



Rishiri-zan (Oshidomari Approach)

利尻山 Ski Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 10° 14' W

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

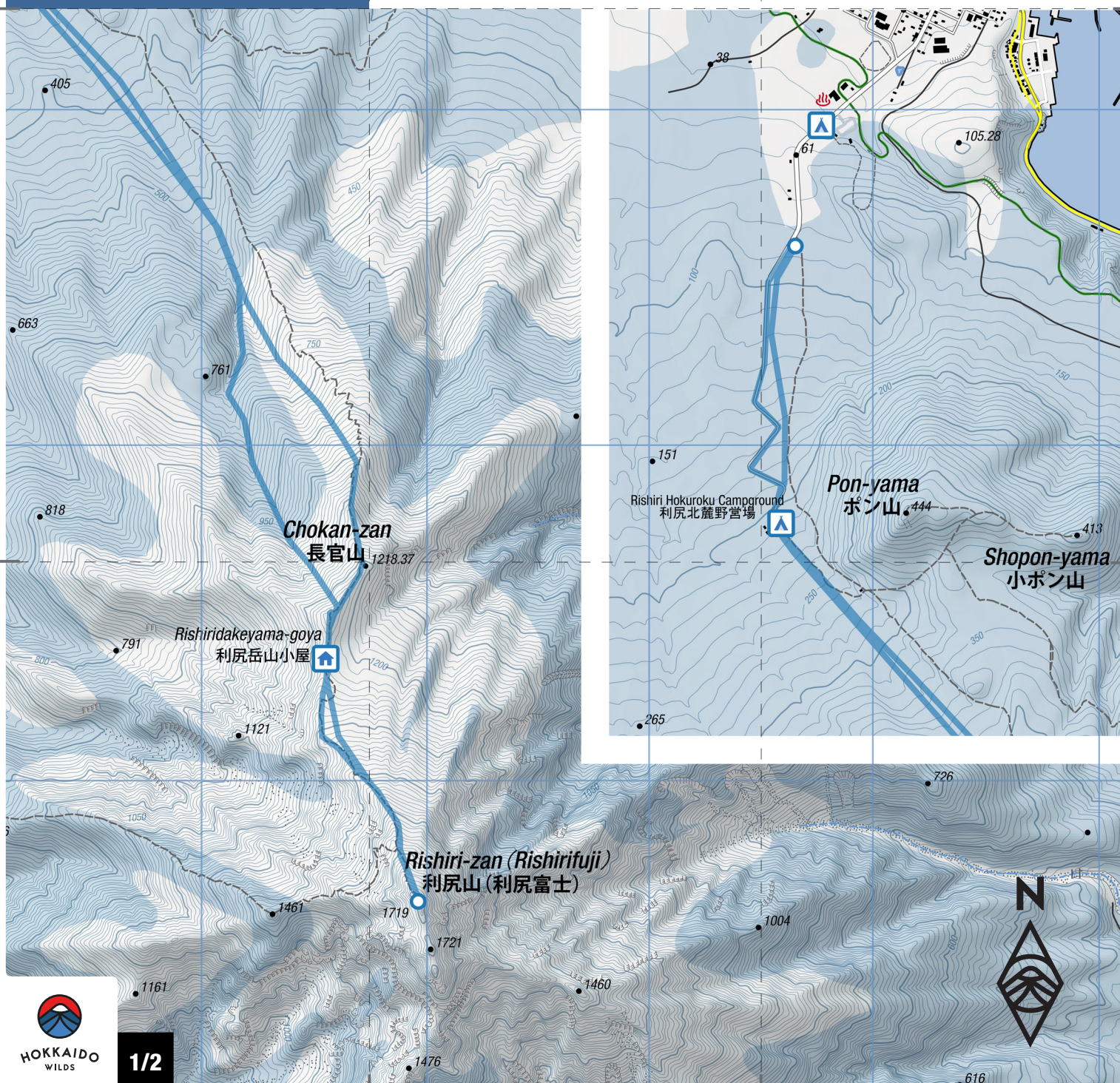
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- 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 trees
- Rocks/cliff
- Onsen (hot spring)
- Fumerole
- 1022 Highway number
- Designated campsite
- Hut

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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/>).

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



Rishiri-zan

(Oshidomari Approach)



 7hrs Time	 1594m Total Climb	 1721m Highest point
 15.5km Distance	 9/10 Difficulty	 Mar-Apr Best season

Rishiri-zan (利尻山, 1721m), also referred to as Rishiri-fuji (利尻富士) is an extinct volcano, rising majestically out of the Sea of Japan off the west of Japan's northern-most city of Wakkanai. In this route overview, we outline the classic northern ridge approach to the summit, via the Rishiri-zan Hut. This winter route to the summit is most popular due to its relative ease of approach. Clear windless days in winter are extremely rare on this exposed hulk of a mountain, so we recommend the spring months of March and April for attempts on the summit. While summiting does not require ropes or technical climbing skills, crampons and an ice-axe are essential.

LOCATION

This winter ski mountaineering route is located on the northern side of Rishiri-zan, off the coast west of Wakkanai City in northern Hokkaido. It starts at the end of the snow-clearing, just beyond the Rishiri-fuji Onsen. Depending on what



season skiers visit, it may be possible to drive all the way to the Hokuroku Campground.

GENERAL NOTES

Rishiri-zan's many volcanic gullies offer over 1500m of sustained descent from either the formidable icy summit or convenient points further down the many summit spurs. In this route overview, we outline the popular northern approach, which connects with the summer trail near the hut at around 1250m. The prevailing winter wind on Rishiri is northwest, so in reality, this route is not actually the best for seeking out the best snow. Southerly and easterly aspects will be better for that. If wishing to stand on the summit, however, this is the most straight-forward route. Approaches to the summit from the south or west are much steeper and many require ropes and technical climbing skills. That said, even on this northerly approach, there is some good skiing to be had in the gullies on the way down.

Calm days in winter are few and far between on Rishiri. "There are occasional days when there's less wind," mused the owner of the Green Hill Inn Backpackers where we stayed during our visit to Rishiri. "Calm days are almost unheard of," he said. This equates to icy ridgelines and times of extreme gusts. While crampons and ice-axe are not always a must in order to get to the hut on this route, anywhere higher than the hut will most likely require them. Ski crampons will make the approach to the hut much more comfortable in all but the best conditions.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect about 4-5 hours from the onsen to the Rishiri-zan Emergency Hut, and then about 1-2 hours from the hut to the summit. Bank on about 2 hours from summit back to the onsen. In the route track for this route, there are two diverging routes part way up. Take the western route on the descent if snow conditions are stable and vegetation is covered, as this wide watershed allows for some excellent steep skiing.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is plenty of parking at the Rishiri Onsen. If visiting in April, it may be possible to drive all the way to the Hokuroku campground. **Public transport:** As of March 2019, there were daily ferries to Rishiri Island, leaving

Wakkanai ferry port at 6:55am and 1:55pm between January and April. Tickets cost 2,500yen each way. There is no extra charge for skis/snowboards. To get to Wakkanai, either take a highway bus or the train, with service from centers such as Sapporo and Asahikawa. Once in Rishiri, it is a 1.5km walk from the ferry terminal to the start of the route.

SAFETY NOTES

Rishiri-zan is a ferocious bulk of a mountain, which bears the brunt of the northern Japan-Sea's extreme weather. Climbers must be prepared not only for highly inclement weather, but also the courage to put safety before objectives. Make conservative plans while consulting the weather, and ask around for lower-altitude alternatives for days when the wind is up.

ONSEN NEARBY

The Rishiri-fuji Onsen (利尻富士温泉 保養施設, 500yen) is at the end of the route, so that makes the most sense for a post-ski soak. Note that in winter (November till April) it is open from noon till 9pm, and is not open on Mondays. ■



RISHIRI EMERGENCY HUT



Details: A basic but well-built hut on Rishiri-zan's northern approach hiking trail, at around 1200m in altitude. Emergency use only, and can be buried in winter. No stove/heating available.

Capacity: 30 persons.

Cost: Free.

Contact: Rishiri Town Office (利尻富士町役場), TEL: 10163-82-1114.

Booking details: Cannot book in advance (no booking required).

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A4 printer paper (210mm x 297mm). If you've only got Letter size (215.9mm x 279.4 mm), just follow the instructions below. You'll achieve an accurate scale, but the map will be clipped a little at the top and bottom.

STEP 2

Open the print window by clicking on File > Print (or hitting Ctrl + P on your keyboard).

STEP 3

Make sure "Actual Size" is selected.

STEP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STEP 5

For best results, select the highest quality print option available on your printer (settings will vary).

STEP 6

You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

STEP 7

Click "Print".

PLEASE PRINT AT 'ACTUAL SIZE' (NO SCALING)

The 1:25,000 scale used in the map is accurate if the PDF is printed without scaling (i.e., ACTUAL SIZE). Follow the instructions on this page to ensure an accurate rendering of the scale.

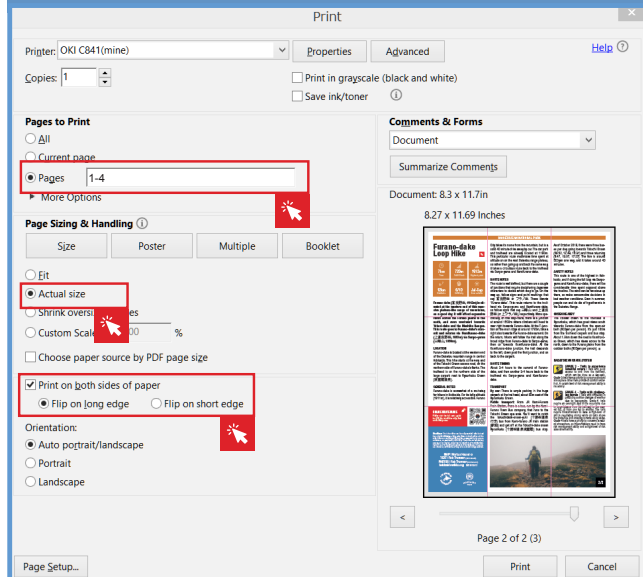


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

