



Shiretoko-dake (Kamoiunbe-kawa Route)

知床岳 Ski Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 5' W

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

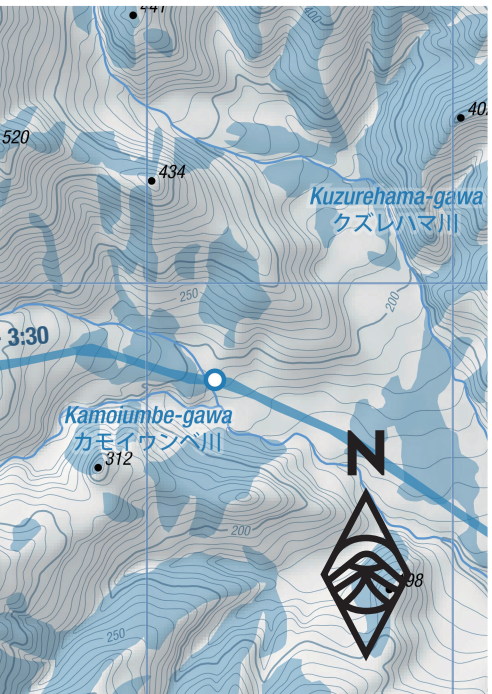
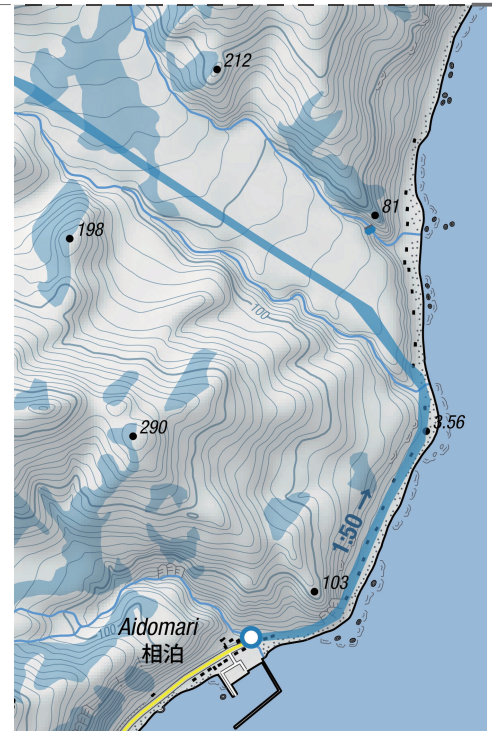
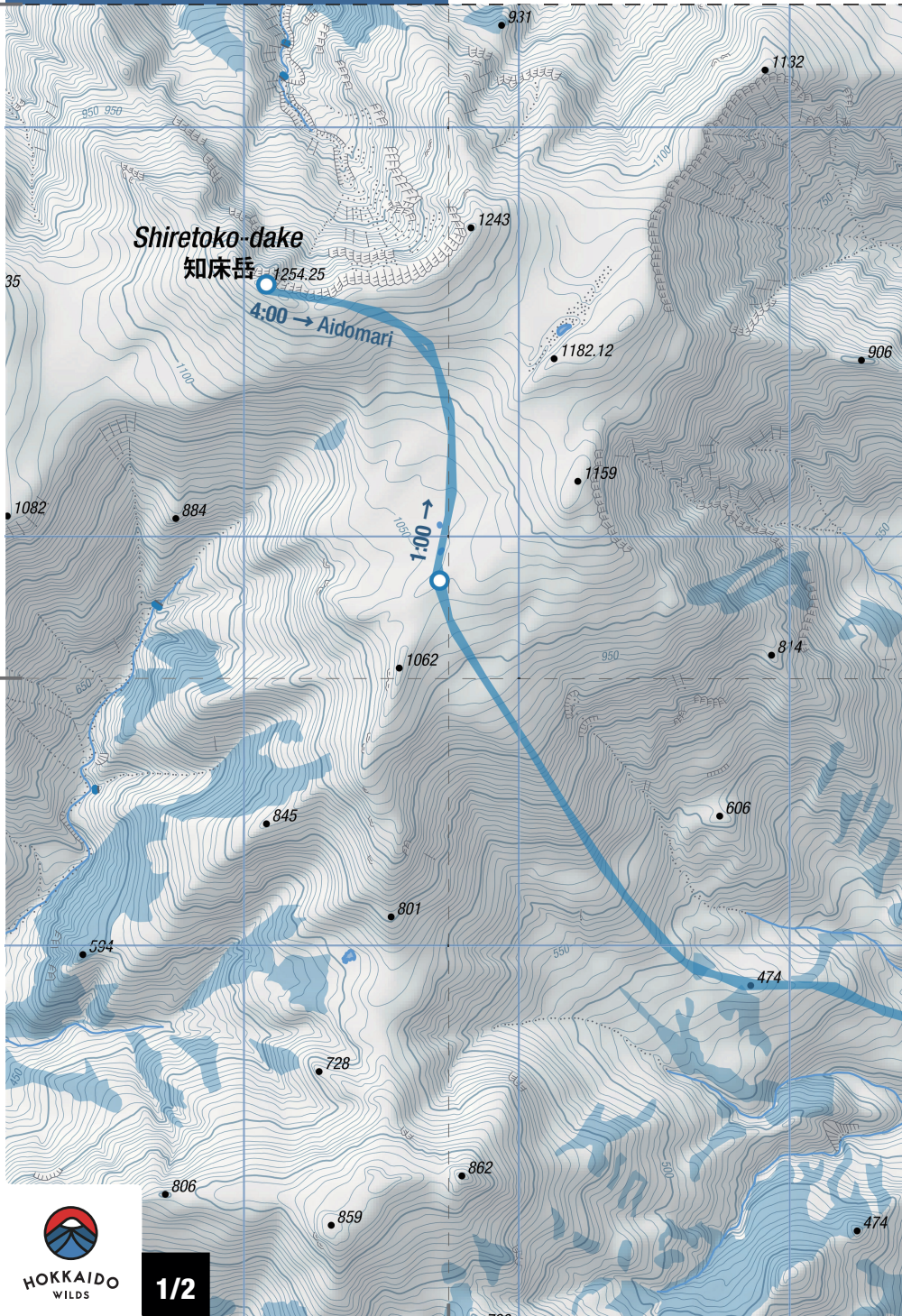
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- Route (time between points)
- National Highway
- Prefectural Road
- Municipal Road
- Minor Municipal Road
- Walkway
- Bus route (bus stop)
- Avalanche-prone slope
- Contour lines (100m, 10m)
- Power transmission lines
- Trees/no trees
- Rocks/cliff
- Onsen (hot spring)
- Fumerole
- 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



Shiretoko-dake (Kamoiunbe-kawa Route)



 8.5hrs Time	 1220m Total Climb	 1254m Highest point
 16.2km Distance	 8.5/10 Difficulty	 Mar-Apr Best season

Shiretoko-dake (知床岳, 1254m) is the last major peak on the wild Shiretoko Peninsula in eastern Hokkaido. It offers inspiring views across to the Russian Kuril Islands, and offers some great skiing on its steep eastern-approach slopes. It is the eastern-most peak on the Shiretoko Peninsula that is practically climbed in a single day, and there's only 12km between the peak and Cape Shiretoko. All together a very remote-feeling route.

LOCATION

This route up Shiretoko-dake starts, at the end of Route 87, northeast of the town of Rausu, in eastern Hokkaido. It is near the tip of the World Heritage Shiretoko Peninsula.

GENERAL NOTES

The Shiretoko Peninsula is a wild, exposed place at the best of times, particularly in the winter. While it is

certainly not impossible to do this route in mid-winter (the road to Aidomari will still be open), favourable weather conditions during January and February will be few and far between. It is a long way to go for bad weather, so we follow most Japanese guidebooks' recommendation of leaving this area mostly alone until March and April.

Snow conditions in March will be quite variable, with warmer temperatures during the day softening the snow in preparation for it to freeze again overnight. I managed the route entirely on skis, with ski crampons added on the steep climb from around 500m to 1000m in elevation. Softer snow may be found in the upper slopes of the large bowl to the climber's right, but this is prime avalanche terrain with a prominent convex roll in places. If you must venture off the icy haimatsu low pine infested ridge for softer snow on the climb (and on the descent), err on closer rather than further away from the ridge.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. The Hokkaido Yuki-yama Guidebook puts the total moving time on this route at 10.5 hours. This seemed a little on the high side, and sure enough, I managed to do the route solo, with few stops, in about 6.5 hours. As such, I'd put my money on a more reasonable 8.5 hours for most fit and experienced skiers willing to stop and smell the roses. Note however that there is one particularly steep section that may take more time if a climber has to change to crampons.

The route starts at the large parking area just after the Aidomari River bridge. This is as far as the general public is allowed to drive. From here, skin along the sea shore past old fishing shacks until you come to the Kamoiunbe River, here. There used to be a footbridge across this river, however it seems to no longer exist. Just walk downstream to the sea's edge, where the river fans out – you might need to remove your skis, but the river can be crossed without any need to balance precariously on slippery rocks. Directly after crossing the river, make the 30m scramble up a steep spur to the mostly-flat plateau above. From there, continue northwest, keeping the river on your left. At around 170m in altitude, you'll cross a snowbridge at the confluence of two small streams. About 400m beyond this, you'll exit the woods into a clearing where you'll start climbing in earnest up the ridge to the 474m mark on the map. Beyond 500m in altitude on this ridge, it is a very steep (just

over 40 degrees) climb up to a plateau at just under 1000m in altitude. You can pat yourself on the back here, because that's most of the climbing done. Beyond this, traverse across the featureless plateau at 1000m towards the peak. The descent route is the same as the climb up.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is no parking at the trailhead so either park in the carpark at another forestry road junction just north of the trailhead, or at the turn-around spot further up the road, past the Shinkansen tunnel. In either case, expect around 5 minutes walking along the side of the main road from the car to the trailhead.

Public transport: There is no bus service to the start of the route in winter. The closest you'll get is the town of Rausu, which is accessible by bus from Kushiro.

SAFETY NOTES

The greatest concern on this route is the distance climbers have to cross on the plateau directly below the summit. It is almost 2km of mostly flat, slightly climbing terrain across this plateau, with plenty of opportunities to get lost in low visibility conditions. The route off the plateau is the same as you came up, with other route options possibly leading to cliffs above the sea further around the coast. Make conservative decisions when visibility is low and wind is high. The risks involved in getting lost are made more serious by the sheer remoteness of this route. As always, ensure someone knows when you plan to be back. Finally, from April the bears start rousing themselves from their winter slumber. Shiretoko Peninsula has one of the densest population of Hokkaido brown bear on the island. Even in mid March, I was advised to carry bear spray with me, as well as a bear bell.

ONSEN NEARBY

The obvious choice for a post-ski congratulatory soak is the free open-air Kuma-no-Yu (熊の湯, literally "bear's bath") near the road-closure gates to Shiretoko Pass above Rausu. This outdoor bath is consistently the hottest I've ever experienced, but there's a cold water pipe you can use to help sooth the sting. Enjoy the locals, submerged to their necks, laughing at you as you can't get past your big toe in the scalding mineral water. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWilds.org cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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

