



Chubetsu Lake Canoe Route

忠別湖 Lake Touring Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 31' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/09/06

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/hashibunkicho	橋分岐町	bridge junction town
dake/mineeki	岳/峯駅	peak station
goya/koyahinangoya	小屋避難小屋	hut shelter
ike	池	pond
kawa/gawakako	川火口	river crater
ko/mizumikiyo	湖峡沼	lake gorge
numa	沼	pond
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
taira/dairatani/danitake	平谷滝峠	plateau valley pass
togeyama/san/zan	峠山	mountain



Chubetsu Lake Canoeing



3hrs Time	8.5km Distance	4/10 Difficulty
2/5 Remoteness	2/5 Water clarity	Jun-Oct Best season

Lake Chubetsu (忠別湖) sits at the headwaters of Chubetsu River, in the foothills of Hokkaido's highest mountain, Asahidake. The lake itself is one of Hokkaido's newest, formed by the Chubetsu Dam 13 years ago. On a good day with plenty of water, views up to the Daisetsuzan Range can be breathtaking. The lake is popular for canoeing events such as Montbell's Sea to Summit event, and has a convenient artificial beach with easy access. If you're spending a few days in Higashikawa or the surrounding area, it is worth a paddle - kayaks are available for hire at the Higashikawa information center.

LOCATION

Chubetsu Lake is a lake sitting on the border of Higashikawa Town and Biei Town on the northeastern side of the Daisetsuzan Range in central Hokkaido, just south of Asahikawa City. The most straight forward access to the lake for canoeing is from the Shinsui Park at the northeastern end of the lake on the Higashikawa Town side. There are flights of steps as well as a wheelchair accessible ramp down to the beach.

GENERAL NOTES

Chubetsu Dam is somewhat of an enigma. Its setting is magnificently dramatic. On a clear day the Daisetsuzan Range towers over the lake in the distance, and the lake is surrounded by dense forest, particularly on the Higashikawa Town side. The dam itself serves a noble purpose - protecting the lower-lying populated areas from flood damage, generating renewable electricity, and providing irrigation and drinking water. On the other hand, as a multi-purpose dam, the lake level is often kept relatively low - this allows for storage capacity when heavy flood-prone rains come. When the lake level is lower than 100% full, the exposed lake-edge rock and shoreline, with the tangled roots of severed tree trunks clinging to the rocks, can be somewhat of a mixed-emotion reminder of what lies beneath the surface of these artificial lakes after we've drowned the valley. That said, as far as artificial lakes go in Hokkaido, Chubetsu Lake is a nice one. Besides the view of the Daisetsuzan National Park mountains, shorelines are clean and free of sediment, and the braided Chubetsu River runs relatively steeply and unencumbered into the lake at the far eastern end.

Canoe rental: Sit-on kayaks and canoes can be rented from the Higashikawa Information Center.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect to take between two and three hours to complete the full circuit around the lake. We paddled around the circumference of the lake in an anti-clockwise direction, because we had a brisk westerly breeze blowing and wanted to get the headwind paddling out of the way, for a leisurely tailwind paddle back on the opposite side of the lake. We felt that the best scenery along the shoreline of the lake was on the northern side of the lake. This side drops steeply into the lake, with interesting exposed rock and plenty of trees. That said, the southern side of the lake had a few more shallow spots that ducks and other birds seemed to like. Unlike many other dams in Hokkaido, it's possible to paddle right up to the large earthen dam at the far western

end of the lake. At the eastern end, make sure to paddle up to where the Chubetsu River flows into the lake. This impressive mass of gravel and rocks is an amazing testament to the river's wild roots.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is ample parking at the put in location at Shinsui Park.

Public transport | The put in location at the Shinsui Park on the Higashikawa Town side of the lake is not accessible by public transport. However, if you've got a packraft or similar packable canoe, it is possible to take the Asahidake Ideyugo Bus from the Higashikawa Information Center (ひがしかわ道草館) to the Kokuritsukoen-iriguchi Bus Stop (国立公園入口), which is about a 1km walk to the lake via the Bokyo Park (望郷公園). There's an overgrown gravel access road to the lake, here. There may be some clambering over driftwood required. The timetable for the Ideyugo Bus is at the very bottom of this Asahidake Ropeway page. As of September 2019, buses from the Higashikawa Information Center, bound for Asahidake Ropeway, left the information center at 8:06am, 10:36am, 2:06pm, and 6:36pm. The trip to the Kokuritsukoen-iriguchi Bus Stop takes about 20 minutes. For the return, as of September 2019, buses left the Kokuritsukoen-iriguchi Bus Stop bound for the Higashikawa Information Center at 9:50am, 12:20pm, 3:50pm, and 6:20pm.

SAFETY NOTES

Like all lakes, take care to check weather forecasts, and avoid the lake in high wind. Escape routes from the lake are limited in places, due to high shore-line slopes. Make sure to tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back.

ONSEN NEARBY

If heading back to Higashikawa Town, Hanakagura (森のゆ ホテル花神楽, 650yen) is on the western side of Chubetsu River - they have a good selection of baths, including good outdoor baths. Of course, about 20 minutes drive up the mountain will get you to the Asahidake Onsen area, with a number of good onsen to choose from. Our pick of the bunch is Yukoman Onsen (湯元 湧駒荘, 800yen), with their massive, cathedral-like high-ceiling wood-on onsen complex. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 2019/09/06

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 3) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"



EXTRA DETAILS

Lake Details: This route is on Chubetsu Lake (忠別湖). The lake is a dam lake, about 1.2km wide and 4km long. It has a shoreline of 9km and a maximum depth of 80m. The lake is at 407m above sea level.

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

