



Eastern Lake Shikotsu Overnight Canoeing

支笏湖 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 2019/09/25

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 縮小図 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/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koyahinangoya	小屋 避難小屋	hut shelter
ike	池	pond
kawa/gawakako	川 火口	river crater
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
kyo	峡	gorge
numa	沼	pond
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
taira/dairatani/danitake	平 谷 滝	plateau valley pass
toge	峠	pass
yama/san/zan	山	mountain



Eastern Lake Shikotsu Overnight Canoeing



2 days Time	17km Distance	4/10 Difficulty
3/5 Remoteness	5/5 Water clarity	May-Oct Best season

This easy, short overnight canoe camping trip on Lake Shikotsu (支笏湖) is one of the best quick overnight canoe trips you can do in the Sapporo area. With super easy access from central Sapporo City, it offers crystal clear lake-side paddling, stunning underwater ledges, deep forest, and a great sandy beach campground. There's also an inspiring moss corridor (苔の回廊) just around the lake from the campground. Directly accessible from the lake, a 2-hour leisurely stroll allows access to one of the best attractions on Tarumae-zan and Fuppushi-dake's vast and interesting volcanic flanks.

LOCATION

This route is on the south-eastern edge of Lake Shikotsu in southern Hokkaido, about 40km south of Sapporo City central. The put in for the route is at the lower car park at the Lake Shikotsu Village. Access to this car park costs 500yen – paddlers will need to pay at the upper car park to receive a card to open the entrance gate.

GENERAL NOTES

We'd rate this trip as an absolute classic for canoeists wanting a quick and easy overnight canoe camping trip near Sapporo City. Morappu Campground is perfectly accessible by car, but there's something special about paddling an hour around the lake and arriving at the campground in style – by canoe with all the camping gear you need in your boat. To make this trip a little bit more interesting, we've added on a short hike up to the spectacular Moss Corridor (苔の回廊). This is also accessible by car and a short walk along the main road, but since you're in your canoe, accessing the area directly from the water adds something extra.

Lake Shikotsu climate: Lake Shikotsu is an enormous lake, with its own unique and often dangerous wind and climate patterns. As with all canoe travel on Lake Shikotsu, check the weather before setting out, and always make conservative decisions.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

It's only 3.5km from Lake Shikotsu Village to Morappu Campground, so expect this short section of paddling to take less than 1 hour. From there, expect another 20 minutes of paddling to the moss gorge entrance on the lake. To really take the moss gorge in, we'd recommend allowing a very leisurely 2 hours of walking.

Put in at the lower car park at the Lake Shikotsu Village. From there, paddle about 100m upstream along the Chitose River to get to the lake. Turn left and start heading south along the lake shore towards Morappu Campground. This section of shoreline is well known for its great views of Tarumae-zan and Fuppushi-dake, as well as some spectacular underwater ledges. At one moment you're paddling in about 2m of water, the next you're floating above over 70m of water.

Before long, you'll arrive at Morappu Campground. Check-in is from 1pm. If you arrive before 1pm, carry on around the lake to the Moss Corridor entrance. For the most part, the route up to the Moss Corridor is easy to follow – from the lake, the Moss Corridor proper starts after about 1km of walking along a wide sandy gully. You'll know you're in the Corridor because you'll be walking along a narrow gorge with towering moss-covered walls. At around 2km from the lake shore, the Corridor is completely blocked by rockfall. There's a very steep, rope-assisted scramble up a side-gully to get around this. The Corridor carries on for another 1km or so beyond this. The return consists simply of retracing one's steps and paddle strokes back to Lake Shikotsu Village.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is ample parking at the lower car park in Lake Shikotsu Village. Access to this car park costs 500yen – paddlers will need to pay at the upper car park to receive a card to open the



entrance gate. If your Japanese is rusty, just gesture to your canoe to the parking attendants, say "shita no paakingu" (下のパーキング – lower parking) and they'll probably get the idea that you want to get access to the lower parking area.

Public transport | Lake Shikotsu Village is accessible by public transport. Buses run from Chitose JR Train Station 4-6 times a day, with the earliest leaving the station at 8:51am (see online route guide for timetable link). The trip takes about 45 minutes, and costs 930yen one way. The bus stop at Lake Shikotsu Village is about 10 minutes walk from the lake edge.

SAFETY NOTES

As mentioned above, Lake Shikotsu is known for strong and unpredictable wind at times. For this reason, we don't recommend paddling very far from the shore on Lake Shikotsu, particularly when paddling a Canadian canoe – the shoreline has all the more spectacular scenery anyway. Check the weather before setting off, and avoid paddling on Lake Shikotsu when the forecast is for high winds. Escape from the lake is limited for the duration of the 3.5km paddle from the village to Morappu Campground.

ONSEN NEARBY

For cheap-and-cheerful, try the Kyuka-no-Mura Shikotsuko (休暇の村支笏湖) here. They don't have an outdoor bath, but they're open later (till 5pm) than any other onsen in the area. For something more upmarket, Mizu-no-Uta's (水の歌) 2,000yen buffet lunch plus onsen set is a pretty good deal. ■

EXTRA DETAILS

Lake Details: This route is on Lake Shikotsu (支笏湖), or Si-Kot in the Ainu indigenous language. The lake is a natural lake, about 7.8km wide and 12km long. It has a shoreline of 40km and a maximum depth of 363m (265.4m average). The lake is at 246m above sea level and water visibility is 17.5m.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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

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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

