



Kiritappu Wetland (Biwase River)

霧多布湿原 Canoeing Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 8° 56' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/08/24

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/kiritap>

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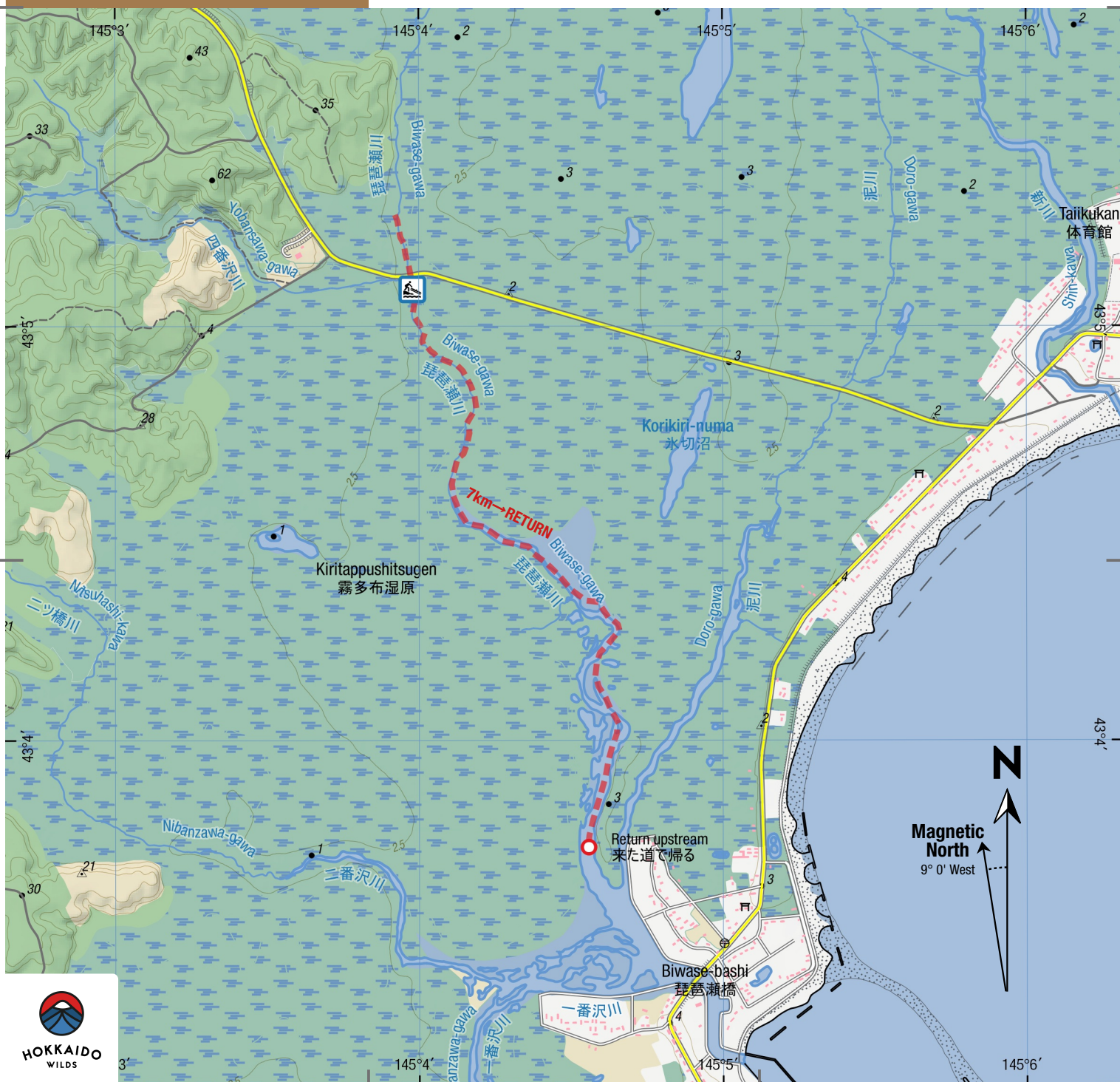


Japanese Map Glossary

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

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/>).



Biwase River

(Kiritappu Wetland)



3hrs
Time



0.1
Gradient (mpk)



Class I
Difficulty



7km
Distance



2/5
Water clarity



May-Oct
Best season

The Kiritappu Wetland (霧多布湿原) is a large wetland area on the Pacific Ocean in far east Hokkaido. It's home to a vast variety of wildlife, including bears, eagles, and the red-crested tancho crane. Biwase River (琵琶瀬川) flows slowly through the wetland, allowing paddlers an intimate view into the heart of the marsh. Being close to the coast, birdwatchers will enjoy the river access to viewing of oyster-catchers and other marine birds too. Here, we outline the classic out-and-back route. You'll be paddling upstream on the return, but the flow is slow enough to keep it one of the most pleasant, easy-access wetland canoe trips in Hokkaido.

LOCATION

This canoe route is on the Biwase River in the heart of the Kiritappu Wetland on the southern coast of far eastern Hokkaido. It's just west of the small town of Hamanaka on the Pacific Ocean coast.

Put-in location: Put in at the bridge across the Biwase River on Route 808 on river right. There's a large parking area just



after the bridge, heading towards the Kiritappu Wildlife Center (霧多布湿原センター) from Hamanaka Town.

Take-out location: The take-out is the same as the put-in – the bridge across Route 808. There's very little flow to the river, so paddling upstream is no problem. If the wind and tide is favorable, paddlers could conceivably paddle all the way downstream to a boat ramp just west of the Hamanaka fishing port, officially on the Ichiban River (一番川). Note that in early morning, there will be a lot of fishing boat traffic, which has right of way.

GENERAL NOTES

Kiritappu and surrounds has somewhat of a cult following in our minds. There's the wetlands of course, but there's also the dramatic Cape Kiritappu jutting out of the coast, along with a free campground perched on the cliffs popular among cyclists and travelling motorcyclists. Just next to this is a beautiful onsen hotspring facility. When we camped there on an across-Hokkaido cycle tour a few years back, the campground was enveloped in mist, giving the lighthouse an eerie look. It's powerful light shone into the murk as the light of day faded. It's an area one could happily spend a night at – preferably camping – to soak in the atmosphere.

Ramsar Convention Site: The Kiritappu Wetland is a registered Ramsar Convention site. Under no circumstances should paddlers walk on the wetlands or otherwise exit their canoe on the river.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

How long it takes you to paddle this short out-and-back section of river really depends on how long you spend wildlife watching. We splurged almost three hours on the water without getting bored of it.

Start at the Route 808 bridge and head downstream. Alternatively, it's possible to paddle upstream for a ways but beware – the river soon becomes too narrow to turn a 16ft canoe around in, as we unceremoniously found out. We

had to back-paddle until the river widened up again before turning around. Being the sensible individual are, you'll head straight downstream from the bridge. Follow your nose downstream for about 3km before returning the way you came.

TRANSPORT

By car | There's plenty of parking at the parking area just next to the bridge on Route 808.

Public transport | There's no public transport directly to/from the route. A taxi from Chanai JR Station (茶内駅) on the Nemuro Line would likely cost around 3,000yen one-way. Try Kiritappu Chuo Hire (霧多布中央ハイヤー, TEL: 0153-62-3141) – we'd recommend booking in advance, letting the taxi company know your expected arrival time at the station. Ask to be dropped off at 'the bridge just beyond the wetlands center on Route 808' (shitsugen senta sugite no happyaku-hachi go-sen no hashi, 湿原センター過ぎての808号線の橋).

SAFETY NOTES

It's worth noting that there's very little foot access to the wetland – paddlers should be self-sufficient. Also, if headed all the way down the river, keep an eye out for fishing vessels, giving them the right of way.

ONSEN NEARBY

The Kiritappu Yuyu Hotpring Onsen (霧多布温泉ゆうゆ, 500yen) is a must-visit. There's a restaurant attached with the usual reasonable onsen restaurant fare. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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 2020/08/24

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

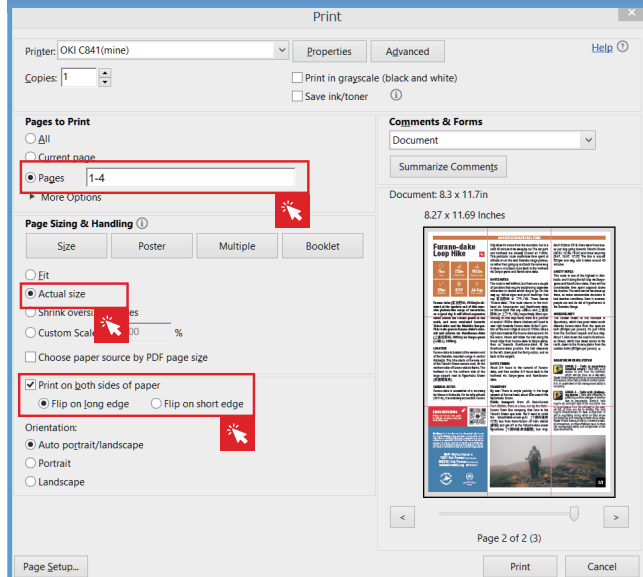


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

