



Sahoro Bear Mountain

サホロベアマウンテン Walking Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 9° 29' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/04/10

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		Water
	Hut		

Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak station
goya/koya hinangoya ike	小屋 避難小屋 池	hut shelter pond
kawa/gawa	川	river
kako	火口	crater
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
numa	沼	gorge
onsen	温泉	pond
sawa	沢	hot spring
taira/daira tani/dani	沢 平 谷	stream plateau
taki	滝	valley
toge	峠	waterfall
yama/san/zan	山	pass mountain



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

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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. Hei-30-joshi, dai-867go). We also modified 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Bear Mountain Walking



 1.5hrs Time	 15m Total Climb	 435m Highest point
 1.5km Distance	 1/10 Difficulty	 May-Oct Best season

This is an easy 1.5km elevated boardwalk through the center of Sahoro Bear Mountain (サホロベアムンテン), an expansive bear reserve next to the Sahoro Resort ski area. The 5m elevated walkway is easily accessible via gently sloping ramps, and is thoroughly suitable for wheelchairs. Part way along the boardwalk is a ground-level viewing area, with huge glass windows. While the resident bears are cajoled into the open with treats - adding to an air of artificiality - the Jurassic Park-like facility is home to around 13 free-roaming resident bears in 15 hectares of forest. This easily makes it the most humane bear park you'll visit in Hokkaido (and the only one we remotely come close to recommending). There's also the option to get deeper into the forest on a specially modified bus.

LOCATION

Sahoro Bear Mountain is located next to the Sahoro Ski resort in the northern Hidaka mountains in central Hokkaido.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

TEXT, MAP, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/04/10

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Welldonegan

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This walking course through the reserve starts at the official entrance to the reserve, about 200m north of the ski area building, where entrance tickets should be pre-purchased.

GENERAL NOTES

As far as viewing animals in captivity goes, the Sahoro Bear Mountain reserve is the most humane facility of any we've been to in Hokkaido. In general, we've found that zoos in Japan are a depressing experience. Bear parks in Hokkaido are usually the worst offenders here. Most of them are little more than concrete prisons for the poor creatures, forever destined to begging for food so that the tourist hordes can snap their photos. The Sahoro Bear Mountain reserve, however, stands out among the pack here as the only one we'd recommend anyone going to. When the worst reviews are along the lines of 'there are too few bears in the huge park', then you know they're onto a good thing. In fact, if you don't go on the meandering bus tour - i.e., you just do the walking course - you may be lucky to see only one or two bears. Indeed, there's only around 10-13 bears in a 15 hectare (37 acres) heavily forested park, so the bears have plenty of room to wander freely around.

There's plenty to be reserved about, of course. The bears are coaxed into the tourists' view with watermelons, food pellets and other treats, and the park staff are continuously watching their movements so as to make sure they're in prime locations for the tourist bus. But overall, the experience doesn't leave you feeling guilty. Rather, you'll probably come away feeling educated and more respectful of these giant gentle creatures.

Entrance fee: To access the park on foot, entrance is 1,870yen (1,320yen for children). To ride on the fortified Jurassic Park bus, entrance is 2,970yen (2,420yen for children). The bus is very much worth it, if your budget allows.

Bear Mountain Website: <http://bear-mt.jp/>

ROUTE NOTES

This walk is not particularly long (about 1.5hrs at a push), so take your time to wait patiently, looking from your elevated position to spot bears and the occasional fox.

After picking up your entrance tickets from the ski area building, walk across the large car park to the north of the buildings to the entrance to the reserve. You'll see Jurassic Park like double gates for the bus, but you'll head up the gently sloping, zig-zagging ramp to the elevated boardwalk. From there, it's about 600m walk to the very end of the boardwalk. Part way along the boardwalk, there's a junction. Go left, and you'll descend down to the central ground-level viewing area (highly recommended). Go right, and you'll continue on to a central viewing platform. Return the way you came.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is ample parking at the Sahoro Resort ski area parking area.

Public transport: Sahoro Resort is not directly accessible by public transport, but it's possible to take a taxi from JR Shintoku Station on the Ishikachi Line (JR 石勝線新得駅). The taxi ride will take 15 minutes, and likely cost around 3,500yen.

SAFETY NOTES

This is a very safe walk. If it looks like it might rain, umbrellas are available at the ticket office, as well as the central ground-level viewing area in the reserve.

ONSEN NEARBY

The Tokachi Sahoro Resort hotel (十勝サホロリゾート, 1000yen) just down the road has a nice onsen with subdued, relaxing forest views. For a more down-to-earth locals' experience, try the JR Shintoku Station Onsen (新得町営浴場, 420yen) - they ship natural hot spring water down in a tanker from Tomuraushi Onsen, deep in the Daisetsuzan Range. ■

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

