

# Yotei-zan Makkimo Route















The Makkimo Route マッキモコー ス up Yotei-zan 羊蹄山 (1898m) has some of the most picturesque glades of native white birch on the mountain. This route gets its name because it's situated between the Makkari 真狩コ ース and Kimobetsu Routes 喜茂別コ ース on Yotei, the iconic free-standing volcano east of Niseko. With plenty of parking at the trailhead, it offers some excellent skiing on the upper and lower portions of the route. Like most popular routes up the mountain, the most reliably good skiing is had below around 1300m. Beyond that, be prepared for icy conditions.

## **LOCATION**

Yotei-zan is a conical free-standing volcano just east of the ski resort town of Niseko in southern Hokkaido. This Makkimo backcounty ski route heads up the mountain from the southeast, right

## **ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE**

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



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between the Makkari and Kimobetsu Routes. The route starts from a large parking area on Route 97.

## **GENERAL NOTES**

Arguably there are four 'established' main ski touring routes up Yotei-zan, and this Makkimo route is a fifth less traveled option for those seeking something a bit different. This route got its name because it's between the MAKkari Route and KIMObetsu Route (Mak-kimo). It has a somewhat long, flat approach — by our reckoning the approach is longer and flatter than the Kimobetsu Route. As such, it attracts fewer punters than the other four main routes. So if you're after a slightly less traveled route up this impressive volcano in the winter, this may be your route.

## **ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**

Skiers should allow about 3.5hr from the carpark 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 carpark.

Park up at the public parking area on Route 97. If in a group of multiple vehicles, park close to each other – parking areas can get crowded on weekends and public holidays. Head northwest from the parking area, cutting diagonally across a grid of forestry roads. Existing skin tracks may follow roads part way across the flat-lands.

After about 2.5km of very gradual climbing, the slope increases in angle, and the forest starts to change to well-spaced old-growth trees. Approaching 700m in altitude, the trees thin even more, eventually revealing a large low-angle snow field. Cut across this snowfield to the northwest, into a gorgeous glade of white birch. From here the route continues to climb

steadily, steep in places.

Like all routes on Yotei, the upper sections beyond 1200m gain steepness quickly. For the most reliable snow conditions, most skiers will likely find anything below 1400m is great. Beyond this, conditions can vary substantially, from bullet-proof icy rime to rare unicorn powder conditions all the way to the summit. Return the same way you came up.

## **TRANSPORT**

**By car:** The public parking area on the Yotei ring road (Route 97) has plenty of parking for around 15-20 cars. It's about a 30 minute (22km) drive from central Hirafu in the Niseko resort area.

**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 nearest onsen to the trailhead is Makkari Onsen (真狩温泉, 500yen). About 5 minutes by car from Yotei Nature Park, the trailhead to the Makkari route. Open from 11am till 9pm, they have great outdoor baths, and an attached restaurant. Closed on Mondays. Details in Japanese here. If heading back towards Sapporo then you may also want to try one of the various onsen at the Rusutsu Resort. 1,300Yen with towel service included.

# 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).

#### STFP 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**









