



Kitoushi-yama Forest Walk

岐登牛山 Hiking Map 1:25000

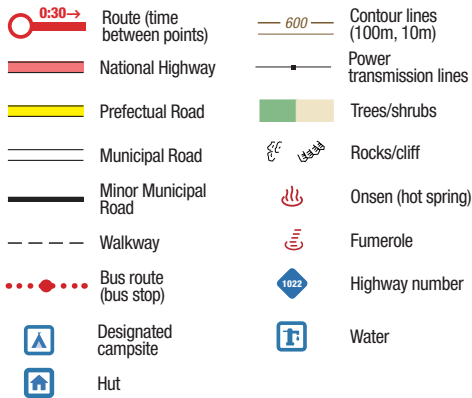


0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 34' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/09/14

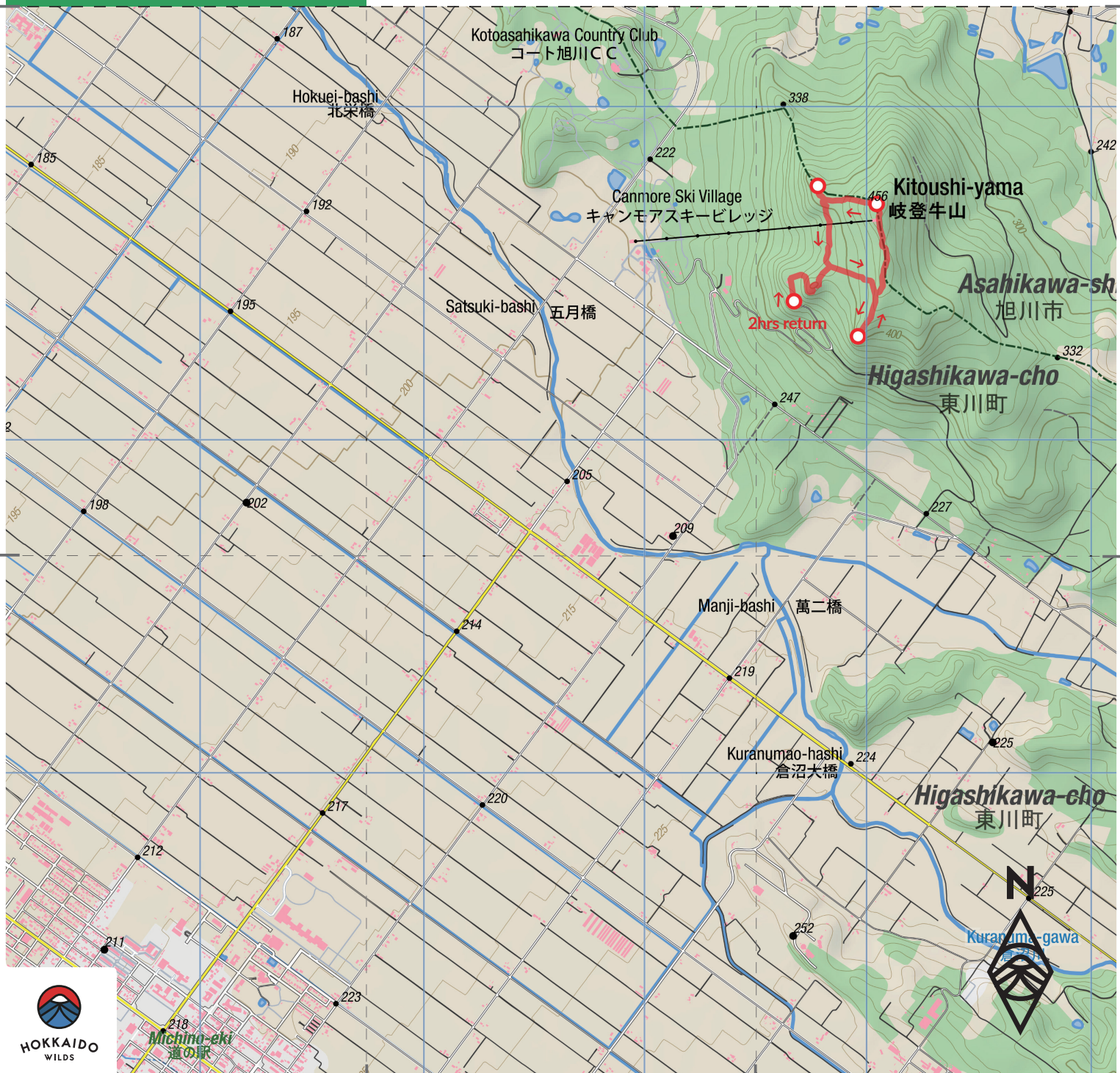
Symbol Key (some may not be present)



Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak 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>).



Kitoushi-yama Forest Walk



2hrs
Time



102m
Total Climb



457m
Highest point



2.8km
Distance



3/10
Difficulty



Jun-Oct
Best season

Kitoushi-yama (岐登牛山, 457m) and the surrounding Kitoushi Forest Park is a real hidden gem in Higashikawa. Compact in size, the short sub-3km walk around the various lookout points packs in expansive views across to the Higashikawa plains, beautiful rock formations, deep woods, moss, wide vistas over the ski field, and of course the curious modern-day traditional Japanese building. It makes for an easily accessible side-trip when visiting Higashikawa for the more serious alpine offerings further south in the Daisetsuzan National Park.

LOCATION

Kitoushi-yama is about 5km northeast of Higashikawa Town central, just south of Asahikawa City in central Hokkaido. There's a couple of trailheads, either at the very bottom of the hill, or part way up, accessed from the parking area at the end of a lovely paved road. We opted to start the hike from the upper trailhead, but almost immediately regretted it – the forest between the lower trailhead and upper trailhead looks absolutely gorgeous, with lots of *shirakaba* white birch.

GENERAL NOTES

We're pretty certain that even the local



tourist association doesn't realize what a gem they have in Kitoushi-yama. Tucked away in a far northeastern corner of Higashikawa Town, it doesn't feature much in tourist information. This is understandable, considering that Higashikawa Town also encompassed the towering bulk of Asahidake – Hokkaido's highest peak. Kitoushi-yama is also home to the local ski area, which initially put us off – we weren't particularly interested in wandering around a bare, man-made grassy slope. But Kitoushi-yama, a modest hill surrounded by the Kitoushi Forest Park, offered inspiring views of the rice-growing region of Higashikawa, curious rock formations, and a real feeling of separation from the world when walking along the forest-lined walking trails.

Kitoushi Tenbo-kaku: Hikers will not miss the somewhat incongruous castle-like building near the upper parking lot. This three-story traditional Japanese-style building was built in 1975, and sits at 370m in altitude. Entry is free, and it offers great views from the top balcony. This building is closed in winter.

Trail condition: The trail is mostly well kept, but there are some rocky sections and steps to navigate.

ROUTE NOTES

There isn't really much climbing involved in this route – just some minor ups and downs. Bank on about 1.5 to 2 hours to complete the full circuit.

As mentioned above, there are a couple of options for hiking Kitoushi-yama and the Kitoushi Forest Park area. If starting from the lower parking area, walk up the road to the trailhead about 200m up the road. If starting from the upper parking area, head up the stone stairs past the castle and take a right, to start climbing up into the forest right away. It is possible to walk straight northeast from the castle along a faint 4WD trail directly to the ski area, but a few of the hiking junction signs along the hiking trail seem to assume hikers will be going in an anti-clockwise direction – going in the opposite direction will give you signs telling you where you came from, but not which direction to go next. The trail is mostly well defined through the forest, and the two main viewpoints – the Southern and Northern viewpoints – will require a short backtrack to get back to the main trail. When crossing the ski field, the trail disappears completely, so you'll need

to follow your nose to some extent.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is ample parking at the lower and upper car parks.

Public transport: There are no public transport access options for this route, but the Higashikawa Tourist Information Center rents out bicycles, including e-bikes, for very reasonable rates. It is about 7km from the information center to the upper trailhead. Hire an e-bike for 1,000yen, and you could be at the trailhead in less than 30 minutes.

SAFETY NOTES

Kitoushi-yama is a perfect low-altitude hill to explore when the weather has otherwise scuttled plans for the higher alpine routes around Asahidake. This walk would be fun even in driving rain (with a good waterproof jacket). The only bit that might increase anxiety levels is crossing the ski field – the trail disappears completely, so you'll want to have some form of navigation. In the worst case scenario, hikers could just walk down the ski field, which would take them to the main lower park area.

ONSEN NEARBY

Our recommended bathing for this route is the Kitoushi Kogen Hotel (キトウシ高原ホテル, 600yen). They don't have a natural onsen, but their claim to fame is that the water for their hot baths is sourced from the natural spring water of the Daisetsuzan National Park. There's no outdoor bathing area, but it's a nice enough spot for a post-hike soak, very close to the lower trailhead. ■



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2019/09/14

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

