



# Yotei-zan Kyogoku Route

羊蹄山 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 38' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2021/01/14

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

0:30→	Route (time between points)	600	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)	1022	Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut

## Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak 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



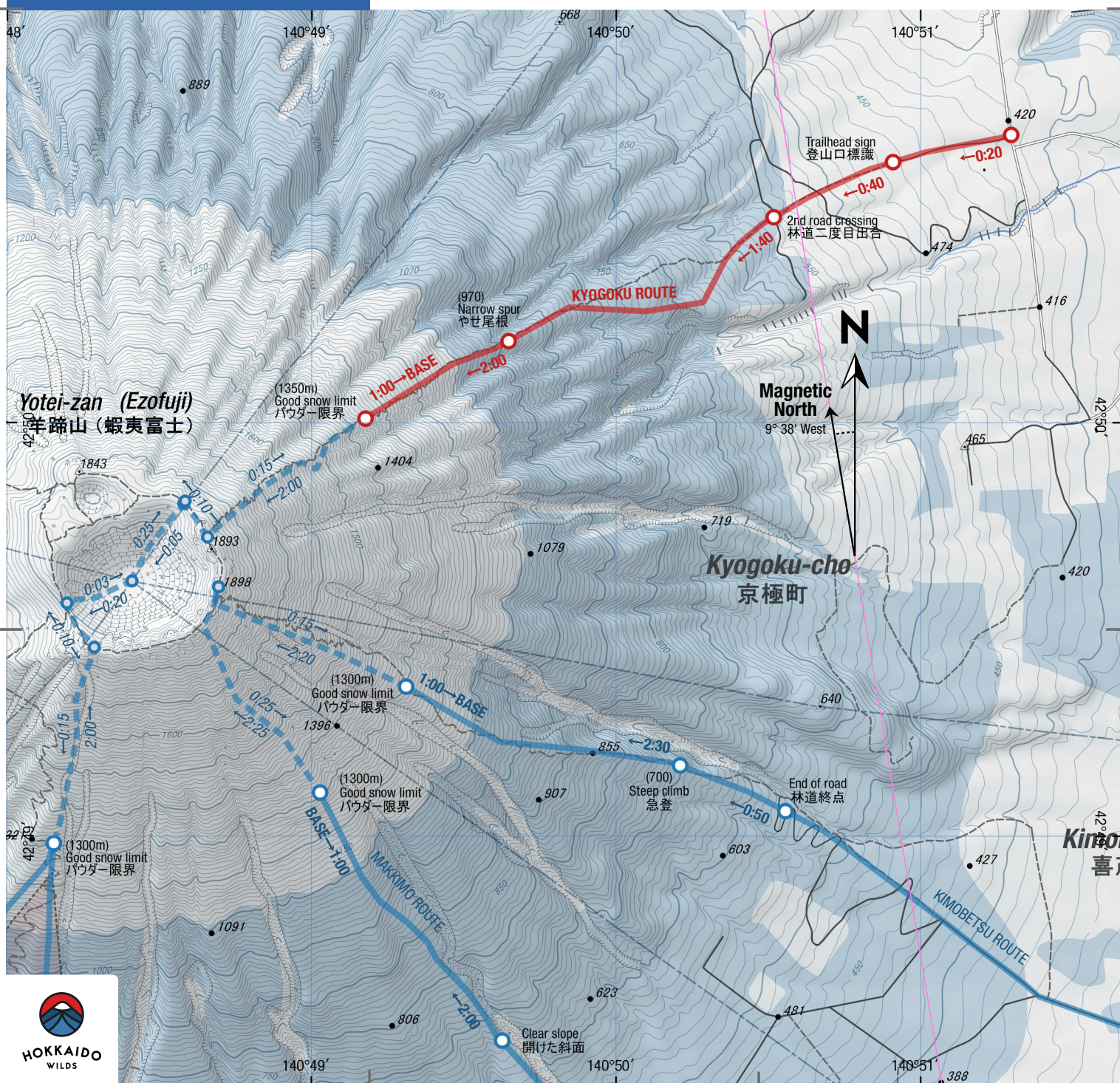
**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE** - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS file, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/yotkyo>

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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 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).





# Yotei-zan Kyogoku Route



 5.5hrs Time	 1000m Total Climb	 1350m Highest point
 9km Distance	 6/10 Difficulty	 Feb-Apr Best season

The Yotei-zan (羊蹄山, 1898m) Kyogoku Route (京極コース) is home to a plethora of tight spurs and gullies, which will please experienced back-country skiers seeking variation and excitement on the descent. Down low, however, it's also the most tightly wooded route of the more popular Yotei-zan routes, so we'd only attempt this route again in February, once there is a reliable covering of snow. This would be a very direct route to the good southwest aspect crater ski slope when the weather is good. Like all routes on Yotei-zan, the most consistent skiing on this route is to be had from below 1300m.

## LOCATION

Yotei-zan is a large free-standing volcano near the Niseko ski resort area in southern Hokkaido. This ski touring route up Yotei-zan heads up from the Kyogoku



Route trailhead on the east-northeast side of the mountain, in Kyogoku town.

## GENERAL NOTES

Generally, the wind blows from the northwest in Niseko. This means that the southeast side of Yotei-zan, in the lee of the wind, usually has the best snow. This route up Yotei-zan arguably sits on the northern-most edge of this side of Yotei-zan. Accordingly, it'll be a little bit more of a gamble as to the condition of the snow. That said, you'll still get plenty good enough snow up to around 1350m. Also, for those who have the experience and gear to tackle crusty, steep, and icy mountaineering conditions, this route gives the most direct access to one of the better crater-skiing slopes on Yotei-zan, on the interior northeast side of the crater. Note that going to the crater will add at least 2.5 hours to the time outlined in this post.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Skiers should allow about 4 hours from the trailhead to the 1300m point, beyond which the snow conditions often turn to ice and rime. For most skiers, we recommend dropping from around 1300m, for a one-hour descent back to the trailhead.

This route generally follows the summer Kyogoku Route hiking trail, but the trail markers are not visible in winter. From the parking space, head due west across a broad snowfield to the trailhead proper of the summer Kyogoku Route Hiking Trail, in about 20 minutes. Passing the trailhead sign, you'll enter a tall forest of larch. Just follow the summer trail uphill for about 40 minutes before crossing a forestry road for the second time. From there, continue following the summer trail uphill.

At around 600m a prominent creek-like feature will appear. Either take the left or right spur – either way they'll join again further up. By the time you arrive at the narrow spur at

970m, you'll have dramatic views down to the Shiribetsu River valley and Kyogoku Town. By now the trees have thinned out considerably, but as you climb further up towards the 1350m mark – often on more than a 30 degree uphill slope – the downhill potential only gets better.

You'll know you're at around 1350m once you arrive just below a prominent knob. By now, you've scaled 1000m. Beyond the 1350m mark is usually crusty and icy, so anyone heading further up needs to be well equipped to handle serious ski-mountaineering conditions. On the descent from 1350m, skiers will get a good long run before joining up with the narrow spur. Either side of the spur are deep gullies, so keep the turns tight.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is room for about 5 to 6 cars to park near the trailhead.

**Public transport:** There are no public transport options for this route.

## SAFETY NOTES

This free-standing volcano is exposed to the weather from all sides and it has the potential to get pretty wild pretty quickly; your escape is a rapid descent and so pay attention to potential routes as you climb. Like all routes on Yotei-zan, if you're shooting for the summit this may be one of the few times you'll use your ski crampons and boot crampons in Hokkaido.

## ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen to the trailhead is the Kyogoku Onsen (京極温泉 京極ふれあい交流センター, 600yen). They're open from 10am till 9pm (closed the second Monday of each month). The attached restaurant is open 11:30am till 7pm. ■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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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[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2020/01/08

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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

