



Nipesotsu-yama Day Hike

ニペソツ山 Hiking Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 23' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/07/30

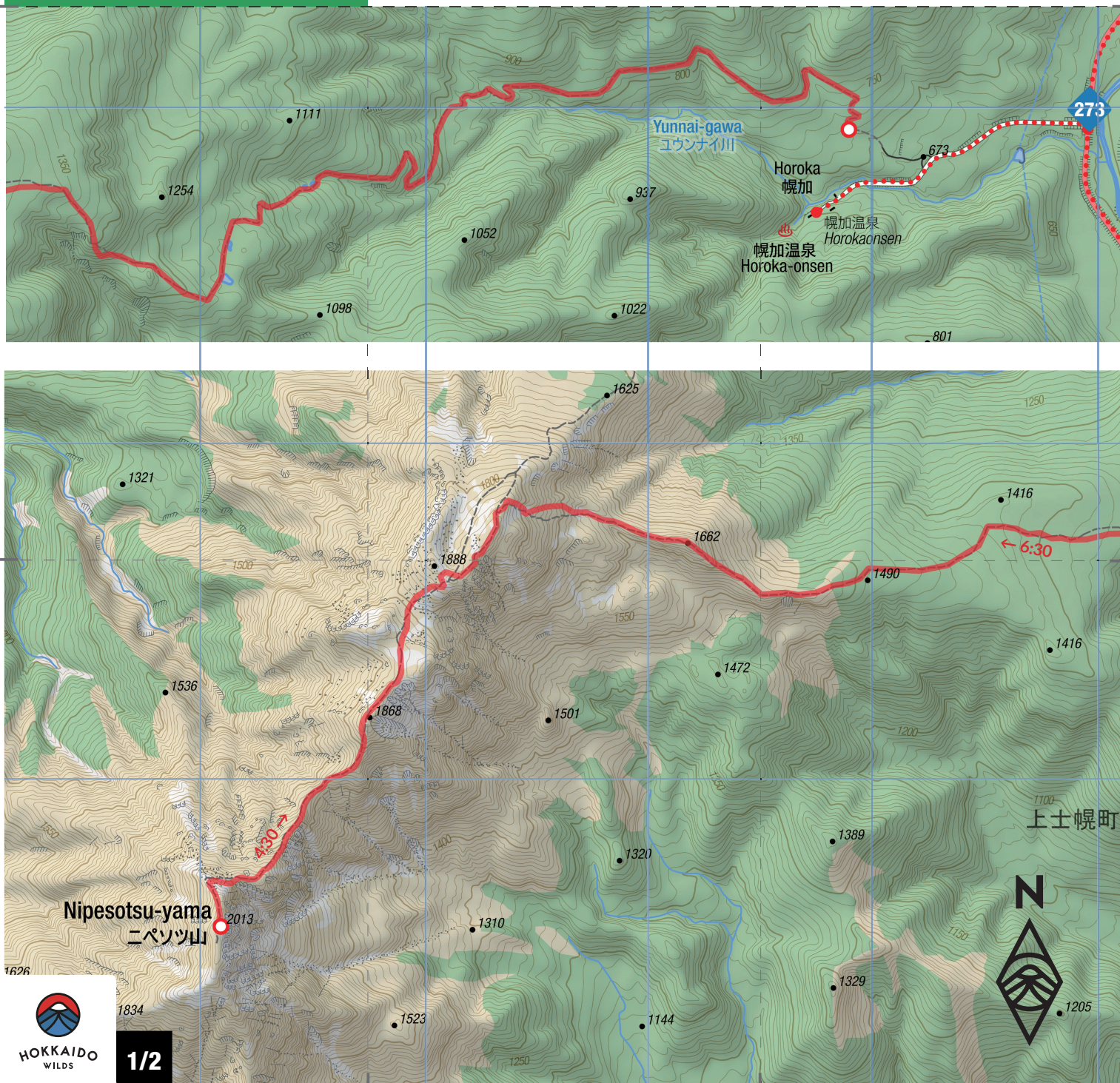
Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- 0:30 → Route (time between points)
- National Highway
- Prefectural Road
- Municipal Road
- Minor Municipal Road
- Walkway
- Bus route (bus stop)
- Contour lines (100m, 10m)
- Power transmission lines
- Trees/shrubs
- Rocks/cliff
- Onsen (hot spring)
- Fumerole
- Highway number
- Designated campsite
- Hut

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

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>).



Nipesotsu-yama Dayhike



11hrs Time	1562m Total Climb	2013m Highest point
23km Distance	8/10 Difficulty	Jun-Oct Best season

At 2013m, Nipesotsu-yama (ニペソツ山) is one of Hokkaido's highest mountains. It is also one of the finest – a jagged peak rising out of the surrounding forests, isolated, rugged and difficult to access. Fukada Kyuya, the mountain essayist who compiled the Hundred Famous Mountains of Japan (日本百名山), allegedly regretted not including it in his famous list. Since the approach to the main route was destroyed in the 2016 typhoons, the old route from Horoka Onsen (幌加温泉) has been reopened to make it possible as a long day out and back for a fit party. The remote primeval forest and isolated high alpine ridges are well worth the effort.

LOCATION

Nipesotsu-yama is off Route 273 which runs down the east side of the Daisetsusan massif, north of the onsen town of Nukabira at the northern end of the Tokachi Plain. This hike starts and finishes at about 700m elevation from a trailhead near Horoka Onsen, just off route 273 about 20km from Nukabira Onsen.

GENERAL NOTES

The Ainu name is Nipeshi-otsu (Nipeshi-ot) meaning 'many shinanoki trees'. Shinanoki is the Japanese lime, and is one of the trees used by the Ainu for its bark which provided fibre for making cloth.

The main summer route up the mountain used to be accessed by a forest road from Mitsumata (三股), but this was completely destroyed in the 2016 typhoons. A few hardy souls continued to battle the 6.5km to the old trailhead through a tangle of washed out riverbed and devastated forest, but life was made considerably easier when the largely disused Horoka Onsen trail was cleared and reopened in summer 2018. This is a long route, though, with a lot of climbing and requires fitness and an early start to complete before dark.

The main season for summer hiking on Nipesotsu is June into October; before and after this you need to be prepared and equipped for snow on the ground and/or falling from the sky. The nearest facilities are at Nukabira Onsen (糠平温泉), a small collection of lodgings with (extremely) hot springs and an ageing ski resort. There is a Youth Hostel (Tel: 0156 44 2004) and a campsite at the southern end of the village. It is also possible to stay at the isolated Horoka Onsen (幌加温泉湯本鹿の谷, Tel: 01564-4-2163) very near the trailhead.

ROUTE NOTES

The route is well defined throughout, newly cleared in 2018 and with new signposts (in Japanese). From the trailhead a short way up a forest road that branches off the surfaced road to Horoka Onsen, you climb gently up through mature forests for a few hours before emerging onto Shakunage Ridge (シャクナゲ尾根) at just over 1400m. Around here, if the visibility is good, you get your first spectacular view of the peak, but also realize that there is still a long way to go. The ridge narrows, and rises and falls till a final steep climb up to the main ridge at around 1800m after 1hr 30mins. The original trail joins around here from the right. From here turn left (SW) and follow the broad ridge through high alpine landscape to the plateau of Tengudaira (天狗平). There may be a toilet booth here, but you'll still need to pack out your waste. Carry on to Tengudake (天狗岳, 1868m) in 30-40 mins. From here there is a long drop down into a col followed by another stiff pull up an increasingly narrow ridge with a steep drop on the left, to the summit at 2013m after another hour or so. The return along the same route should take 4 to 5 hours.

ROUTE TIMING

About 6.5hrs up, and 4.5hrs down.

TRANSPORT

By car: Easy road access from Route 273. Take the signposted road left off Route 273 to Horoka Onsen, about 15km north of Nukabira if



coming from the south. The trailhead is a couple of km or so up a signposted gravel forest road that branches off right a short way before the onsen. There is parking for a number of cars.

Public transport: Tokachi Bus (Tel : 0155 23 5171) runs four buses a day from the Obihiro Bus Terminal to Nukabira Onsen. From there a taxi would be necessary to get to the trailhead. An express bus, the North Liner Mikuni-go (ノースライナー三国号) runs between Asahikawa and Obihiro once a day in each direction (10.30 from Asahikawa, 14.30 from Obihiro), stopping en route at the end of the road to Horoka Onsen at 12.50 and 15.52 respectively. From there it is a few minute's walk up the road. Contact either Dohoku Bus (Asahikawa) on 0166 23 4161 or Takushoku Bus (Obihiro) on 0155 31 8811.

SAFETY NOTES

This route traverses exposed alpine terrain and can be a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear. Like all high mountain terrain in Hokkaido it is bear country so take the usual precautions.

ONSEN NEARBY

This is a long route requiring fitness and an early start to finish before dark. The overall height gain is over 1300m, but in reality you climb much more given the ups and downs. Take enough food and especially water. The route traverses exposed alpine terrain and can be a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear. Like all high mountain terrain in Hokkaido it is bear country so take the usual precautions. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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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

