




# Shokotsu River

渚滑川Canoeing Map1:25000







6hrs  
Time




30km  
Distance




Class II+  
Difficulty



4/5  
Remoteness



5/5  
Water clarity



May-Oct  
Best season

**Shokotsu River (渚滑川)** is a pristine waterway flowing into the Okhotsk Sea in northern Hokkaido in far-north Japan. This route starts in the stunning gorge section of the river, not far from the foothills of the northern Daisetsuzan Range. The river itself is suitable for confident intermediate open-deck canoeists. The river's name comes from the indigenous Ainu name for the river - So-kot - meaning ‘many waterfalls’. While this canoeing section of the river doesn't have waterfalls, there's walking trails along the upper section of the river. well worth the walk.

**LOCATION**  
Shokotsu River flows in the Okhotsk Sea at Monebetsu City, in northeastern Hokkaido. The river itself flows from the Teshio mountain range, north of the Daisetsuzan Range in central Hokkaido.

**Put-in location:** Most open-deck canoe paddlers will find Daiyu Bridge (大雄橋) the most practical spot to put in. There's a large parking area just east of the bridge. The descent to the river is on the river right side of the bridge. It's steep, but not nearly as steep as the drop down to the river at the Shizume-bashi Bridge (鋼橋, about 2km upstream). Regardless of where you put in, just be aware that at this upper section of the river, there is a certain level of territoriality on the part of anglers. Shokotsu River is very



popular among fly-fishers, so tread carefully and respectfully.

**Take-out location:** For a great full day out, we recommend taking out at Utsutsu Bridge (宇津々橋). Paddlers can drive down to the riverside on the river left. If you'd rather keep things

short (a total of 17km on the water), it's also possible to take out at Kinen-bashi Bridge (記念橋) at Kamishokotsu Village.

**GENERAL NOTES**  
This full 30km route on the Shokotsu River really gives a paddler a sense being on a journey. The tight upper gorge eventually gives way to an unbridled, wide and free river further downstream. As mentioned above, the river is popular among river users apart from just paddlers. Strict catch-and-release bylaws here mean it's a mecca for hardcore anglers too.

**Difficulty:** Open-deck paddlers with solid intermediate paddling skills and up will enjoy the upper gorge section stress-free. If in a packraft or similar, however, even upper beginners will enjoy this route – there's nothing in the way of very big water in normal water levels.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
This is a solid full day route, so we recommend starting early in the day to avoid any strong headwinds on the final 10km or so of wide river.

Starting at the sensible (but still plenty hairy) Daiyu Bridge put in, paddle the first 10km or so through one of the most beautiful gorge paddling Hokkaido has to offer. This first gorge section offers very little in the way of escape routes, so be extra careful when the water levels are high. From downstream of Kamishokotsu Town, the main concern is navigating the



long section of shallow bedrock. If you can get through this, however, it's a breeze for the remainder of the route. Take care at the Nakashokotsu Drop at the 24km mark – if in doubt, pull up and scout your line first.

**TRANSPORT**

**NORTHERN HOKKAIDO**

**By car** | There is space for about four of five cars at the car park just east of the put in at Daiyu Bridge. There's also a parking space at the upper put in near the Shizume-bashi Bridge. The take-out at Utsutsu-bashi Bridge at the 30km mark is accessible via an overgrown gravel road. You'll drive upstream along the top of the stopbank on the river left before dropping down to a riverside road.

**Public transport** | There are a couple of bus lines that run between Monbetsu City (紋別市) and Takinoue Town (滝上). Drop your car at the take-out and walk 2.5km to the Shimoshokotsu Bus stop (下渚滑バス停). Catch the Kamoshokotsu-sen Line bus (上渚滑線) bound for Takinoue and get off at the Nigorigawa bus stop (濁川) – a trip of about 35 minutes. As of November 2020, there were buses leaving Shimoshokotsu bus stop bound for Takinoue at 6:45am, 7:28am, 9:15am, 12:28pm, 2:27pm, 3:12pm, 4:27pm, 5:58pm, and 8:03pm (some don't run on Sundays). From the Nigorigawa bus stop, it's a 1km walk to the steep put-in at Shizume-bashi Bridge.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
Of main concern on this route is the relatively inaccessible gorge section at the upper end of the route. Escape routes are limited, so paddlers need to be self-sufficient. Take extra care when the water level is high – the river at this upper end of the route will be flanked by solid rock walls, with very few options to stop and empty out a capsized canoe.

**ONSEN NEARBY**  
Takinoue Hotel Keikoku (たきのうえホテル 渓谷, 440yen) is located in the small village of Takinoue near the upper end of the route. There's no outdoor baths, but the indoor baths have large boulders lining the baths. The

**RIVER DETAILS**

This route is on Shokotsu River (渚滑川), or Sho-kot in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 83.6km in total length. This section of the river is between 10m and 50m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 3 mpk (15.84 FPM).

**Water level notes:** We ran the river in summer (late July 2020), and the water level (35.83m at the Kamishokotsu Gauge) was only just enough to keep us afloat on the shallow bedrock section around Nakashoktsu Town. Other than that section, the water level was fine. Ideallylly we'd want to see 36.10m or so on the gauge for a stress-free trip.


hotel offers reasonably priced meals at their attached restaurant. Expect about 6,000yen to 10,000yen for a room at the hotel. At the Monbetsu City end of the route, there's a new traditional-style super-sento (public bath) in the city called Monta-no-yu (紋太の湯, 650yen). It's located next to a michi-no-eki, where there's a restaurant and local produce for sale. ■



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

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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




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**MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS** | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2020/11/10

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Symbol Key (some may not be present)

- Route (distance between points)
- National Highway
- Prefectural Road
- Municipal Road
- Minor Municipal Road
- Walkway
- Designated campsite
- Put in/take out location
- Dam/waterfall/weir
- Contour lines (100m, 10m)
- Power transmission lines
- Trees/shrubs
- Rocks/cliffs
- Onsen (hot spring)
- Fumerole
- Highway number
- Rapids

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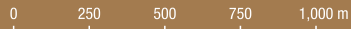
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1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground  
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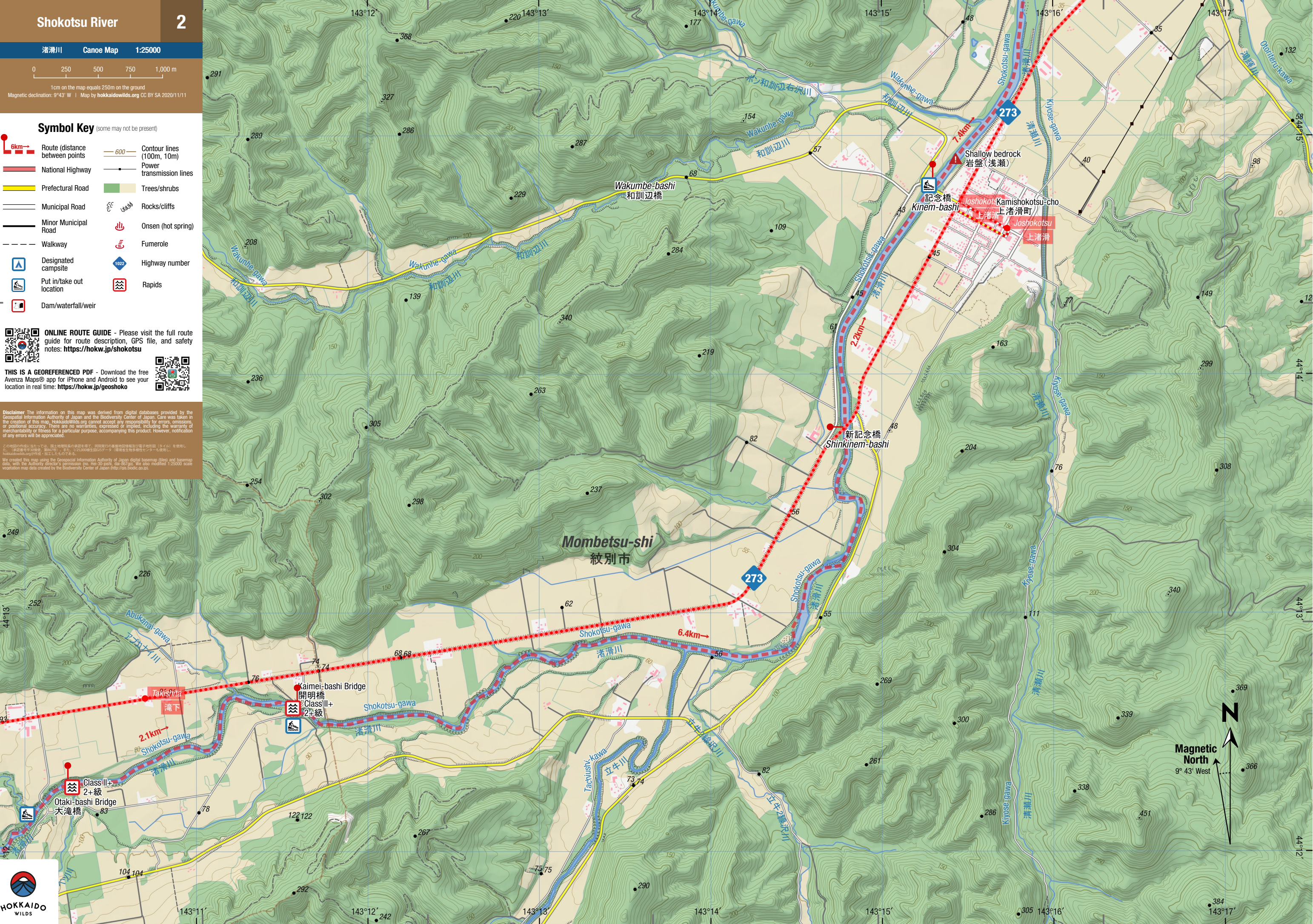
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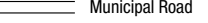



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- 

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Highway number
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Rapids

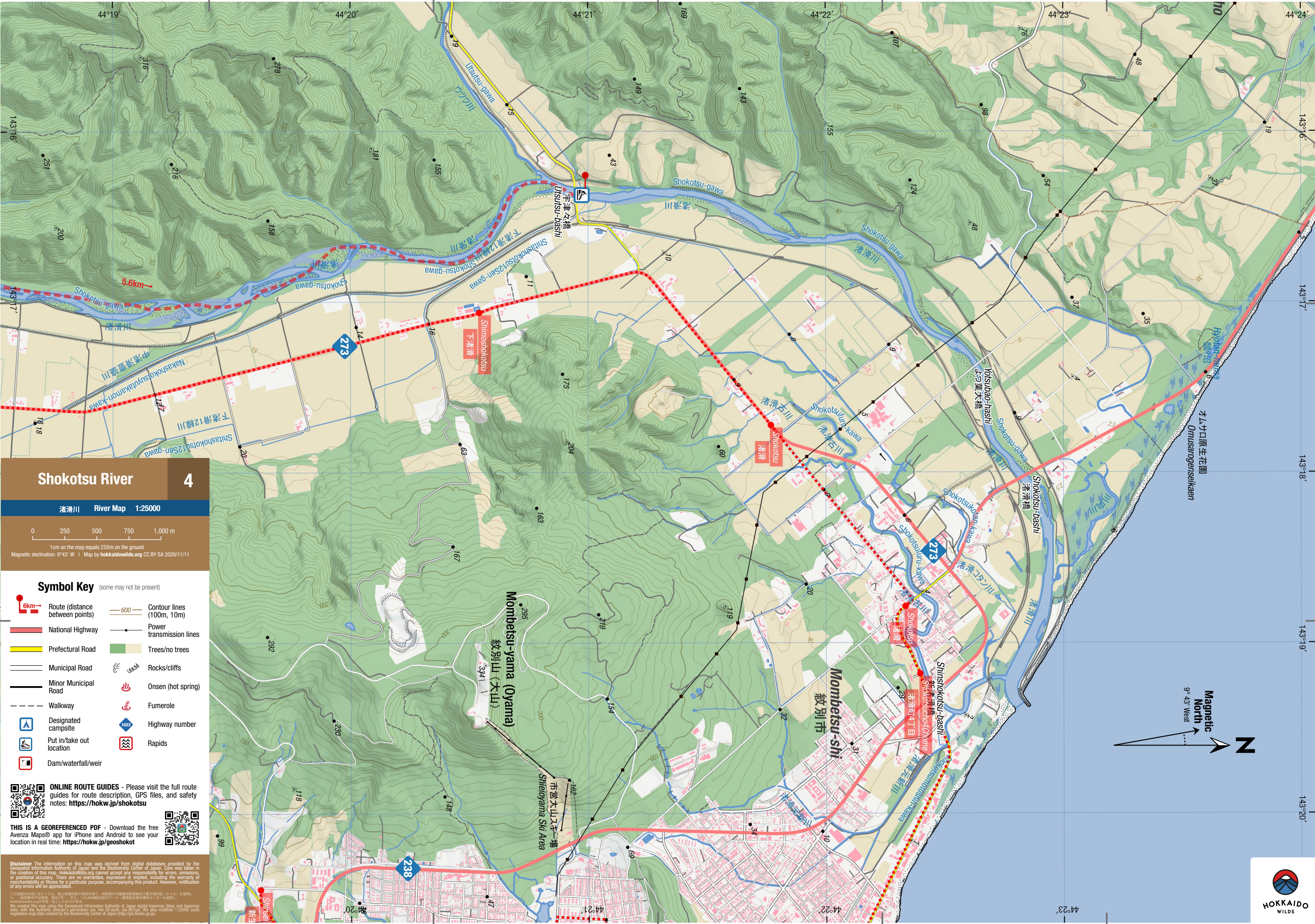
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# Shokotsu River

4

渚滑川

River Map

1:25000


02505007501,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground


Magnetic declination: 9°43' W | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2020/11/11

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
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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.



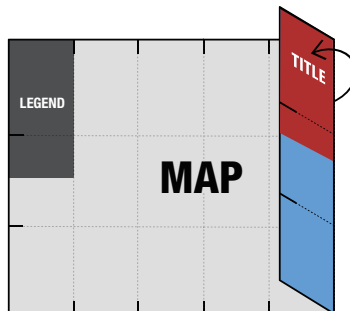
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

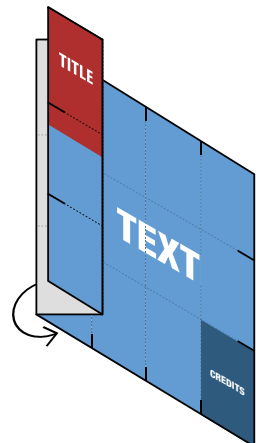
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

