



Lower Furen River

(and Furen Lake)


風蓮川下流 Canoeing Map 1:25000






4 hrs

Time




0.10

Gradient (mpk)




Class I

Difficulty




8.5km

Distance



2/5

Water clarity



Apr-Oct

Best season

Flowing into the expansive tidal Furen Lake (風蓮湖), Furen River (風蓮川) teems with native Hokkaido wetland wildlife. From boisterous human-sized red-crested cranes, miniature iridescent kingfishers, to curious Hokkaido ezo deer, it should be on all paddlers to-do list. The take-out indicated here on Lake Furen requires impeccable navigation skills, so we very highly recommend pre-loading maps onto a smartphone or similar device, and make full use of GPS. For a stress-free paddle, time this trip to coincide with high tide.

LOCATION
Furen River flows into Lake Furen just west of Nemuro City in far eastern Hokkaido. Fun fact: It's only about 40km from Russia.

Put-in: For this lower section of the Furen River, put in under Furen-bashi Bridge (風蓮橋) on Route 243. The put-in is on the river left side. There's plenty of space for parking a car, or even putting a tent up if one would prefer to camp.

Take-out: Take out just before the small bridge on the Kimura River (木村川) flowing into Lake Furen. You'll be paddling upstream for about 500m, but there's hardly any flow. There are a couple of old fishing shacks on the river right where paddlers can park their cars. At low tide, it can be a bit tricky to find a suitable spot



to take out. It can be muddy, and be prepared for some mild grass-whacking.

GENERAL NOTES
In Ishimoto's 2009 Hokkaido canoeing guide-book, he indicates it's possible to start over 20km further upstream of Furen-bridge. We didn't quite have enough time to do this full route (it would possibly take 1.5 days), but were more than happy with this chilled out lower section.



Lake Furen Tides: The best indication you'll get of the tides on Lake Furen is from tides in nearby Nemuro (see the tides viaa the link in the online post). Lake Furen is huge though, so it takes a bit longer for the lake to 'fill up' and 'empty', so use those Nemuro tides as reference only.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
Despite this being a relatively short route, there's very little flow at the lower end of the river. In fact, with an incoming tide, the river will flow backwards. At low tide, it can take time to pick one's way through the shallows on Lake Furen to the Kimura River mouth. Allow plenty of time – we recommend starting well before noon at the very latest.

Starting at Furen-bashi Bridge, paddle downstream for just under 5km to the river-wide fishing installation. It's an easy 30 meter portage on the right side. From here, you'll paddle into the vast western end of Lake Furen. Keep left at any major junctions, and follow your nose to the Kimura River mouth. At canoe-level, it can be very difficult to find the river mouth by sight, so we recommend the use of Google Maps on your smartphone. At low tide, it may be difficult to pick your way across the shallows, and you may find yourself beached on the odd muddy hump here and there. The lake-bed is deep, deep mud, so do not count on being able to walk with your canoe.

Once at the Kimura River mouth, paddle 500m upstream to the fishing shacks and grass-whack your way from the river to the shacks. Be prepared for a relatively awkward, muddy



take-out.

TRANSPORT
By car | There's room for about three or four cars to park at both the put in and take out. We had our own bicycles, so enjoyed the 6km bicycle shuttle (we saw raccoons and deer along the way). If you don't have bikes with you, order a taxi (Nishibetsu Hire 西別ハイヤー, TEL: 0153-75-2046) from Betsukai Town to meet you at Yamasaki Shoten (山崎商店) on the junction of Route 243 and Route 244. You can either have the taxi follow you to the take-out before taking the taxi to the put-in. Alternatively, it's a pleasant 30 minute forested walk from the take-out to the Route 243/244 junction. The walk is on a sand/dirt road with more deer footprints than tire tracks..
Public transport | There's no public transport to either the take out or put in.

SAFETY NOTES
Allow more time than you think you need for this route. Navigating across the short section of shallows from the Furen River mouth to the narrow Kimura River mouth can be tricky and time-consuming. Use your smartphone's GPS (preferably with pre-loaded maps) to make things smooth-sailing.

ONSEN NEARBY
There aren't many onsen nearby the route. The closest would be the lovely Seaside Hotel Odaito Onsen (尾岱沼温泉, 500yen) near the Odaito Campground, about 40km north along Route 244. If you're headed back to Nemuro, then there's also the Minato-yu sento (public bath) in Nemuro (みなと湯, 450yen). ■

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 Furen River (風蓮川), or Hure-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class B (二級河川) river, 81km in total length. This section of the river is between 15m and 100m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 0.1 mpk (0.53 FPM).



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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




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.

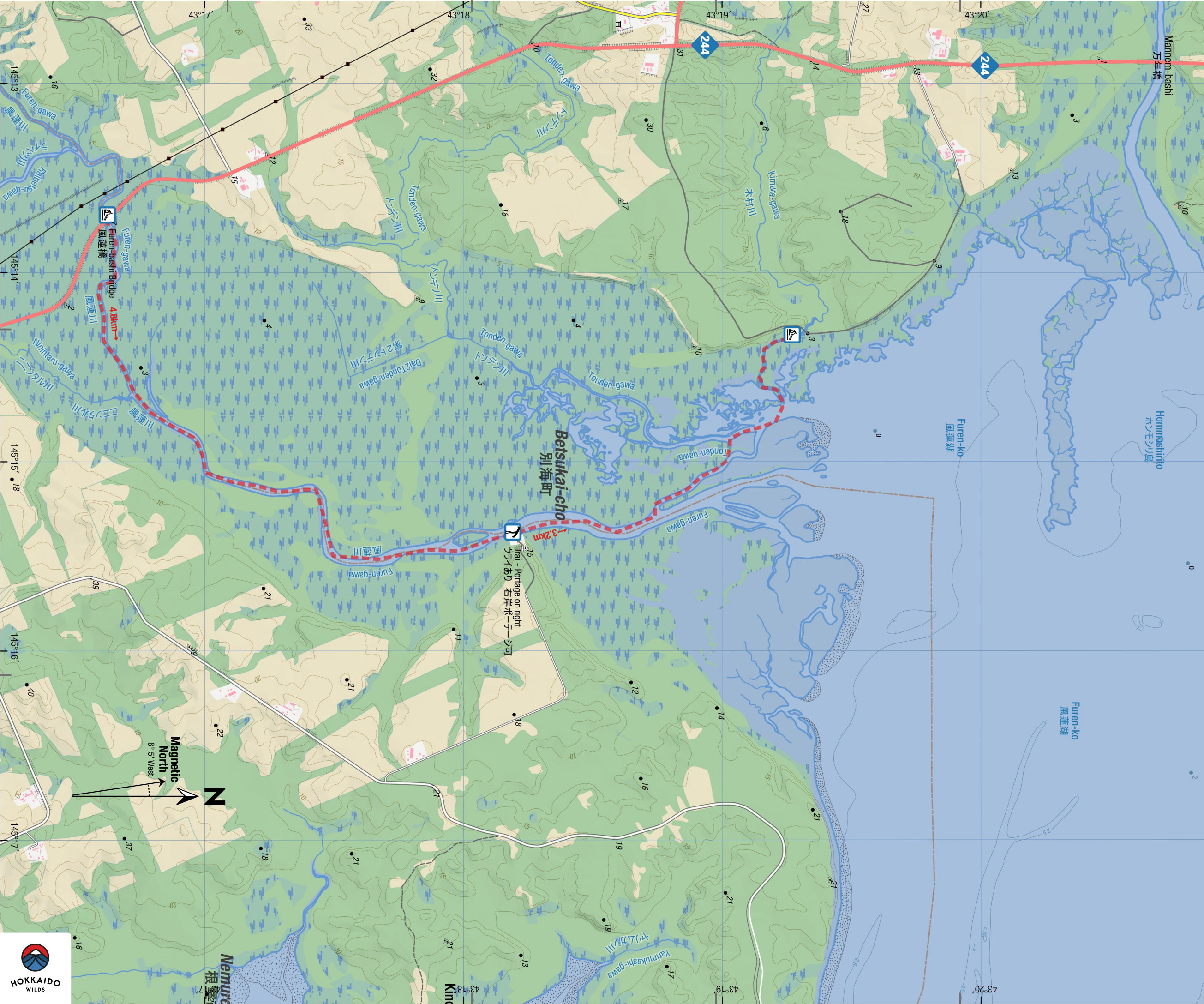
MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2020/08/22

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Lower Furen River

風連川下流

River Map

1:25000

02505007501,000 m

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 8° 58' W | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/08/21

Symbol Key

(some may not be present)

	Route (distance 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
	Designated campsite		Highway number
	Put in/take out location		Portage required
	Portage required		Rapids

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

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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.



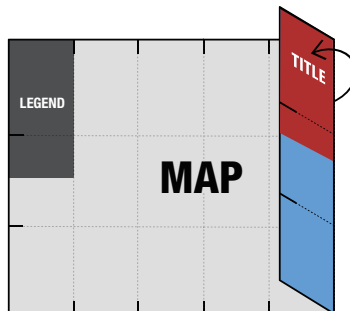
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

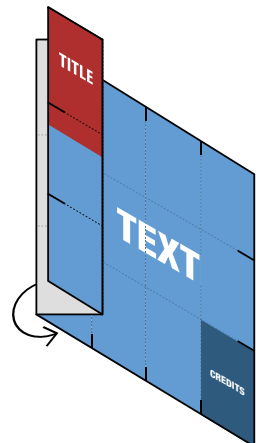
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

