

# Snowboard Trip 2014 (Europe, US, Japan)

[Back to Inetpix](#)

Here's the rundown of our 2-month off Sabbatical. Consumed by travel and snowboarding.

3 Continents and 5 Countries.

Augmented with [horseman](#) sightings.

## Zermatt Switzerland

[Europe Photos](#)

First trip, flew direct from SFO to Zurich and then took a couple of trains to get to Zermatt.

Electric taxi driver pointed at our hotel from the train station - this would happen again in Sapporo - said it would be faster to walk (and it was, ~ 300m)

The view from Gornergrat, top of the railway.



Matterhorn rent-a-dog



subliminal promotion?



Matterhorn selfie



View near Swiss Italian border. Did not take the T-Bar.



Chamonix France



Chamonix town casino, didn't go in. Note two Eurovans parked out front. We counted over 30 about town in one day, more than Santa Cruz, which was previous record holder.



View from l'Aiguille du Midi





We've had this print in our house for 8 years, I think it had some influence on our choice of venues.



<http://www.chamonix.com/ski-areas,22,en.html>

## Tahoe - Roadtrip!

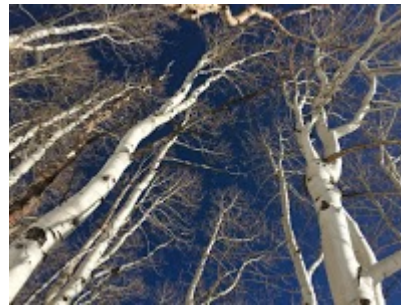
[Roadtrip Photos](#)

Ready to roll.



## Park City Utah (Canyons)

Sundance was coincidentally happening as well, but we stuck to snowboarding.



## Bryce Canyon

Initial thoughts on continuing to Vail sounds like a lot more driving. So instead spend more time in Utah, including trying to go to Bryce Canyon in the winter.



From the [Bryce National Park](#) site:

In winter, deep snow blankets the plateau and provides excellent cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities. Bryce Canyon's winter landscapes stagger the imagination, as dazzling white snow contrasts beautifully with crimson-colored hoodoos.

## Zion



## Las Vegas



It's Vega\$, 'nuf said.



# Sapporo Japan

[Japan Photos](#)



Ice sculptures and foodstalls! What's not to like?





Malaysia throws down a major structure...



The city of Portland's (presumably Oregon) submission. Everybody loves vermin!



Niseko/Hirafu Japan





<http://travel.ninemsn.com/world/1034966/ten-things-you-have-to-know-about-skiing-in-japan>

Sapporo - **[Ice Festival!](#)**, meet Jennie, Jacob and Levi.

- We're booked at the: Sapporo Park Hotel, conveniently bookable through Hotels.com see the [Hotel Page](#)

<http://www.powderhounds.com/Japan.aspx> - Japan overview

<http://www.powderhounds.com/Japan/Hokkaido/Niseko.aspx> - **Niseko** is the largest resort on the northern Hokkaido island.

From reviewer::

*It's a short flight to Sapporo from Tokyo then a bus to the visitor centre, or a train into Kutchan. I recommend taking the bus*

## Tokyo Japan



<http://www.powderhounds.com/Japan/Honshu.aspx> - Honshu is the southern island which includes Tokyo.

Hotel in Tokyo, Shinjuku area: [http://www.agoda.com/asia/japan/tokyo/keio\\_plaza\\_hotel.html](http://www.agoda.com/asia/japan/tokyo/keio_plaza_hotel.html)



Akihabara, Fry's meets Las Vegas meets Tijuana.





One of only two VW Vans spotted on entire trip to Japan (see Chamonix above)



## Hakuba Japan (Too much snow...)

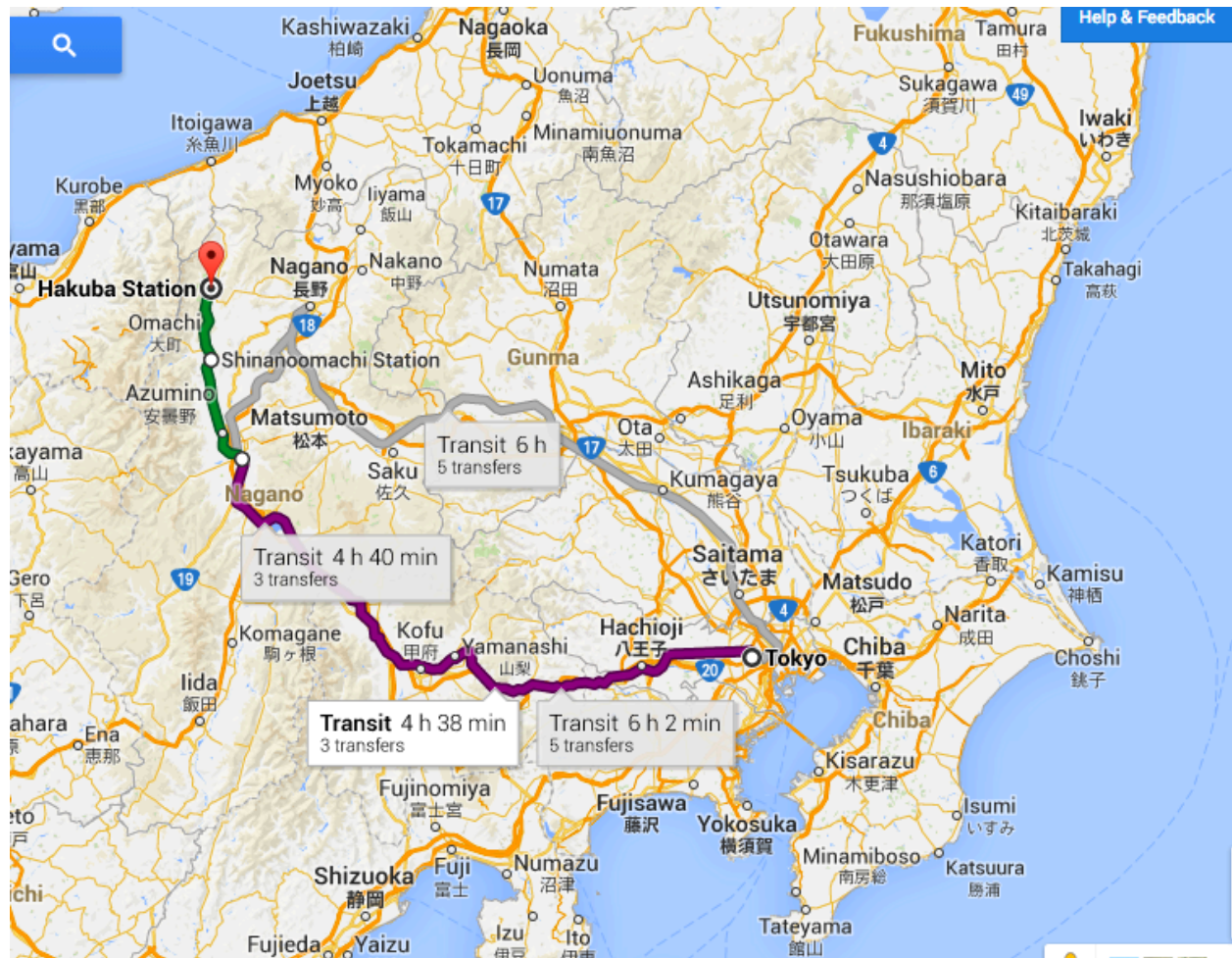
Day's newspaper and view from hotel window.



<http://www.powderhounds.com/Japan/Honshu/Hakuba.aspx> - **Hakuba** is outside of Nagano,

home of 1998 Winter Olympics.

<http://www.hyperdia.com/en/> - is an english language site for checking train schedules, Google maps seems to do a good job as well (see below)



We did not travel to Yokota Air Force Base where Jenny works.

But we did visit Mt. Takao. Ironically instead of our last day of planned snowboarding in Hakuba , we rode up a chairlift on a mountain that's not supposed to have snow and saw someone carrying their snowboard.



Although Mt. Takao has a monkey park, it was closed due to a hot tub failure.

