

Upper Shiribetsu River (Kimobetsu to Kyogoku)

尻別川 (上) River Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 38' W

Map by hokkadowilds.org/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/09/04

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

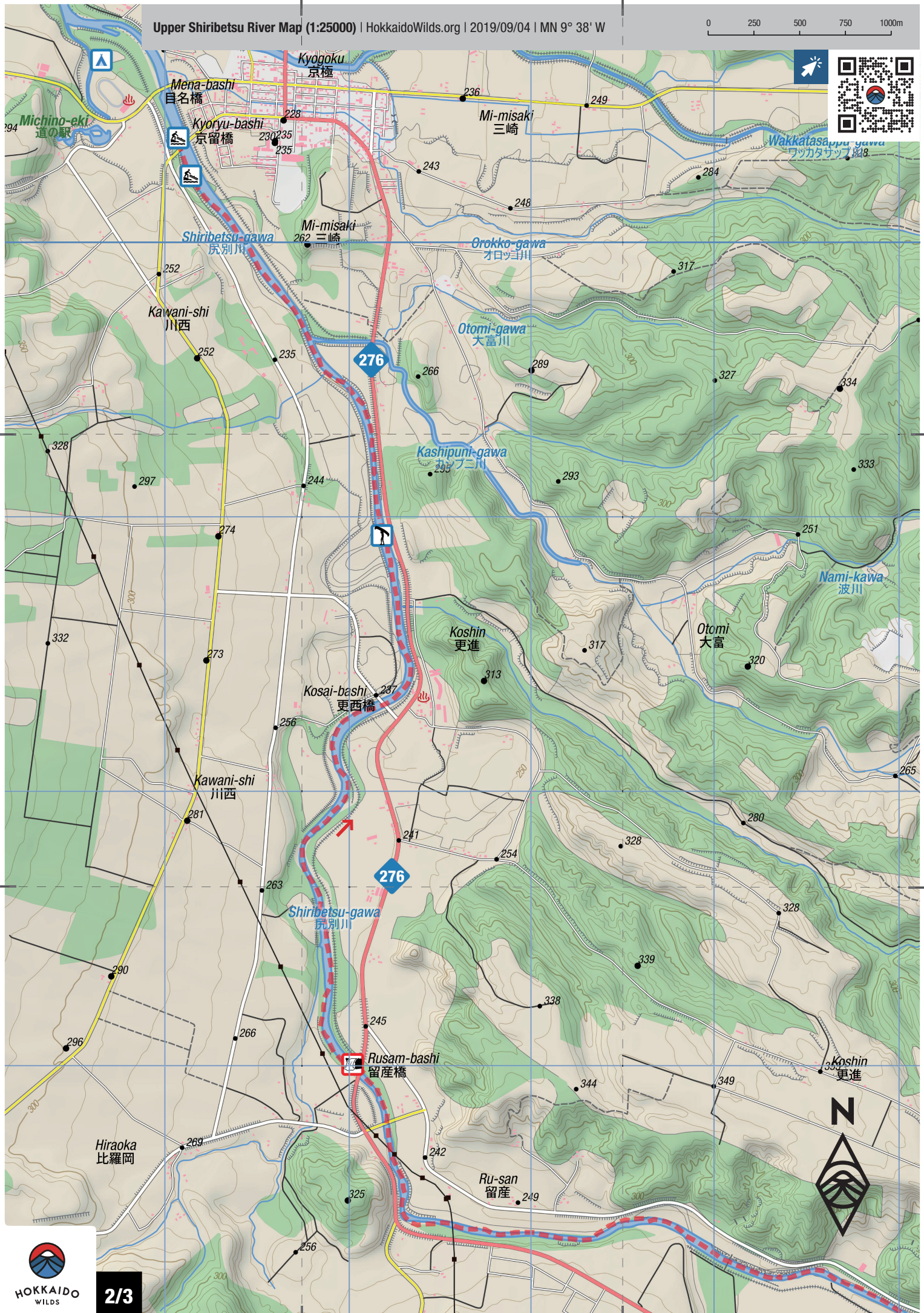
- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Route (flow) | | Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
| | National Highway | | Power transmission lines |
| | Prefectural Road | | Trees/shrubs |
| | Municipal Road | | Rocks/cliff |
| | Minor Municipal Road | | Onsen (hot spring) |
| | Walkway | | Fumerole |
| | Bus route (bus stop) | | Highway number |
| | Put in/out location | | Designated campsite |
| | Waterfall | | Hut |
| | Rapids | | Portage required |

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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/hashi	橋	bridge
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





Upper Shiribetsu River



1 day Time	2.76 Gradient (mpk)	Class II Difficulty
18.5km Distance	4/5 Water clarity	Jun-Nov Best season

The Shiribetsu River (尻別川, 126km) is a gorgeous waterway snaking its way northwest from the foot of Nakayama Pass, around the flanks of Yotei-zan, and along the Niseko Range to the Japan Sea via Niseko. This route on a mellow upper section of the river is suitable for intermediate-level paddlers or beginners with an experienced buddy, and will give full-frontal views of Yotei-zan on the way. Further downstream is some serious whitewater, but this section is perfect for smelling the roses and enjoying a relaxing day out.

LOCATION

This route wraps around the northeastern flanks of Yotei-zan in the Niseko area in southwestern Hokkaido. It starts from the Kimobetsu Sakai-bashi Bridge (喜茂別境橋) in the Suzukawa settlement, about 7km upstream from central Kimobetsu Town on the Shiribetsu River. On the northern side of the Kimobetsu Sakai-bashi bridge is a gravel parking area. Boats can be put in on the downstream side of the bridge, on the



carpark side of the river. This route ends at the Kyoryu-bashi Bridge (境留橋), just upstream from the Kyogoku springs (京極名水).

GENERAL NOTES

Niseko is one of Hokkaido's most popular spots for adventure tourism, so the Shiribetsu River – which runs through the larger Niseko region – naturally draws plenty of rafting tours. This upper section, however, is relatively laid back compared to further downstream, so you're unlikely to meet many others on the river. It is a perfect section of river to enjoy great full-frontal views of Mt. Yotei.

River level: We ran this section of the Shiribetsu River just after a minor typhoon, with a river level of 253.28m at the Kimobetsu-karyu measurement station. Normal river levels are around 252.51m. At this elevated level, there was very minimal rock-dodging required – we'd very happily return in spring if the river is running at this level. At the normal level of 252.50m, there will be some more rock-dodging maneuvers required.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect to be on the water for just over 4 hours. The full route here is just over 18km, but there are multiple points along the way to put in and take out, so can be shortened according to the day's plans. After putting in just downstream from the Sakai-bashi Bridge, the river is well-behaved for about 2.5km, before a section of Class II rapids with exposed rocks. These will seem to come out of nowhere after letting your guard down. Around the halfway point, at about 9km into the route, you'll paddle a relatively calm section of river flowing directly towards the towering Yotei-zan. A real sight to behold. At the 12.5km point, just after a green bridge, is a natural dam which is navigable at normal water levels, but take care and select your line carefully. The only portage on the route comes at the 16km mark, with a man-made dam. This 100m portage is not too strenuous, but there's a large carpark nearby, so can make for a convenient early take-out. It is worth carrying on, however, as the end of the route marked here is close to the famous Kyogoku natural springs.

TRANSPORT

By car If traveling by car, there is a carpark on the northern side of the Sakai-bashi bridge (境橋) just south of Suzukawa village. Boats can

be put in on the downstream side of the bridge. At the take-out point near the Kyoryu-bashi Bridge in Kyogoku, cars can be driven onto the stopbanks.

Public transport The first put-in location on this route is accessible via public bus, using the Kutchan to Date (倶知安～伊達) bus route run by Donan Bus. Get off at the Suzukawa bus stop in front of the Suzukawa Post Office. If arriving by bus, it would make more sense to walk west, across the Shiribetsu River over the Kamishiribetsu-bashi Bridge (上尻別橋), and put in just downstream from the bridge on the western side of the river. At the end of the route, the Kyogoku Bus Terminal on the same Kutchan to Date (倶知安～伊達) bus route run by Donan Bus is about a ten minute walk from the Kyoryu-bashi Bridge take-out point.

SAFETY NOTES

The only notable point of particular concern on this section of Shiribetsu River is the section of Class II rapids. They tend to come out of nowhere after a 2.5km section of relatively calm paddling, so take care. Also make sure to portage the weir at 16km.

ONSEN HOTSPRINGS NEARBY

Kyogoku Onsen (京極温泉, 600yen) at the end of the route would be the natural choice for a post-paddle soak. There's also a restaurant attached, open from 11:30am till 7pm. The onsen is right next to the Kyogoku Campground. ■

EXTRA DETAILS

Difficulty notes: Overall difficulty: 5/10 | Number of portages: 1 (100m) | Overall portage difficulty: 1/5 | Remoteness: 2/5
River Details: This route is on the Shiribetsu River (尻別川), which is a Class A (一級河川) river, 126km in total length. This section of the river is between 15m and 25m wide, with a normal flow rate of around 0.5m/s to 2.0m/s.

Campground: This route finishes just upstream from the Kyogoku Campground (京極スリーユーパークキャンプ場, location). This basic campground charges 500yen per tent. Contact telephone number is 0136-42-2189.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

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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

