



Keigetsu-dake via Kuro-dake

桂月岳 Hiking Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m
1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 35' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/04/09

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
	Designated campsite		Highway number
	Hut		Water



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

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Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak station
goya/koya hinangoya	小屋 避難小屋	hut shelter
ike	池	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	平	stream
tani/dani	谷	plateau
taki	滝	valley
toge	峠	waterfall
yama/san/zan	山	pass mountain

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の基盤地図情報及び電子地形図（タイル）を使用した。（承認番号平30情使、第867号）。また、1/25,000縮小図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが作成・加工したものである）。

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>).



Keigetsu-dake Overnighter



3hr 40m Time	500m Total Climb	1984m Highest point
5.8km Distance	5/10 Difficulty	Jun-Sep Best season

Keigetsu-dake (桂月岳, 1938m) is a minor peak towering over the bustling tourist town of Sounkyo. Accessed via the more well-known Kuro-dake (黒岳, 1984m) and the Kuro-dake Hut (黒岳石室), it's not often the main attraction for visitors to Daisetsuzan National Park. However, if your plans in the area don't leave much time for the more strenuous Kuro-dake to Asahi-dake traverse, it can make for an interesting, relatively non-committing overnight hut trip high in the Daisetsuzan Range. The perfect way to get a taste for more lofty objectives. It can, of course, be easily done as a daytrip.

LOCATION

Keigetsu-dake is a high peak just to the southwest of (and high above) the Sounkyo settlement in northern central Hokkaido, at the northern end of the Daisetsuzan National Park. The start of the actual hiking is at the top of the chair lift on the Sounkyo Ropeway. To get there, you'll get on to the ropeway in the

Sounkyo village.

GENERAL NOTES

Despite its minor status among the more lofty objectives in the Daisetsuzan Range, Keigetsu-dake is the perfect excuse for a quick, relatively non-committing overnight foray into the high alpine environment of the Daisetsuzan National Park. You'll need the right overnight gear and be prepared for serious alpine weather, but the time commitment is manageable, if you can only afford an afternoon and morning. The effort will be rewarded with great early morning views across an expansive, inspiring, endless sea of forest to the north, and rugged, rocky, volcanic vistas to the south. The rugged Kurodake Refuge Hut is also an experience worth writing home about. Fair warning – this hike will leave you wanting to come back for more.

No-ropeway option: It is possible to hike from the Sounkyo Village, rather than take the ropeway. The trail starts near the shrine over the river east of the ropeway, and it'll take just under 4 hours to the top of the chair lift (2hrs 20mins on the return).

ROUTE NOTES

From the Sounkyo Ropeway chairlift top station, it's about 1.5 hours steep hiking to the hut, then another 20 minutes or so to the summit. Expect about 1.5 hours in total on the return. If hiking all the way from the Sounkyo Village (i.e., not using the ropeway/chairlift), add on just under 4 hours to the ascent, and 2.5hrs to the descent.

Assuming you're using the ropeway, get your return-trip ropeway ticket from the Sounkyo Ropeway bottom station, and take the enclosed cable-car to the middle station. From there, it's a short 5 minute walk to the chair lift. The chair lift is a basic two-person ski-style chair lift, allowing very pleasant views of the surrounding flora. From the chair lift top station, you'll now start the long zig-zagging hike up to the Kuro-dake summit. While the views do get better as you climb, they really come into their own all of a sudden at the summit. Pay your respects at the small summit shrine, and carry on southwest for the 20 minute traverse to the Kurodake hut. It's only about 20 minutes from the hut to the summit of Keigetsu-dake, so if you're staying overnight (highly recommended), it's probably best to check in first and secure a sleeping spot before going to the Keigetsu-dake summit. It's also possible to camp next to the hut. From the hut, head through a few meters of overhead haimatsu dwarf pine, and then through a clearing of delicate volcanic plants. After a short but steep climb, you'll be on top of the world. Return the



way you came..

TRANSPORT

By car: There is ample parking at the Sounkyo Ropeway car park.

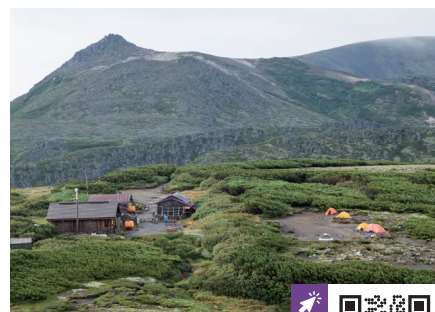
Public transport: Take the Sounkyo-bound bus from Asahikawa JR Train station (Bus stop No. 8). The bus will take about 2 hours, and cost 2,140yen. From the Sounkyo Bus Terminal, it's a 10 minute walk through the very picturesque Sounkyo Village to the ropeway.

SAFETY NOTES

While we're sharing this route as a 'quick non-committing' foray into the high Daisetsuzan Range, all the usual caveats regarding preparedness apply. The route involves an exposed alpine traverse, with real risks of hypothermia for ill-prepared hikers. Temperatures will be much lower up high than down at the ropeway bottom station.

ONSEN NEARBY

The Kurodake-no-yu (黒岳の湯, 600yen) onsen in the middle of the Sounkyo Village is a lovely spot for a soak. It has semi-outdoor pools with views of the mountains, and there's an Italian-themed restaurant upstairs. ■



KURODAKE ISHIMURO HUT



Details: The most fully-serviced hut in Hokkaido. Can be used all year round, but in winter it will be buried in snow. Has hutkeepers in summer. Campsite nearby.

Capacity: 80 persons.

Cost: 2000yen per night.

Contact: Kurodake Ropeway, TEL: 01658-5-3031.

Booking details: No need to book, but the hut is very busy in the high season (August).

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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TEXT, MAP, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

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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

