



# Rausu-dake Southwest Couloir (via Aizanso Hut)

羅臼岳 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 50' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2019/10/26

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time between points)		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	National Highway		Power transmission lines
	Prefectural Road		Trees/shrubs
	Municipal Road		Rocks/cliffs
	Minor Municipal Road		Onsen (hot spring)
	Walkway		Fumerole
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut



**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE** - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS file, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/rausuki>

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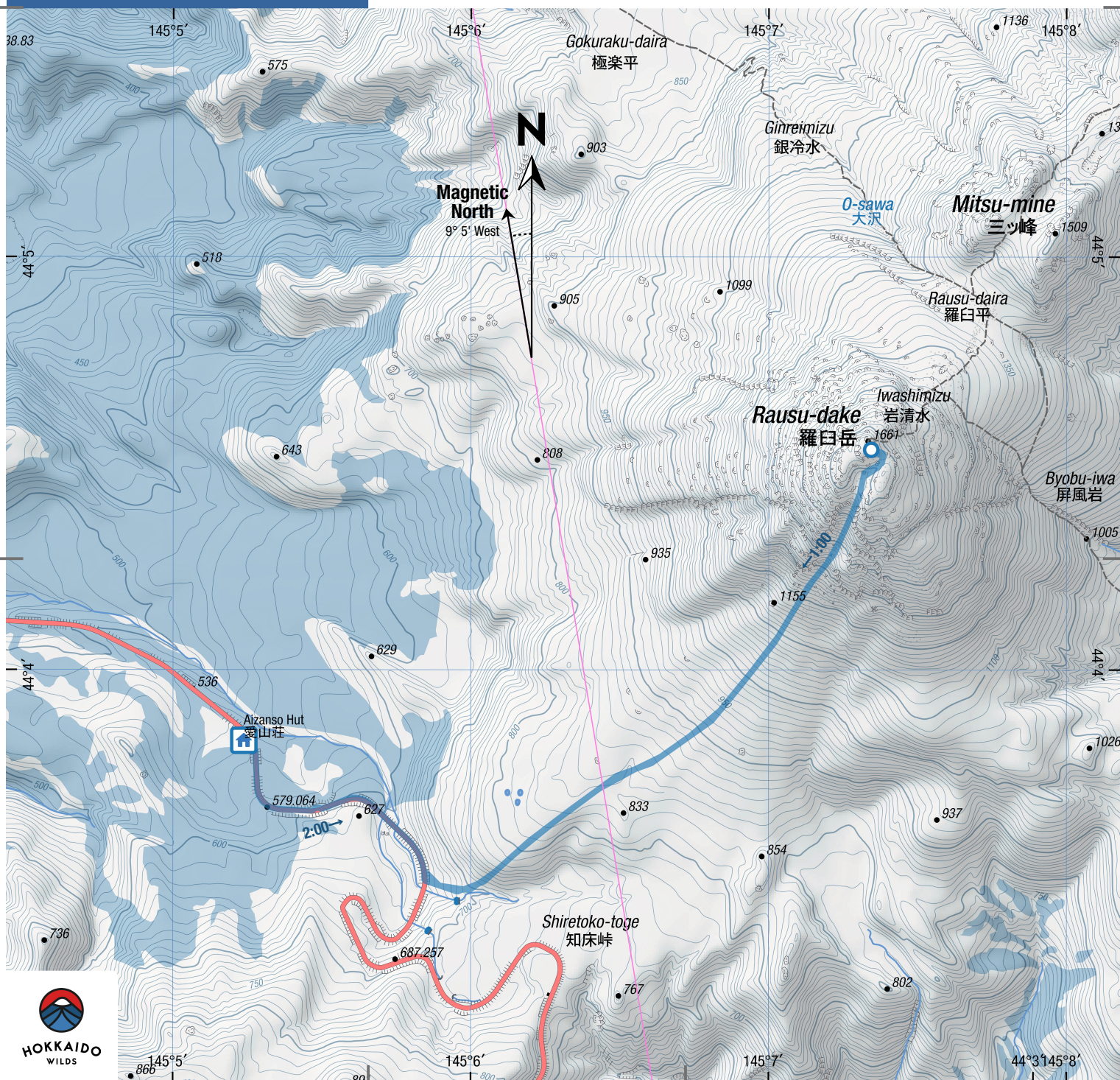


## Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
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

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、hokkaidowilds.orgが作成・加工したものである）。

We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. Hei-30-joshi, dai-867go). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp>).





# Rausu-dake Southwest Couloir Ski Tour (via Aizanso Hut)



4hrs Time	1057m Total Climb	1661m Highest point
8.6km Distance	8/10 Difficulty	Mar-Apr Best season

**Rausu-dake (羅臼岳, 1661m), is in the heart of the Shiretoko Peninsula in eastern Hokkaido, a World Heritage site. The mountain happens to have a prominent couloir on its southwestern flanks. In Japanese it is called the Rausu-dake Nansei Runze (羅臼岳南西ルンゼ), and it has somewhat of a cult fame to it. With an average slope angle of just under 50 degrees over a distance of just over 1km (600m vertical), it is well and truly the antidote to everyone's "there's no steeps in Hokkaido" woes. Expect massive views across both the Pacific Ocean and the Okhotsk Sea, with vast quantities of mobile sea ice. Favourable weather conditions are relatively rare in the deep winter months, so we recommend the more stable March and**

**April for attempts on Rausu-dake. Consider staying at the comfortable Aizanso Hut to make it into an overnighiter.**

## LOCATION

This route description assumes you're starting from the Aizanso Hut, 7km up the closed Shiretoko Pass from the Shiretoko Nature Center on the Utoro (western) side of the peninsula. Rausu-dake itself is a large stratovolcano located at the center of the Shiretoko Peninsula in eastern Hokkaido.

## GENERAL NOTES

Rausu-dake is a tough nut to crack in winter. There are less hair-raising approaches from the east or west following the summer hiking trails, but these will require a good solid 10 hours or so for the return trip, with camping the only option if wishing to make it into an overnight trip. Furthermore, the western approach from the Kinoshita Hut (locked and not available for stays in winter) is only practical in May after the road up to the hut has opened. That leaves the direct approach from the south via the Southwest Couloir, made less painful if made into an overnighiter, staying at the Aizanso Hut.

Despite its popularity, this route via the Southwest Couloir is, however, the steepest of the options available. Expect slopes of over 50 degrees in places, with a sustained average of just under 50 degrees. Furthermore, the snow can be rime/ice from as low as 900m in altitude, well below the actual entrance of this large couloir at around 1200m. In all but the most miraculous of perfect conditions, you'll need to assume the use of boot crampons and ice axe on the upper portions of the route.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. Bank on at least 4 hours from hut to summit, and another 1 hour back to the hut on the descent. From Aizanso Hut, carry on up the pass following the main road to around 630m. Climb up off the road, and follow a tributary to the Akai-kawa river eastwards. If snow conditions are favourable, kick-turn your way directly up to the sloping plateau on Rausu's southern flanks. If this slope is icy, then say your prayers, because the couloir is likely to be twice as bad. In this case, it is more practical to carry on wrapping around, following the tributary to a gentle sloping approach via a marsh with well-spaced trees. Once on the main southern plateau, it is simply a matter of heading up, switching to crampons when necessary. An ice-axe is

essential for self-arrest.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is ample parking at the Shiretoko Nature Center. From the Shiretoko Nature Center, it is 7km (about 2 hours) on foot to the Aizanso Hut, up the Shiretoko Pass road.

**Public transport:** The Shiretoko Nature Center is accessible in winter by public bus from the Utoro Michi-no-eki four times a day. The trip will take about 15 minutes. To get to Utoro, there are regular buses from either Abashiri or Shari. From the Shiretoko Nature Center, it is 7km (about 2 hours) on foot to the Aizanso Hut, up the Shiretoko Pass road.

## SAFETY NOTES

The couloir is steep, exposed to the elements, and very often icy. While not necessarily requiring ropes, climbers should know how to self-arrest in the case of a fall. The weather on the Shiretoko Peninsula is often windy, with low visibility. Keep plans and expectations conservative, and be willing to turn back in the case of bad weather.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The Yuhidai Onsen in Utoro (500yen) is the pick of the bunch for its sunset views from the outdoor baths. ■



## AIZANSO HUT



**Details:** A well-kept club-owned hut near the top of Shiretoko Pass in eastern Hokkaido. Accessible by foot only in winter. 2-stories, wood-burner stove with wood supplied.

**Capacity:** 15 persons.

**Cost:** 500~1000yen donation.

**Contact:** Abashiri Alpine Club (網走山岳会), TEL: 0152-43-1108 or 0152-24-2202.

**Booking details:** Cannot book in advance (no booking required).

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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) 2019/10/26

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

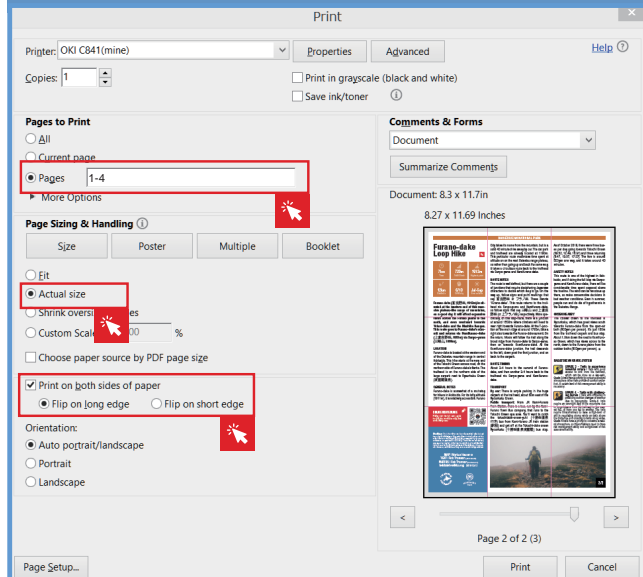


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

