**Relaxing Hot Spots**

Nestled between the steep slopes of the Taisetsu mountain range, Soukkyo Hot Spring is one of Hokkaido’s most famous spa resorts. The surrounding cliffs provide the background for Mother Nature to decorate with ever-changing colors as the seasons come and go. As one of the gateways to the Daisetsu National Park, the hot springs in the hotels and inns are popular among tourists from throughout Japan and beyond, who use the spa as a base to access Mt. Kurodake via the cable car (Ropeway) base station located there.

**Access**

- By JR:  
  Sapporo – Asahikawa (limited express, 1 hr 20 min.), Asahikawa – Kamikawa (limited express, 45 min.)  
- By Dokoku Bus:  
  Kamikawa – Soukkyo (approx. 35 min.; http://www.soukkyo.net/english/index.html

**Sounkyo Kurodake Ropeway**  
A 7-min cable car (Ropeway) ride takes you to the 5th Stage (1,300 m), from where you can either hike to the summit (1,984 m) or take a chair lift to the 7th Stage at 1,560 m and hike the rest of the way. If you plan on hiking to the summit, make sure you are wearing good walking shoes and have warm clothing, as the weather can change quickly and become very cold even in summer. The dynamic mountain scenery is well worth the trip, and remaining patches of snow make it all the more breathtaking.

**Ryusel no Taki and Ginga no Taki waterfalls**  
Two waterfalls that drop like white threads from the sheer cliffs along the upper reaches of the Ishikari River a short distance up the valley from the spa. Marvel at the power and beauty of nature here in the heart of Hokkaido.

**Renaissance Sapporo Hotel**  
Located on the banks of the Toyohira River with expansive views of the mountains to the south, Renaissance Sapporo Hotel’s natural surroundings belie the fact that it is located just a few minutes’ walk from the neon lights of the Susukino entertainment district and downtown Sapporo. Any remains of the previous night out on the town can be sweated out in the hotel’s fitness club or on a leisurely jog along the riverside cycling road – that is, if you actually feel like leaving the comfort of your room!

**Premier Suite rooms** offer the same facilities with superior views (six suites in total). Premier Suite rooms offer the same facilities with superior views (six suites in total).

**The Royal Suite (120 m²)** includes a drawing room complete with a sofa and dining table, as well as a kitchen unit and a separate twin bedroom. An en-suite jet bath, double washbasin and independent shower room make up the luxurious bathroom facilities in the suite, which also commands views of downtown Sapporo, Toyohira River and the mountains in the background. Used by G.W. Bush (remains) and the Chinese president-elect during visits to Sapporo.

**The Presidential Suite (160 m²)** includes all of the features of the Royal Suite, with an added luxury of a king-size bed and a connecting room that can be used by security personnel. Past guests include the president of China. Continental breakfast in the Club Lounge on the 10th floor or a Western- and Japanese-style buffet on the second floor is included in the rates, which range from 120,000 to 350,000 yen per night depending on the type of suite.

**The Royal Suite (150 m²)** is ideal for families requiring extra space. Bathroom facilities in the suite, which includes all of the features of the Royal Suite, with an en-suite jet bath, double washbasin and independent shower room. A separate twin bedroom. An en-suite jet bath, double washbasin and independent shower room make up the luxurious bathroom facilities in the suite, which also commands views of downtown Sapporo, Toyohira River and the mountains in the background. Used by G.W. Bush (remains) and the Chinese president-elect during visits to Sapporo.

The versatility of this state-of-the-art multipurpose stadium surely makes it the world’s most unique indoor sports and concert venue! Where else could you host FIFA World Cup football matches on natural turf, professional baseball games on artificial turf, a special section of the World Rally Championships, the first-ever indoor section of the World Nordic Ski Championships and a Rolling Stones Concert all under the same dome-shaped roof? With a seating capacity of just over 40,000, the stadium’s concrete floor makes way for a full-size football pitch, which is transported inside the dome using a special hydraulic “hovering stage” system. Unobstructed views from all seating areas and an extensive range of catering facilities within the stadium add to the pleasure of watching sport and concerts.

An observatory with a unique view of the city of Sapporo, and tours of the facilities are also available on days when there are no events taking place in the dome.

**Sapporo Dome**  
Sapporo Dome is currently the home stadium of Sapporo’s professional football and baseball teams:  
- **Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters**  
- **Consadole Sapporo**

**baseball**

**Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters**  
http://www.fighters.co.jp/

**football**

**Consadole Sapporo**  
http://www.consadole-sapporo.jp/

**Sapporo Dome**  
http://www.sapporo-dome.co.jp/

After moving their base here from Tokyo in 2004, the Fighters have enjoyed tremendous success in Japan’s Pacific League, winning the league pennant, Japan Series and Asia Series in 2006 and the Pacific League pennant in ’07 and ’09. Two of Japanese baseball’s most idolized pitchers Yu Darvish and Yuki Saiioh ensure a loyal local following, especially among female fans, with a lively atmosphere at home games in the Dome. Tickets (ranging from 1,800 yen [800 yen for children] to 4,500 yen) can often be purchased on the day of the game at the Dome ticket office or the Fighters Station at the North exit of the JR Sapporo Station (prices and availability may differ depending on the day of the week or the opponents).

**Games schedule at Sapporo Dome in June**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 (Fri)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Chiba Lotte Marines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (Thu)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Chunichi Dragons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 (Wed)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Yokohama Bay Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (Tue)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Tohoku Rakuten Gnu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 (Mon)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Chunichi Dragons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Sun)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Yokohama Bay Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (Sat)</td>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Tohoku Rakuten Gnu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consadole Sapporo**  
http://www.consadole-sapporo.jp/

Currently competing in J2, the second division of Japan’s professional football league, Consadole attracts some of the division’s highest attendances, with the team’s enthusiastic supporters creating a lively, enjoyable atmosphere. A popular day out for families, with pre-match and half-time entertainment provided by Doke-kun, the club’s owl mascot and the Consadole cheerleaders.

Tickets (ranging from 500 yen to 4,200 yen) are available on the day of the match, at the North exit of the Dome. Access to the stadium via the JR Sapporo Station (prices and availability may differ depending on the day of the week or the opponents).