



# Asahidake Steam-vent Touring

旭岳地獄谷 Ski Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 29' W

Map by [hokkadowilds.org](http://hokkadowilds.org)/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time between points)		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	National Highway		Power transmission lines
	Prefectural Road		Trees/no trees
	Municipal Road		Rocks/cliff
	Minor Municipal Road		Onsen (hot spring)
	Walkway		Fumerole
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
			Designated campsite
			Hut

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、同院発行の基盤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 植生図 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
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



# Asahidake Steam-vents



1.5hrs Time	165m Total Climb	1780m Highest point
6.6km Distance	2.5/10 Difficulty	Dec-May Best season

**Asahidake (旭岳 - 2,291m), Hokkaido's highest mountain, is an active volcano. In winter when the weather isn't blowing a gale, and the skies are clear, it is possible to wander relatively freely around the fumaroles, at around 1,700m. The route outlined here starts at the top of the Asahidake Ropeway. If you'd but if you'd rather skin or snowshoe up from the bottom of the ropeway, just follow the Asahidake downhill ski course B, marked on the descent of the route on this page - it will take about 1.5 hours or so.**

## LOCATION

This route starts at the Sugatami Station at the top of the Asahidake Ropeway, in central Hokkaido, about 40km east of Asahikawa City.

## GENERAL NOTES

This route is a very leisurely wander around the fumarole areas near the top of the Asahidake Ropeway. If the weather is good, consider boot-packing up to the top of Asahidake as well, although this will add

a solid 5 hours to the trip time. It is also a very hard-packed, icy route, so consider carrying crampons and hiring a guide. Overall, avalanche and exposure risk can increase exponentially in this area if the weather turns. Do not take this 'easy' route lightly – people have and do regularly die here.

**Equipment:** As noted below, temperatures with windchill can drop well below -20°C here – dress appropriately. Snow can be deep and soft – snowshoes or skis are essential. Travel with a navigation device of some sort – a smartphone pre-loaded with maps, for example (and make sure to know how to use it).

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

The 1.5hrs posted here assumes you've taken the ropeway up the mountain, and are starting from the top of the ropeway. Set aside about an hour for wandering around the fumaroles, and then about 30 minutes for skiing down the Asahidake ski area. If you want to ski/snowshoe up the mountain from the bottom of the ropeway, add another 2.5hrs, for a total of at least 4-5hrs.

This route is not marked. In winter, skiers and snowshoers need to assume they'll be navigating on their own. Head due east from the Sugatami Station at the top of the ropeway, and in about 20 minutes you'll arrive at the Asahidake Ishimuro Stone Hut. This hut is not open in winter (although there is a second story window entry for emergencies only). From here, you'll see the closest fumarole steam vent. Beyond that steam vent, follow your nose up a few hundred meters into the Jigoku-dani (地獄谷), to peruse the other fumaroles. Be aware of sudden changes in weather and/or wind direction.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is ample parking at the base of the Asahidake Ropeway.

**Public transport:** The Asahidake Ropeway is accessible by the public Ideyu-go bus (いでゆ号) from Asahikawa Station, via Asahikawa Airport and Higashikawa Township. See the timetable at the very bottom of the Asahidake Ropeway website here: <http://asahidake.hokkaido.jp/en/>.

## SAFETY NOTES

When the weather is nice, or even only slightly nice, it can be very easy to be complacent on this route. This is probably because of the sheer accessibility of the area via the ropeway. You'll likely see tourists in sneakers and jeans bracing against the cold for a quick selfie near the ropeway station. The reality is that the top of the ropeway is at 1600m, which is well within serious mountaineering territory. In winter, with windchill, it can easily get down to below -20degC. Even with no snow forecast, high



winds will cause whiteout conditions very quickly. Make conservative decisions in the high mountains of Hokkaido.

People can get completely and hopelessly lost even a few hundred meters from the ropeway top station if the weather turns, so only venture out in good visibility conditions with a good forecast. We've attempted this route in the past and only got a few hundred meters from the ropeway station before turning back due to high wind and snow – when it is snowing hard and the wind is up, your tracks in the snow can disappear in minutes.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The bottom of the ropeway is in Asahidake Onsen village. Yukoman Onsen (勇駒温泉) was nice (800yen per person).■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2019/09/23

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

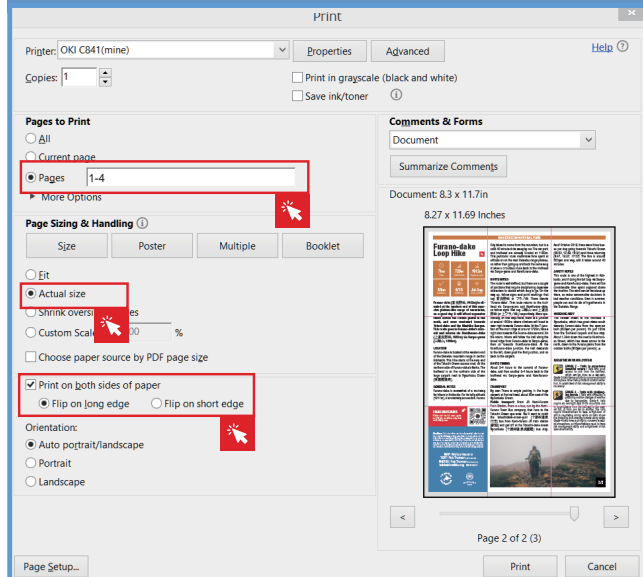


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

