



Lake Shikaribetsu Overnight Canoe Tour

然別湖 Lake Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 19' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/07/26

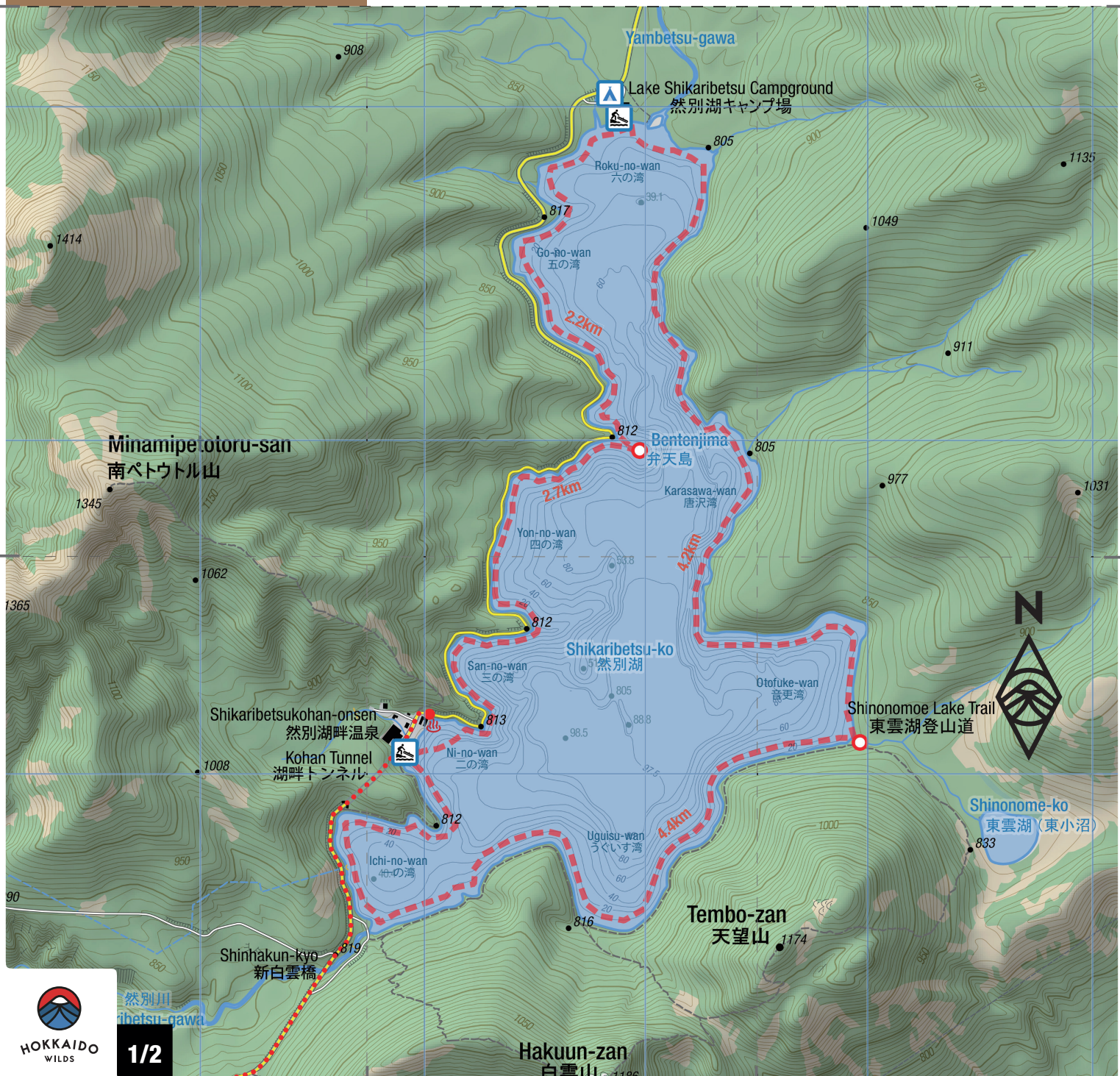
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 4km | Route (distance) | 600 | 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 縮尺の 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



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6hrs Time	13.5km Distance	5/10 Difficulty
2/5 Remoteness	4/5 Water clarity	Jun-Nov Best season

Lake Shikaribetsu (然別湖) is Hokkaido's highest altitude lake, nestled on the edge of the Daisetsuzan National Park at 810m. It's surrounded by native boreal forest. On the eastern shore, nakiusagi pikas will keep you company with their shrill squawks. Keep your eyes peeled to catch a glimpse of one. There's a basic but well-maintained campground at the northern end with a canoe landing. This makes Lake Shikaribetsu perfect for an easy overnight canoe trip.

LOCATION

The start and end of this route is at the canoe port in the main Shikaribetsu Lake settlement. The canoe port is easily accessed via a pedestrian-only ramp from the road. There is plenty of room for temporary parking on the roadside when packing/unpacking. Free overnight parking is behind the Nature Center, here, indicated by a large 'P' sign. There's also a large boat ramp at the southern end of the lake which would suffice too. The township canoe port is preferred, however, as it is very close to

the lake-view onsen.

GENERAL NOTES

In it's heyday, Lake Shikaribetsu was obviously a bustling tourist hub. Now, there's a mothballed hotel scarring the lake-front, and the racks upon racks of canoes and kayaks at the canoe port appear not to have been used in decades. But the area's draw-cards remain the same: a pristine high-altitude lake (by Hokkaido standards), gorgeous boreal forest, cute pika, and a beautiful lake-view onsen. For those who enjoy tripping in a canoe, it is one of the best overnight locations in Hokkaido. There's a road that runs alongside but above the western shoreline, but it is narrow and windy – any cars driving it are moving slow to avoid pedestrians.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

If you're doing this trip as an overnighter, the first day will be over before you know it – it's just a short 5km paddle along the lake's western shoreline, if hugging the shore the whole way. Make sure to make time for stopping in at Benten-jima Island, as it is closest to this western shore (about 100m). From the eastern shore, it is a more substantial 350m paddle to the island. The second day is more involved, with plenty of large bays and an optional hike thrown in for good measure – allow at least 4 hours on the second day to fit everything in.

Put in at the Lake Shikaribetsu settlement canoe port, and start paddling clockwise around the lake. Note that the tourist ferry leaves on the hour from 7am till 4pm. If you're setting off around these times, then you'd be best to wait till the ferry has departed before crossing the main settlement bay. All the main bays have names. The ones on the western side of the lake are numbered starting from the southern-most one – Ichi-no-wan, or Bay One. The main settlement bay is Ni-no-wan, or Bay Two. At the northern end of Yon-no-wan (Bay Four) is a small cape from which it is a 100m paddle to Benten-jima Island. From the island, it is another 2km or so to the campground canoe port. The approach to

the canoe port is shallow – we managed to get there without bottoming out...just. Beyond the campground, you'll be following the remote eastern shore, which has no walking track or road. Carry on about 4.5km along the shore and you'll come to Otofuke Bay. About 100m south of the small stream running into the lake is a trail from the lake to the main hiking trail. Look for the ropes tied to trees. The hike to Lake Shinonome is a 2km return trip (about 1hr). Lake Shinonome is within the Daisetsuzan National Park, and there's no access to the lake, so don't bother taking a canoe. From Otofuke Bay, it would be possible to cut across the lake directly back to the village, but the remainder of the shoreline is quite nice too, so it is worth completing the circuit.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is plenty of overnight parking in the free public carparking behind the Nature Center building. There's also parking at the large boat ramp at the far south end of the lake.

Public transport | The Lake Shikaribetsu township is accessible by public bus from Obihiro JR Station. Take the Hokkaido Takushoku Bus (北海道拓殖バス), Line 51, from the Obihiro Bus station. The trip will take about 1hr 45min and cost 1,650yen. See the route and details on Google Maps here: To the lake | From the lake. There are four buses per day going there (7:52am, 11am, 2:50pm, 4pm), and four returning (9:53pm, 1:13pm, 4:43pm, 6:18pm).

SAFETY NOTES

The main thing to keep aware of on Lake Shikaribetsu is that shoreline escapes are limited. There's no road on the eastern shoreline, and the road on the west is inaccessible for the most part. Also take care to keep out of the way of the tourist boat that sails on the hour from 7am till 4pm. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 2019/07/26

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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EXTRA DETAILS

Lake Details: This route is on Lake Shikaribetsu (然別湖), or Si-kari-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. The lake is a natural lake, about 1.7km wide and 3.6km long. Lake Shikaribetsu has a shoreline of 13.8km, a maximum depth of 108m and an average depth of 57.1m. Water clarity (visibility) is 19m, and surface elevation is 810m.

Campgrounds: *Lake Shikaribetsu Campground* - This campground sits at the northern end of the lake, with easy access via canoe. There's a canoe port at the lake right next to the campground. It's a basic campground, with the bare necessities, but it is well kept and the toilets are clean.

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

