

Maetokachi (Taisho Crater)















Maetokachi (前十勝, 1,790m) can be approached from a few different angles. The classic, easily navigable route heads up the Kabawara Ridge, but that can sometimes be buffeted by high winds. If the weather is otherwise clear with good visibility, then it might be worth hopping from one sheltered rocky outcrop to another, and taking some time out of the wind at the very basic Tokachi Emergency Shelter Hut. From the shelter it is possible to access a nice downhill run in a bowl that runs all the way from the very active Taisho Crater (大正火口) fumeroles back to the hut.

LOCATION

Maetokachi is situated in the Tokachi mountain range, in central Hokkaido. The start location - the Hakuginso Lodge - is about 3 hours drive east from Sapporo, or 5hrs by train and bus.

GENERAL NOTES

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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The broad northwest facing face of Maetokachi is a veritible playground in the winter. The route here cuts across the base of Maetokachi and goes via the Tokachidake Emergency Shelter Hut, joining up with an official Tokachi-dake (十勝岳, 2,077m) trail. It is not a particularly popular route because of the lengthy traverse to the hut – in less windy conditions the route up the Kabawara Ridge is a much more direct approach to good skiing. But in windy but good visibility conditions, this Taisho Crater route can offer some good alternative options. There were two ski lifts in this area until the eruption of 1989, after which the ski area was closed.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. About 1.5 hours from Hakuginso Lodge to the Tokachidake Hinangoya Hut (十勝岳避難小屋), and another one hour from the hut to just below the Taisho Crater. The route marked here follows a faint ridge up to the crater, with a prominent wide gully to the climber's left. In stable conditions, this wide gully can offer some excellent skiing on the return to the hut - about 20 minutes for the ski from the crater to hut. The return from the hut to the Hakuginso Lodge is an ever so slight downhill traverse - some poling may be required.

TRANSPORT

By car: Hakuginso Lodge has ample parking in their carpark. If not staying at the lodge, cars/campers can be parked overnight at the lodge carpark for a nominal fee.

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 Hakuginso (白銀荘) bus stop. As of February 2019, there were three buses per day there (08:52, 12;49, 16:31). The fare is around 500yen one way, and it takes around 30 minutes.

SAFETY NOTES

Once you're out of the woods surrounding the Hakuginso Lodge, the traverse to the Tokachidake Emergency Shelter Hut is quite featureless — it would be easy to get disoriented in low visibility conditions. The altitudes in these areas are much higher than the snowy playgrounds elsewhere in Hokkaido — be extra respectful of mother nature here. As with any above-the-treeline winter routes in Hokkaido, this route is particularly susceptible to high winds and bone-chilling temperatures. At the



lodge it is regularly below -15°C, so with windchill near Taisho Crater, it will quite happily get to below -25°C. Don't take this mountain lightly.

ONSEN NEARBY

The Hakuginso Lodge is an onsen – a very nice one at that. They charge 600yen for day visitors. 10 minutes walk down the road from the lodge is the natural, free, mixed-gender Fukiage Onsen (吹上温泉露天風呂). The Ryounkaku Onsen (凌雲閣, 600yen per person – accessible by same bus that gets you to Hakuginso Lodge) has an incredible view, and they also offer lunch. ■



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).

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

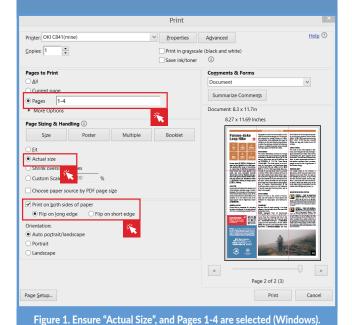
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

