



# Tobetsu Maru-yama



3hrs Time	410m Total Climb	500m Highest point
5km Distance	4/10 Difficulty	Jan-Mar Best season

**Tobetsu Maruyama 当別丸山 (500m)** is a great beginner-friendly low-lying hill at the southern end of the Mashike Range north of Sapporo. There's some short lappable terrain on the southern aspect slopes just below the summit, so pick a nice day and make the most of it. The trip leans towards more of a walk than a ski though, so we recommend ascending via the undulating southern ridge, in order to enjoy the forest along the way. The summit affords views of the Mashike Range to the north, and the likes of Kamuishiri-yama in the Kabato mountains to the south. The forestry road to the west of the ridge is frequented by snowmobiles, so the hard-packed, mellow-gradient trail can make for an comparatively easier return back to the road.

## LOCATION

Tobetsu Maru-yama sits at the far southern end of the Mashike Range on

the Japan Sea coast north of Sapporo. The route approaches the mountain from the south, via a forestry road off Route 451 connecting Takikawa City and Hamamasu Town on the coast.

## GENERAL NOTES

Billed in the guidebook as a beginner-friendly peak with good skiing and good views, Tobetsu Maru-yama had piqued our interest for a while. Also being relatively close to Sapporo, it seemed like a route we had to do, if not out of documentary obligation. Had the weather not been closing in on us in the latter part of our trip, we might have spent a bit more time lapping and exploring the short slopes directly below the summit. As fate would have it, however, our trip ended up being just a quick up and back. This made it all feel like more of a walk than a ski, particularly considering the ski out required a healthy dose of poling. That said, the southern ridge approach was a pleasant skin through nice forest. Bring a nice lightweight ski touring setup and you'll thoroughly enjoy this route.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Park well to the side of the road on Route 451, opposite or next to the entrance to the forestry road marked on the map. Depending on how recently snow clearers have come through, you may need to spend some time clearing more space to the left of the road so as to not obstruct traffic too much.

Head northeast along the forestry road, and take a right after the bridge. After the dog-leg bend to the left soon after, you have the option to continue on the forestry road to the 275m point, or opt for the more challenging southern ridge route. Either option will take just under an hour to the 275m point on the forestry road. Arguably, the southern ridge route is more interesting for those more confident with their navigation skills and kickturn skills – the first steep slope from the valley floor is very steep. Here we assume skiers choose the southern ridge route.

Use a suitable snowbridge to cross the stream just after the dog-leg bend, just above the erosion-stop dam. With the 269m knob in your sights, zigzag your way up the very steep slope. Beyond the 269m point, it's just a matter of traversing the ridgeline towards the minor forestry road to the northeast. Once at the forestry road take a left and head northwest. Gain the narrow spur about 20m along the road to the northeast, passing the

321m point on your way to the southern-aspect slopes below the summit.

At around 400m, traverse northwest across the lower part of the slope to wrap around the western extent of the cliff band marked on the map. In reality we didn't observe much of a cliff. The guidebook notes heightened avalanche risk in the 150m from the cliff band down the slope, so take care. Once on the whaleback summit, your GPS will be your singular guide to find the actual trig point high point marked on the map – there's no summit sign. Return to the forestry road the way you came, and either take the undulating summit ridge or the forestry road (less undulation) back to the start.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** This route is accessible by car from Route 451 connecting the inland Takikawa City and Hamamasu on the Rumoi coast. There's no parking area in the vicinity, so visitors to the area will be parking on the road. The road is a well-maintained, frequently snow-ploughed two-lane road, but as always, make sure to park well to the left of the road so as to not obstruct traffic.

**Public transport:** There is no public transport to this route.

## SAFETY NOTES

Take care on the upper south-facing slopes below the summit, particularly in warmer weather during the winter season – these slopes will be more susceptible to rapid temperature changes, increasing the likelihood of avalanche. While the peak is relatively low altitude, and the approach relatively sheltered, the upper portions of the route are very exposed to the elements – carry appropriate gear.

## ONSEN NEARBY

For a nice local onsen experience, try the Hamamasu Onsen 浜益温泉 (500yen), about 20 minutes by car west towards the coast along Route 451. They have nice open-air pools. ■



## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2021/01/18

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

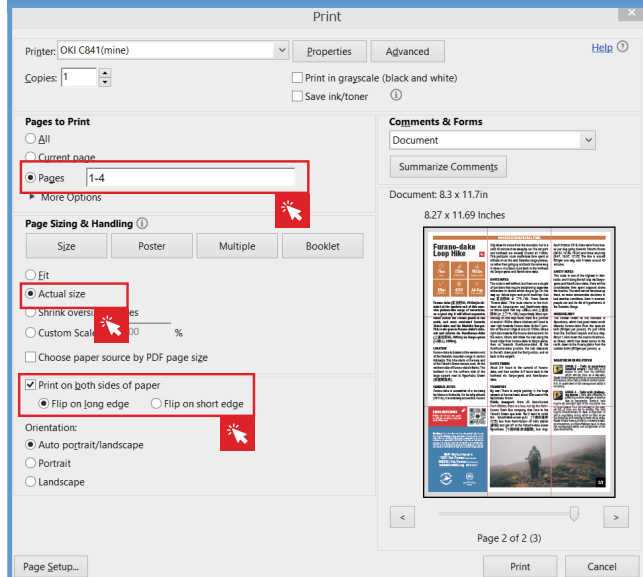


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

