

### **CENTRAL HOKKAIDO**

# **Furano-dake** (Giant Ridge)

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Furano-dake (富良野岳 - 1,912m) is a formidable mountain, whose peak is only accessible in winter by mountaineers with extensive experience. The lower reaches on its northwest aspect, however, offer some great accessible skiing up to around the 1,500m mark. In particular, the broad northwest ridge - the "Giant Ridge" - offers access to some relatively safe ridge-line skiing. In this route overview, we outline a 4.5 hour return trip up to the 1,500m point and back on the Giant Ridge.

## LOCATION

The access point to this Furano-dake route is at the Tokachi-dake Onsen junction, about 40 minutes by car east of Furano City center, heading towards Tokachi Onsen in central Hokkaido.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

This is a popular route on this side of the Tokachi Range for a couple of reasons. One is its accessibility and close

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



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### MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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vicinity to Tokachi-dake Onsen (十勝岳温泉) hotsprings and the popular Fukiage Onsen ( 吹上温泉) hot springs area. Another reason for its popularity is the ability to enjoy really good quality powder snow in most conditions; the lush conifer forests below the treeline help protect the slopes from the high winds common in the area. The local backcountry safety advocacy group - *Kamufikai* - produce an avalanche hazard map for the area. Red shaded regions are considered higher risk for avalanche - see the link on the online route guide.

### **ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**

This route is not marked. About 2 hours from the trailhead to the 1,500m point on the Giant Ridge. Just under an hour back to the trailhead. The creek-crossing at the start of the route is not always completely covered by a snow-bridge. Some careful balancing should be expected.

### TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is a parking area enough for about 10 cars across the road from the trailhead, just at the turnoff to Fukiage Onsen (吹上温泉). Note that this parking area can often be full. Under no circumstances should cars be parked on the road at the intersection. If the car park is full, either dig your own space, or carry on along the road to the Fukiage Onsen carpark. As this area becomes more popular, parking at the trailhead here is becoming more of an issue - please park responsibly to ensure future access to this area; adhering to local norms is essential for continued access to Hokkaido's amazing wild places.

**Public transport:** From JR Kami-Furano Train Station (上富良野駅), there is a bus, run by the Kami-Furano Town Bus company, that runs to the Hakuginso Lodge at Fukiage Onsen. You'll want to catch the tokachidake-onsen-yuki (十 勝岳温泉行き) bus from the train station and get off at the Okinakouen (翁公園前) bus stop (formerly the Baden-kamifurano (バーデン上 富良野) bus stop). As of February 2019, there were three buses per day there (08:52, 12;49, 16:31) and three returning (9:54, 13:44, 17:33). The fare is around 500yen one way, and it takes around 30 minutes.

### **SAFETY NOTES**

The main risk noted in the *Hokkaido Yuki-yama Guide* (ISBN: 978-4894538047), is the avalanche risk in the valley directly north (to the skier's right) of the Giant Ridge. Other route guides we've seen, such as in the *Yama-suki 100zan* (ISBN: 978-4635470063), mention that valley as a good option for the downhill, but only in very stable snow conditions.

### **ONSEN NEARBY**

Of course Nakadake Onsen is a prime spot for soaking weary legs, but the bottom of the ropeway is in Asahidake Onsen village, with a number of onsen to choose from. Yukoman Onsen (location) was nice (800yen per person).



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Details: Fully serviced mountain lodge. Massive onsen attached with mixed bathing area (swimsuits OK). Full self-catering kitchen, bunk beds, basement drying room and ski racks. Basic foodstuffs available. Capacity: 70 persons. Cost: 3,250yen per night. Contact: Hakuginso Lodge (吹上温泉保養 センター 白銀荘), TEL: 0167-45-4126. Booking details: Lodge busy on weekends - booking highly recommended.

# 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).

### 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.



# ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

