



O-dake Loop (Hakkoda Sukayu Onsen)

八甲田山 大岳 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 20' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/02/14

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time 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
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut



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

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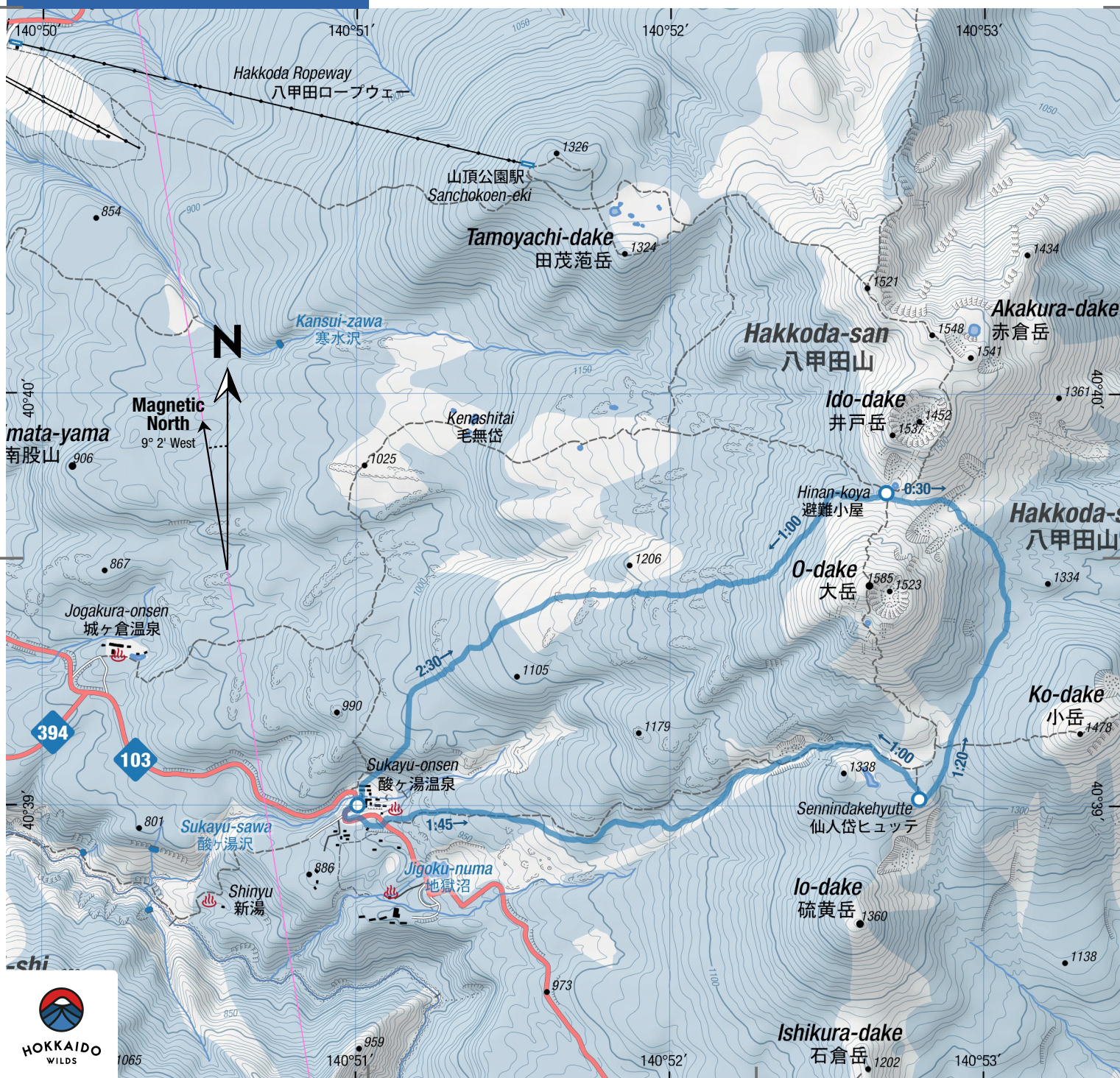


Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki	分岐	junction
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
hinangoya	避難小屋	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縮尺の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-867-go). We also modified 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Hakkoda O-dake (Sukayu Onsen)



湯温泉).

 4hrs Time	 471m Total Climb	 1440m Highest point
 8.2km Distance	 4/10 Difficulty	 Jan-Apr Best season

The loop around O-dake (大岳, 1585m) is a classic spring skiing route starting from Sukayu Onsen (酸ヶ湯温泉) on the south side of Hakkoda-san in Aomori Prefecture. In deep winter, it's quite unlikely most skiers will see weather suitable for attempting the full route - we certainly didn't - but the storm skiing in the compact slopes just above Sukayu Onsen are infinitely lappable, and hold the snow well. Our foray to O-dake was cut short due to weather, but despite this, our Sukayu Onsen skiing experience was one of the best of our Tohoku trip - deep, dry, sublime powder.

LOCATION

This loop route around O-dake is on the southern side of the Hakkoda-san massif in Aomori Prefecture, northern Honshu. The route starts and finishes at the historic and famous Sukayu Onsen (酸ヶ

GENERAL NOTES

The Hakkoda-san (Mt. Hakkoda) massif is a conglomerate of multiple volcanic peaks in central Aomori Prefecture, northern Honshu. Aomori is the northern-most prefecture of the broad Tohoku region of northern Japan – Tohoku comprises of Aomori, Akita, Iwate, Fukushima, Miyagi, and Yamagata Prefectures. The northern-most three prefectures – Aomori, Akita, and Iwate – get apocalyptic amounts of snow in the winter. Snowfall numbers here easily outstrip those of Hokkaido, further north. While the season tends to be a little shorter than up in Hokkaido, the snow is light, deep, and dry. It is truly the last frontier of backcountry skiing in Japan.

This particular route is squarely intended to be a spring route. The months of January, February, and early March will rarely allow the skier the weather window to spend much more than a few hours in the alpine, before closing in and dumping that inhuman volume of snow the region is well known for. In those deep winter months, therefore, it's the lower reaches immediately north of the Sukayu Onsen complex that are best suited to almost infinite laps and amazing storm skiing on well-anchored slopes.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. Expect about three hours to lap the Sukayu Onsen area three to four times. Times, distances and elevations on this post are for the full circumnavigation of O-dake. Unfortunately we only got about 1.5km towards O-dake Hut before worsening weather turned us back towards Sukayu Onsen. So, we don't have any beta for those attempting the full route circumnavigating O-dake. We were bearish on our chances of getting very far from the very beginning – the weather forecast was for classic January snow dumps. The thing with the area just above Sukayu Onsen, however, is that even with the skies dumping snow, the well anchored tree-slope just due north – i.e., within view of – Sukayu Onsen is a broad, veritable playground for skiers who prefer to ski rather than walk. We quite contentedly entertained ourselves with multiple laps, hardly climbing any more than 100m vertical on each lap.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is good road access to Sukayu Onsen from the north and south. Many of the roads around the mountain tend to close over

winter, either completely or from 6pm till 7:30am. Check the online route overview for a link to a webpage with the winter road closures depicted. We found that Google Maps was not reliable for road closure (and thus journey routing) information.. **Public transport:** There is a JR Bus service service to Sukayu Onsen from Shin Aomori station. This takes approximately 1 hour. The bus also stops at the Hakkoda ropeway in each direction and will be useful if you want to drop a car at the onsen and bus back to the ropeway to tour off the top of the hill. There are about four buses each way each day; timetable is available in Google maps. Cost is ¥1,100. Taxis exist, but calling one involves the taxi coming from Aomori City, just under one hour away.

SAFETY NOTES

The slope behind Sukayu Onsen is well suited for poor weather 'storm skiing' - it's steep but well anchored by dense large trees. It is fairly regular and well supported from below. Keep away from the open bowl if conditions are sketchy. It'll be pretty hard to get lost here given you're skiing in sight of the onsen the whole time. Note however that this is well and truly the backcountry – it is not patrolled, there's no avalanche control, and the route is not marked. Skiers need to be experienced, prepared to navigate on their own, and self-sufficient.

ONSEN NEARBY

It's hard to go past Sukayu Onsen (酸ヶ湯温泉, 1000yen) given that you'll be parked there to start your trip. A day visit will set you back ¥1,000 which is on the higher end, but, this does include both a drying towel and a souvenir wash cloth to take home.

True to its name ('su' means acid), the water is very acidic (for want of a better word). Quite unlike any onsen we've been in in Japan. In the onsen building itself, there are two main bathing areas – the historic, all-cypress mixed-gender bathing area and a couple of gender-separated newer bathing areas. Definitely worth a visit!

There are several other ryokan in the area and if you're staying at one of these you may like to head back there for a soak. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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hokkaidowilds.org 2020/02/17

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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.



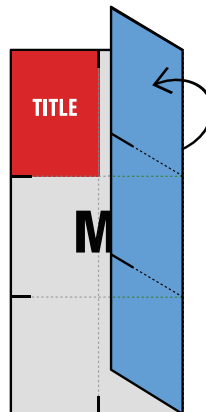
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

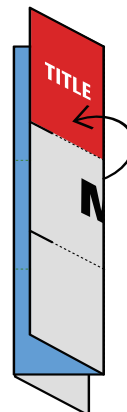
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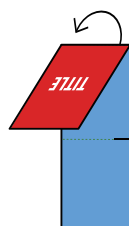
2



3



4



5

