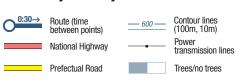


Symbol Key (some may not be present)



Municipal Road તાર

Minor Municipal Road Walkway

> Bus route (bus stop)

Avalanche-prone slope

Contour lines (100m, 10m)

Trees/no trees

Rocks/cliff

٥ Fumerole

1022

Highway number

Onsen (hot spring)

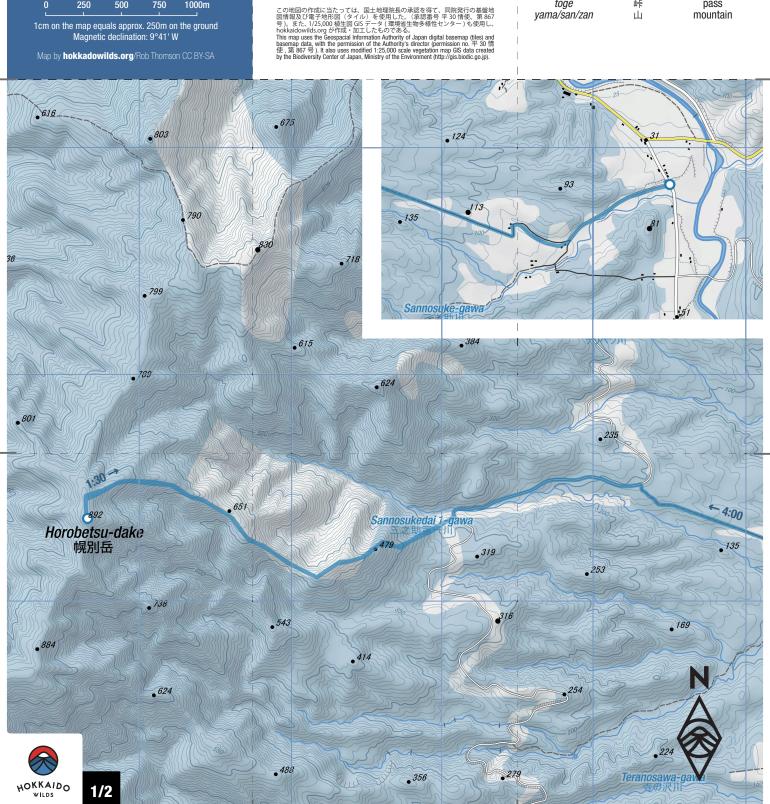
A

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	Ш	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



Horobetsudake Ski Tour

(Sannosuke Route)









6hrs





Horobetsu-dake (幌別岳, 892m) stands at the western limit of the general Niseko are, on the border of Suttsu and Rankoshi Towns. From the summit, expect 360-degree views across to the Niskeo Range, Yotei-zan, Shiribetsu-dake, Shakotan Peninsula, Kariba-yama, and of course the Japan Sea. This seldom-visited 15km long range - the Horobetsu Range - is a perfect antidote to the more easily accessed but more crowded Niseko Range further east. What this route lacks in large open slopes, it makes up for in views and locals-only vibes.

LOCATION

Horobetsu-dake sits on the border between Ranakoshi Town and Suttsu Town, about 14km southwest of Rankoshi Town, in the Niseko region of Hokkaido. This route starts about 2km northwest of Mena JR Station on the JR Hakodate Honsen Line.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2019/04/18

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan





GENERAL NOTES

With so many other easily-accessed treeless slopes around Niseko, Horobetsu-dake is understandably overlooked as a backcountry destination in the Niseko Region. The 4km approach on snowed-in roads is not too painful though, passing through some gorgeous forest and along side the lovely Sannosukedai-1 River. Once on the ridge approaching the summit, there are grand views of the Niseko Range, Yotei-zan, and Konbu-dake. At the summit, expect views across to Kariba-yama in Shimamaki, as well as the Japan Sea and the Shakotan Peninsula. "More of a walk than a ski," was Chris's comment on the route, and I'd agree. There are plenty of skiing options off the ridge on the way down, but care should be taken, as they almost invariably end up deep in a gully at the bottom - classic terrain traps abound around this route. That said, this route would be a great way to get out of the crowds and have a mountain all to yourself. This is a very seldom skied mountain – even in Japanese there are only a few reports floating around on the Internet, mostly from the early 2000's

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Allow about 4.5hrs to the summit, and about 1.5hrs back down. This route is not marked. and there's no summer trail to the summit. The start of the route will vary depending on the time of year - in mid winter, it will be right at the main road, around here. In spring, it may be possible to drive about 1.5km along the paved and then gravel road. From either of these points, follow the snowed-in forestry road west-northwest to the curious paved road that wraps around the entire side of the Horobetsu Range. Take a left at the road and follow this to the bridge crossing the Sannosukedai-1 River. Immediately after crossing the river, take a right turn and make a short scramble up a cramped gully to a small clearing, before starting the zig-zag climb up the relatively tree-dense slope to the 479m point. From

here it is simply a matter of following the ridge. At around 530m, just beyond a short elongated hump, there is a slight descent towards a saddle, after which it is all climbing up to the peak. On the final approach beyond the 800m mark, you'll be faced with cornices. There's a natural 10m gap between the cornices, which only becomes apparent once you're on the 830m hump.

TRANSPORT

By car: As mentioned above, the start of the route will vary depending on the season. There's no carpark to speak of, so you'll need to park on the side of the road. Park well to the side of the road, and be prepared to clear some extra space to park in.

Public transport: Mena Station (目名駅) on the JR Hakodate Line, only a few stops west of Niseko, is about 3km from the start of the route, so if you're happy with a 40-minute walk, then yes, this route is accessible via public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

As mentioned above, the topography on this route is relatively tight off the main ridge - you'll need to be confident of the stability of the snow if skiing these slopes, more so than usual thanks to the deep gullies. As is the case for all ski routes on The Hokkaido Wilds, this route assumes a confident ability to read a topographical map.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen to this route is the cheap and cheerful Rankoshi Yusenkaku Onsen (蘭越幽泉閣, 500yen), just behind the Konbu JR Station, here. There's a number of indoor pools, a couple of sauna options, and a nice outdoor pool

too. Local produce is usually for sale in the fover too.

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 achive 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).

STFP 3

Make sure "Actual Size" is selected.

STFP 4

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

STFP 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.

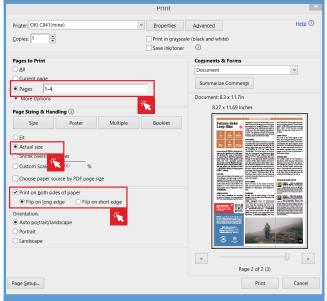


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

