



Central Daisetsuzan Circuit


中大雪山ループ Hiking Map 1:25000





3 days
Time

2200m
Total Climb

2291m
Highest point

45km
Distance

9/10
Difficulty

Jul-Sep
Best season

To fully appreciate the wild and rugged nature of Daisetsuzan you need to load up your pack and head into the interior of the range on a multi-day backpacking trip. Once away from the popular trails around the ropeways of the Asahi-dake and Kuro-dake areas this high-level wilderness traverse takes you over remote peaks and through meadows of alpine wildflowers, staying at isolated huts or their campgrounds. Days are long but the trails are good and the climbs never really steep. Hokkaido's highest waterfall provides a fitting finale at the end of three days in the high country of Japan's far north.

LOCATION
This backpacking hike makes a three-day circuit through the central Daisetsuzan massif. It starts at 1600m from the upper ropeway station at Sugatami on the western flank of the mountain above Asahidake Onsen spa and finishes back at Asahidake Onsen at the campsite below the ropeway. It climbs the highest mountain in Hokkaido, Asahi-dake (旭岳, 2,291m), then passes under the imposing bulk of Hakuun-dake (白雲岳, 2,230m) before trekking down the central spine of the massif, Takanegahara (高根ヶ原). You return via the peaks of Chubetsu-dake (忠別岳, 1,963m) and Kaun-dake (化雲岳, 1,878m) before dropping down a long

and beautiful ridge past Hokkaido's highest waterfall at 270m, Hagoromo-no-taki (羽衣の滝), above Tenninkyo Onsen. It is also possible to end the walk at Tenninkyo Onsen though there is no public transport access.

GENERAL NOTES
The main season for summer hiking in Daisetsuzan is from July into September; before and after this you need to be prepared and equipped for snow on the ground and/or falling from the sky. On this hike you will need to spend two nights in a hut, or camping next to one, so you need to take all your food, bedding and cooking equipment. The huts may be crowded during the summer holiday season and at weekends. It can be cold at night; expect temperatures close to freezing. By September it can become more difficult to find water at the campsites and huts, especially at Hisagonuma. All water must be boiled or filtered.

The trailhead for this circuit is at Asahidake Onsen, a small collection of lodgings and hot springs below the ropeway up the mountain. Accommodation options include a youth hostel and a campsite as well as local Japanese style pensions and hotels. The upper ropeway station at Sugatami has toilets and a small restaurant. There are no safe water sources beyond this point. In high season (June-late October) the ropeway operates every 15 minutes from 06:30 up to 17:30 down (08:00 – 17:00 later in the season – be sure to check



HAKUUN-DAKE REFUGE

¥

T







Details: Large, basic two-story hut, 1 hour from Hakuun-dake summit. Hutkeeper present in summer. Also has official campsite nearby. Hut available in winter, but no heating.

Capacity: 60 persons.

Cost: 1000yen per night (free in winter).

Contact: Kamikawa Development Bureau (上川振興局), TEL: 0166 46 5922.

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



the schedule) and costs 1800 yen one way (asahidake.hokkaido.jp).

On the final day you drop down to Tenninkyo Onsen (a small cluster of hot spring hotels but no shops or public transport) before a final two to three hour hike on a rough forest trail back to Asahidake Onsen. If you want to avoid this last stretch and do not need to return to Asahidake Onsen it may be possible to hitch a lift out of here.

NOTE: There's one more hut along the route – between the two huts below is the unmanned Chubetsu-dake Refuge (忠別岳避難小屋, capacity 40). This hut is 10 mins east off the main trail after descending Chubetsu-dake, which could be used in an emergency or as an alternative for the second night. It is a basic two-storey hut with a campground. Water is obtained from snowfield runoff – boil or filter (Contact: Kamikawa Sogo Shinkokyoku, 0166 46 5922).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
The route is well defined, with occasional splashes of yellow paint to mark the trail. Trail junctions are marked by large signposts (in Japanese). Times are approximate and don't include leisurely lunch stops etc.

Day 1: From the ropeway station at Sugatami climb up and over Asahi-dake (旭岳, 2291m, 2hrs 30mins) and take the trail east heading to Mamiyadake (間宮岳, 2185m, about 1 hour). Continue on to Hokkai-dake (北海岳, 2149m, 40 mins), then turn south over the plateau to traverse under Hakuun-dake (白雲岳, 2230m, 1hr 10mins). From Hakuun-dake Junction head down to the Hakuun-dake Refuge (白雲岳避難小屋) in about 20 minutes.

Day 2: Leave the hut heading south along the long broad central ridge of Takanegahara (高根ヶ原). In clear conditions you can see the whole route to Kaun-dake stretch out before you. Allow about 3hrs 30 mins to reach Chubetsu-dake (忠別岳, 1963m). Go over Chubetsu-

CENTRAL HOKKAIDO


dake, past the turn off to the Chubetsu-dake Refuge (忠別岳避難小屋, 40mins), and up through dwarf juniper to the junction at Goshiki-dake (五色岳 1868m, 50mins). From here the trail turns west to Kaun-dake (化雲岳, 1954m, 1 hour), crossing marshy areas on wooden boardwalks. Turn south again and after 15 mins branch off to the southeast down to Hisagonuma lake and the Hisagonuma Refuge Hut (ヒサゴ沼避難小屋, 40mins).


Day 3: Retrace your steps back up to Kaun-dake in about an hour then take the long broad ridge that runs northwest down to Tenninkyo (天人峡). After a few hours you cross a marshy area on duckboards then enter the forest to emerge at a lookout (滝見台) opposite the waterfall. Then it's down a steep slope on a series of switchbacks into Tenninkyo (5-6 hours total). To continue on to Asahidake Onsen (旭岳温泉) locate the trail behind the small shrine at the top of the settlement and climb steeply up. From there walk through the forest to Asahidake Onsen, emerging at the campground (2hrs 30mins). This trail was not well maintained in 2016.


TRANSPORT
By car: There is easy road access from the Asahikawa direction. There is ample parking in the large car parks by the ropeway station, some may charge fees.
Public transport | From JR Asahikawa Train Station, there is a bus (Ideyugo, いで湯号), operated by the Asahikawa Denki Kido Bus company (tel: 0166 23 3355), that runs to the Asahidake-Onsen spa area. As of November 2019, there were four buses per day there (07:11, 09:41, 13:11, 16:24) and four returning (09:30, 12:00, 15:30, 18:00). The fare is around 1430yen one way, and it takes around 1 hour 40 minutes. See the link to the Ideyugo Bus timetable at the very bottom of this page: <http://asahidake.hokkaido.jp/en/>.

SAFETY NOTES
This route takes you into the wild, high-altitude interior of the mountain range away from

more popular day hike areas and on to quieter and more isolated trails. Daisetsuzan is a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. The Tomuraushi Disaster of 2009 is a sobering case in point. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear and enough emergency supplies to sit out bad weather in a hut if necessary. The ridges are broad and featureless and it is possible to become dis-oriented in mist. There are no escape routes once you start the second day of the hike apart from one trail (often closed due to bears) that drops off the main Takanegahara ridge east to Daisetsu Kogen Onsen (大雪高原温泉,

DAISETSUZAN GRADE SYSTEM
 **Grade 3 - Trails to experience beautiful nature** | Trails with good access to and from the trailhead, which can be done as a day-walk. Grade-3 trails have a priority to conserve a natural atmosphere rather than provide of comfort underfoot. A certain level of risk management ability is necessary.

 **Grade 4 - Trails with challenging terrain** | Trails with difficulties in predicting sudden changes of weather due to topography. Grade-4 trails require an overnight stay in the mountains due to long-distance from the trailhead to the nearest hut, of from one hut to another. The trails require hikers/trekkers to have a high-level of skill in negotiating storm winds on trails above the timberline and crossing torrents along valley. Grade-4 trails have a priority to conserve a natural atmosphere, so hikers/trekkers need to have risk management ability and a high-level of risk assessment ability.


 **Grade 5 - Trails with extremely challenging terrain** | Trails with difficulties in predicting sudden changes of weather due to topography. Grade-5 trails are long-distance trails from trailhead to the nearest hut or from one hut to another. The trails require hikers/trekkers to have a high-level of skill in crossing torrents and rock surfaces. Grade-5 trails have a priority to conserve a natural atmosphere, therefore hikers/trekkers need to have risk management ability and extremely high-level of risk assessment ability.

(From <http://bit.ly/daisetsu-g>)


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

accommodation available, tel: 01658 2 1211). Bears are numerous; take care when coming across fresh droppings and tracks. There are usually park rangers at the upper ropeway station at Sugatami at the start of the hike who can offer advice.


ONSEN NEARBY
Asahidake Onsen has a number of hot springs that take day visitors, including the youth hostel Daisetsu Shirakabaso (白樺荘) a few hundred meters down the road (800yen per person). ■



HISAGONUMA REFUGE HUT



T



Details: A very basic, unmanned, emergency-use only hut. There is a campsite nearby.

Capacity: 30 persons.


Cost: No charge.

Contact: Tokachi Sogo Shinkokyoku (十勝総合振興局), TEL: 0155 26 2977

Booking details: Not possible to book. The hut can be very busy in the high season (August).

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.


TEXT, PHOTOS | Rick Siddle

MAP | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/08/25

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

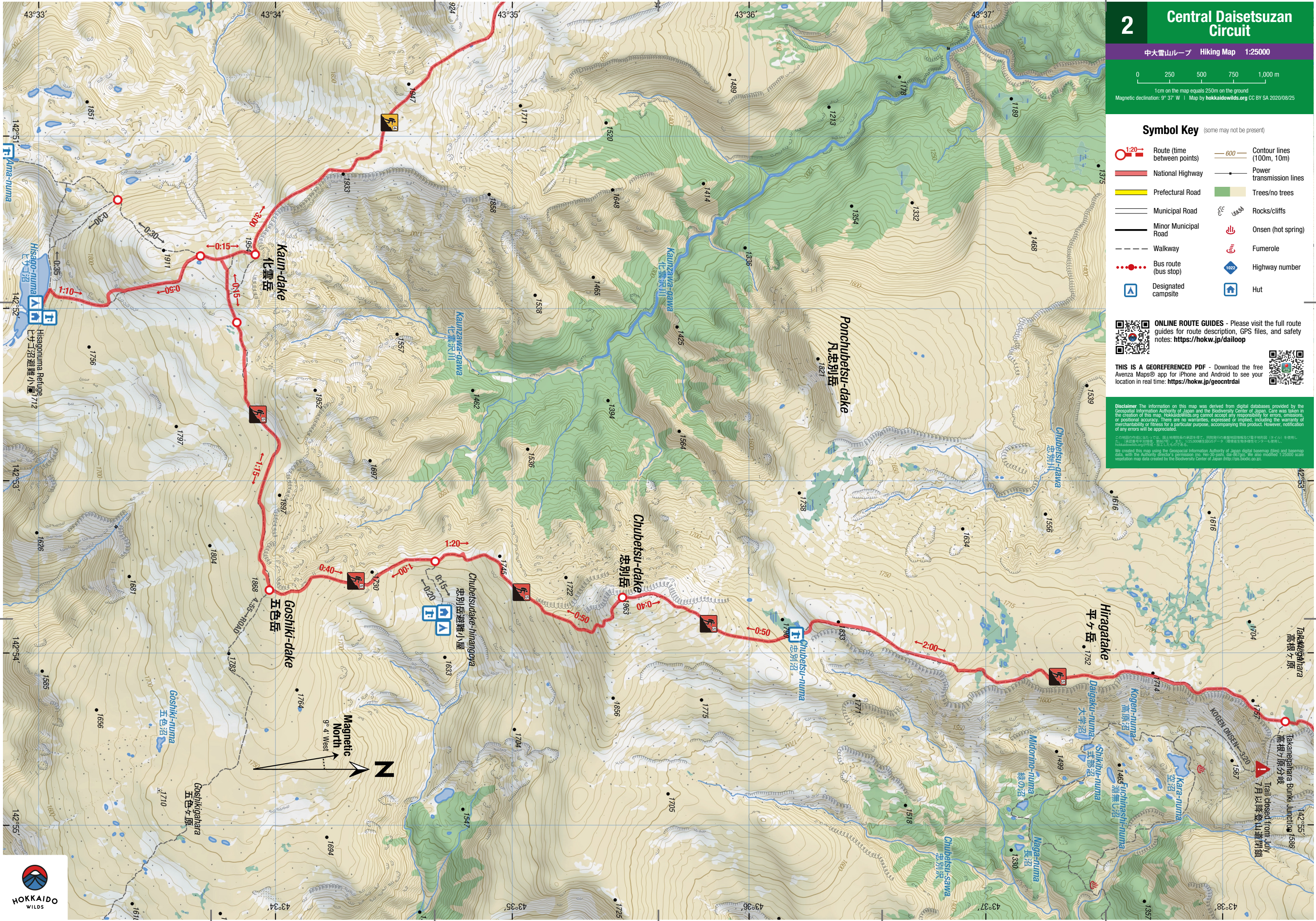
Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"



1

Magnetic declination: 9°37' W | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/08/23

HOKKAIDO
WILDS



Symbol Key

(some may not be present)

Route (time between points)

National Highway

Prefectural Road

Municipal Road

Minor Municipal Road

Walkway

Bus route (bus stop)

Designated campsite

Contour lines (100m, 10m)

Power transmission lines

Trees/no trees

Rocks/cliffs

Onsen (hot spring)

Fumerole

Highway number

Hut

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

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/geocntrdal>

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.

この地図等の情報は、国土地理院の地図データ、国土地理院の基図情報、および電子地図データ（タイル）を使用し、作成されています。HokkaidoWilds.orgは、この地図の作成において、国土地理院の地図データ、国土地理院の基図情報、および電子地図データ（タイル）を使用し、作成されています。HokkaidoWilds.orgは、この地図の作成において、国土地理院の地図データ、国土地理院の基図情報、および電子地図データ（タイル）を使用し、作成されています。

We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. HAI-30-088, 08-867/08). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://www.biodiv.or.jp/>).

Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time between points)		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	National Highway		Power transmission lines
	Prefectural Road		Trees/no trees
	Municipal Road		Rocks/cliffs
	Minor Municipal Road		Onsen (hot spring)
	Walkway		Fumerole
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut

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

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/geocntrdai>

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.

We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. Hn-30-pen, 2018-07/01). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://ais.biodic.go.jp>).

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.



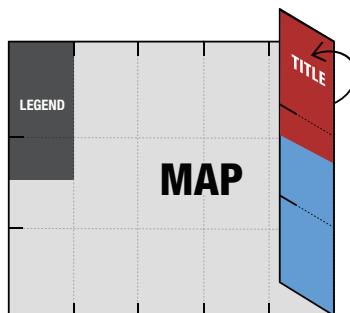
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

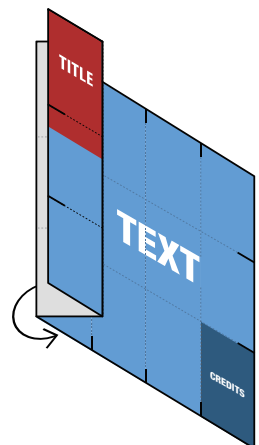
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

