

NORTHERN HOKKAIDO

Teshio-dake Western Ridge



Teshio-dake (天塩岳, 1558m) is northern Hokkaido's highest mainland peak, with fantastic views south to the Daisetsuzan Range. In winter, most backcountry skiers approach from the east for a long daytrip. However, with a gorgeous hut on the western side of the mountain, Teshio-dake makes for an excellent overnight or multi-day destination. Here, we outline a winter variation on the classic New Route summer hiking trail (新道) from the Teshiodake Hutte to the summit via the emergency huts on the western ridge. Snow conditions can be variable in the area, with high winds often buffeting the upper slopes, but pick your aspect and the skiing can be great.

LOCATION

Teshio-dake sits at the southern reaches of northern Hokkaido. As such, some might, at a stretch, describe Teshiodake as an outlying peak in the northern Daisetsu Range. This winter route to

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



Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital data bases 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.

TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP I Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/02/26

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (nages 1 to 1) is liensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4 O International License (CC BV-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds. org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"



Teshio-dake via the Teshio-dake Hutte starts at the far eastern end of Ponteshio Lake, here, about 9.5km west of the hut.

GENERAL NOTES

Teshio-dake is a tough nut to crack in winter regardless of whether one approaches it from the west via the hut, or from the east from Route 273. Our friend Yamano-makochan reported an 8.5 hour day trip there recently from the east, so it's not a mountain to be taken lightly. Given our proclivity towards a good winter mountain hut, however, a western approach via the massive Teshio-dake Hutte seems a no-brainer. Haul supplies into the hut on an improvised pulk (using a Homac snow sled), and it makes for a great base for a couple of nights.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. From the road clearing end (at the eastern end of Ponteshio Lake) to Teshio-dake hut, it's a 3 to 3.5hr skin along a mostly flat snowed in road. Bank on between 2 and 2.5 hours for the return, with skins on – the road is not steep enough to glide. From the hut to summit is about 3.5 hours, and then about 1.5hrs back to the hut. From the hut, head southeast along the summer hiking trail (the Old Route 旧道). The trail is unmarked in winter. Temporary summer bridges across streams are removed for winter, so suitable snow-bridges will need to be found on the three crossings of the Teshio River (really a creek way up here).

After about 1.5km, head south onto the Connecting Route (連絡道), and guickly gain the ridge. You'll be on this ridge all the way up to the New Route (新道), joining the main western ridge just south of the 1138m knob. Once on the western ridge, it's about 2 hours to the summit, via the Teshio-dake Emergency Hut. Note that this western ridge above the treeline and very exposed to the elements. On the return, head back the way you came along the western ridge, to about 100m beyond the 1433m peak. From there, we opted to descend via a northern spur with good tree skiing on its western aspects. At the terminus of the spur, re-connect with the Old Route hiking trail, and head back to the hut.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is good access to the 'trailhead' at the end of Ponteshio Lake, via the quaint little town of Aibetsu in the south. Aibetsu town has an amazing soba restaurant, as well as a convenience store. There is no official parking

or cleared parking areas at the end of the roadclearing at the end of Ponteshio Lake. Therefore, park well to the side of the road, and avoid parking in the snow clearer's turn around spots (the two big snow-cleared 'divots' perpendicular to the road). Please leave a note on the dashboard indicating your intentions – we've heard of the police being called by concerned dam workers when our friends stayed at the hut for a couple of days.

Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

In winter, this is an extraordinarily remote location. Skiers must be self-sufficient, experienced, and well prepared. Note that cell reception is very limited in the area – we recommend some sort of GPS messenger, such as the Garmin inReach for emergency communications. Much of the route to the summit is beyond the treeline – be prepared for temperatures to plunge below -20°C.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen to the trailhead is arguably the super local Kyowa Onsen (協和 温泉, 500yen). There's no outdoor bath, but the retro indoor baths boast a couple of tubs, a sauna, and a cold pool. They're open from 8am till 10pm, and also offer accommodation and a small restaurant.



Contact: Shibetsu City Asahi Subdivision, TEL: 0165-28-2121.

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

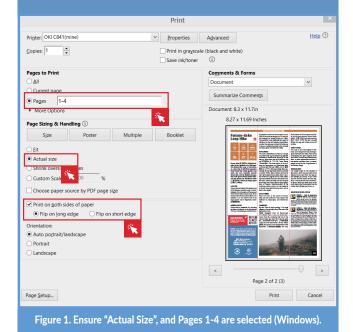
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

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

