

Kutchan, Hokkaidō

Kutchan (倶知安町 Kutchan-chō?) is a town located in Abuta District, Shiribeshi, Hokkaidō, Japan. Kutchan lies slightly north of the volcano Mount Yōtei, and is approximately 50 kilometers west of Sapporo. The subprefecture government offices are located in this town, making it the capital of the subprefecture.

As of 2008, the town has an estimated population of 15,369 and a population density of 61.85 persons per km². The total area is 261.24 km².

Throughout Hokkaidō, Kutchan is known for its proximity to the world famous Niseko powder snow region and for its production of quality potatoes and potato products. Among these products, Kutchan is most famous for manufacturing gosetsu-udon, a Japanese noodle made from potato flour. Jagata-kun. The skiing potato that is the cartoon mascot of Kutchan, indicates Kutchan's two most celebrated aspects. Jagata-kun roughly translates as, "little, fat potato boy."

Climate

Kutchan has the distinction of being one of the snowiest towns on earth with average annual snowfalls in excess of 12m (~40 feet). At only 176 m (577 ft) above sea level the town receives similar or greater amounts of snow than some of the world's leading ski areas such as Whistler, Aspen or Chamonix. Wintry weather lasts from early November through to early April with the snowiest month being January which averages 3.8 m (12 ft). January is also the coldest month averaging -6 degrees Celsius (21F). Kutchan has 4 very distinct seasons with reasonably short Spring and Autumn periods. The summer is mild with temperatures rarely getting above 30 degrees Celsius (86F) and the humidity that afflicts much of Asia at this time is only felt for a short period usually in August.

西曆 Year	气温 / Temp (°C)				降水量 / Rain Fall (mm)			
	年平均 Yr Ave.	最高 Max	最低 Min	最高 Max	最低 Min	総量 Total	最大量 (日) Max (in 1 day)	
2010	7.8	31.3	10-Aug	-20.5	13-Feb	1,633.0	59.0	29-Jul
2009	7.4	30.1	11-Aug	-18.8	26-Jan	1,322.5	47.0	14-Nov
2008	7.4	30.8	6-Jul	-22.3	19-Jan	1,223.5	60.5	20-May
2007	7.4	33.1	14-Aug	-17.0	22-Feb	1,420.5	45.0	28-Jul
2006	7.1	32.9	9-Aug	-19.2	23-Jan	1,578.0	45.0	18-Aug
2005	6.9	30.0	11-Aug	-21.4	14-Dec	1,849.0	67.5	3-Aug
2004	7.8	32.6	30-Jul	-18.4	4-Mar	1,554.5	58.0	20-Aug
2003	6.8	29.6	6-Aug	-21.5	6-Feb	1,095.5	39.5	8-Aug
2002	7.1	29.3	21-Jul	-19.2	13-Dec	1,455.0	42.0	11-Jul
2001	6.5	28.8	21-Aug	-24.3	14-Jan	1,275.0	61.0	11-Sep
2000	7.1	34.1	31-Jul	-22.9	27-Jan	1,605.0	64.0	26-Aug
1999	7.4	34.4	8-Aug	-18.3	3-Feb	1,573.5	72.0	2-Aug
1998	7.0	30.4	26-Jul	-23.2	15-Jan	1,661.5	95.5	2-May
1997	7.1	32.7	26-Jul	-19.9	22-Jan	1,373.0	74.5	5-Aug
1996	6.5	30.6	14-Aug	-19.9	2-Feb	1,476.0	50.0	4-Oct
1995	7.2	30.1	27-Jul	-22.5	18-Jan	1,799.5	84.5	8-Aug
1994	7.4	34.2	10-Aug	-24.7	29-Jan	1,654.5	57.5	16-Sep
1993	6.8	30.2	26-Aug	-19.5	20-Dec	1,311.5	41.0	21-Nov
1992	6.9	29.4	18-Aug	-20.6	1-Feb	1,399.0	72.5	25-Sep
1991	7.3	30.7	20-Aug	-24.6	20-Feb	1,343.5	50.5	28-Sep
1990	8.0	30.9	3-Aug	-23.0	27-Jan	1,520.5	86.5	25-Jul

Snow Fall (1990 - 2010 Winter Seasons)

(Kutchan Weather Observatory) (Snow Fall Unit : cm)

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	
S N O W	Oct	7	1	0	0	5	13	0	0	-	0	3	0	20	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Nov	40	102	80	101	63	138	38	25	258	114	126	130	232	2	138	105	131	74	72	146	71
	Dec	201	246	246	184	206	362	336	185	433	420	357	238	380	224	283	322	413	349	312	345	217
	Jan	420	331	286	336	234	312	448	307	299	228	387	303	422	452	264	458	382	398	254	265	327
	Feb	142	184	235	228	158	196	332	274	259	196	268	289	333	187	250	350	161	233	298	286	261
F A L L	Mar	201	214	126	38	156	168	241	142	78	93	78	149	113	136	173	119	57	253	85	55	150
	Apr	24	25	1	0	18	27	2	14	1	0	1	12	4	2	6	43	15	4	14	1	5
	May	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Snow Fall	1035	1103	974	887	839	1,203	1,410	947	1,328	1,051	1,217	1,124	1,484	1,023	1,118	1,397	1,159	1,311	1,035	1,098	1,031	
Snowing Days	126	120	101	119	116	144	139	144	144	130	151	149	147	119	144	149	138	139	142	119	137	124
First Snow	27-Oct	31-Oct	3-Nov	15-Nov	12-Nov	25-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	27-Oct	4-Nov	18-Oct	17-Oct	3-Nov	8-Oct	16-Oct	6-Oct	3-Nov	1-Nov	1-Nov	4-Nov	10-Nov	
Last Snow	17-Apr	15-Apr	1-Apr	8-Apr	20-Apr	2-May	23-Apr	25-Apr	9-Apr	29-Mar	17-Apr	19-Apr	15-Apr	1-Apr	24-Apr	22-Apr	20-Apr	19-Apr	25-Apr	2-May	3-May	
Continuous Snow Cover	28-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov	15-Nov	16-Nov	13-Nov	5-Dec	3-Dec	27-Oct	26-Nov	8-Nov	11/126	10-Nov	1-Dec	12-Nov	8-Nov	13-Nov	22-Nov	16-Nov	10-Nov	10-Dec	
Continuous Snow Cover	17-Apr	15-Apr	1-Apr	8-Apr	20-Apr	2-May	28-Apr	13-Apr	19-Apr	4-Apr	22-Apr	22-Apr	22-Apr	11-Apr	19-Apr	30-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	16-Apr	8-Apr	13-Apr	
Max Snow Fall	202cm	183cm	165cm	206cm	155cm	216cm	239cm	151cm	186cm	127cm	190cm	176cm	210cm	150cm	188cm	227cm	170cm	195cm	179cm	159cm	173cm	
Date	1-Feb	21-Feb	22-Jan&3-Feb	24-Feb	18-Mar	10-Feb	2-Mar	9-Feb	5-Mar	15-Feb	18-Feb	26-Feb	10-Feb	6-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	2-Mar	17-Feb	26-Feb	22-Feb	26-Feb	
Min Temp	-17.2℃	-20.5℃	-18.8℃	-22.3℃	-17.0℃	-21.4℃	-19.7℃	-18.4℃	-21.5℃	-16.6℃	-24.3℃	-22.9℃	-18.3℃	-23.2℃	-19.9℃	-19.9℃	-22.5℃	-24.7℃	-18.7℃	-20.6℃	-24.6℃	
月 日	6-Feb	13-Feb	26-Jan	19-Jan	22-Feb	14-Dec	27-Feb	4-Mar	6-Feb	20-Jan	14-Jan	27-Jan	3-Feb	15-Jan	22-Jan	2-Feb	18-Jan	29-Jan	25-Jan	1-Feb	20-Feb	
Max Snow Fall in Feb	202cm	183cm	165cm	206cm	139cm	216cm	200cm	151cm	167cm	127cm	190cm	176cm	210cm	150cm	188cm	227cm	167cm	195cm	179cm	159cm	173cm	
Date	1-Feb	21-Feb	3-Feb	24-Feb	12-Feb	10-Feb	28-Feb	9-Feb	13-Feb	15-Feb	18-Feb	26-Feb	10-Feb	6-Feb	11-Feb	23-Feb	22-Feb	17-Feb	26-Feb	22-Feb	26-Feb	