

□ CORY RICHARDS PHOTOGRAPHS THE TEAM'S PROGRESS ON THE FIRST EVER WINTER ASCENT OF 8,035 METER GASHERBRUM II, PAKISTAN.



WE TEST ON HUMANS

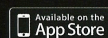
We climb 8,000-meter peaks in the dead of winter for moments like this. Expedition member Denis Urubko on route to the summit of Gasherbrum II as his team makes its way into mountaineering history.

FOLLOW THEIR CLIMB AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GEAR THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE AT [THENORTHFACE.COM/CLIMBING](http://thenorthface.com/climbing)

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THE NORTH FACE™ TRAILHEAD



ABOVE AND BELOW: JUMPING AND DROPPING INTO THE ABYSS, FOX CANYON

slides, swims, rappels, it's all very dynamic. We currently offer over 16 different canyoning courses starting at family trips and going through to some full-on whitewater canyons or huge vertical canyons. The views on these trips are spectacular, an experience a lot of people wouldn't think exists in Japan.

HOW MANY STAFF DO YOU HAVE? Canyons currently have around 50 staff - 30 guides, ten cafe and lodge staff, and ten admin staff.

DO YOU HAVE MANY FOREIGNERS WORKING FOR YOU? ARE ANY OF THEM KIWIS? About half are Japanese but we also have staff from Brazil, UK, Canada, America, Australia and, of course, NZ. We employ around five to eight Kiwis depending on the season.

DO THEY ALL SPEAK JAPANESE TOO? All of our guides speak at least basic Japanese and English. Most of our foreign guides have been with us for years so have pretty good language skills. We always have one fluent Japanese speaker on all our trips.

DO YOU HAVE MANY FOREIGN TOURISTS DOING THE CANYONING AND RAFTING? Around twenty percent of our customers are internationals, mostly living in Japan. About five percent of our total customers are foreign tourists, mainly from Europe and North America but we also get a few Kiwis through every year. In winter about fifty percent of those coming over for the skiing and snowboarding are foreign tourists.

ANY PLANS TO EXPAND OPERATIONS? Perhaps back in NZ? I have been looking at many locations and would love to set something up over this way, but the snow season in Japan is always too tempting.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? We are looking at expanding to other regions in Japan and working on fine-tuning our sustainability model. It has to be a win-win-win situation for the locals, environment, customers, and us. I also always look for new ideas when travelling, especially when back in NZ.

