



Shiribetsu River (Toyokuni to Sakae-bashi)

尻別川 (豊国) Packrafting Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 40' W

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

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

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

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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
bashi/hashibunkicho	橋分岐町	bridge junction town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koyahinangoya	小屋	hut
ike	避難小屋	shelter
kawa/gawakako	池	pond
ko/mizumi	火口	crater
kyo	湖	lake
numa	湖	lake
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
taira/dairatani/danitake	平谷滝峠	plateau valley pass
toge	峠	pass
yama/san/zan	山	mountain



Shiribetsu River

(Toyokuni to Sakae-bashi)



 2hrs Time	 1.96 Gradient (mpk)	 Class I Difficulty
 5.1km Distance	 2/5 Water clarity	 May-Nov Best season

The Shiribetsu River (尻別川) wends almost 130km from the Bifue Pass just west of Lake Shikotsu, around Yotei-zan and on to the Japan Sea. Choose your section, and it can be a playground for both hardcore paddlers and families alike. This section at the lower end of the river is arguably one of the most laid back sections of the river. At the start of this section is a hydro power station outlet, but this relatively exciting start is the sum total of the rapids you'll see, beyond some swifts further down. From this section downstream, paddlers can paddle all the way to ocean, 25km away. This 5km section, however, is a pleasant ~2hr paddle.

LOCATION

This section of the Shiribetsu River starts just upstream of central Rankoshi Town, in southwestern Hokkaido, west of Niseko. The put in location is about 2km upstream of the Toyokuni Bridge (豊国橋), just above the hydro electric power station outlet, here. There is parking for about four cars another 100m or so upstream, with



a trail cut through the undergrowth to the river. This area seems to be popular with anglers – one we spoke to told us he'd already caught two rainbow trout. The take out location is at the Sakae-bashi (栄橋), 5km downstream, here. It may be possible to drive a car down a 4WD track along the stopbanks, but this will depend on grass length. Otherwise, it is a short scramble up the stopbanks to the paved road. Make sure to park well to the side of the road.

GENERAL NOTES

This section of the Shiribetsu River doesn't feature largely in Japanese guidebooks I've read, but it was just down the road from Chris's place, and we were keen to try out the new packraft on a relatively mellow section of water. Chris had scoped out the hydro electric station's output as a possible put in location, and it turned out it was, at least at the water levels we had that day, a nice spot to practice ferry glides and eddy-ins and eddy-outs. The sum total of anything more than fast-flowing flatwater were a few swifts along the way.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

If you were in a hurry, this section of the Shiribetsu River could be knocked out in under an hour. If the conditions are right, however, some fun can be had surfing the hydro station outlet at the start of the route. The river banks and islands offer some bird watching opportunities too, so allow up to two hours to get the most out of it.

Park up just before the road gates upstream from the put in location. From a small parking area, large enough for about four cars, there'll be a cleared path through the undergrowth to the river. Depending on the water level, you'll likely need to walk along the shore for about 100m to the hydro electric station outlet – they take a whole lot of water out of the Shiribetsu upstream, and dump it back here. From there, it is simply a matter of following your nose downstream. There's nothing terribly challenging of note. On one occasion we needed to paddle back upstream for a few meters to avoid getting

stuck in the shallows where a fork in the river sent us into an ever-narrowing channel, with water being slowly filtered across a widening gravel bank. But even if we'd kept going, it would have simply meant we'd had to portage across a the gravel bank to the main flow again.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is parking for about 4-5 cars near the put in location. At the take out location, you'll need to park well to the side of the road and make sure not to block the dyke-top road.

Public transport | There's no public transport to the put in location, but a taxi from Rankoshi Station would be around 1,500yen. The same goes for the take-out location - no public transport, but a taxi will probably get you back to the Rankoshi train station for around 1,500yen.

SAFETY NOTES

As with all man-made water features on rivers, the hydro electric station outlet requires extreme caution. If in doubt, don't approach the outlet, and just scoot past on the right-hand side of the river.

ONSEN HOTSPRINGS NEARBY

The closest onsen to the end of the route would be the nice local Rankoshi Yusenka-ku Onsen, here (源泉閣, 500yen). ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

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EXTRA DETAILS

Difficulty notes: Overall difficulty: 3/10 | Number of portages: 0 | Remoteness: 2/5

River Details: This route is on the Shiribetsu River (尻別川). The Hokkaido indigenous Ainu name for the river is Shir-pet. This is a Class A (一級河川) river, 125km in total length. This section of the river is between 23m and 120m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 1.96 mpk (10.35 FPM).

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

