

#### **CENTRAL HOKKAIDO**





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Murii-dake (武利岳, 1876m) is a splendid remote peak, the second highest in the Kita-Daisetsu range. Few hikers venture here even by the regular route from the north. This route approaches via Muka-yama to the south over a broad col and a long narrow ridge. It is a tough expedition and not to be underestimated, trackless in places and involving some tough bushwhacking. But the long narrow ridge up to the rocky summit is one of the finest in central Hokkaido and gives a real sense of the wild nature of this part of the island - Hokkaido Wilds at its best!

#### LOCATION

Murii-dake is in the Kita-Daisetsu range of mountains in central Hokkaido. It is usually accessed from Maruseppu off Route 333 to the north, but this route uses the Muka-yama trailhead just over the Sekihoku Pass if coming from Sounkyo on the main west-east Route 39. This hike starts and finishes at about

#### ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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1000m elevation a short way up a forest road off Route 39 just east of the pass.

#### **GENERAL NOTES**

Access to the Muka-yama trailhead was affected by the 2016 typhoons and the forest road now terminates about 2km short of the original trailhead. The remains of the road can be walked from here though it is very rough in the washed out sections and could be dangerous if the river level is high. The trail between Muka-yama and Murii-dake is not marked on the map and is indistinct or nonexistent in places in the broad col between the two mountains. Be prepared for some arduous bushwhacking through rough terrain for a km or so. The main season for summer hiking on Murii-dake is mid-June into October: before and after this you need to be prepared and equipped for snow on the ground and/or falling from the sky. The nearest facilities are at Sounkyo 層雲峡.

#### **ROUTE NOTES**

Even fit, experienced hikers should expect up to 10 hours on the trail for this route. Before you reach the former Muka-yama trailhead at 1140m it is necessary to walk around 2km along the abandoned forest road past some washed out sections that are full of debris. At the trailhead there is the usual box containing a logbook to record your details, and a spring (though to be completely safe water should be boiled or filtered). About 15 minutes further on the trail divides, though the left fork is now impassable. Take the right branch, signposted 東尾根コース (higashi-one koosu - East Ridge Trail), and climb up beside a stream though an area that has been previously been logged, then head up more steeply to join the ridge at 1570m. From here head up the ridge through occasionally rough haimatsu creeping pine to join the summit ridge at Mae-Mukayama 前武華山 1747m, in all about 1 hour and 20 mins from the trail junction. From here follow the main ridge as it turns left (west) for a short distance to where an unsigned faint trail branches off right (north) to Murii-dake. This trail soon begins to descend into a broad col and becomes occasionally indistinct. At one

point it follows the edge of a precipice for a few meters. Near the bottom (1480m) the trail disappears completely and it is necessary to bushwhack through head high sasa dwarf bamboo and tangled tree roots – look out for pink tape markers on branches. Climb up the other side and once out of the sasa pick up a clear trail to the ridge. This section will take 2-3 hours. Turn right and follow the ridge to the summit in an hour or so. Return the same way.

#### TRANSPORT

**By car:** Take the signposted forest road (here) north off Route 39 about 1.5 km east of Sekihoku Pass. Unless it's been updated, the sign says Muka-dake 武 華岳 instead of Muka-yama 武華山. The road ends after a few km before a washed out section. There is parking space for a few cars.

**Public transport:** There are no public transport options for this route.

#### **SAFETY NOTES**

This route is remote and relatively tough. It traverses exposed alpine terrain and can be a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear. The river crossings in the washouts lower down could be dangerous after heavy rain. Like all high mountain terrain in Hokkaido it is bear country so take the usual precautions. The overgrown section is a haven for ticks in summer - cover up well and check thoroughly when you get home.

#### **ONSEN NEARBY**

Sounkyo has the nearest onsen including Kurodake no Yu (黒岳の湯, 600yen). This place also serves delicious Italian food (pasta and pizza) in the ground floor restaurant. ■

## 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

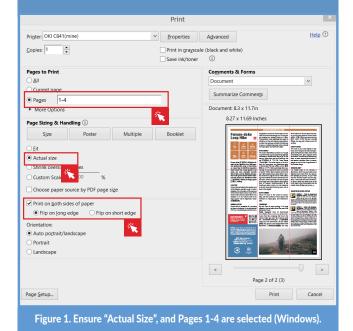
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

## 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

