



# Hakkoda Onsen Route (Hakkoda-san)

八甲田温泉ルート Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 30' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2020/03/03

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time 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
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut



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

**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/geohko>

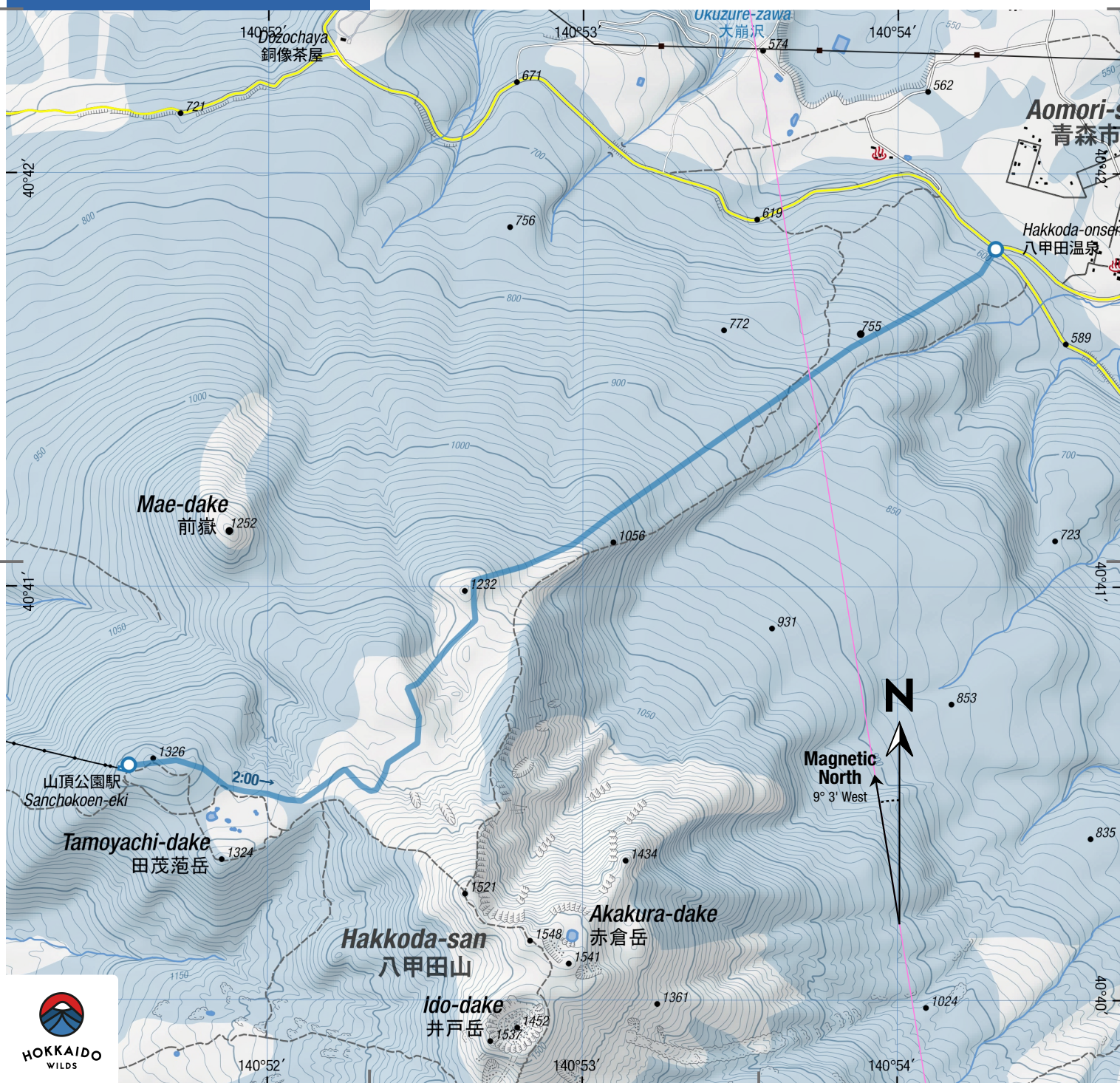


## Japanese Map Glossary

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/>).



# Hakkoda-san Hakkoda Onsen Route



 2hrs Time	 30m Total Climb	 1310m Highest point
 5.3km Distance	 5/10 Difficulty	 Jan-Apr Best season

The Hakkoda Onsen Ski Tour Route (八甲田温泉ルート) is one of the classic established backcountry ski touring routes in the Hakkoda mountains. This lift-assisted route - via the Hakkoda Ropeway - allows a full 700m+ of downhill, with very little climbing. Officially, the route 'opens' from April 1st each year, with bamboo poles put in place along the route during this period to guide skiers down the mountain. Outside of the official spring skiing season, skiers navigate on their own. Given the right weather window, however, deep winter allows skiers a couple of fine, steep powdery turns, before the last long, gentle downhill gradient to the onsen.

## LOCATION

The Hakkoda Onsen ski touring route sits on the northern side of the Hakkoda massif in central Aomori Prefecture,

in the Tohoku region, northern Honshu. The route starts at the top cablecar station on the Hakkoda Ropeway.

## GENERAL NOTES

Described in one guidebook as "Honshu's northernmost backcountry skiing mecca", the Hakkoda-san (Mt. Hakkoda) massif is a conglomerate of multiple volcanic peaks in central Aomori Prefecture, northern Honshu. Aomori is the northern-most prefecture of the broad Tohoku region of northern Japan - Tohoku comprises of Aomori, Akita, Iwate, Fukushima, Miyagi, and Yamagata Prefectures. The northern-most three prefectures - Aomori, Akita, and Iwate - get apocalyptic amounts of snow in the winter. Snowfall numbers here easily outstrip those of Hokkaido, further north. While the season tends to be a little shorter than up in Hokkaido, the snow is light, deep, and dry. It is truly the last frontier of backcountry skiing in Japan.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

There's very little time wasted to climbing on this route. Skiers will either be skinning along the mostly-flat traverse from the ropeway to the two small drops (about 1 hour) or spending a glorious 45 minutes or so cruising along the long, blissful downhill to the onsen. This route is not marked.

Line up and wait up to 1.5hrs to get onto the gondola. 1.5hrs is pretty short compared to the 3hrs or so it would take to skin up 650m of vertical climb in deep, deep powder. At the summit ropeway station, fill in the backcountry intentions form (in Japanese) and post it in the box (if you haven't already posted your intentions online in English). From the ropeway station, bootpack with your skis due east towards the true summit, about five minutes. From there, it's a short ski down to the flats. Most people put skins on here, as there is some gradual uphill to get to the first short but decent downhill slope. In about 20 minutes, climb slightly up along the northwest ridge of Akakura-dake. Rip skins and drop down to the small plateau - about 30 seconds and five or six turns. Skins back on, head north-northeast to the top of a slope at the head of Naru-sawa (鳴沢), for another shot of downhill, straight to the veins - about 45 seconds and up to 10 or so turns. Skins back on again, traverse again north-northeast to the col and climb up to near the summit of the 1232m knob. This section of the route is famous for its jaw-dropping snow monsters. From the 1232m knob, it's all downhill on the broad ridge through well-

spaced trees. Check your direction regularly - it's easy to end up well off course if you're not careful.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is good road access to Hakkoda Onsen from the north and south. Many of the roads around the mountain tend to close over winter, either completely or from 6pm till 7:30am. We found that Google Maps was not reliable for road closure (and thus journey routing) information. If you're renting a car and arriving with a large group, we'd heartily recommend getting two smaller vehicles rather than one larger one. This will make shuttling to and from the end of the route so much easier.

**Public transport:** There is a JR Bus service to Hakkoda Ropeway from Shin Aomori station. This takes approximately 1 hour. There are about 4 buses each way each day; timetable is available in Google maps. Cost is ¥1,100. However, before April there's no bus service to and from Hakkoda Onsen (or Michinoku Fukazawa Onsen for that matter). Taxis do exist, but calling one involves the taxi coming from Aomori City, just under 1 hour away. Our recommendation - regardless of whether you're using public transport or your own car - is to stay locally, and ask your accommodation if they'll drop you off and pick you up (payment afterwards in beer or the like always goes down a treat!).

## SAFETY NOTES

Despite this being an 'official' ski touring route, it goes without saying that this is well and truly the backcountry - it is not patrolled, there's no avalanche control, and the route is not marked outside the very short spring skiing season. Skiers need to be experienced, prepared to navigate on their own, self-sufficient, and have the skills and equipment necessary to rescue companions in the event of an avalanche.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen to the route is the gloriously rustic Michinoku-fukazawa Onsen (みちのく深沢温泉, 400yen), about 5km northwest along Route 40 from the trail-head. Note that as of January 2020, the more well-known Hakkoda Onsen (八甲田温泉), from which the route gets its name, is closed for repairs, with no foreseeable re-opening. ■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, interactive map, and extra safety notes: <http://hokw.jp/hakon>



**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** | Rob Thomson, Chris Auld  
**PHOTOS, MAP** | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2020/11/12

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) 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)"



## 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.

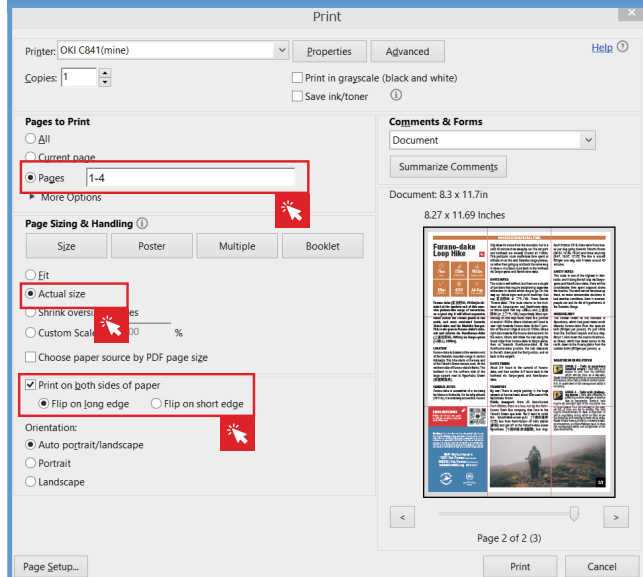


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

