

SAPPORO AREA



Shioya Maru-yama (塩谷丸山, 629m) is an easy hike close to Sapporo City, just west of the bustling tourist town of Otaru. Access is super convenient for those living in Sapporo - just get on a train to the Shioya Train station, and you're on your way. The route makes for a nice hike through lowland bush with large expansive views over the Shakotan Peninsula and the Japan Sea at the top. It is well known in the area as a great hike for beginners as well as experienced hikers wanting a quick half-day trip.

LOCATION

Shioya Maru-yama sits just east of the Shakotan Peninsula northwest of Sapporo City. It's just west of Otaru City, about 6km as the crow flies from the tourist hotspots near the Otaru canals and glassblowing workshops. The hike starts on the northern side of the new Shiribeshi Expressway, here, accessed from Route 956 near Shioya Station (塩谷駅).

GENERAL NOTES

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP | Rob Thomson hokkaidowilds.org 2020/05/13

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Welldonegan

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The name of the peak is marked as 'Maruyama' on maps, but there are countless peaks in Japan called Maru-yama, so 'Shioya' – the name of the surrounding area – is added to the front of the name to distinguish it from other Maru-yamas.

Shioya Maru-yama is an easy hike, great for beginners seeking a hike with good views, a relatively committing uphill climb, and easy access to the coast for a swim afterwards. This peak is also a great introductory backcountry ski touring location, with a slightly different winter route up the mountain.

ROUTE NOTES

At a very leisurely pace, expect about 2 hours from the expressway underpass car park to the summit, and about 1.5 hours back down.

Hikers can either start from the large carpark next to the expressway underpass, or take the JR train and start walking from the Shioya Station. It's about an 850m (10 minute) walk from the station to the expressway underpass. Note that if the expressway underpass parking area is full, hikers will need to park down at the train station.

If starting from the train station, walk from the station down to the main road (Route 956), and walk west (left) along the road to the first minor road on the left. Walk uphill on this minor road to a level crossing. Cross the level crossing, and walk up the local residential road, taking the first right at a fork in the road. At the t-intersection, head right. At the next t-intersection, head left, and walk the rest of the way uphill to the expressway underpass.

From the expressway underpass, walk under the expressway and head right along the gravel road to the official trailhead. Once on the official trail, it's just a matter of following the well-trodden trail up to the summit. There's no junctions along the way. The first 3/4 of the hike is in pleasant forest, before the vistas open up at around 450m in altitude. You'll now be surrounded by tall sasa bamboo grass. There's an easy, rocky scramble up boulders to a small plateau just under the summit. From there, you'll see the final destination – the prominent, rocky summit. Make the final push, and you'll be on the top of the world. Return the way you came.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is a large carpark at an expressway underpass, about 350m from the official trailhead. On weekends, we recommend getting to this car park early – this is a popular route, and the carpark can fill up. When the car park is full, hikers will need to park down at the train station car park.

Public transport: The route is accessible from the JR Shoiya station (塩谷駅). See Google Maps for train schedule. From the station to the expressway underpass trailhead parking area it's a 10 minute (850m) walk.

SAFETY NOTES

While this is a relatively straight forward and easy route, hikers should carry the normal backcountry hiking gear: waterproof rain jacket, extra insulation layer, plenty of water, food, sun protection in summer etc. Make sure to put your details in the trailhead logbook before setting off from the official trailhead. Like the rest of Hokkaido, this is bear country, so appropriate precautions should be taken.

ONSEN NEARBY

If you're traveling by car, then our recommended post-hike onsen would be any of the onsen in Asari Village (here). This is a slight detour off the main road to Sapporo.

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.

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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

