

### **CENTRAL HOKKAIDO**

# Antaromadake (via Nakadake Onsen)



Antaroma-dake (安足間岳, 2194m) is one of the many peaks that make up the general Daisetuzan Range area near Hokkaido's highest peak, Asahidake (旭岳, 2290m). This unassuming peak offers some sublime skiing in the southeast-facing bowl it shares with Pippu-dake (比布岳, 2197m) when the snowpack is stable, or along its broad south-facing slope. The return trip from the Asahidake Ropeway can be accomplished on a long day trip (allow around 7 hours). However, it is arguably best visited during an overnight ski-camping trip to Nakadake Onsen hotspring (中岳温泉, 1840m). This route guide assumes a start and finish from Nakadake Onsen.

### LOCATION

Antaroma-dake is just under 4km as the crow flies from the summit of Asahidake in the Daisetsuzan Range in central Hokkaido. This particular route guide

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



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#### MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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accesses the mountain from Nakadake Onsen, to make it a quick half-day ski tour from the hotspring base camp.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

As mentioned above, this route guide assumes skiers are starting and finishing at a base camp next to Nakadake Onsen hotspring. This makes the trip a very nice quick half-day trip, whereas a daytrip from Asahidake Ropeway would entail an extra 8.5km return for a total of almost 15km, much of this mostly flat plateau travel. Nakadake Onsen is a sublime place to camp in good weather.

No ski touring route guide for anywhere in the Daisetsuzan Range should be complete without a severe warning regarding the mountain environment here. This route is entirely above the treeline in serious alpine terrain. There's nothing technical on this route, but cold weather, avalanche, and navigation issues are exponentially magnified up here. The route itself, out and back from Nakadake Onsen, is suitable for intermediate backcountry skiers, but the approach across the desolate Susoaidaira Plateau (裾合平) from Asahidake Ropeway should only be attempted by experienced skiers or under the guidance of such, mainly due to the inherent navigation risks and alpine travel complexities.

### **ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**

This route is not marked. From your basecamp at Nakadake Onsen hotspring, head down the gorge to the upper Susoaidaira Plateau. From there, head north towards the broad southfacing face of Antaroma-dake. You may come across a relatively deep gorge at the foot of this face, so just head east-northeast along the rim of the gorge until a suitable spot is found to cross. From there, it is simply a matter of zigzagging your way up this face to the top. From the summit, skiers can either descent the face they climbed up, or, if the snowpack is stable, drop down into the large southeast facing bowl below Antaroma-dake and Pippudake. This will allow an uninterrupted 400m vertical descent back to the plateau.

### TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is ample parking at the Asahidake Ropeway carpark.

Public transport: From JR Asahikawa Train Station, there is a bus (Ideyugo いで湯号), operated by the Asahikawa Denki Kido Bus company (tel: 0166 23 3355), that runs to the Asahidake-Onsen spa area. The fare is around 1430yen one way, and it takes around 1 hour

40 minutes, with around four buses per day.

### **SAFETY NOTES**

This high altitude (by Hokkaido standards) route is entirely above the treeline, and brutally exposed to the elements 100% of the time. The route, for the most part, is relatively featureless, and involves covering ground across expansive snow fields, which would be impossible to navigate in low cloud conditions, without a GPS and map/compass. Never attempt this route without consulting the weather forecast. The Daisetsuzan Range is moderate in altitude when compared with mountain ranges in other parts of Japan and around the world. However, it is not to be underestimated. It is difficult to overstate the seriousness of this mountaineering environment - be prepared for -20deg C and lower temperatures. On a warm spring day, one will wonder what all the fuss is about, but when the weather does close in, unprepared people do die in this area.

### **ONSEN NEARBY**

Of course Nakadake Onsen is a prime spot for soaking weary legs, but the bottom of the ropeway is in Asahidake Onsen village, with a number of onsen to choose from. Yukoman Onsen (location) was nice (800yen per person).



NAKADAKE ONSEN DETAILS

## 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).

### 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

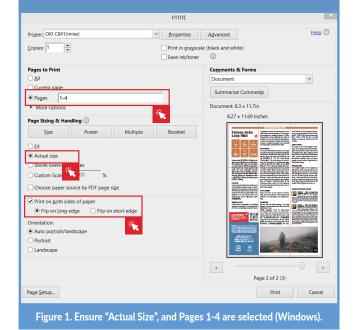
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

### 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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

