



Kokutai Course (Sorachi-kawa)

空知川国際コース Canoeing Map 1:25000



0 100 200 300 400 m

1cm on the map equals 100m on the ground

Magnetic declination: 9° 31' W

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Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (distance between points)		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
	Designated campsite		Highway number
	Put in/take out location		Portage required
	Dam/waterfall		Rapids



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

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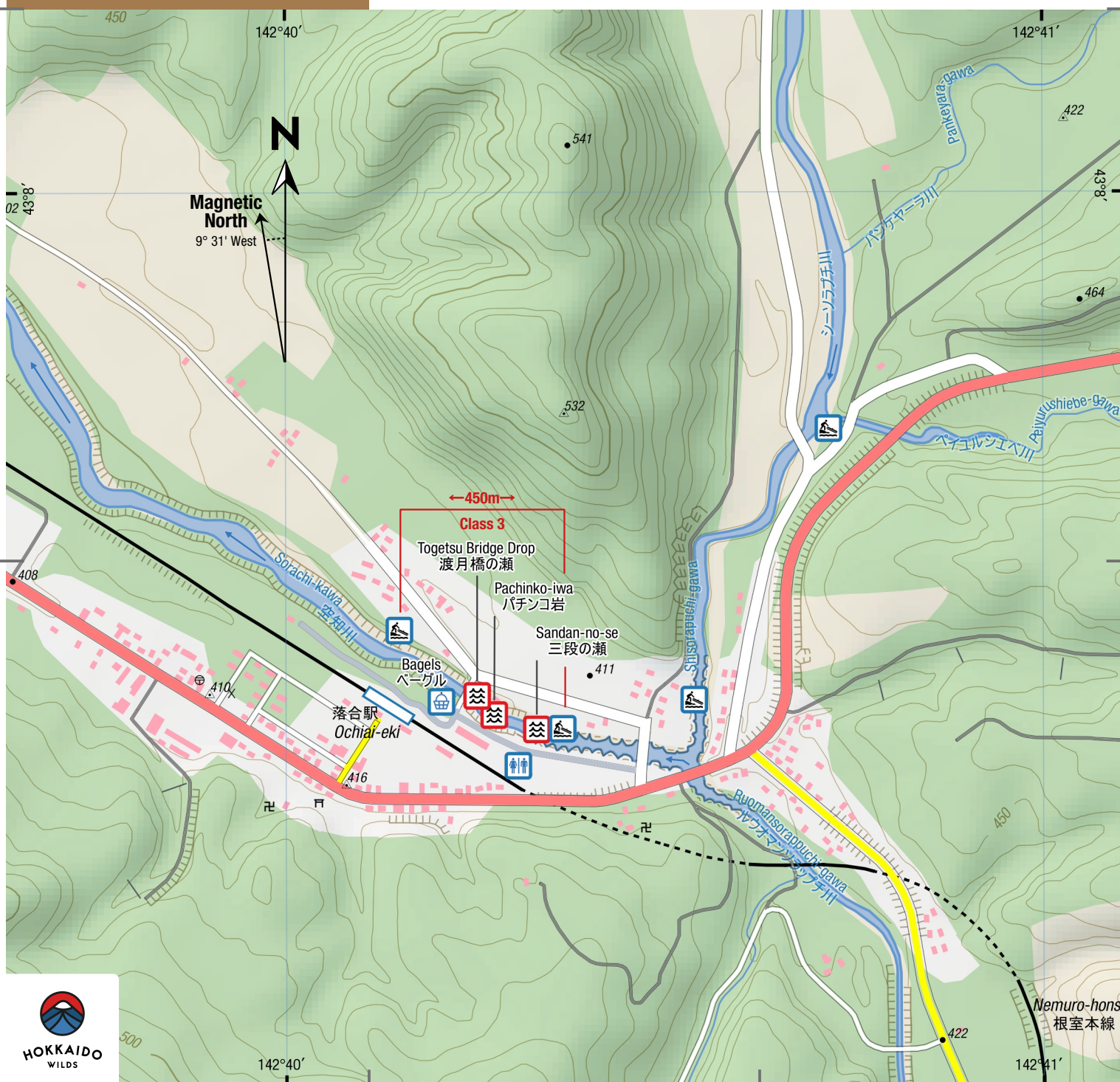


Japanese Map Glossary







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

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土院院長の承認を得て、同院発行の基礎地図情報及び電子地形図（タイル）を使用した。（承認番号平30情使、第867号）。また、1/25,000縮尺GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが作成・加工したものである）。

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 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Kokutai Slalom Course (Sorachi-gawa)

 20mins Time	 450m Distance	 7.5/10 Difficulty
 2/5 Remoteness	 5/5 Water clarity	 May-Oct Best season

In an open-deck canoe, Sorachi River's Kokutai Course 空知川国体コース is a solid high-stakes Class III run. It requires dropping a pushy set at the outset, followed by threading around two gigantic boulders, finishing with a tricky 1.5m high waterfall. Dumping anywhere en route will likely see paddlers washed down the entirety of the course. It's one of Japan's premier natural canoe slalom courses, made famous by the 1989 National Sports Festival 国民体育大会, as the location for the national slalom event. Now popular among river rafting companies, the area is still a magnet for paddlers from around Japan.

LOCATION

This short course is situated in the Ochiai settlement at the very upper end of the Sorachi-gawa River in Minami-furano Town in central Hokkaido.

Put-in location: Put in at the central stairs, river right about 200m upstream from the Togetsu Bridge.



Take-out location: Take out river right at the wide concrete flight of stairs, after the last set of rapids, about 160m downstream from Togetsu Bridge.

GENERAL NOTES

The entire surrounding infrastructure here is set up for 'lapping' the course, with shuttling on foot. Expect massive wide concrete stairs for easy access to the gorge, and multiple vantage points for spectators along the way.

Difficulty: At normal water levels, a confident intermediate paddler will find this a challenging and exciting route. Advanced open-deck paddlers will find it a fun test of their skills. Capsizing even at the top of the course, however, will probably end in boats and/or swimmers being washed most or all of the way down the course. That said, there's a calm flat section just after the overhead bridge, just after the largest drop of the course. Take care to avoid pinning canoes in the Pachinko-iwa section.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This short section will be over in the blink of an eye. That said, on a nice warm summer's day, shuttling by foot for multiple runs is well within the realm of possibility. Take your time and enjoy.

Put in at the central stairs 200m upstream of the bridge. Take a deep breath hold on for the ride.

Sandan-no-se Rapid 三段の瀬 – Literally 'three-step rapid', this rapid is relatively straight forward – just keep to the middle of the right flow, and watch out for the flow coming in from the left at the bottom.

Pachinko-no-se Rapid パチンコの瀬 – What do pachinko balls do? They bounce off things. So do canoes that mess up this rapid. The easy option in decent water flow is the hard right minor flow – not even a Class II. The option for the pros is to cut around the left of Pachinko-iwa boulder in the middle of the river.

Togetsu Bridge Rapid 渡月橋の瀬 – This is a pushy drop that's easy to capsize when running the right side. It's best to run this drop as close as possible to the left side.

Final Class II rapids – Beyond the Togetsu Bridge drop, there's a couple more easy sets of rapids – keep center. Take out just after the large rock shoulder on the river right.

TRANSPORT

By car | There's plenty of parking at both the put in and take out.

Public transport | Google Maps has up-to-date timetabling for the route to Ochiai Station JR train station. Due to typhoon damage to the tracks, this station is currently only accessibly by bus as a replacement for the train. From the station, it's a rather circuitous 950m walk to the put in.

SAFETY NOTES

This course is best run with backup on the shore at a couple of spots on the river. One on river left below the first rapid (Sandan-no-se) and one below the final large drop below the bridge. Self-rescue is not impossible, but is largely impractical until after the Togetsu Bridge drop, where the river widens and slows for a bit before the last rapid sets. Don't attempt to stand up in the river – there's large boulders and occasional rebar debris on the riverbed that will easily cause foot entrapment. Difficulty and risk rises very quickly with higher water levels. Make conservative decisions when the water is high or discolored.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest option for a hot soak is the Lake Kanayama Hoyo Center (かなやま湖保養センター, 410yen). This isn't a natural hot-spring, but it's still a classic Japanese public bath – light, airy, and gloriously relaxing. ■

EXTRA DETAILS

River Details: This route is on Sorachi-kawa 空知川, or So-rap-chi-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A 一級河川 river, 194km in total length. This section of the river is between 3m and 15m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 10 mpk.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, live water levels, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/kokutai>



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