villages stay separate — you can't ski door-to-door. Pick the base for your group first.

YOUR GROUP	BASE	WHY
Powder	Akakura Kanko	Bowls, trees, steep terrain; walk to lifts from Kanko lodging.
Family / mixed	Akakura Onsen	Friendlier pitches, more village dining within walking distance.
All-resort pass	Connected at top	Ikenotaira links the bases — villages stay separate.



DECIDE FIRST

02

GETTING THERE

Don't buy a 7-day JR Pass for Myoko only

Tokyo Station → Jōetsu-Myōkō (~1h50) on the Joetsu Shinkansen, then ~20 min bus to Akakura. A 7-day JR Pass is usually overkill if Myoko is the only long rail leg — only worth it with Kyoto/Osaka. Highway bus from Shinjuku is the no-rail option.

Joetsu + bus

Shinjuku bus

Skip 7-day JR Pass

DECIDE WITH
FLIGHTS

03

FIRST NIGHT EAT

Akakura Onsen or Kanko — book ahead

Stay close to your base on night one. Onsen has more restaurant variety; Kanko has fewer but decent options. Christmas, New Year, and AU holidays fill early — book before you land.

BOOK BEFORE
YOU FLY

04

ENGLISH SKI SCHOOL

Group vs private, kids vs adults

Several English schools operate in Myoko with different strengths. Decide group vs private (and kids programs) before comparing. Book November at the latest for peak weeks — some lanes run out by December.

BOOK BY
NOVEMBER

05

WHEN TO BOOK

Sep–Nov is the booking window

Myoko sees deep, consistent snow (10+ m seasons). Pack for trees and cold. Flights and lodges for Aussie holidays move from September — December means leftovers.

SEP

Flights & lodge

OCT

Transfers, school lane

NOV

School + night-one
dinner

DEC

Leftovers only



START NOW

WRITE IT DOWN, THEN BOOK IT

Write it down, then book it.

Fill this in once the five decisions are made. Stick it on the fridge, or screenshot it for the group chat.

Your trip

DATES IN MYOKO

WHO'S COMING (ADULTS / KIDS & AGES)

LANDING AT (NARITA / HANEDA / OTHER)

TOKYO → MYOKO BY

HOME HILL / BASE (KANKO / ONSEN)

SKI SCHOOL & LANE (GROUP / PRIVATE / KIDS)

LODGE & BOOKING REF

NIGHT-ONE DINNER (NAME, TIME, DIETARY)

Booked?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ☐ Flights to Japan | SEP |
| ☐ Lodge booked (Kanko or Onsen village) | SEP |
| ☐ Shinkansen + bus (or highway bus) planned | OCT |
| ☐ English ski school lane chosen, deposit paid | NOV |
| ☐ Night-one dinner reserved | NOV |
| ☐ All-resort pass plan if splitting bases | PRE-FLIGHT |
| ☐ Powder gear / rental sorted | PRE-FLIGHT |

Three things that catch people out

- **Villages don't connect at the base** — Kanko and Onsen link at the top via Ikenotaira, not door-to-door.
- **A 7-day JR Pass** is usually overkill if Myoko is your only long rail leg.
- **Deep snow seasons** need fat skis or powder boards, face protection, and real layers — pack for trees and cold.

SCAN FOR THE FULL GUIDES



Which base

Kanko, Onsen, Ikenotaira

bestmyoko.com/resorts



Get there

Joetsu shinkansen + bus

bestmyoko.com/get-there



Eat tonight

Filter by diet or English menu

bestmyoko.com/eat



English ski schools

Group, private, kids programs

bestmyoko.com/schools

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