

Jiyuya Summer Slope (Water Jump Park)

Most people come to Shizukuishi for snow sports in the winter, but Jiyuya offers the opportunity to try skiing or snowboarding in the snowless seasons—with a water landing at the end. The owner, an enthusiast and certified instructor in snow sports, wanted to offer something different for skiers and snowboarders in the warmer months. This innovative facility has become popular with both local residents and visitors.

There are three different slopes of varying degrees of difficulty. First-timers can start out on the easiest slope and gradually work their way up to the more challenging jumps as they develop confidence. Some local residents even use the facility as a way to keep up their skiing and snowboarding skills in the snowless seasons. Highly skilled athletes from other prefectures also come to perfect their flips and jumps. The staff, all skilled skiers and snowboarders, offer encouragement and advice on techniques to beginners. The atmosphere is supportive and easygoing in equal measure; whenever someone completes their first jump successfully into the water, staff and spectators reward them with cheers and applause.

Visitors are welcome to use their own snowboard or skis, but since people coming to Shizukuishi in the snowless seasons are unlikely to bring their equipment with them, Jiyuya provides everything on a rental basis. The staff take safety seriously, and participants wear life jackets, helmets, and other protective gear. Children can participate from the age of four; in fact, youngsters often master the slopes more quickly than older family members. Jiyuya is open rain or shine, except when there are strong winds or storms. In addition to the three water-jump slopes, the facility includes a skateboarding area. Showers and changing rooms are available on site as well.