



# Ikushunbetsu River Slalom Course

幾春別川 River Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000m

1cm on the map equals approx. 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 33' W

Map by [hokkadowilds.org](http://hokkadowilds.org)/Rob Thomson CC BY-SA 2019/10/05

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

4km   2mpk	Route (distance   gradient)	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 縮尺の GIS データ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、[hokkadowilds.org](http://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/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





# Ikushunbetsu River Slalom Course



15 mins  
Time



7.4  
Gradient (mpk)



Class II  
Difficulty



500m  
Distance



3/5  
Water clarity



May-Aug  
Best season

The Ikushunbetsu River (幾春別川) slalom course is a series of artificial drops on a straight section of the river, about 2km downstream from the Katsurazawa Dam (桂澤ダム) in Mikasa City (三笠市). With the surrounding access managed by the Mikasa Canoe Club (三笠カヌークラブ), this is the venue for annual slalom competitions, such as the popular i-Cup. At only about 250m long for the main section, it's a great place to spend an afternoon doing drills.

## LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Ikushunbetsu River flows into and out of the Katsurazawa Dam at the head of the Mikasa Valley, about 20km northeast of Iwamizawa City, northeast of Sapporo City. This short section of the river is fully set up for access to and from the river, from multiple points. There's a large grassy car parking area next to the river. Take a right off Route 116 (here) – you'll see a large wooden sign on the corner. In Japanese it says 桂沢国設スキー場 (Katsurazawa



National Ski Area). For such a grandiose name, the ski area is nothing much. Drive down the road to the first concealed left, on the inside of a bend. Follow this down, through an underpass, and down to the river. Take a left onto a gravel access road next to the toilets.

Boats can be put in anywhere along this section of river, including further upstream – there's a rough footpath along the river.

## GENERAL NOTES

The water level of the Ikushunbetsu River is entirely dependent on how much water is being let out of Katsurazawa Dam, about 2.5km upstream. We were lucky to have just over 14m<sup>3</sup>/s being let out of the dam when we were there (see online route guide for dam out-flow data links). According to a regular paddler we met there, usually after the end of August only about 2m<sup>3</sup>/s is let out of the dam – the most reliable time to paddle is May-August. At 14m<sup>3</sup>/s, the flow was fast – so much so that we decided to avoid Drop 2 all together – there was some dangerous looking backwash.

## ROUTE NOTES

Even experienced paddlers could happily spend a full morning or an afternoon surfing on the multiple drops along this short course built for slalom competitions. From the upper bridge to the lower bridge, it's only about 500m, so it is just a quick 10 minute blat down the river.

The furthest that foot access goes along this route is the upper bridge. From here, it's possible to ferry across to the middle of the river to get a straight shot down the first wave-train. There are a couple of smaller drops along this straight section of river before a dog-leg bend. You're now on the main 250m straight section with the three substantial drops. After the first large drop there are very good eddies on either side of the main flow that will take paddlers back up to the drop. The same goes for the second drop which is the largest of the three, here. The final drop is smallest, and beyond this paddlers can get out anywhere along the river right side. The final point for taking out with good, easy access is just before the hard left bend downstream.

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2019/10/05

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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## TRANSPORT

**By car** | There is plenty of parking along the main slalom section.

**Public transport** | There are no public transport options for this route.

## SAFETY NOTES

This course is relatively forgiving when it comes to capsizing a Canadian canoe, but only to an extent. When the water is high, as it was when we were there, there isn't much of a buffer at the downstream end of the section before the river gets very steep.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen is the Yumoto Onsen (湯元温泉, 500yen) just 2km up the road. The building has an old-times feel, and the natural spring water is a great way to relax after some intense paddling. ■

## 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

