




Onuma Quasi-National Park

大沼国定公園 Canoeing Map 1:25000







2 days
Time




14km
Distance




4/10
Difficulty



2/5
Remoteness



3/5
Water clarity



May-Oct
Best season

Lake Onuma (大沼) is a natural lake just north of Hakodate in southern Hokkaido. It's a haven for birds, and has some of the most interesting island-dotted shoreline of any lake in Hokkaido. With easy put-in access at the western end of the lake, it's really easy to make this an overnight canoe camping trip. The campground at the eastern end of the lake is easily accessible by car too, if you'd prefer to base yourself there. The active volcano Komaga-take (駒ヶ岳, 1131m) towers in the distance, making for an impressive backdrop.

LOCATION

Lake Onuma is a prominent large lake about 30km north of Hakodate City in southern Hokkaido. While it might feel natural to put in somewhere near all the duck boats and tourist boats in the Onuma Township, when we were there we struggled to find either a) a boat ramp and b) anyone to assist us in finding one. The tourist duckboat operators turned their nose up at us, and generally the area felt a little unwelcoming and rushed – this is a tourist trap for rowdy busloads of tourists from East Asia. In the end, we put in at a lovely quiet spot next to some public toilet just northwest of the township, near the upmarket Table de Rivage restaurant. There's room for parking about 5 cars next to the toilets.

GENERAL NOTES



This area in southern Hokkaido is one of the last to see deep winter temperatures, and one of the first to experience the spring thaw. Therefore, it's one of the best spots for eeking out the last (or first) of the Hokkaido canoeing season. The lake itself is probably best appreciated for its small islands dotted along the southern shoreline. These provide shelter and stimulation on this flatwater trip. The towering volcano to the north – Hokkaido Koma-ga-take (駒ヶ岳, 1131m) is also an impressive sight on a clear day. Being fans of canoe camping, we recommend parking your car (or getting off the train) at the western end (Onuma Township end) of the lake, and canoeing to the Higashi Onuma Campground to make this a nice over-nighter. While Lake Onuma is called a lake



in English, the direct translation of Onuma is *large pond* – this describes the water fairly well, particularly at the campground, so don't expect too much inspiration as far as swimming potential goes.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Strong, fast paddlers could conceivably do this route in one day with an early start. We opted to take about 2 hours to paddle the 6km or so of the northern shoreline from the Onuma Township to the campground and then stay the night. The next day, we took a leisurely 3 hours to paddle the remaining 8km or so back to the township.

Launch from the small gravel put in location (here) near the Table de Rivage restaurant. Consult the weather for the wind direction, and decide if you'll do the trip clockwise or anti-clockwise. We had stiff west-northwest-erlies forecast for our first day, so we choose to approach the campground from the northern shoreline. This gave us a relatively sheltered paddle in parts, and a nice brisk tailwind in others. About half way along the northern shoreline is a nice cove, with ponds just along a short walking trail (around here). From there, it's not much further to the campground. The campground consists of a nicely sloping grass area leading down to a sandy beach – canoes can be pulled up onto the beach and into the campground. From the campground, it's about 3km paddle west along the southern shoreline to get to the first bunch of islands. Paddling around and through these islands is a real treat – the vegetation looks monolithic and old. Further around you'll come to the even more impressively island-dotted area around the main Onuma Township. Unfortunately, this area is not particularly canoe-friendly, with tourist boats (both slow-boats and speed-boats) coming in



and out. For safety, we recommend sitting for a few minutes to get a feel for the boat movement patterns before crossing the channel to the safety of the islands connected by bridges.

There's one slightly awkward spot to pull canoes up at near the walkway connecting the township with the islands - see the map. From there, it's a 10 minute walk to tourist shops, public toilets, and restaurants.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is room for about 5-6 cars next to the public toilets the put in here near the Table de Rivage restaurant (ターブル・ドウ・リバージユ). **Public transport** | Onuma Township is accessible by JR train (Onuma Koen Train Station) from Hakodate, Sapporo, and Niseko. From the train station, it's about 300m walk to the island-bound put in, or about 700m to the put in described above.

SAFETY NOTES

There's a road running the perimeter of the lake, so help should be fairly close at hand on this route. That said, like all large lakes in Hokkaido, the wind can pick up pretty quick. The main point of concern on this route is crossing the tourist ferry and boat channel close to the Onuma Township. Take a few minutes to study the movement patterns of the boats, and only cross when the way is clear – commercial boats have the right of way.

ONSEN NEARBY

Higashi Onuma Tome-no-Yu (東大沼留の湯, 400yen) is an old but classic onsen sitting in the middle of nowhere, along a long gravel road, about 2.5km east of the Higashi Onuma Campground. Highly recommended, and definitely worth the 30 minute brisk walk, if walking from the campground.

CAMPGROUND

The Higashi Onuma Campground (東大沼キャ



LAKE DETAILS


This route is on Lake Onuma (大沼), or *Poroto* in the Ainu indigenous language. The lake is a natural lake, about 1km wide and 5km long. It has a shoreline of 20km and a maximum depth of 13m (6m average). The lake is at 130m above sea level and water visibility is 1.4m.

プ場) is a basic but picturesque campground sitting at the eastern end of Lake Onuma in southern Hokkaido, just north of Hakodate City. It's free to stay overnight, and is a perfect spot to stay on a cycle tour trip or canoe trip. There's not many services – including food – nearby, so make sure to stock up before you arrive. Note that fires are only allowed in free-standing fire-pits; bring your own, plus firewood. ■

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/onucan>



Disclaimer


The information on this map was derived from digital databases 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.

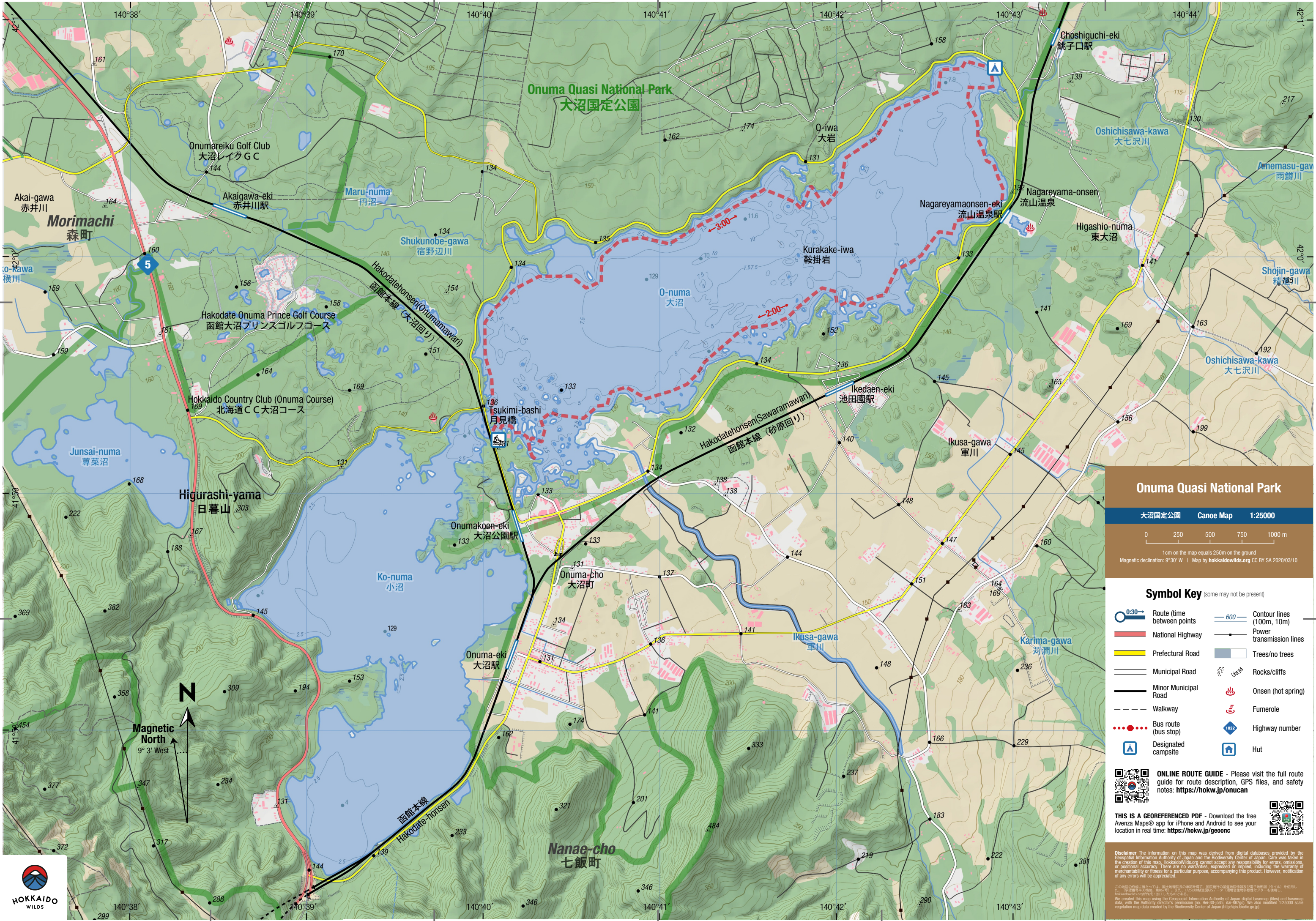
MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/03/10

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-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)"





Onuma Quasi National Park

大沼国定公園 Canoe Map 1:25000

0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9°30' W | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/03/10

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0:30 → Route (time between points) | 600 Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
| National Highway | Power transmission lines |
| Prefectural Road | Trees/no trees |
| 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 files, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/onucan>

THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://hokw.jp/geoanc>

Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases 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.



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.

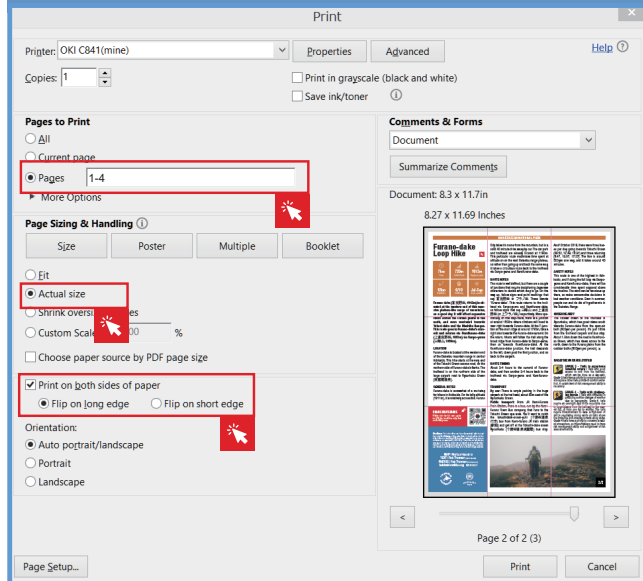
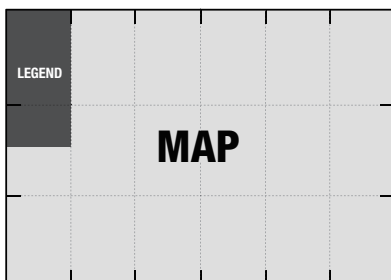


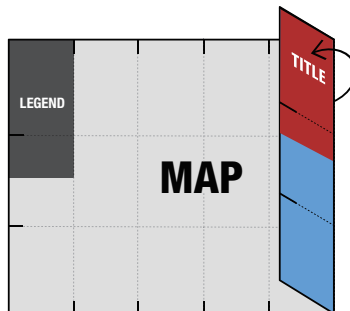
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

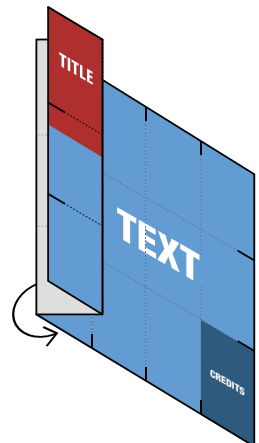
1



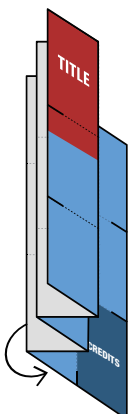
2



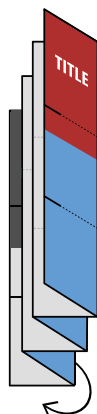
3



4



5



6



7

