



Bibi River

美々川 Canoe Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 26' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/07/16

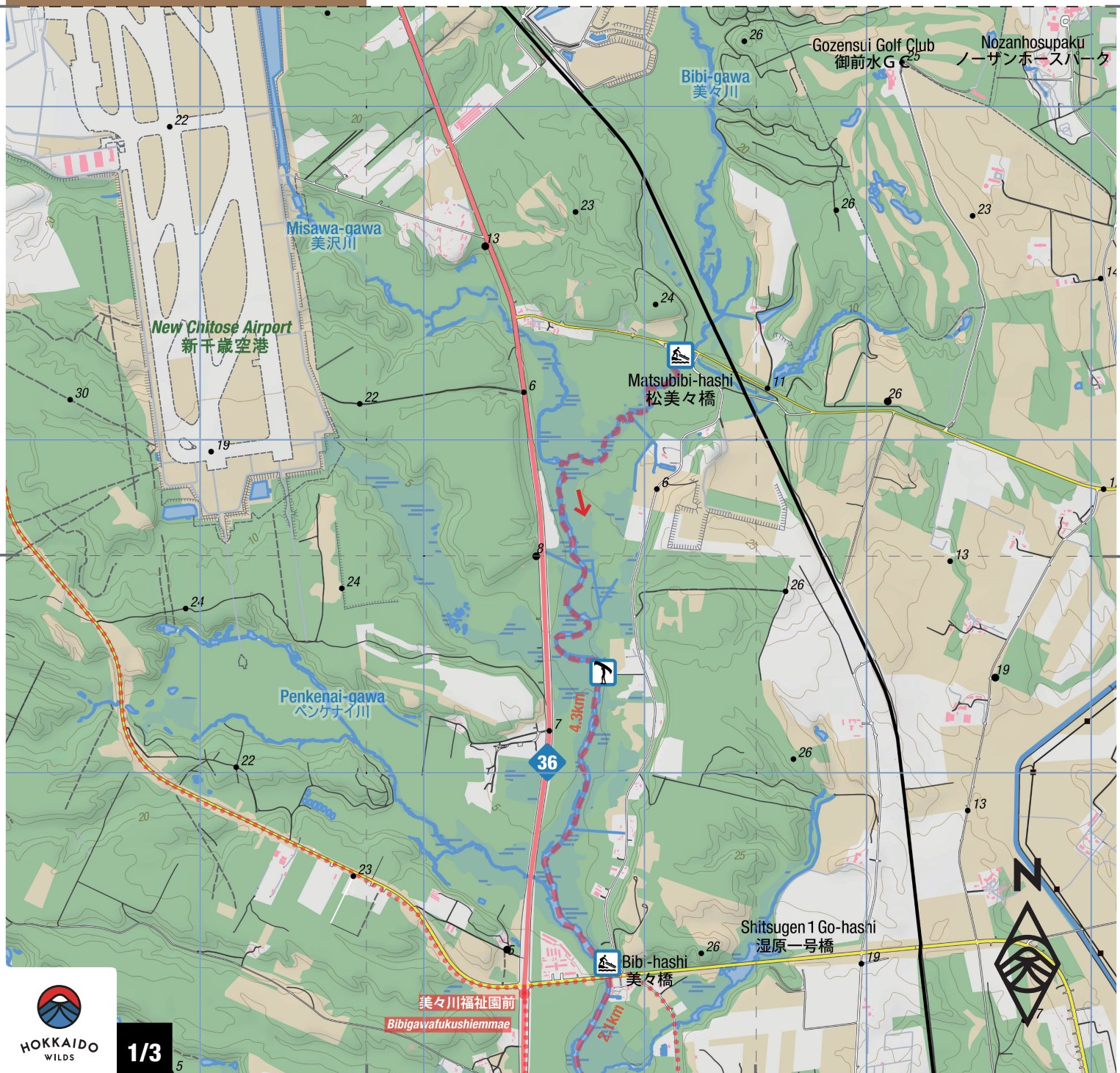
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

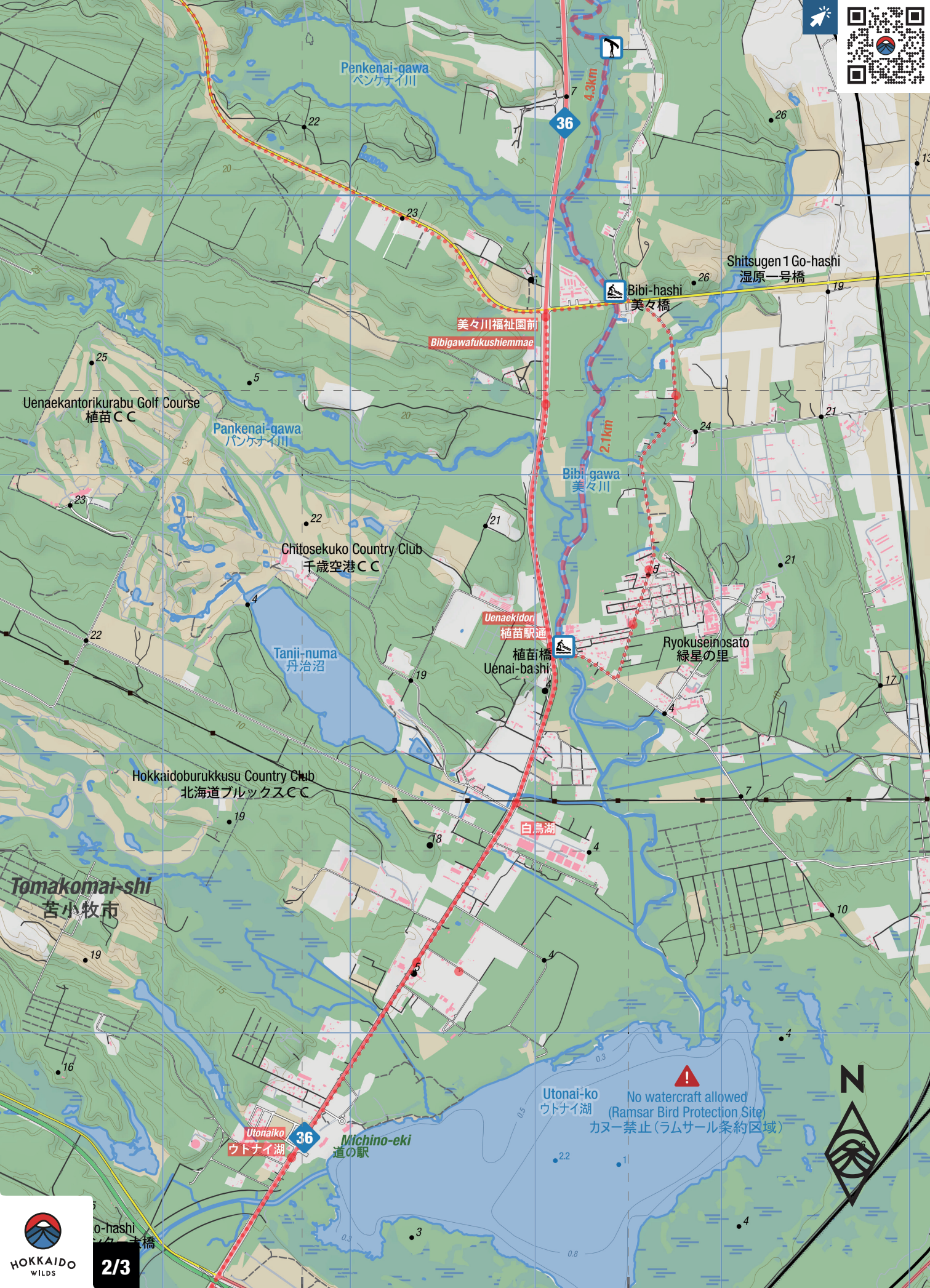
- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Route (flow) | | Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
| | National Highway | | Power transmission lines |
| | Prefectural Road | | Trees/shrubs |
| | Municipal Road | | Rocks/cliff |
| | Minor Municipal Road | | Onsen (hot spring) |
| | Walkway | | Fumerole |
| | Bus route (bus stop) | | Highway number |
| | Put in/out location | | Designated campsite |
| | Waterfall | | Hut |
| | Rapids | | Portage required |

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、同院発行の基礎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 縮尺図 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 |
|--------------|-------|------------|
| bashi/hashi | 橋 | bridge |
| 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 |





Bibi River



| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  2hrs Time |  0.33 Gradient (mpk) |  Class I Difficulty |
|  6.4km Distance |  4/5 Water clarity |  May-Oct Best season |

The Bibi River (美々川) is a beginner canoeist's dream. There's hardly any flow to speak of, and despite its proximity to a busy highway and an equally busy airport, it offers some compact wetlands that hide gorgeous snippets of nature at every turn. The Bibi River's reputation as a nice paddling river is evidenced by three purpose-made canoe ports along its length, complete with canoe-friendly plastic runners. For complete beginners, we recommend the section between the 2nd and 3rd canoe ports. For everyone else, the full route is a nice afternoon or morning adventure.

LOCATION

The Bibi River wends its way south from just east of Hokkaido's New Chitose Airport. There are three purpose-built canoe ports along the Bibi River. They all have large parking areas and public toilets. The canoe port furthest upstream is just before the Matsu-bibi Bridge (松美々橋), 750m along Route 10 off the main Route 36. The next canoe port is 4.3km downstream near the Bibi-bashi Bridge (美々橋), 500m along Route 129 off Route 36. The third and last canoe port is 2.1km downstream from the second one at the Bibi Tap-koppu

Water Park (美々川タップコップ親水公園).

If you're shuttling by bicycle, we'd recommend cycling along the back roads to the east of the river, as they are infinitely more quiet and relaxing than the busy Route 36 to the west.

GENERAL NOTES

The Bibi River was the first ever river Haidee and I did on canoes, about four years ago. With a group of friends, we had hired a guide and meandered for an hour between the second and third canoe ports. I didn't know it at the time, but it turns out the upper portion of the river is fun too – if you don't mind it being somewhat of a “canoe 4WDing route”, as Chris describes it. Between mid-June and late-September, the riverside grasses grow high and thick, leaving only just enough room for one canoe's width. There'll always be enough water in the river though, as it is spring-fed another 4km upstream.

Arguably, the best time to do this route would be late April to early June before the wetland grasses have had time to grow too thick, or in late autumn, once they've all died off (around late September to late October).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

The Bibi River is a slow-flowing river that is more akin to flatwater in places, so you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd be able to knock this route out in less than two hours. However, the upper half of the route is very narrow, requiring some degree of “grass paddling” as Deb put it; the grass is so thick on either side of the canoe-width river that fast paddling is not really possible. If you're doing the whole route, including bird-watching stops along the way, allowing up to 2.5hrs is the safe bet.

Put in at the upper-most canoe port and start the “bush-bashing” along the upper section of the river towards the second canoe port. After about 230m, you'll come across what appears to be a complete dead-end, but the river continues to the right – you'll need to squeeze past some low tree branches. Just look for the sawn-off tree trunk, and squeeze past to the right of that. From there, the river snakes and winds its way in a meandering fashion, only widening every now and then for pond-like features. Most of the way, the river is only wide enough for one canoe. It's only once you get to the fishing nets at the 2.5km point that the river starts widening out.

From June till September, impassible fishing nets across the width of the river after about 2km require a short 20m portage on the left-hand side of the river. Beyond the fishing nets, keep your eyes peeled in the river's many nooks and crannies for nesting whooper swans. In early summer, you'll also be treated to underwater flowers, and yellow lily-like flowers sticking up from the surface of the water.

From the second canoe port onwards, the river

has only a very slight flow, and a headwind will make the going tough. You'll likely be joined by curious whooper swans along this section. Beyond the third canoe port is Lake Utonai, about 4km further downstream. Lake Utonai is one of 52 Ramsar bird protection sites in Japan – watercraft are strictly prohibited. A large banner on the bridge next to the third canoe port alerts canoeists that canoes are prohibited from that point onwards. This section of the river beyond the third canoe port also has more fishing nets across the width of the river.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is plenty of parking at all of the three canoe ports.

Public transport | There are no public transport options to the start of the route, but a taxi from Minami-chitose JR train station to the Matsu-bibi Bridge canoe port will cost about 2,500yen. From the third and last canoe port at the Water Park, paddlers with a packraft could catch a bus from the Uenae-ekidori (植苗駅通) bus stop, here, to New Chitose Airport. From there, trains go to Sapporo City. There are about 12 buses per day, about one per hour (timetable here).

SAFETY NOTES

Note that there are very few escape routes on this river once you've set off from the canoe ports. Particularly the upper section of the river is mostly wetlands with very tall grass – make sure you have water, food, rain jackets, sunhats etc stowed. The route may take longer than you expect.

ONSEN HOTSPRINGS NEARBY

Tsuru-no-Yu Onsen (鶴の湯温泉, 500yen, here) is about 7km east along Route 10 from the upper-most canoe port. There's no outdoor baths, but there's a restaurant and lovely gardens and ponds out front. There's also the cheap and cheerful Fujiya Onsen (千歳乃湯, 420yen, here) in Chitose City. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, live water levels, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/bibi>



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

hokkaidowilds.org 2019/07/16

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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EXTRA DETAILS

Difficulty notes: Overall difficulty: 3/10 | Number of portages: 1 (20m) | Overall portage difficulty: 2/5 | Remoteness: 2/5
River Details: This route is on the Bibi River (美々川). The Hokkaido indigenous Ainu name for the river is Pet-Pet. This is a Class B () river, 18km in total length. This section of the river is between 3m and 15m wide, with a normal flow rate of around 0.1m/s to 0.5m/s. The gradient for this section of river is 0.3 mpk (1.58

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

