



Saihoji-mori (Iwaki-san)

岩木山西法寺森

Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination: 9° 11' W

Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/11/16

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/saihoji>

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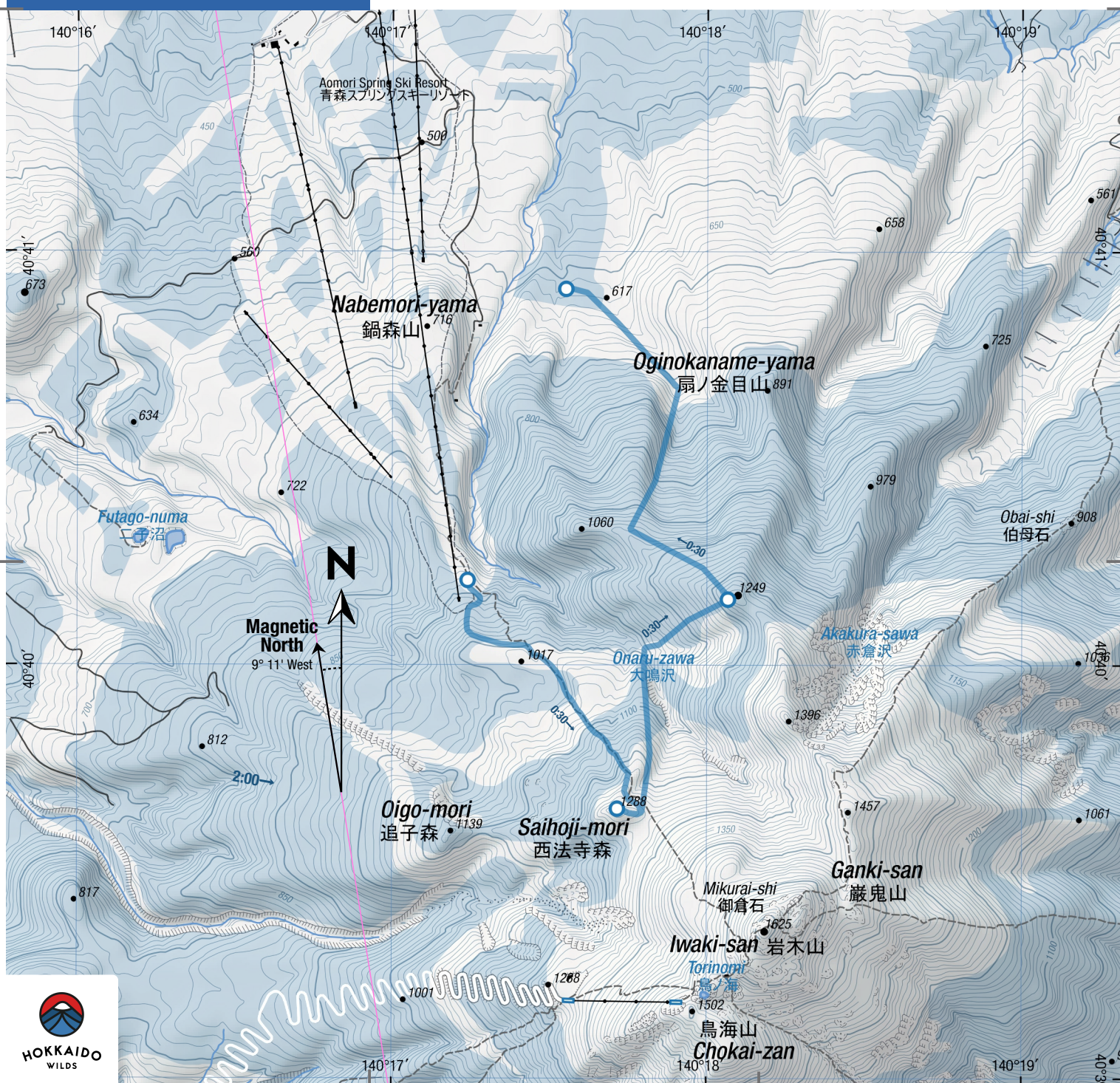


Japanese Map Glossary

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地形図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/>).



Iwaki-san Saihoji-mori



 2.5hrs Time	 468m Total Climb	 1288m Highest point
 4.6km Distance	 5/10 Difficulty	 Jan-Apr Best season

Saihoji-mori (西法寺森, 1288m) is a minor peak sitting below the mighty volcano Iwaki-zan (岩木山, 1624m) in northwestern Japan. Sitting to the west of Aomori City in the Tohoku region of Japan, this short half-day ski touring route makes the most of the apocalyptic snow this area receives every year, in a small package. While hardcore peak-baggers will likely want to push on up to the icy upper reaches of Iwaki-zan, this will not be rewarded with any extra powder face-shots. On a good day, skiers will have views across to the Tsugaru Strait, separating Japan's main island with Hokkaido further north.

LOCATION

Iwaki-san is located at the far northwestern tip of Honshu, Japan's largest island. It sits at the western side of Aomori Prefecture in Tohoku. Saihoji-mori is a minor peak on the northern side of this colossal volcano, sitting just above

the Aomori Spring Ski Resort.

GENERAL NOTES

This route will have skiers climb through gorgeous beech forests, up to the lower flanks of Iwaki-san's summit cone. The mountain itself is within close vicinity of Aomori's most beautiful city of Hirosaki – you could be skiing Iwaki-san in the morning, and visiting ancient castles in the afternoon. Iwaki-zan is also referred to Tsugaru-fuji, as a nod to the more famous Japanese conical volcano much further south. Being this far north, however, Iwaki-san is blessed with huge snowfall each year, allowing Tohoku to boast the longest backcountry skiing season on Honshu – only eclipsed by central Hokkaido further north. This route does require some good route-finding skills and snow safety knowledge, but it's a relatively accessible way to enjoy what Iwaki-san has to offer.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Most fit ski tourers will find this route will take about 3 hours in total. The route is not marked.

Start at the top of the gondola, and after double-checking you've submitted your backcountry plans online, head straight into the forest above the gondola station due the south. After a short grunt up a short but steep slope through the trees, you'll come out onto a marshland clearing. Cross this and start the second zig-zag climb up to the main ridge through beech and rock birch. Once you're on the main ridge, you'll be greeted by the grand summit of Iwaki-zan still another 400m or so vertical above you.

With good weather and plenty of time, the temptation to keep climbing will be strong. Push on to the summit of Saihoji-mori, and admire the Iwaki-san summit from afar. You're here to make the most of the good snow though, so take a deep breath and leave the peak-bagging temptation behind for a quick and punchy descent northwards down into the Oonaru gully (大鳴沢). While reported

avalanches in the area are rare, the bottom of this gully would be a dangerous place to be when snow starts to slide, so don't hang around too long. At around the 900m point in the gully, transition to climbing skins again and climb back up out of the gully to the 1250m point to the east northeast.

The decent west northwest of the 1250m peak can be dense with trees, but from around the 1000m point things open out nicely and the skiing is sublime. At around the 617m point on the map, the gully will spit you out onto the ski area for the remainder of the descent.

TRANSPORT

By car: There's masses of parking at the Aomori Spring Resort parking area.

Public transport: Aomori Spring Resort operates shuttles from Shin-Aomori JR Station. See their access details on the online route overview.

SAFETY NOTES

This route access the backcountry from the ski area, but this is very much the backcountry. There's no patrol, no avalanche control; any individuals entering the backcountry must be self-sufficient and have the necessary skills and equipment to navigate avalanche terrain. The upper sections of the route are very much above the tree line – make conservative decisions, and avoid this route in inclement weather.

ONSEN NEARBY

The small village of Dake Onsen (嶽温泉) on the other side of the mountain has a number of very traditional onsen options. Do note, however, that many close to day visitors relatively early in the day. We visited Dake Hotel Onsen (嶽ホテル, 550yen), and loved the traditional onsen vibes. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

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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

