




Ariake-yama

有明山Ski Touring Map1:25000







8.5hrs
Time




1000m
Total Climb




1665m
Highest point



13km
Distance



9/10
Difficulty



Dec-Mar
Best season

Ariake-yama (有明山, 1635m) rewards the intrepid skier with 3km of sustained downhill. Located in the Kitataisetsu mountains at the northern reaches of the Daisetsuzan range, it's a very long day out if the summit is in one's sights. But the expansive north-facing ridge offers acres of deep-powder skiing for those willing to make the trek. This is the backcountry of backcountry skiing in Hokkaido.

LOCATION
Ariake-yama sits on the northern side of the Kitataisetsu mountains in northern central Hokkaido. This ski touring route

up the mountain starts at the forestry road off Route 333 on the Engaru side of Kitami Pass.

GENERAL NOTES
With the arrival of cat skiing on the once defunct Kitataisetsu Ski Area, the popular Kitataisetsu backcountry mainstay peak Tengu-dake (天狗岳, 1553m) was essentially removed from the Hokkaido ski touring radar. In its place, the acres of prime backcountry real estate on the northern flanks of Ariake-yama just west of Tengu-dake came into relief. The approach to the actual climb, however, is long. Expect just over 2km (up to an hour one way) of breaking trail along a mostly flat forestry road before getting to the good stuff.

The actual peak of Ariake-yama is usually reserved for those really needing to get to the summit. That is to say, from the 1488m mark, it's only another 200m or so of vertical gain (across 1.3km) to the summit, mostly on a hard-packed, oftentimes icy ridge. The best powder skiing is to be found from the 1488m mark and below. Making the 1488m point your goal will easily shave at least 1.5hrs off the total route time.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
When we visited in March 2020, various routes up the northern ridge were marked sporadically with ribbon tied to trees. These are not 'official' route markers, so it's important to be prepared to navigate on your own. Assuming you're headed for the summit, be prepared for around six hours from car to summit, and anotehr 2.5hrs back down. This timing assumes you're headed to the summit. If just heading to the 1488m powder line, bank on just under 5 hours from Route 333 to the 1488m point, and another 1.5hrs on the return.

Start on the forestry road, and follow this for 2km. At around the 1.5km point, the road forks. Confusingly, when we were there, pink ribbon was tied to trees down the right fork, but this appeared to be for a separate route going somewhere else. Take the ascending road to the left. In another 600m or so, drop down to the right off the road, and find a spot to cross the stream. Climb up the other side to join up with a narrow spur. This spur will lead up to the broad northern ridge.

Assuming you're navigating using a GPS, the broad northern ridge is now your playground. Ascending up the ridge, you'll finally be funneled up to the 1488m point. If the weather is good, underfoot conditions aren't too icy, and you've got plenty of time, it'd be worth the extra hour

or so of gentle ascent to the summit. In all other circumstances, skiers would be better served by ripping skins and reveling in about 2.5km of gentle downhill. We didn't need skins on the forestry road return.

TRANSPORT
By car: Parking is somewhat limited at the forestry road entrance. If snowclearers have come through recently, expect room for up to 5 cars or so. We recommend arriving early to secure a spot. If the carpark is full, allow about 15 minutes of vigorous shoveling to clear a suitable parking spot to the side of the road. Public transport: There are no public transport options for this route.

SAFETY NOTES
If attempting this route in deep winter (January, February), be prepared for a long slog breaking trail in very deep snow in extremely cold temperatures. The guidebook notes it's not unusual for a fit party of four or five skiers to spend up to seven hours breaking trail to the summit in deep winter. Anywhere above 1600m in Hokkaido in deep winter is serious mountaineering territory; concomitant experience and equipment is required.


ONSEN NEARBY
There aren't many onsen very close to Kitami Pass, or in Kamikawa Village. If your travels are taking you to Sounkyo, then the Kurodake no Yu (黒岳の湯) in Sounkyo (600yen per person) is a nice place for a soak. This place also serves delicious Italian food (pasta and pizza) in the ground floor restaurant. If staying at the great-value Rikugeian AirBnB in Pippu, then we'd recommend the Yuyu Pippu hot pools just up

the road (游湯ぴっぷ, 500yen). Yuyu Pippu also serves good value food in their restaurant. From the winter trailhead, the closest onsen is Furano La Terre (ふらのラテール, 980yen). It's about 14km (20mins) from the trailhead. There's indoor baths, a cave bath, outdoor baths – it's a huge facility. It also has an attached restaurant. If you're headed further into central Hokkaido, then it would be worth making the extra 20 minutes drive up the mountain to the Tokachi Onsen area. Ryounkaku (凌雲閣, 800yen) at the end of the road arguably has one of the most epic outdoor onsen views in Hokkaido. Of course there's good old Hakuginso (白銀荘, 700yen for a soak). And for the adventurous, there's the Fukiage Onsen free wild onsen just down the road from Hakuginso (吹上温泉, free). ■

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

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <http://hokw.jp/ariake>



Disclaimer


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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/03/24

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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有明山Ski Tour Map1:25000

02505007501000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9°36' W | Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](#) CC BY SA 2020/03/24

Symbol Key

(some may not be present)

Route (time between points)

National Highway

Prefectural Road

Municipal Road

Minor Municipal Road

Walkway

Bus route (bus stop)

Designated campsite

Contour lines (100m, 10m)

Power transmission lines

Trees/no trees

Rocks/cliffs

Onsen (hot spring)

Fumerole

Highway number

Hut

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/ariake>

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We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. 1161-30-point, date:2019/10). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://dis.biodic.go.jp/>).

arubetsu-gawa

茅刈別川

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A3 printer paper (297mm x 420mm). If you've only got Tabloid or Ledger size (279mm x 432 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.

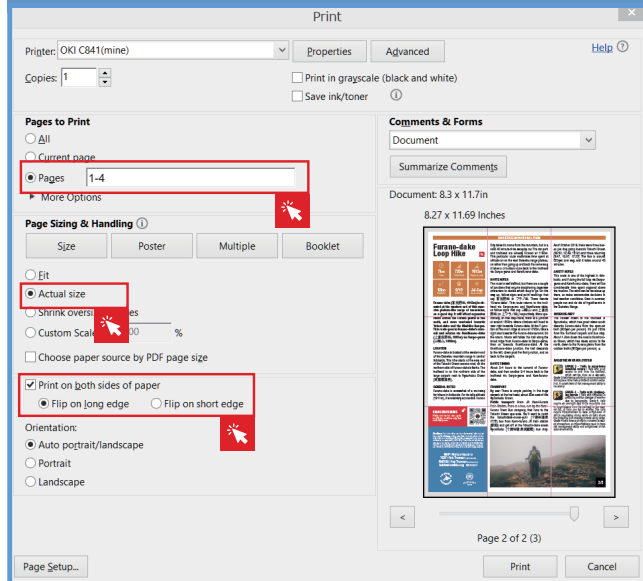
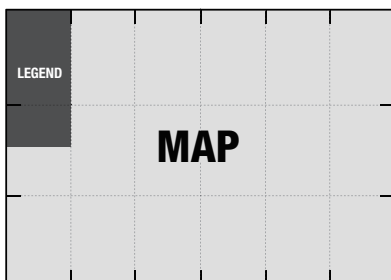


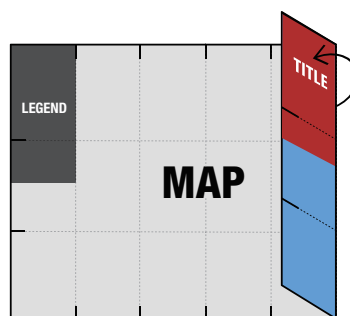
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

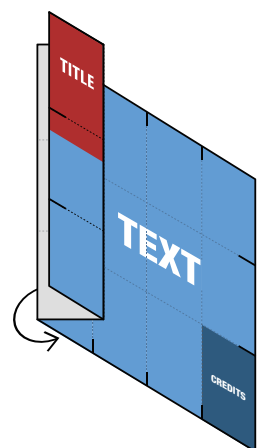
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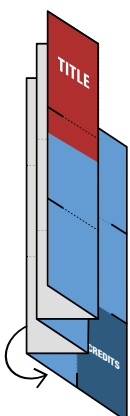
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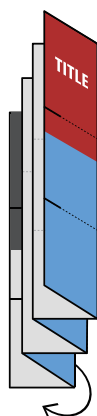
3



4



5



6



7

