



Gin-zan

銀山 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 41' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

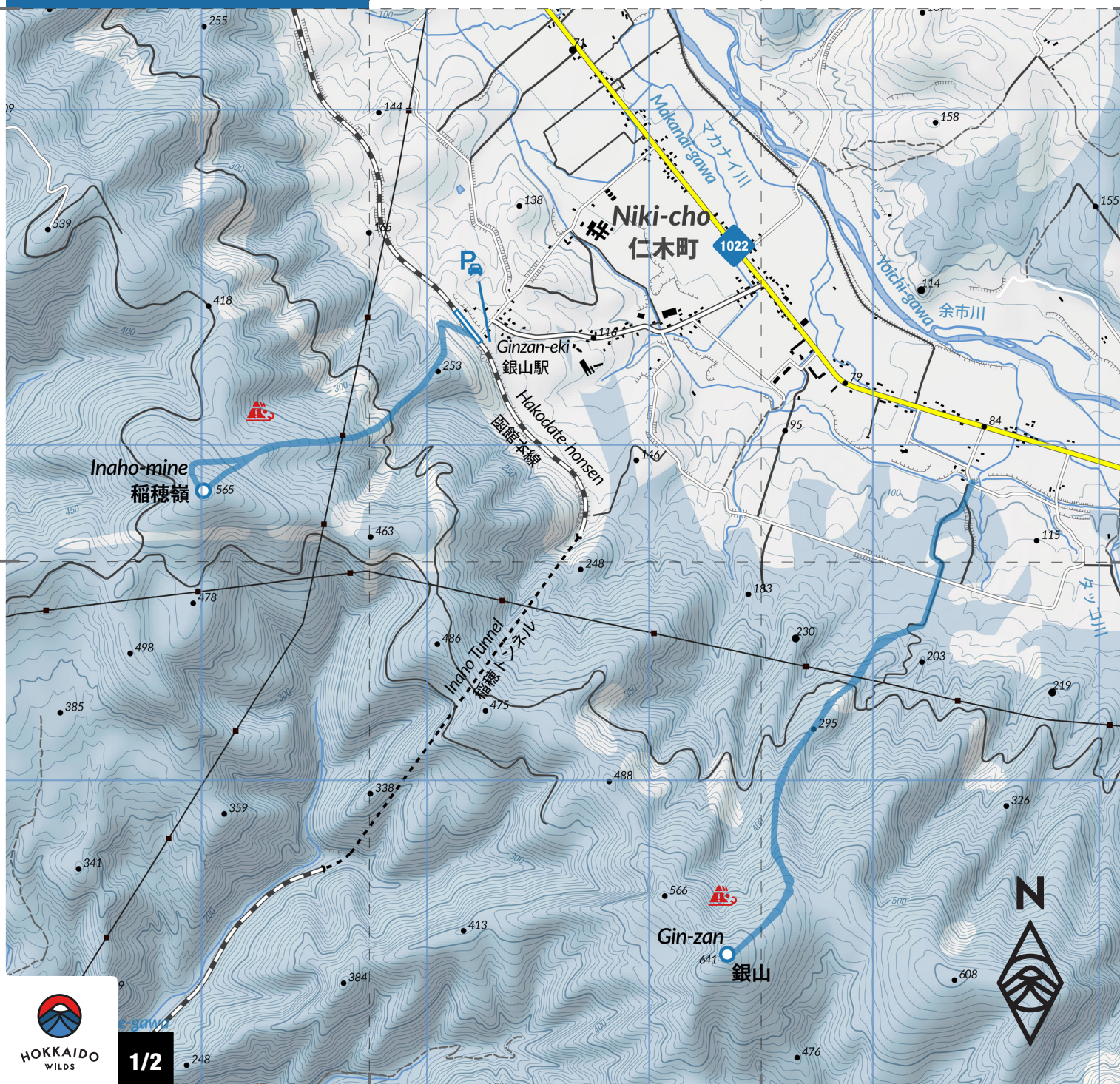
- 0:30 → Route (time between points)
- National Highway
- Prefectural Road
- Municipal Road
- Minor Municipal Road
- Walkway
- Bus route (bus stop)
- Avalanche-prone slope
- 600 Contour lines (100m, 10m)
- Power transmission lines
- Trees/no tree
- Rocks/cliff
- Onsen (hot spring)
- Fumerole
- 1022 Highway number
- Designated campsite
- Hut

Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki	分岐	junction
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
hinangoya	避難小屋	shelter
ike	池	pond
kawa/gawa	川	river
kako	火口	crater
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
kyo	峡	gorge
numa	沼	pond
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
taira/daira	平	plateau
tani/dani	谷	valley
taki	滝	waterfall
toge	峠	pass
yama/san/zan	山	mountain

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This map uses the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the permission of the Authority's director (permission no. 平 30 情使、第 867 号). It also uses modified 1:25,000 scale vegetation map GIS data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan, Ministry of the Environment (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Gin-zan Half-day Ski Tour



3hrs
Time



550m
Total Climb



641m
Highest point



3.5km
Distance



3.5/10
Difficulty



Jan-Apr
Best season

Gin-zan (銀山, 641m) is a prominent hill in Niki Town, mainly due to the massive radio repeater station at its summit - it is visible from pretty much anywhere in town. Given its location, it gives great views across to Yotei-zan (羊蹄山), the Niseko Range, and Yoi-chi-dake (余市岳) further afield. It is on the same main ridge as Inaho-mine (稲穂峰, 565m), so if you're looking for a longer day, then consider joining them up. All in all, a great hill for beginners looking to stretch the legs and hone skills.

LOCATION

This backcountry ski route starts about 2km southeast of Ginzan JR Station in Niki Town, about 2 hours west of Sapporo City. The trailhead in winter is at the end of the snowclearing, just above Kotokuji Temple (孝徳寺).

GENERAL NOTES

As mentioned above, Gin-zan is in the same general vicinity as the slightly lower Inaho-mine. If you had to choose between the two, Inaho-mine would probably be higher on the priority list. Inaho-mine has the better slopes for downhill skiing higher up. Or, ski up Gin-zan, do the traverse to Inaho-mine (about 2 hours) and make the descent down via the Inaho-mine slopes. Either way, Gin-zan is a great area for beginners, and the large radio repeater station is a curious-looking goal to aim for. Pack a lunch, dig out a snow-table, and enjoy the views at the summit. The name Gin-zan (銀山) literally means 'silver mountain', and comes from the fact that in the past, there were mines that produced gold, silver, copper, and zinc in the area, such as the Rubeshibe Mine (ルベシベ鉱山) and Otomi Mine (大富鉱山).

ROUTE MARKERS

This route is not marked.

ROUTE TIMING

About 2hr 10mins from end of snow clearing to summit, and then about 40mins back down.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is no official parking spot. There is usually room for about 2 or 3 cars at the end of the snow clearing just beyond the temple, but make sure to park well to the side of the road. Consider digging out some extra space on the side of the road.

Public transport: If you're willing to walk or ski 2.5km from the station, the most obvious choice for public transport is by rail to Ginzan JR Station (銀山駅). For train times, just look up Ginzan Station (Niki Town) on Google Maps

and choose the train option. There used to be a local bus service to Ginzan from Yoichi City, but this is no longer in service.

SAFETY NOTES

The gullies on either side of the main ridge are known to be avalanche-prone, and are essentially massive terrain traps. Make conservative decisions when considering descent options.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen is the very nice Akai-kawa Caldera Onsen (赤井川カルデラ温泉, 400yen per person), about 20 minutes away from the station by car (no public transport options). It is known for its very hot indoor bath (43degC), but the outdoor bath and another newer indoor bath are more humane. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, interactive map, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/ginzan>



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