

Hakkoda-san Hina-dake















Hina-dake (雛岳, 1240m) is one of the smaller sub-peaks at the southern end of the Hakkoda Mountains (八甲田山系) in Aomori prefecture (青森県). With good access, parking, and of course consistent-angle tree skiing, this relatively diminutive peak is perfect for a quick morning or afternoon lap. The peak will give skiers good views of the southern end of the Hakkoda massif, but on blustery days, the relatively sheltered tree-skiing will be more than satisfying, even without bagging the peak.

LOCATION

Hina-dake sits as a relatively solitary minor peak at the southeastern end of the Hakkoda-san massif, in central Aomori Prefecture at the northern end of Japan's main island of Honshu. This route up the mountain starts from the Matabe-chaya Tea House (又兵衛の茶屋, closed in winter).

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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GENERAL NOTES

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.

This particular peak is a very minor one as far as 'official' ski touring routes go in Hakkoda — it doesn't even feature on the Hakkoda-san Ski Touring Map (see below). But for those looking for a true non-lift-assisted backcountry route which will hold up well even in otherwise bluster weather, this is a great option. This route up Hina-dake follows the broad northeast ridge (北東尾根).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. Skiers headed for the peak should expect up to two hours on the ascent, and just under one hour on the descent. The route follows the broad northeast ridge up the mountain. From the the Matabe-chaya Tea House, head west-southwest away from Route 40, across a flat, short 600m section of forest. In time, the route starts climbing, where eventually skiers will be zig-zagging up the slope for the remainder of the route. If shooting for the summit, skiers will be funneled up the northeast ridge towards Umazura-iwa (馬面岩), a prominent rock on the northeast ridge. It's just under 2 hours from the trailhead to

Umazura-iwa, and another ten or so minutes from there to the summit. On the descent, the world – or should that be *ridge* – is your oyster. Being a rather broad ridge, getting more broad as the skier descends, the northeast ridge holds up well to multiple skiers, more or less guaranteeing fresh tracks for everyone.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is good road access to the Matabe-chaya Tea House (又兵衛の茶屋, closed in winter), which constitutes the start of the route. There's good parking out front too. Note that many of the roads around Hakkoda-san tend to close over winter, either completely or from 6pm till 7:30am. See the online route overview for a link to a webpage with road closures depicted. We found that Google Maps was not reliable for road closure (and thus journey routing) information. Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

Note that this route is well and truly the backcountry – it is not patrolled, there's no avalanche control, and the route is not marked. Skiers need to be experienced, prepared to navigate on their own, and self-sufficient.

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 trailhead. Note that as of January 2020, the more well-known Hakkoda Onsen (八甲田温泉) is closed for repairs, with no forseeable re-opening.

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 achive 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.

STFP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STFP 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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS









