

#### **CENTRAL HOKKAIDO**

# Niseikaushuppe-yama Dayhike



Driving east along Route 39 to Sounkyo, the imposing mass of the Daisetsuzan massif rears up on your right, but my eye is always drawn left to the pointed peak of Niseikaushuppe-yama ニセイカウシュ ッペ山 on the other side of the dramatic gorge. Only a couple of hundred meters lower at 1879m, it is the highest point in the Kita-Daisetsu range. Often overlooked in favour of the broad volcanic landscapes of their more famous neighbours, these hills are much quieter and have a completely different character with forested slopes and alpine ridges, some narrow and rocky. Niseikaushuppe-yama is the queen of the range with broad views over to Daisetsuzan, and its west ridge makes a fine day walk.

### LOCATION

Niseikaushuppe-yama is the highest peak in the Kita-Daisetsu range of mountains in central Hokkaido, north of Sounkyo 層雲峡. This hike starts and finishes at a trailhead about 1140m elevation, 13km up a gravel forest road (with a locked gate) off Route

### ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 aporeciated.

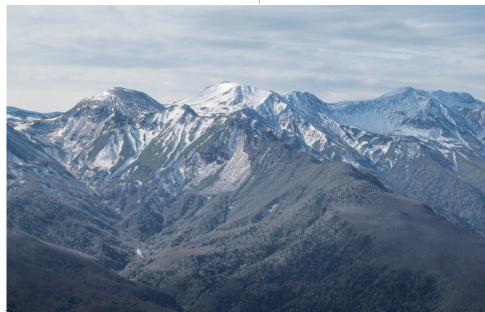
### TEXT, PHOTOS | Rick Siddle MAP | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2019/09/26

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Welldonegan

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273 just past Kamikawa 上川.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

The splendid Ainu name Niseykauspe means *mountain above the sheer cliffs*, as befits its position above the Sounkyo gorge. The summer hiking season is from mid-June into October. The road to the trailhead is accessed by a locked gate 2.5 km up the forest road from the turn off Route 273. The combination to the lock can be obtained from the Kamikawa Forestry Office 上川林業事務所 01658-2-2001 (though you cannot assume English will be spoken). The nearest facilities are in the small town of Kamikawa 上川町.

### **ROUTE NOTES**

Expect about 2hrs 45mins from the trailhead to summit, and then just over 2 hours back down.

From the trailhead at 1137m the route follows the west ridge out and back. It is well defined, first through forest, then low scrub birch, sasa dwarf bamboo and haimatsu dwarf pines nearer the top. There are no official trail junctions though traces of a now disused path branch off right just beyond the subsidiary peak of Oyari 大槍, and there is another faint track along the east ridge towards Himanayama, but the main trail is always obvious. The ridge rises steadily and narrows as you ascend, and the views become more dramatic, especially near the subsidiary peaks of Oyari 大 棺 and Koyari 小槍 on the narrow ridge joining from the right at around 1800m. From here the path curves left around the head of the valley up to the main summit. Return by the same trail.

### TRANSPORT

**By car:** If coming from the west, take the signposted (in Japanese) turning right off Route 273 a few km past Kamikawa. After passing under the expressway the forest road continues for 2km to another signed junction where you turn right. The locked gate is 500m beyond this. Continue another 10.5 km to the trailhead and a large parking area.

Public transport: There is no public transport

access.

### SAFETY NOTES

The route traverses exposed alpine terrain and can be a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear. Like all high mountain terrain in Hokkaido it is bear country so take the usual precautions.

### **ONSEN NEARBY**

There are no onsen near the trailhead. If heading west there is the rustic Kyowa Onsen 共和温泉 just north of the small town of Aibetsu 愛別町.■



# 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 achive 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

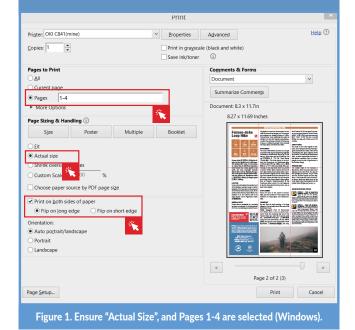
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

### 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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

