SUGA YOshihide was born the eldest son of a strawberry farmer in Yuzawa, a town in Akita Prefecture in northern Japan. The region lies under snow for four months of the year, but is rich in natural beauty with forests of fine Akita cedar.

No matter how busy he may be on a given day, Suga has made a routine of taking early-morning walks to clear his head. He is not a drinker but has a sweet tooth, enjoying Japanese confectionery made from red bean paste, or Western-style pancakes, which he particularly loves.