



Shisorapuchi River

シーソラブチ川

Canoeing Map


1:25000






2.5 hrs

Time




7.37

Gradient (mpk)




Class III

Difficulty




5.7km

Distance



5/5

Water clarity



Apr-Jun

Best season

This lower section of the Shisorapuchi River (シーソラブチ川) is one of the most well-rounded intermediate to advanced whitewater runs in Hokkaido. It's got technical but relatively safe drops, plenty of named and un-named rapids, crystal clear water, and the river is lined by moss-covered bedrock. Where the river officially becomes the Sorachi River (空知川) there's the option to run the famous Kokutai Course (国体コース), a Class III- run through a low gorge. This section of river, flowing straight from the depths of the Daisetsuzan National Park, is one that will beg you to return to test your skills.

LOCATION
The Shisorapuchi River is an upper feeder river to the Sorachi River, in Minami-furano Town in central Hokkaido, about 30km southeast of Furano City.


Put-in: The start of this route is at the public put-in location about 5km north of the Ochiai settlement in Minami-furano, here. Note that there's also another put-in about 600m south (downstream) of this put-in, but it's private land, owned by a rafting company. The public should only use the upper put-in.


Take-out: There are a couple of options for taking out on this route. One is here, at the end of the Kokutai Course – an advanced 400m section of river running

through a shallow gorge at the head of the Sorachi River. This is the traditional take-out for rafting companies – there's a large set of stairs for easy access to the upper carpark. If you'd rather not throw yourself down the Kokutai Course, there's another take-out just before the last bridge on the Shisorapuchi River.

GENERAL NOTES
The name Shisorapuchi is a Japanese transliteration of the indigenous Ainu language name for the river, *si-sorapci*. In Ainu, this means ‘the real Sorachi River’. As such, the Shisorapuchi River is the Sorachi River, albeit the upper section that flows from its source on the southern slopes of Mt. Kamihorometo-kku (上ホロメトック山, 1920m) high up in the Daisetsuzan Range. At the confluence of the Shisorapuchi River and the Ruoman-sorapuchi River (レーオマンソラブチ川, *ru-oman-sorapci*; ‘Sorachi River the trail’), the river becomes the Sorachi River proper.

The Shisorapuchi is one of Hokkaido's most well-known rafting rivers, with over ten companies running tours on this very section of river. The upper part of the section drives hard and fast through drop-dead gorgeous native forest, and moss-lined rocky river-sides. There are at least a few named drops






along the way. The last 400m of the route is on the Kokutai Course - a 400m section of river used for the 1989 National Sports Festival of Japan (国民体育大会, *koku-min-taiku-taikai*) canoe slalom competition.

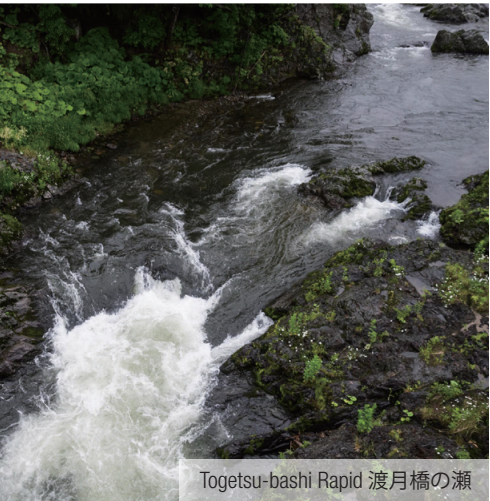
Water level: The closest water level measurement station is about 20km downstream (Iku-tora Water Station). We ran the Shisorapuchi River when this station was showing 354.09m. Anything below this may indicate water levels too low to run the Shisorapuchi River.


Campground: If you're looking for somewhere cheap to base yourself in the area for a few days, look no further than the Kanayama Lake campground. Details below.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
This section of river is one of the shortest we've run in Hokkaido, but it was our first time, and we were on our own. This meant we scouted every one of the trickier drops and rapids. This added up to over 2 hours on the river. Make sure to allow plenty of time.

Put in at the public access point, about 5km north of the Ochiai settlement. You'll be putting in just above a straight-forward, often boney swift. For the next 500m or so, you'll encounter multiple straight-forward Class I+ rapids, until







you arrive at the first named drop of the route – the **Goryu-no-se Rapid** (五流の瀬, Class II). This rapid is also referred to as *Bucho-no-se* (部長の瀬), because an NHK executive (部長, *bu-cho*) fell out of a raft during filming and had to be rescued. In decent flows, this drop should be run well to the river left. Scouting is very highly recommended, however, as it is a sharp drop, with blocks of sharp, canoe-busting bedrock exposed when the water level is low. When we were there, the water was infuriatingly only-just too low, so lined around it to the river right.

From Goryu-no-se Rapid, it's another 2.2km of busy, unrelenting Class II-ish rapids and swifts, mostly easily run with not too much drama. At the 2.7km mark, there's a more substantial rapid followed 100m later by **Kranku-no-Se Rapid** (クランクの瀬, Class II). This is a short but pushy neck in the river which is run straight down the middle. “You'll be pushed around a bit,” writes Hidenori Takahashi, “but just keep calm and carry on, and you'll be OK.”

The next (and last) major rapid of the Shisorapuchi River is **Trauma-no-se Rapid** (トラウマの瀬, Class II+). According to Hidenori Takahashi “in an open-deck canoe, it's 50/50 as to whether I go for a swim or not.”

Beyond Trauma-no-se Rapid, it's a nice calm before the storm of one of the most famous white-water runs in Hokkaido – the **Kokutai Course** (国体コース) on the Sorachi River. Seeing this is only Haidee and I's second full season of canoeing, we opted to give this a miss this time around, but here's what I've gleaned from reading obsessively about the various rapids and drops in this 400m Class III section of river.

Sandan-no-se Rapid (三段の瀬) – Literally ‘three-step rapid’, this rapid is relatively straight forward – just keep to the middle of the right flow, and watch out for the flow coming in from the left at the bottom.

Pachinko-no-se Rapid (パチンコの瀬) – What do pachinko balls do? They bounce off things. So do canoes that mess up this rapid. The easy option in decent water flow is the hard right minor flow – not even a Class II. The option for the pros is to cut around the left of Pachinko-iwa boulder (パチンコ岩) in the middle of the river.

Togetsu Bridge Rapid (渡月橋の瀬) – This is a pushy drop that's “easy to capsize when running the right side,” writes Hidenori Takahashi. It's best to run this drop as close as possible to the left side.

Video: Hidenori Takahashi, the prolific open-deck canoeist behind the excellent Hokkai-Camp.com website, has a great rundown of the Shisorapuchi River rapids on his Youtube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLBEDEI-HGU>

TRANSPORT
By car I There is plenty of parking at the put-in as well as the various options for take-out.

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

RIVER DETAILS

This route is on Shisorapuchi River (シーソラブチ川), or *Si-sorapci* in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 194.5km in total length. This section of the river is between 10m and 40m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 7.37 mpk (38.91 FPM).


Public transport I Google Maps has up-to-date timetabling for the route to Ochiai Station JR train station. Due to typhoon damage to the tracks, this station is currently only accessibly by bus as a replacement for the train. From the train station, your best bet for getting to the put-in would be by taxi (FMT Taxi, TEL: 0120-456-256). A taxi fare would likely be around 3,000yen one-way.

SAFETY NOTES
Being a rafting course, paddlers will not have to worry too much about strainers and the like on this section of river. In places it can be bony and flanked by bed-rock on the sides though, so a helmet is a must in addition to the normal personal safety gear. If running the river in a single canoe, self-rescue ability is also a must.

ONSEN NEARBY
The closest option for a hot soak is the Lake Kanayama Hoyo Center (かなやま湖保養センター, 410yen). This isn't a natural hot-spring, but it's still a classic Japanese public bath – light, airy, and gloriously relaxing. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/shisor>




Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital data-bases 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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PHOTOS I Rob Thomson, Shigeo Kobayashi

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT I Dominika Gan

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シーソラプチ川 River Map 1:25000

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9°29' W | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/07/04

Symbol Key (some may not be present)



Route (distance between points)



National Highway



Prefectural Road



Municipal Road

Minor Municipal
Road

Walkway

Designated
campsite

Put in/take out location



Portage required



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/shisor>



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この地図の作成にあたっては、国土院地籍図の承認を得て、国土地理院の基礎地図情報及び電子地形図（タイル）を使用した。座標番号30度経緯帯（座標57号）。また、125,000倍拡大GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、hokkaidowildlife.orgが作成・加工したものである）
We created this map using the Geospatial Information of Japan (digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. Hei-30-joshi-dai-86760)). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



HOKKAIDO
WILDS

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.

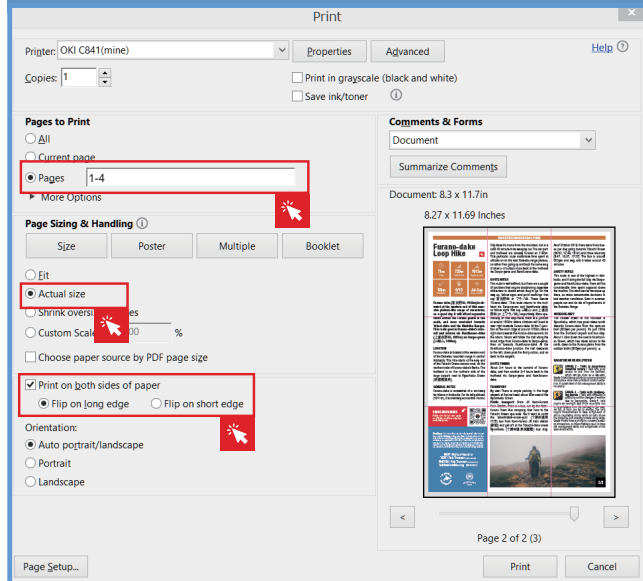
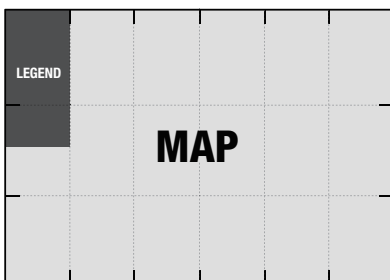


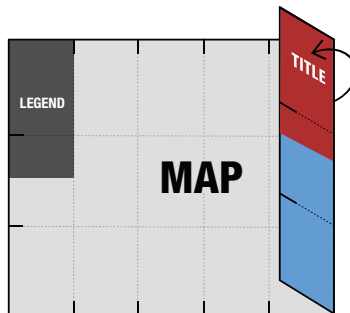
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

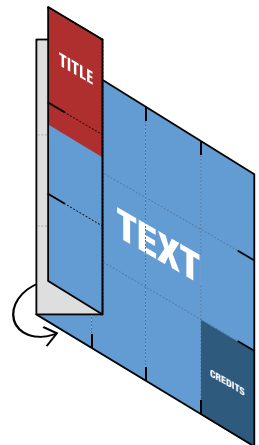
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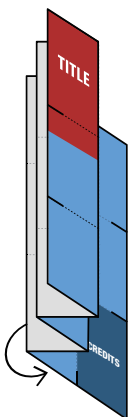
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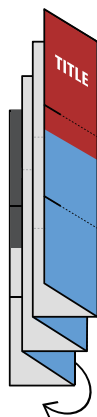
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4



5



6



7

