

Bozu-yama (Horokanai)















Bozu-yama in Horokanai (幌加内坊主 山, 743m) is a distinctive peak, visible from the quiet central Horokanai streets. Likely to appeal to both seasoned experts and the less experienced, it offers some excellent dry powder skiing on short but infinitely lappable slopes from its mostly treeless peak. There's no long forestry road approach either, so snowboarders on snowshoes will have plenty of fun on this route too. Expect inspiring views of the plains of Horokanai below - home not only of the coldest ever recorded temperature in Japan, a frigid -41.2°C, but also the lowest population density of any town in Japan.

LOCATION

Bozu-yama is located just north of central Horokanai, about 60km north of Asahikawa City. The most common route up the mountain in winter starts just outside the Horokanai garbage sorting facility

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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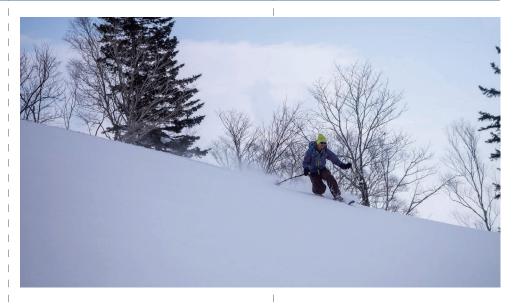
MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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GENERAL NOTES

Backcountry skiers come to this quiet town in winter seeking some of the driest, coldest powder in Hokkaido. The stats don't lie, with the February average low hovering at -15°C. Despite these cold temperatures, on average, 1348cm of snow falls in any given year in Horokanai Town. Compare this to Kutchan's (Niseko) February average low of -10°C. This all adds up to Horokanai and its surrounding hills being one of the most overlooked areas in Hokkaido for great powder skiing.

Most of the action happens in the one long valley, with multiple options in the hills on either side. Bozu-yama is a relatively low hill, but has some great skiing from the summit either on the western or eastern faces. There are a number of other peaks called Bozu-yama in Japan, so that's why you'll often see this particular peak with 'Horokanai' in front of it. 'Bozu', by the way, is a word referring to_a_buzz-cut haircut. Bozu-yama_fits this description, with a rounded, mostly tree-less peak.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

The route is not marked. Expect up to 2hrs from the garbage sorting facility to the Bozu-yama peak, then just over 30 mins back down.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is a small area on the opposite side of the road near the entrance to the garbage sorting facility. Be prepared to clear more room on the side of the road with your shovels if necessary.

Public transport: The closest you'll get on public transport is the Kamihorokanai Bus stop, about 3.5km from the garbage sorting facility. This bus stop is about 1hr 30mins north of Fukagawa City on the JR Hokkaido

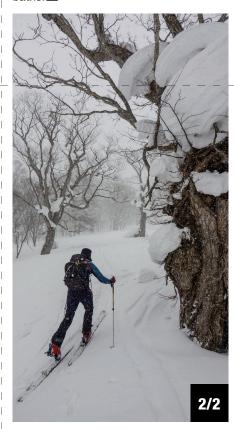
bus_bound for Nayoro City_It_would_cost about 1,250yen one way.

SAFETY NOTES

The main safety concern on this route is ending up on the wrong ridge on the descent. Make sure to keep to the main broad eastern ridge – the same as you came up on. Also take care in low visibility conditions. The main ridge is broad and undefined at times.

ONSEN NEARBY

Just up the road is the excellent Seiwa Onsen, next to the michi-no-eki. At 500yen per person, there's an attached soba restaurant, plus sauna and outdoor baths.■



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).

STFP 3

Make sure "Actual Size" is selected.

STFP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STFP 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.

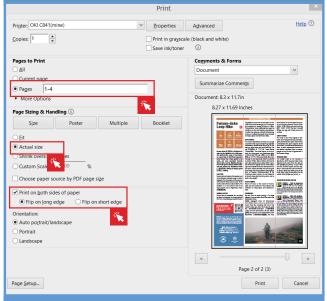


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

