

Completed in November 1992, this colossal structure capable of accommodating 45,000 spectators hosted the ski jumping events during the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. Athletes from all over the world competed on two differently sized ski jumping slopes—the Normal Hill (318 m) and the Large Hill (385 m)—resulting in two gold medals for the Japanese Olympic team.

Nowadays, the Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium, which is located directly at the foot of Japan's Northern Alps, counts as one of Hakuba Happo-one's most popular sightseeing spots and is open year-round. Curious visitors can hop on the lift that runs between the two hills and get off at the tower, which provides access to the in-runs. While taking the elevator upwards, you may wonder why it's much taller than your average lift, but the additional space is necessary to accommodate long skis. From the observation deck you can enjoy marvelous views of the surrounding area, as well as imagining the thrilling anticipation of the athletes shortly before they jump off. The floors of the connecting passageways between tower and jumping hills were built with gratings, making it possible to admire the scenery below as well.

Occasionally the stadium is still used by ski jumping professionals for training purposes. Thanks to a slippery artificial surface, it is even possible to practice in the summer.

After exploring the ski jumping hills, venture out to the plateau on the opposite side and gaze at the Olympic cauldron. The Olympic fire was clearly visible from the top of the jumping hills to encourage the athletes.

The monument next to it was added after the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics to celebrate and commemorate the 100th gold medal that was achieved by Japanese athletes at this competition.