



Wakoto Peninsula Steamvent Canoeing (Lake Kussharo)

和琴半島 Canoeing Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m
1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 90' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2019/11/06

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
	Designated campsite		Highway number
	Hut		Water



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

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Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
<i>bunki cho</i>	分岐町	junction town
<i>dake/mine eki</i>	岳/峯駅	peak station
<i>goya/koya hinangoya ike</i>	小屋 避難小屋 池	hut shelter pond
<i>kawa/gawa kako</i>	川 火口	river crater
<i>ko/mizumi kyo</i>	湖 峡	lake gorge
<i>numa</i>	沼	pond
<i>onsen</i>	温泉	hot spring
<i>sawa</i>	沢	stream
<i>taira/daira tani/dani</i>	平 谷	plateau valley
<i>taki</i>	滝	waterfall
<i>toge</i>	峠	pass
<i>yama/san/zan</i>	山	mountain

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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-867-go). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Wakoto Peninsula Steamvent Canoeing



1.5hrs
Time



3.3km
Distance



3/10
Difficulty



2/5
Remoteness



4/5
Water clarity



May-Nov
Best season

Wakoto Peninsula (和琴半島) at the southern end of Lake Kussharo (屈斜路湖) has a very active geothermal area at the very end of it - the Oyakotsu Jigoku Steamvents (オヤコツ地獄). Hikers can look at the steamvents from high up on the top of the bluff, but canoeists can land on the beach right next to the vents. Up close, they're an impressive sight to see. Along the way there's a couple of wild, free onsen hotsprings, including one simple one right on the lake shore - bring a shovel to clear it out.

LOCATION

Lake Kussharo is in the far eastern reaches of Hokkaido, about 4.5 hours by car from Sapporo City. Wakoto Peninsula is at the southern end of the lake. This route guide has paddlers start on one side of the peninsula at the Wakoto Kohan Campground, and end on the other side at the road-side beach. There's easy vehicle access to the take-out location though. Park your car in the large car parking area in front of the souvenir shops.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 2019/11/06

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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GENERAL NOTES

Wakoto Peninsula on Lake Kussharo is home to two campgrounds, three free, mixed-gender hotsprings, tourist shops, an information center, a nature trail, public toilets, and a min-min-zemi cicada (ミンミンゼミ) colony. Most of this is packed into a small area just south of the narrow neck of the peninsula. Once you're out past the narrow neck, it's unlikely you'll see anyone apart from some hikers every now and then on the hiking trail.

Canoe guides: There are a number of canoe guiding operations on Lake Kussharo that offer morning or afternoon canoe trips around Wakoto Peninsula - see the online route guide for a list. We don't know of any operators offering canoe rental.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This quick paddle around Wakoto Peninsula on Lake Kussharo would take strong paddlers under an hour to complete, but it's best to allow at least 1.5 hours. This will allow a leisurely stop at the steam vents - take some eggs to poach - and a stop at the rock hotspring pool as well.

Starting at either the west or east side of the peninsula, just follow your nose around the peninsula. The steam vents are on the very end of the peninsula, about 1.5km of paddling. Calm days can be few and far between on Lake Kussharo, but Wakoto Peninsula forms a convenient wind-break - if it is choppy and rough on one side, you can guarantee it'll be mirror-smooth on the other.

TRANSPORT

By car | There's ample parking at the main car parking area on Wakoto Peninsula.



Public transport | As of November 2019, Akan Bus ran two buses per day bound for the Wakoto Peninsula bus stop, leaving from the Mashu Bus Center in Teshikaga Town - see online route guide for details. The trip takes 35 minutes and costs 920yen one way.

SAFETY NOTES

Lake Kussharo is a vast caldera lake with a large fetch area - wind can whip across the lake, creating dangerous white-cap waves very quickly. Regardless of the weather forecast, stay close to shore. Mercifully, Wakoto Peninsula acts somewhat like a wind-break, so we recommend scouting both sides of the peninsula before setting off - choose the calmer side, and don't risk paddling all the way to the steamvents at the tip of the peninsula if wind conditions are not favourable. As always, always wear a PFD, carry a change of clothes in a waterproof drybag, and carry some form of communication device.

ONSEN NEARBY

There are a number of free or paid onsen hotsprings available on Wakoto Peninsula. Most people know about the huge, free, open-air, mixed gender hot spring on the neck of the peninsula. Less known is the free concrete-tub hot spring shack along the hiking trail. Even less known is the basic hot spring pool even further along the hiking trail, on the lake shore. When we were there in October 2019, it looked as if it hadn't been used all season - bring a shovel to deepen it and clear out the leaves. Apart from these wild onsen, there's a couple of paid options for the less daring - Koshinso (和琴温泉 湖心荘, 400yen) is the closest to the parking area. ■

EXTRA DETAILS

Lake Details: This route is on Lake Kussharo Wakoto Peninsula (屈斜路湖和琴半島), or Oya-kot in the Ainu indigenous language. The lake is a natural lake, about 5km wide and 14km long. It has a shoreline of 47km and a maximum depth of 117m (28m average). The lake is at 120m above sea level and water visibility is 2.8m.

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.

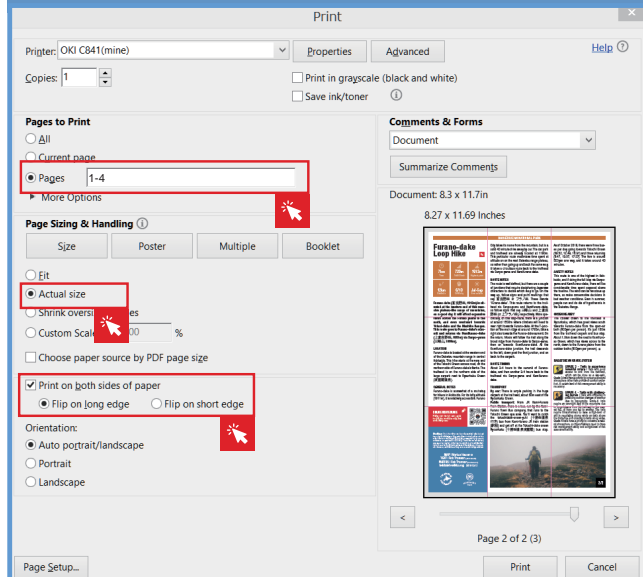


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

