



Ishikari River Mouth Canoeing

石狩川口 River Touring 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 2019/08/09

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Route (distance) | | 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 種生図 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
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



Ishikari River Mouth Canoeing

 4hrs Time	 0.1 Gradient (mpk)	 Class I Difficulty
 12km Distance	 1/5 Water clarity	 Jul-Nov Best season

The mouth of the Ishikari River (石狩川) is somewhat of a paradox. On the one hand, it teems with wildlife and flora, including white-tailed eagles, herons, wild flowers, and an expansive area of wild Japanese roses (with the largest rosehips you'll ever see). Paddling along the shoreline, you'll be chasing massive carp as they splash about around you. On the other hand, the Ishikari is one of Hokkaido's most polluted rivers - with the second-largest catchment area of any river in Japan, and as Hokkaido's longest river, expectations should be kept in check. That said, this wind-swept end-of-the world area is well worth exploring on the water.

LOCATION

This route is a loop of the Ishikari River mouth, about 20km north of central Sapporo City. The route starts at a well-used boat ramp at the confluence of the Makunbetsu River (真幌別川) and the Ishikari River. You'll likely be sharing the boat ramp with pleasure boats and jetskis.

GENERAL NOTES

The mighty and powerful Ishikari River.

The water in this great waterway has made its way here to the sea all the way from the pristine gorges of the Daisetsuzan mountain range, across fertile agricultural plains, and past ageing factories. As such, you don't paddle this route for the water per se, but for the chaotic convergence of a mighty river with the mighty Japan Sea, and all the wildlife and flora that this inhospitable environment stows away from human eyes. The only way to get to the western side of the Ishikari River mouth is on foot (or fat-bike in the winter at low tide), so this really feels like a barren and wind-swept, remote location.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Including time to wander around the tip of the Ishikari Spit, it's best to allow about three hours for paddling, and an hour for walking - about four hours all up. Allow more time than you expect, as currents can be strong, slowing progress considerably.

Put in at the boat ramp and head towards the river mouth, keeping to the left bank. Along the way you'll pass the Ishikari fishing port, which is an alternative put in location for a shorter trip. From about 2km out from the river mouth, you'll notice some confused currents further out in the central channel. Keep to the left bank to avoid this. About 750m from the river mouth, you'll come across a wide sandy beach. Currents and waves can get confusing and dangerous any further downstream from here, so we recommend pulling up sooner rather than later and walking the rest of the way to the coast. Do not attempt to paddle out to sea from the river mouth.

It's possible to walk right around the point on the beach - just make sure to cross the hamanasu Japanese roses on the official track. The track entrances are fairly well defined. There is a nice shady pagoda and a surprisingly clean public port-a-loo along the way.

Assuming you've timed your return right, it is possible to return to the boat ramp via the opposite side of the river. If the current is strong, we recommend returning on the same side as you came - if possible, avoid crossing the river. On this opposite side of the river is a small inlet pond with plenty of birdlife.

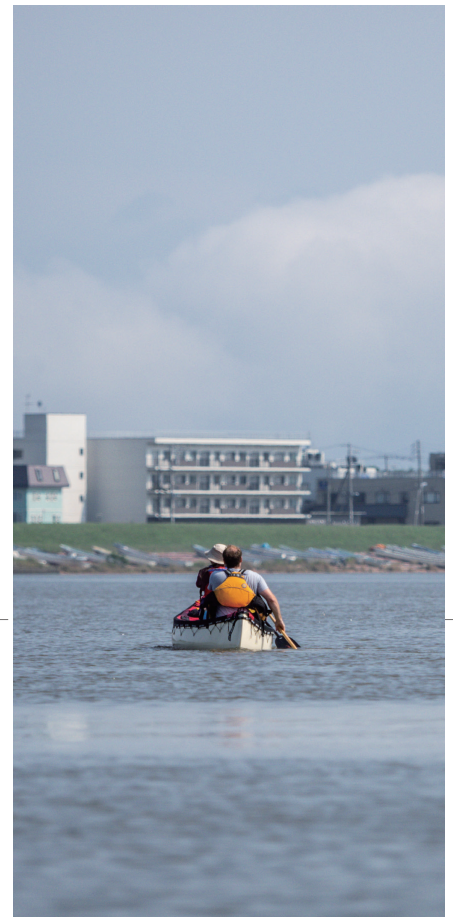
TRANSPORT

By car | There is plenty of parking at the boat ramp.

Public transport | It is possible to get within about 1km of the boat ramp by bus from Sapporo Station. In this case, it may make more sense to take the bus all the way to the settlement on the Ishikari Spit, and put in at the fishing port.

SAFETY NOTES

The most objective dangers on this route are the wind and the tidal currents. Windless days are few and far between, and there is very little shelter from the wind even when hugging the shoreline at high tide. Check the weather, and



consider a different river if the forecast is for anything much more than 10km/h. Tidal currents coupled with the natural flow of the mighty Ishikari River can form high standing waves. Best to time the trip for a couple of hours either side of high or low tide. Do not attempt to paddle out to sea from the river mouth. When within 1km of the river mouth, keep to the left bank - the central channel can develop unpredictable standing waves. Also note that during the snow melt season (late March to late May), as well as after heavy rain, the river's flow will be extremely strong - paddlers will be next to powerless, and will be quickly taken out to sea. Do not attempt this route in high water conditions.

ONSEN NEARBY

The nearest onsen is the Banya-no-Yu Onsen (番屋の湯, 650yen), on the Ishikari Spit. In fact, if paddlers pull their canoes up at the fishing port, it's only a 300m walk to the onsen, right on the seaside coast. ■

EXTRA DETAILS

River Details: This route is on Ishikari River (石狩川), or I-sikar-a-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 365km in total length. This section of the river is between 200m and 700m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 0.1 mpk (0.53 FPM).

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 2019/08/09

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Welldonegan

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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.

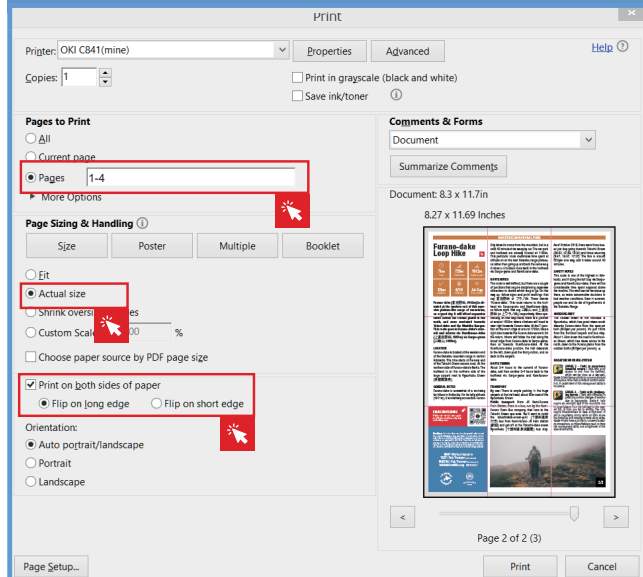


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

