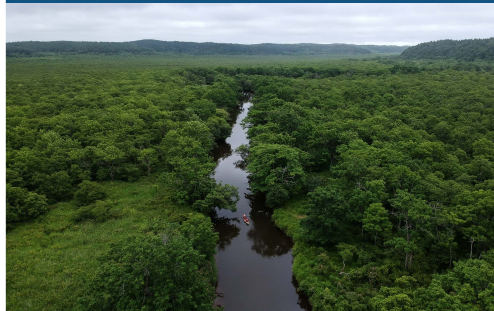




# Bekanbeushi River (Bekanbeushi Wetland)

別寒辺牛川 Canoeing Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 9° 00' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2020/08/20

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (distance 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
	Put in/take out location		Portage required
	Dam/waterfall		Rapids



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

**THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF** - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://hokw.jp/geobeka>

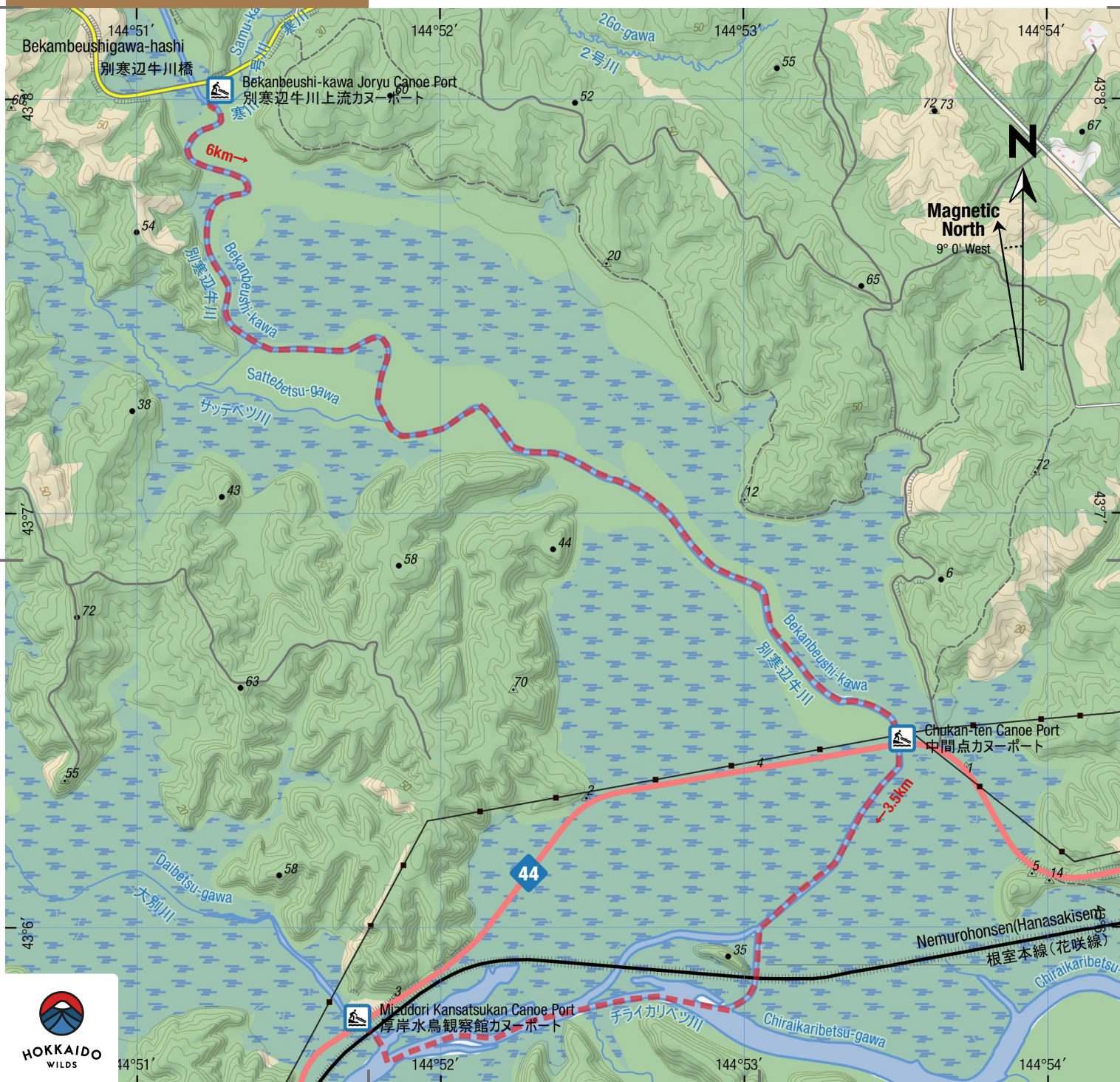


## Japanese Map Glossary

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
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、同院発行の基礎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植生図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/>).





# Bekanbeushi River



 <b>3hrs</b> Time	 <b>0.3</b> Gradient (mpk)	 <b>Class I</b> Difficulty
 <b>11km</b> Distance	 <b>2/5</b> Water clarity	 <b>Apr-Nov</b> Best season

This is a technically easy but remote wetland canoe route on the Bekanbeushi River (別寒辺牛川) in eastern Hokkaido. Wending its way through the expansive Bekanbeushi wetlands (別寒辺牛湿原), you'll see red-crowned tancho cranes, Hokkaido native deer, white-tailed eagles, and a plethora of other rare wildlife. With no roads running parallel to the forested upper section of the route, there's a real sense of escape from humanity. The flow is gentle enough to allow paddling upstream, so more experienced paddlers can extend the route to a solid daytrip into even more seldom-visited corners of this slice of eastern Hokkaido.

## LOCATION

Bekanbeushi River is located in eastern Hokkaido, flowing from north to south into the vast tidal Akkeshi Lake next to Akkeshi City, on the southern coastline of eastern Hokkaido.

**Put-in location:** The upper canoe port put-in (bekanbeushi-kawa-hashiki-canu-pooto, 別寒辺牛川橋駅カヌーポ

ート) is easily accessed via taxi from the take-out next to the Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Center. We called a taxi (Sakura Hire 桜ハイヤー, TEL: 0153-52-2137) from the center and they were there within about 10 minutes. From the Waterfowl center, it's about a 10km (5,200yen) taxi ride to the put-in. Ask to be taken to the Bekanbeushi upstream canoe port (bekanbeushi-joryu-kanu-pooto, 別寒辺牛川上流カヌーポート). Staff at the Waterfowl Observation Center may also be able to help you communicate with the taxi driver. There's some hefty up-and-down on the way to the put-in from the center, so if cycling, allow a full hour.

**Take-out location:** The take-out is at a canoe port/boat-ramp next to the Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Center. This is the lower of the three canoe ports on the river. There's another canoe port about two thirds of the way along the route, here, although it's less well serviced (カヌー降場 中間点 別寒辺牛川).

## GENERAL NOTES

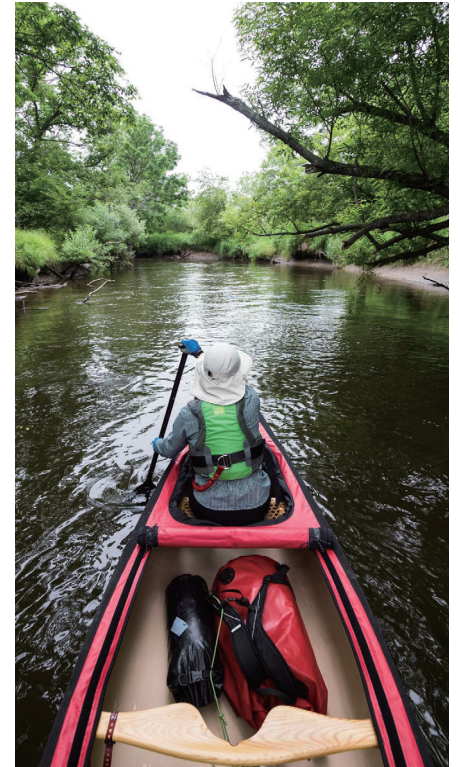
This easy, short 9km-ish section of the Bekanbeushi River is one of the more well-served canoe routes in Hokkaido. There are three canoe ports on the route, with very good access to the river. The route itself cuts through the Bekanbeushi Wetlands (別寒辺牛湿原). Unlike many rivers in Hokkaido, there are no roads for kilometres around once you're on the river. Expect to see an abundance of wildlife, including white-tailed eagles, native Hokkaido ezo deer, and plenty of kingfisher birds.

**Difficulty:** Besides the relatively remoteness of this section of the river, this is an otherwise very safe, slow-flow wetland river. The flow is slow enough to allow paddling upstream from the put-in, which adds as much time onto the trip as the day allows.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect to be on the water for at least three hours. Starting from the upper-most canoe port, paddlers can either head straight downstream, or paddle for a ways upstream before turning around and paddling back down. The only point of note is the fork in the river at around the 6km point. Take the left branch here – the right goes to a dead-end created by an earthen bank for the railway.

In older canoe guidebooks, I've seen mention of paddling all the way down the river, onto Akkeshi Lake, and on to Akkeshi City. We were considering doing this when we were there, but there was a strong on-shore wind blowing, so we abandoned this idea. If conditions are favourable, this could be a nice extension to the trip. Guidebooks suggest a boatramp at the western end of the lake, to be suitable for taking out. Note that Lake Akkeshi is a very shallow tidal lake – I'd only attempt a foray onto the lake if I could be confident of coinciding with a high tide. Also note that this would add an extra 5km



of flat-water paddling to the trip – allow at least 1.5hrs extra.

## TRANSPORT

**By car** | There's plenty of parking at all the canoe ports on this route. Check the put-in and take-out details above.

**Public transport** | Beyond private taxi from Akkeshi City on the coast, there is no public transport access to the put-in or take-out location.

## SAFETY NOTES

The main concern on this route is the relative remoteness of the route. There's no mobile reception for the majority of the upper section of the route, so paddlers need to be self-sufficient. Also note that access to the riverside is limited, and foot access across the wetlands is also extremely limited. Ensure plenty of daylight before setting off.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The closest Japanese baths is Kiraku-yu (喜楽湯) sento. This is a super-traditional, simple Japanese public bath, located in Akkeshi City. It's about 6km from the take-out point. ■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, live water levels, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/bekan>



**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.

## MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2020/08/20

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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## EXTRA DETAILS

**River Details:** This route is on Bekanbeushi River (別寒辺牛川), or Pekaube-kus-i in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class B (二級河川) river, 43km in total length. This section of the river is between 7m and 30m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 0.3 mpk (1.58 FPM).

## 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

