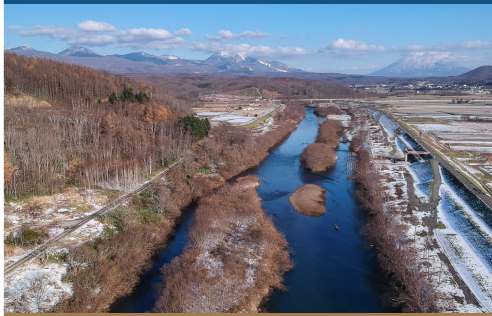




# Shiribetsu River Canoeing

(Mena, Rankoshi)

尻別川 Canoeing Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 9° 41' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2019/12/08

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- |  |                                 |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|  | Route (distance 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            |
|  | Put in/take out location        |  | Portage required          |
|  | Dam/waterfall                   |  | Rapids                    |



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

**THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF** - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://hokw.jp/geomen>



## Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak station
goya/koya hinangoya	小屋 避難小屋	hut 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植生図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>).







# Lower Shiribetsu River

(Sakae-bashi to Mena)



 1 hrs Time	 0.4 Gradient (mpk)	 Class I Difficulty
 6.4km Distance	 2/5 Water clarity	 Apr-Nov Best season

This lower section of the Shiribetsu River (尻別川) near Niseko is a great, mellow section of river for beginners and bird-lovers keen for a relaxing down-river morning or afternoon. It's only just over 6km, so may be over before you know it, but with Annupuri and Yotei-zan towering in the distance behind you, it can be a truly spectacular canoe trip. Not to be confused with the hardcore rapids section further upstream, this section is for those days when you just want to get away from it all and relax.

## LOCATION

The Shiribetsu River is a large, iconic river that flows through the Niseko resort region of southern Hokkaido. It starts much further east from this section of the river, and flows around the imposing Yotei-zan volcano. The put in for this route is about 16km from the sea, under the Sakae-bashi Bridge (栄橋). Access the river from the downstream Rankoshi side of the bridge – there's a faint path through the undergrowth. Vehicles should be parked well to



the side of the stopbank road, to allow traffic to pass. The take out for the route is near the Nagoma Fish Museum (蘭越町 フィッシュ・アンド・名駒). The riverside can be accessed via an overgrown dirt road, but in summer it may be near-impossible to drive down – paddlers may need to park about 300m up the road on the river side of the stop banks.

## GENERAL NOTES

From Sakae-bashi Bridge (栄橋) in Rankoshi Town, the Shiribetsu River really takes a deep breath and relaxes for its last 20km or so before spilling into the Japan Sea. There's hardly any swifts or rapids to speak of, but this section of the river still has a decent enough flow to help paddlers on their way. Expect plenty of ducks and other birdlife along the way. Beginners will enjoy this lower section of the Shiribetsu River, as will the more experienced, looking for a relaxing bob along one of Hokkaido's most iconic rivers.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This section of the river will likely take no longer than 1 hour.

The route starts at the Sakae-bashi Bridge (栄橋). Only a couple of hundred meters downstream is what seems to be an old mini-weir of sorts – there's no substantial drop of any kind, but take the river left side and you'll pass without bottoming out. Beyond this, there's really nothing to note – there's no tricky strainer bends or pushy swifts. Towards the end of the route (around the 5.5km mark), you'll have the option of taking a left or right fork. Take the right – the left goes to a 'dead end'. The dead end option has a way out towards the end, but the right fork has a fun swift to enjoy.

## TRANSPORT

**By car** | If parking at the the put in location, cars should be parked as far as practically possible to the side of the stopbanks. Preferably, park down on the river side of the stopbanks, accessed via a double-track gravel road. The take-out loca-

tion will probably not be accessible during the height of summer, as the road is quite overgrown. Park further up near the stop-banks.

**Public transport** | This route is marginally accessible by public transport, albeit quite infrequent. The free Rankoshi shuttle bus – the Rankoshi Ranran-go (らんらん号, see the online route details for timetable link) – does two loops of the Rankoshi Mena Valley area on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. To get to the put in location, you'd need to take the Ranran-go bus from the Rankoshi Cho-min Center (蘭越町民センター) next to Rankoshi Station (蘭越駅) at 11:50am, and get off at Otani Ken-shu-senta-mae bus stop (大谷研修センター前), a trip of about 50 minutes. From there, it's a walk of about 800m to the put in location. To get away from the take-out location, paddlers would walk 1.1km to the Nakoma Bus Stop (名駒), and catch the 12:31 Ranran-go bus back to the Rankoshi Cho-min center. As you can see, however, the timing doesn't match up for transport plus paddling – you'll have transport one way, but not the other.

## ONSEN HOTSPRINGS NEARBY

The closest onsen to the end of the route would be the nice local Rankoshi Yusenka-ku Onsen (幽泉閣, 500yen), near JR Konbu train station. ■

## EXTRA DETAILS

**Difficulty notes:** Overall difficulty: 3/10 | Number of portages: 0 | Remoteness: 2/5  
**River Details:** This route is on the Shiribetsu River (尻別川). The Hokkaido indigenous Ainu name for the river is Shir-pet. This is a Class A (一級河川) river, 125km in total length. This section of the river is between 20m and 5m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 0.4 mpk (1.58 FPM).

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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** | Rob Thomson  
**PHOTOS** | Chris Auld, Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](https://hokkaidowilds.org) 2019/12/08

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.

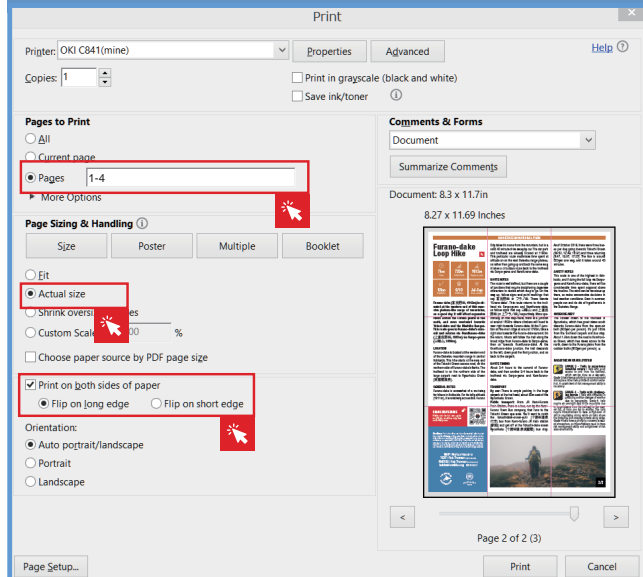


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

