

Shamanshadake















Shamansha-dake (社満射岳, 1063m) is a veritable backcountry playground with some spectacular skiing on a number of aspects. It's a relatively efficient backcountry route too - from the trailhead skiers are very quickly gaining altitude on steep pitches though a forested ridge. Very little time is wasted on the short flat-land approach. On the way to the Shamansha-dake peak proper is the minor unmarked peak locally known as Takenoko-yama (タ ケノコ山, 1039m). From there, skiers have the choice to make the traverse to Shamansha-dake or make laps of the large double-gully west-facing bowl below Takenoko-yama. Either way, both peaks give great views across to Minami-furano and Lake Kanayama.

LOCATION

Shamansha-dake is a minor peak in the northern Hidaka Range, about 50km south of the bustling ski town of Furano

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



based provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the blesses provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Blowdresh Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaldoWilds.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 2020/03/18

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) is licessed 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)"



City in central Hokkaido. This northeastern ridge route to the summit starts at the end of the snow-clearing on a minor municipal in Minamifurano Town near the Minamifurano Ski Area.

GENERAL NOTES

Buried in the guidebook, with a nondescript name, this was well and truly a low-expectation mountain. Added to our low expectations were our experiences the previous weekend, with sub-standard snow in Niseko. Shamansha-dake, however, laid waste to those low expectations, delivering some of the best skiing we've done this 2019/2020 season. Ascents were steep and efficient, the snow was gorgeously light and fluffy, and we loved the varied downhill slopes — both the north-facing back-bowl on the northern side of the saddle between Shamansha-dake and Takenoko-yama, and the large bowl directly to the east below Takenoko-yama.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. We've slated this route at around 5 hours return, but this includes the ascent all the way to the Shamansha-dake summit, effectively two laps of the northern bowl, and the final descent down the eastern bowl. If just doing a quick jaunt to Takenokoyama and skiing the eastern bowl, it's unlikely to take more than 3-4 hours for a fit and strong group.

Starting from the end of the snow-clearing (which may vary in its location), skin up towards the topomap 603m point. You'll be on a faint forestry road to start, before veering off into the woods. You'll cut across this forestry road again at around 550m or so. This first ascent portion on gradually ascending terrain might be a bit disorienting at first, as there's no clear indication of a ridge - keep an eye on your GPS and bearings to make sure you're on the right track. Soon enough, the topography will become more ridge-like, and you'll need to cut tight kickturns up the steepening ridge. At around 850m the forest on the ridge thins out dramatically. Carry on up the ridge to Takenoko-yama. From Takenokoyama skiers have the choice of carrying on to Shamanshadake, or calling it a day and ripping down the spectacular eastern bowl back to the uptrack for a descent of around 400m. If carrying on to Shamansha-dake, you'll descend to a saddle before climbing again slightly to the compact summit.

Our recommendation would be to carry on to

the Shamansha-dake summit if weather allows, or at least just beyond the saddle. There is some excellent skiing to be had into the northern bowl through well-spaced trees. It's possible to ski down into the gully to around 800m in altitude (starting at 1000m on the saddle). From there, skin back up the northwestern side of the gully to join back up with your northeastern ridge skin track. Head back up to the Takenoko-yama summit and make the final, thrilling descent down the eastern bowl.

TRANSPORT

By car: When we visited, the one-vehicle wide forestry road had been recently cleared quite far. We parked up in a spot that would likely only handle two vehicles. If the forestry road is not cleared, there may be space for about 8 vehicles to park. If parking is full, you may need to spend up to 15 minutes of vigorous shoveling to clear your own parking space.

Public transport: The sleepy little lkutora JR train station (幾寅駅) on the Nemuro Line (根室本線) is accessible from Sapporo via Takikawa, but from Takikawa, Japan Rail runs a bus service. From lkutora JR train station, it's about 2km to the trailhead – about a 40 minute walk. Taxis will be hard to come by in Minamifurano Village.

SAFETY NOTES

Nothing overtly concerning to note, beyond making sure of the stability of snow on the bowls before skiing them.

ONSEN NEARBY

If headed back to Furano, try the dilapidated but relaxing Kanayama Lake Hoyo Center onsen (かなやま湖保養センタ -, 510yen) on the northern shore of Lake Kanayama. They're open from 10am till 8:30pm. If headed further east over the Karikachi Pass (狩勝峠), then try the Tokachi Sahoro Resort onsen (十勝サ ホロリゾート, 1000yen) at the eastern foot of the pass. If headed to stay at the Tsurugi-zan Trailhead Hut, it's worth making the extra 20 minute drive south along the Hidaka range to the Memuro Shin-Araishiyama Lodge (新嵐山山荘, 270yen). At only 270yen, their hot pools are a steal. They also have an attached restaurant with very reasonably priced meals (there's also a ski area behind the lodge).

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.

STFP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STFP 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









