



Nakadake Onsen (via Asahi-dake)

中岳温泉 Ski Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 29' W

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

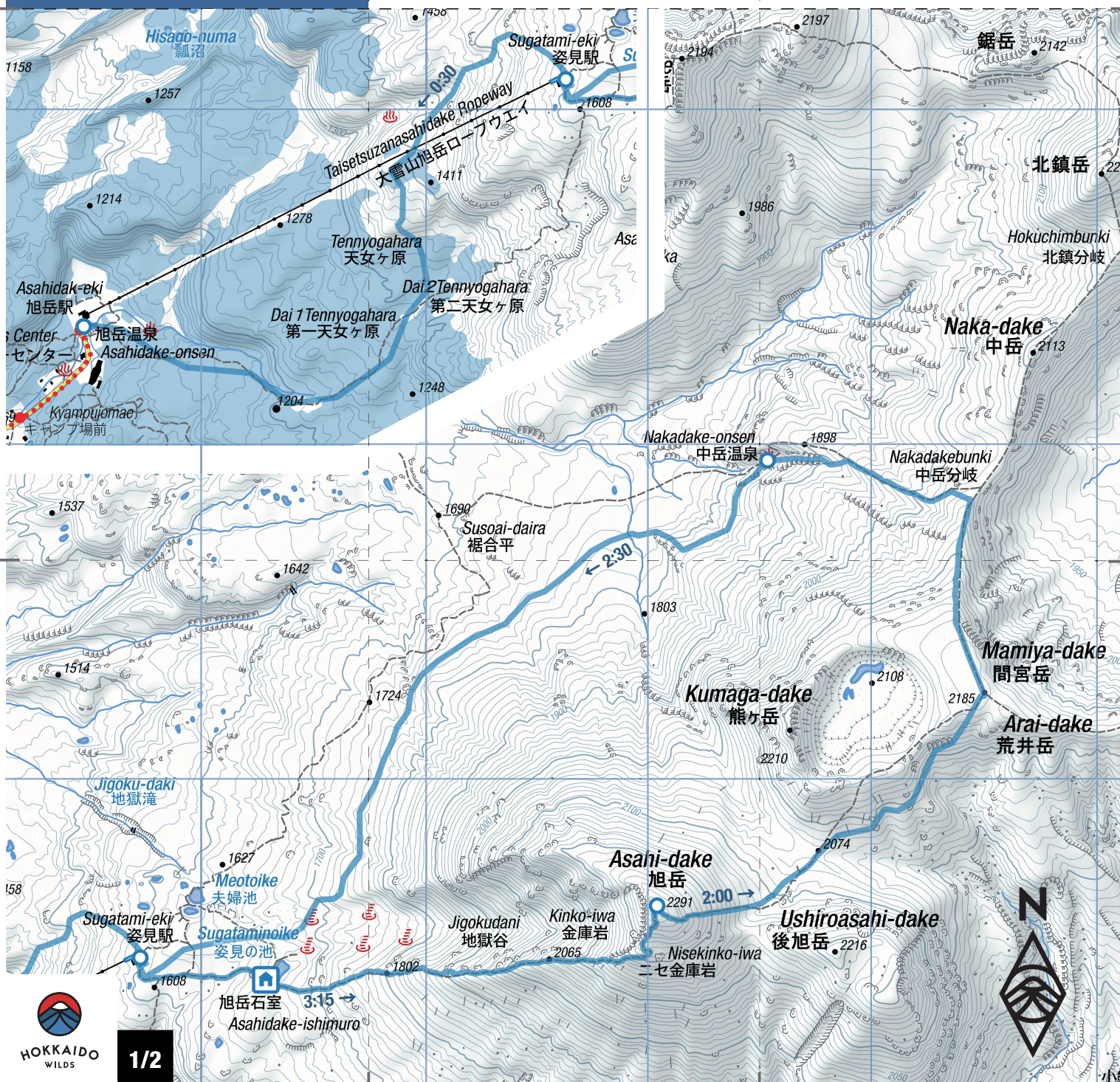
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

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

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の基盤地図情報及び電子地形図（タイル）を使用した。（承認番号 平 30 情使、第 867 号）。また、1/25,000 植生図 GIS データ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、hokkadowilds.org が作成・加工したものである。
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



Nakadake Onsen (via Asahidake)



9.5hrs Time	762m Total Climb	2290m Highest point
14.7km Distance	8/10 Difficulty	Mar-May Best season

This is *the* classic overnight winter camping trip in the Daisetsu Range, via the gorgeous Nakadake Onsen hotspring (中岳温泉, 1840m) and Hokkaido's highest peak, Asahidake (旭岳, 2290m). As some freak of nature, the hotspring is a perfect temperature year-round. Most people will be content with soaking their feet in the pool, whereas the more bold will happily strip off for a full-body soak. Camping next to the onsen is only possible during the snow season. Nakadake Onsen makes for an excellent base to explore nearby peaks, with some fantastic high-altitude skiing.

LOCATION

This overnight ski touring loop starts at the top of the Asahidake Ropeway at the foot of Asahi-dake, about 40km east of Asahikawa City in central Hokkaido.

GENERAL NOTES

As mentioned above, this route is the classic Daisetsuzan National Park winter camping trip. You can't beat camping in the snow right next to a natural hotspring, with easy access to multiple 2000m-plus high peaks in the immediate vicinity. It is a wonder why this is not a more popular place in the spring skiing months. With a good clear forecast, this is paradise on earth.

As you're ascending the Asahidake Ropeway and at the top station, however, a loud-speaker warns skiers and hikers that "Asahidake and the surrounding area has a much harsher climate than even the 3000m peaks of Honshu," and for good reason. While Hokkaido's highest peak is 'only' just over 2000m in altitude, winter here is serious mountaineering territory. Hence, we recommend this trip for the relatively temperate months of March, April, and May. Of course, the trip is possible during the mid-winter months of January and February as well, but favorable weather conditions will be harder to come by.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. The route indicated in the map overleaf approaches Nakadake Onsen via the summit of Asahidake, and along the western wide of the Ohachidaira crater rim. This is the most exposed option for getting to Nakadake Onsen, and will likely take strong skiers around 5 hours. From the Sugatami Station at the top of the Asahidake Ropeway, follow the summer trail marked on topographical maps to the summit of Asahidake, along the prominent southern ridge of the Jigoku-dani (地獄谷) volcanic gully. Depending on the snow cover, in order to get to the top of Asahidake only on skis, you may need to stay on the snow-covered slopes to the climber's right of the ridge, taking a more shallow traverse with a few more zig-zags. From the summit of Asahidake, take the skins off and ski down to the saddle to the east of the summit. From the saddle it is back on with the skins to make your way to the summit of Mamiya-dake (間宮岳, 2185m), where you'll sidle around the western edge of the Ohachidaira crater rim to just before the Nakadake Bunki (中岳分岐). To access Nakadake Onsen on skis from here, you've got two options. Option 1 is to ski along the southern spur above the gully leading to the onsen, and drop down to the onsen just beyond the prominent rocky 'gate' in the onsen gully. Option 2 is a little more exciting, and involves making your way along the onsen gully and

skiing through the impressive cathedral-like gully (and 'gate') directly to the onsen. We opted for the latter in May, and had to clamber down some rocks, as the gully was no longer fully filled with snow at that time of the year. The return to the ropeway is a traverse around the flanks of Asahidake, trying to maintain altitude as much as possible. We managed this return without skins, but it does require some side-stepping in places. From the ropeway top station it is possible to ski down the groomed ski runs or through the trees to the base of the ropeway.

If you'd prefer to just get to the campsite with minimal climbing and in the shortest time, take the return route around the flanks of Asahidake instead of going via the Asahidake summit. This will take between 2-3 hours.

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 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 route – even the traverse route direct to Nakadake Onsen – should not be attempted in anything but the most amicable weather. 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

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). ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.



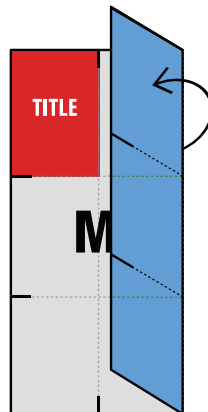
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

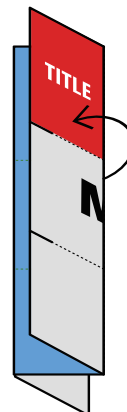
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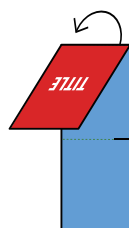
2



3



4



5

