



Yoichi-dake

via Kiroro Snow World


余市岳Ski Touring Map1:25000






6-8hrs

Time




950m

Total Climb




1488m

Highest point




13.5km

Distance



7.5/10

Difficulty



Dec-May

Best season

Yoichi-dake (余市岳, 1,488m) is the highest peak within the Sapporo City limits. Despite this, it is extremely accessible – it overlooks Kiroro Ski Resort, so take the ski lift to the resorts upper reaches, and you’re more or less there. But to truly experience Yoichi-dake’s enchanting snowy wilderness, the only way to go is on foot (or ski) all the way from the resort buildings. The 6-hour return journey is long and steep in parts, but the rewards are worth it in views, vertical descent, and snow.

LOCATION

Yoichi-dake is the high peak directly south of the Kiroro Snow World ski area in southern Hokkaido. This Yoichi-dake ski touring route starts from the Kiroro Ski area lower lifts, about 70km northwest of Sapporo City.

GENERAL NOTES

This route is the longest possible route to access Yoichi-dake from the Kiroro side; you’ll be starting from the base of the ski resort.

Rules regarding accessing the backcountry from Kiroro ski area seem to be developing from season to season. At the very least, those planning to enter the backcountry from any of the resort gates must submit a backcountry plan at the resort base. See details on the Kiroro Mountain Club page (<https://www.kiroro.co.jp/>

mountain_club/). For this route, you’ll be skirting around the southwest boundary of the ski resort to start, so you’ll leave the resort via the bottom gate.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Starting the hike up to Yoichi-dake from the bottom lift stations means a very long day on the mountain. The timing above (6hrs return) assumes you’re doing this route in spring, with firm snow under foot. In deep winter (Dec-Feb), don’t expect anything less than 7-8 hours, which would require a very early start.

There are no route markers for this route. Start from the bottom-most resort buildings, and after submitting your backcountry plan to the front desk, exit the resort from the lower-most

gate. Follow along near the road marked on the topomap, and join up with the summer hiking trail (not visible in winter) marked on the map after about 3.5km. At around the 4km point, at 950m in elevation, you’ll start veering right, away from the resort, still following the summer trail marked on the map.

At just after 1000m in elevation, it’s possible to start a long, climbing traverse to the climber’s right, all the way up to the main ridge, through gorgeous well-spaced trees. Once at the ridge, you’ll be well into the alpine. This would be a good time to reassess whether the weather and conditions are suitable for the final steep 1km, often icy, push to the summit along the summit ridge. The best skiing is usually from lower down than the summit anyway, so you’ll not be losing much in the face-shot category if descending from the summit ridge at around 1300m.

On the return, there is the option to ski the large north-facing bowl from around 1350m, but do pay attention to snowpack conditions and err on the side of caution if your compression test indicates any instability. The wilderness experience ends at around 950m altitude, as you’re spat back into the gaudy, noisy, mass-of-humanity that is the Kiroro Snow World. Ski the resort pistes back to the base of the resort (depending on your re-entry point, you may need to hike a little).

TRANSPORT

By car: Plenty of parking at the Kiroro Ski Resort, either at the upper or lower car parking

areas. Arrive early to avoid the hassle of taking a shuttle bus from the lower parking areas. **Public transport:** Buses from Otaru Station to Kiroro Ski Resort (a 50 minute train ride from Sapporo Station) leave a few times a day; check with tourist info before you leave to get correct seasonal timetable information.

SAFETY NOTES

The upper ridge approaching Yoichi-dake is broad, exposed, and well in the alpine. Getting to the summit of Yoichi-dake requires a clear forecast (rare in deep winter). Keep expectations in check, and rest assured that the most consistently good snow conditions are rarely found at the summit.

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

ONSEN NEARBY

The beauty of back country skiing in Japan is the abundance of onsen (hot springs) available on the drive home; perfect to sooth tired muscles from a full day. At the Kiroro Resort is the Mori-no-yu Onsen (森の湯温泉), 1,200yen per person. If you’re keen for something a little more down-market, then Asariga-wa Onsen on the way back to Sapporo has a couple of really good value onsen: Musashitei Hotel (600yen per person) or Classe Hotel (800yen per person) are great. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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

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.

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hokkaidowilds.org 2020/04/17

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

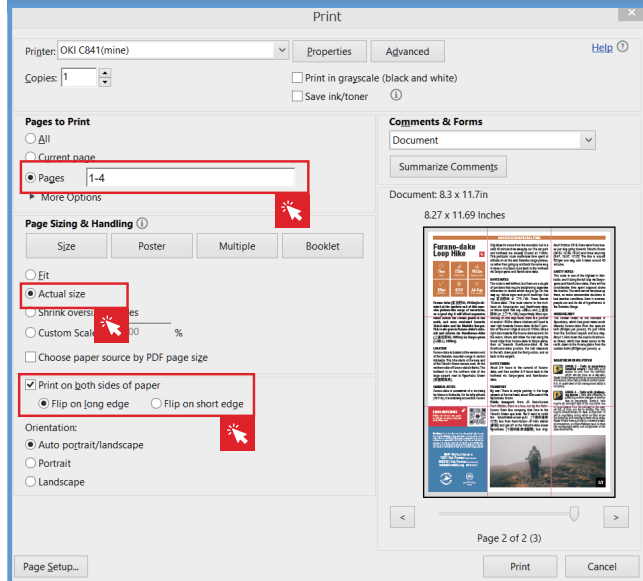


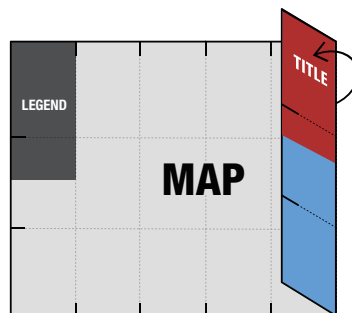
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

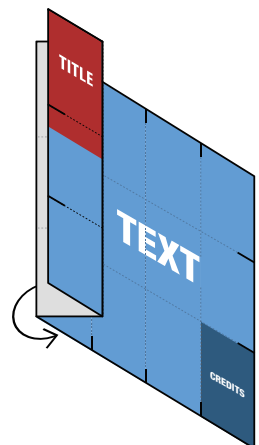
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

