



Nubinai River


ヌビナイ川 Canoeing Map 1:25000






1 day

Time




11km

Distance




Class III

Difficulty




5/5

Remoteness



5/5

Water clarity



May-Oct

Best season

The Nubinai River (ヌビナイ川) is a wild, pristine waterway flowing from high up in the eastern reaches of the Hidaka mountains. With a good water level, it is easily one of Hokkaido's most picturesque rivers, with some enjoyable and sometimes technical whitewater rapids. Most of this section of the river is flanked by high cliffs, adding to a feeling of wilderness. The entire riverbed is made up of almost perfectly spherical mini-boulders, which are nothing short of spectacular when seen through the river's crystal clear water. This section suffers from a lack of water in the summer season, so it's best run in spring or after heavy rain in the autumn.

LOCATION
The Nubinai River flows towards the southeast from high up in the central Hidaka mountain range in central Hokkaido.

Put-in location: Put in just downstream from the large dam about 900m along the gravel section of the minor road heading up into the Hidaka range. There's a small gravel area to park a few cars, followed by a short walk down a 4WD track to the river bed.

Take-out location: Take out at the Kamui Kotan Campground lower camping area about 400m past Oda-bashi Bridge.

GENERAL NOTES
This impossibly pristine river is usually a tough nut to crack, often suffering from low water levels. Even if the gauge is showing less than 102.40m though, it's worth driving down to the put in just to enjoy the away-from-it-all vibe of the deep gorge. If doing the route in a packraft,

paddlers will unlikely find anything too challenging - apart from the drop at the 5km mark - but do watch out for downed trees along the way. Paddlers in larger open-deck canoes will be quite busy, however. Even at higher water levels, the rapids can be bony. That said, the rocks on the riverbed tend to be almost-perfect spheres which will likely deflect a canoe rather than gouging it.

Difficulty: This is a very 'busy' route, with quite a lot of gradient as far as Hokkaido rivers go. Suited for intermediate paddlers and up, paddlers should be confident in their canoe maneuvering skills and self-rescue techniques.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
Start from just below the large dam and strap in for the ride. There's so many moderately-long rapids along this route that noting all of them would be somewhat of a task. You'll be torn between admiring the beautiful gorge walls, the crystal clear water, and dodging rocks on the river bed. The main concern common to all sets of rapids are the bony entrances. As mentioned above, however, the rocks themselves are very smooth and round. Most about 50cm in diameter, most paddlers will find themselves deflected rather than impacted. The crux of the route is at the 5km mark with a solid Class 3 drop. The approach is one 150m long Class 2 set of rapids with boulders to dodge, so pull up to the left early and take a walk to scout your line. Beyond that Class 3 drop the river widens a little, with a few more downed trees to watch

out for. At the 10km mark the Nubinai joins the Rekifune River for the last 1km paddle to the Kamui Kotan Campground.

TRANSPORT
By car | There's plenty of parking both at the put in and the take out at Kamui Kotan Camp-

ground. If not staying at the campground, you'll need to park up at the upper carpark. When driving down into the campground to pick up boats, let the campground staff know that you'll be in and out, rather than staying (although we do highly recommend staying - one of the best campgrounds in Hokkaido for paddlers).
Public transport | There is no public transport to this route.

SAFETY NOTES
Take care in the upper gorge section - access to the river is limited. With three rivers feeding into the Rekifune at the Kamui Kotan Campground, the river can rise very quickly with rain high up in the Hidaka mountains. Always check the weather before putting in. This applies to both the difficult-to-access gorge section and considerations regarding camping on gravel bars lower down on the river. When choosing a river-bed campspot, choose well raised up areas.

ONSEN NEARBY
This eastern side of the Hidaka foothills is a little scant on natural hotsprings. There's a traditional public bath in Taiki Town (大樹町大樹

| 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 Nubinai River (ヌビナイ川), or Nupi-nay in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is 27.7km in total length. This section of the river is between 10m and 75m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 10 mpk (52.80 FPM).

Water level notes: We paddled the Nubinai at a very generous 102.82m measured at the Rekifune Oda Gauge. The Nubinai often suffers from low water levels however, particularly in the summer months. Most of the year the river trickles along at about 102.4m. Accordingly, the river is best run after a good typhoon cycle in the autumn, or in late spring.

公衆浴場, 200yen per person). Bansei Onsen (晩成温泉, 500yen) is also a nice option if you've got the time and transport to get there. The closest onsen to the Kamui Kotan Campground (20km away) is the Sarabetsu Village Fukushima-no-sato Onsen (福祉の里温泉, 420yen), with large outdoor hot pools and sauna. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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




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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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.

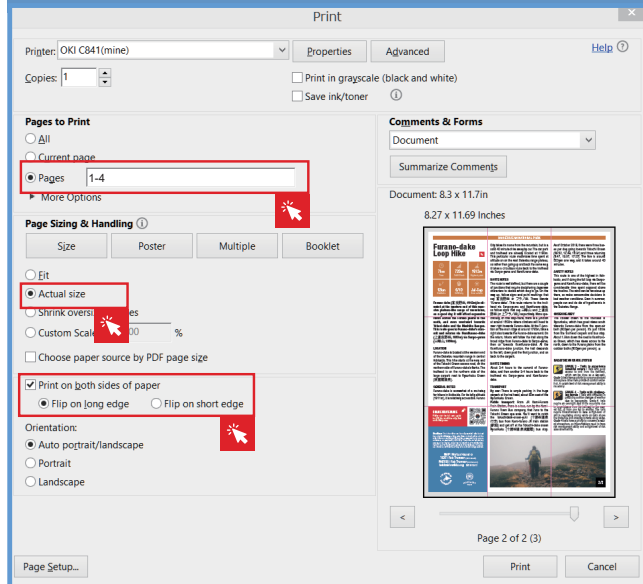


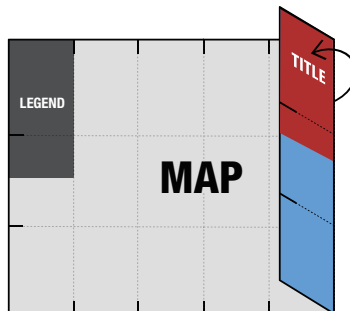
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

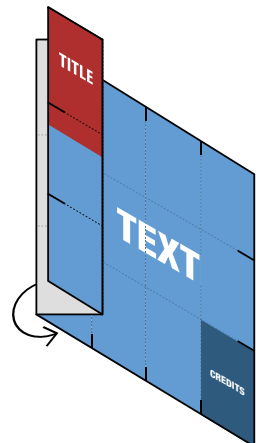
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

