

Kimobetsudake















Described in the guidebook as some of the best backcountry skiing in the Sapporo area, Kimobetsu-dake (喜茂 別岳, 1177m) is a mainstay for skiers seeking a solid day out in the hills in close proximity to Sapporo City. In good stable conditions, the whole south bowl is a veritable feast of terrain, but this route is the conservative option that still packs some punch. The broad southwest ridge gives good, relatively exposure-free access to the summit. It's also a great downhill run with plenty of area and well-spaced trees.

LOCATION

This Kimobetsu-dake route is on the western side (Kimobetsu Town side) of Nakayama Pass in southern Hokkaido, and is accessed from a carpark about 500m down the road from the trailhead. It's about 1.5 hours from downtown Sapporo City, past Jozankei.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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TEXT, MAP I Rob Thomson **PHOTOS I** Rob Thomson, Rick Siddle

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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GENERAL NOTES

Hokkaido Wilds author Rick Siddle ranks Kimobetsu-dake in his list of top destinations for backcountry skiing in the Sapporo City vicinity. This is not least of all due to the nature of that broad, nicely angled southwestern ridge, with well-spaced trees. The navigation up the route is fairly straight-forward too, with high-tension powerlines cutting across the route part way up. The route also follows a forestry road part of the way up.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. Expect about 3.5 hours in total for the skin up, and 1.5 hours back down. The route is not marked. From the car parking spot, walk about 400m up the main road to the forestry road entrance, around here. It's likely you'll need to scramble up the snowbanks from the road. From here, head due north, and find a suitable snowbridge to cross the river, still heading due north from the river, you'll eventually hit the snowed in forestry road marked on the map - this may not be immediately obvious with a 5m base of snow. Roughly follow the forestry road uphill due north, cutting corners where possible. At around 730m, you'll leave the road and carry on up the prominent ridge, which will become narrower the higher you climb. From the 990m point, head due north-northeast, where the trees will start to thin out even more. The last few hundred meters along the exposed and broad, featureless summit ridge are easy going in good weather. If visibility is low, it's best not to push it - it can be extremely disorienting up there in a whiteout. The return is the same way as the uptrack. In the GPS file attached to this post, you'll notice we traversed to the west of our up-route, and wrapped around the east of the 570m-ish knob directly above the car park. This allows a more direct return to the carpark, but you'll need to put skins back on for this.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is a car parking area about 400m down the road from the trailhead. **Public transport:** This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

From the guidebook - "Take care on the eastern side of the summit ridge; this ridge can develop some very large, dangerous cornices. Also, take care when returning back down from the summit in low visibility conditions." I can speak from experience that it is extremely easy to be duped into happily skiing towards the west, when you should be heading south. The peak is fairly nondescript and flat, so take care when in low visibility conditions. This route, like all ski touring routes on Hokkaido Wilds, is very much the backcountry - it is not patrolled, and there is no avalanche control. All skiers should be proficient in navigating on their own, have their own avalanche rescue equipment, and be versed in its use. Also note that despite its relative low height of 1177m, like other mountains in Hokkaido, temperatures can plunge to -20°C with windchill - always err on the side of bringing that extra puffer.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest natural onsen would be Kogane-yu Onsen (小金湯温泉) or Matsu-no-yu (j松の湯, just below Kogane-yu) just past Jozankei on the way back to Sapporo. If you're approaching from Niseko, then head to one of the many nice onsen in the Niseko area on your way back.

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.

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









