



# Shirai-dake

白井岳 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground  
Magnetic declination: 9° 48' W

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2021/01/27

## Symbol Key (some may not be present)

	Route (time 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
	Bus route (bus stop)		Highway number
	Designated campsite		Hut
	Radio tower		



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

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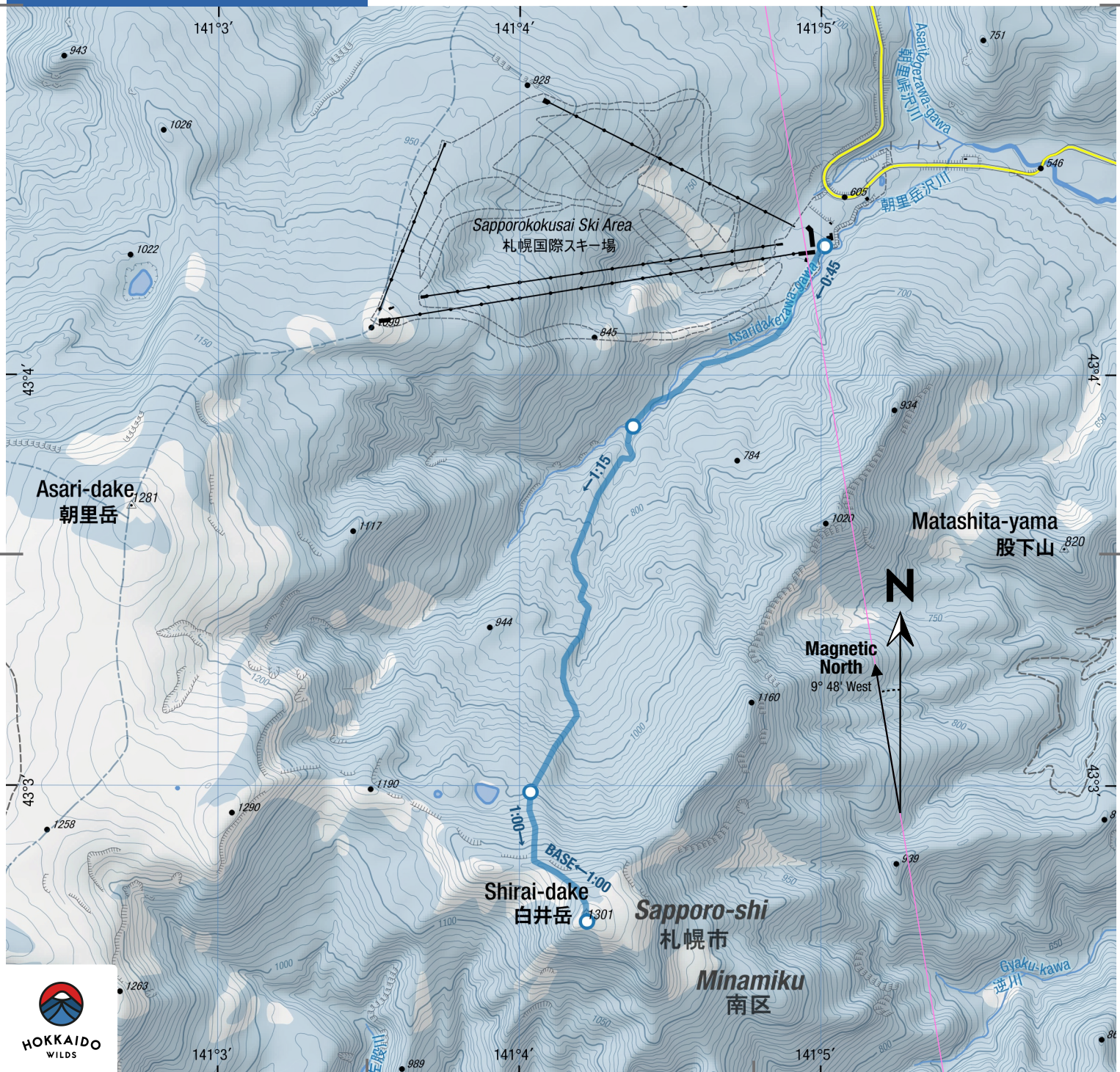


## Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki	分岐	junction
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	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、国土地理院長の承認を得て、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 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp>).





# Shirai-dake



4.5hrs Time	681m Total Climb	1301m Highest point
7.7km Distance	6.5/10 Difficulty	Jan-Mar Best season

**Shirai-dake 白井岳 (1301m) has been long known as a magnet for back-country skiers, with relatively easy access and great snow. Its northern aspect slopes offer a great variety of spurs lower down, and some spectacular lappable terrain further up. Given its close proximity to Sapporo Kokusai Ski area, the peak gets a fair amount of traffic. Given the sheer acreage of terrain below the summit, however, there's plenty of untracked snow to go around.**

## LOCATION

Shirai-dake sits to the south-southwest of Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area, about one hour drive from central Sapporo. The peak sits at the far southern end of a long horseshoe ridge arcing southwards from Asari-dake 朝里岳 above the ski area. The start of the route is just south of the main ski area buildings at the base of the slopes, around here.

## GENERAL NOTES

Given its proximity to the Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area, one would be forgiven for thinking that you could just ride the lifts to the top of

the ski area, scooch over to Shirai-dake, and ski down. The reality is that it's actually quite a long way from Asari-dake to Shirai-dake along the horseshoe ridge, to the tune of almost 2 hours, not including the climb from the top lift station (which is, at any rate, frowned upon). The hike from the base of the ski area up the Asaridake-sawa gully is really quite picturesque, however, and is very much worth it in its own right.

Note that you'll be sharing the Asaridake-sawa gully with ski area punters descending the side-country on the southern aspect slopes off the ski area. Climbers should take caution and make way for skiers descending. While you might start wondering why you didn't just take the lifts up and ski those southern-aspect slopes, rest assured that you'll be getting the goods – the northern aspect slopes below Shirai-dake is where the good snow is at, only available to those who earn their turns.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect about three hours on the up, and one hour for the descent. Add on extra time if lapping the upper slopes.

The topography of the northern slopes of Shirai-dake lends itself to a number of ascent and descent options. In this post, we outline the route most commonly traveled; skiers may see pink tape tied to trees along the way. On any given day, however, skiers are likely to see a number of other skin tracks heading up the numerous spurs and gullies. As always, we highly recommend the use of GPS navigation apps on a smartphone (see our list here), with official Japan topomaps pre-loaded for offline viewing.

Start at the Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area car park, and make your way past the southern side of the lower gondola station via the staff car parking area. Head due southwest along the Shiraidake-sawa stream, following the bottom of the gully. Watch out for skiers descending from the ski area sidecountry – they have the right of way. You'll cross the stream two times along this pleasant wooded gully.

At around 730m, head left into a very steep-sided gully, cutting a traverse along the base of the slope just above the gully floor, for about 200m. The route soon climbs out of the gully to gain the spur on the looker's right. The topomap shows a labyrinth of mild spurs headed up the mountain. They all end up in the same place eventually, so keep an eye on your location and head uphill, favouring looker's left rather than right. About 1/3 of the way up, the forest thins somewhat, with brush replaced by well-spaced old-growth white birch.

At around 1100m, you'll make the final push to the summit ridge connecting Shirai-dake and Asari-dake. There may be a small cornice to navigate, and the ridge will likely be windy. From gaining the ridge to the summit is another 20 minutes of mostly flat walking, with no meaningful skiing to be had. If the weather is horrid on the ridge, there's nothing lost by ripping skins at the ridge and making the descent from there. Descend the way you came.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There's ample parking in the ski area car parking. During the weekends, get there early (before 8:30am), as the upper car parks fill up quickly with punters from the city.

**Public transport:** There are regular buses from Sapporo City to Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area. See access details on their website. From Sapporo JR train station it takes 1.5hrs and costs 1,300yen one way. Note that ski boots cannot be worn in the bus. In the past we've just worn our ski boot liners in the bus (with plastic bags over them to keep them dry).

## SAFETY NOTES

Despite this route's proximity to the ski area, this is very much uncontrolled, unpatrolled, unmaintained backcountry. It is far removed even from the ski area side-country. Climbers should carry avalanche rescue equipment and be versed in its use. The numerous gullies along the route present terrain-trap hazard risks; avoid these where possible. The upper portion of the large bowl to the looker's left of this route (to the direct north of the summit) is known avalanche terrain. As mentioned above, given the number of spurs and gullies along the way, navigation can be confusing at times – carry a map, compass, and GPS-enabled device.

## ONSEN NEARBY

For those accessing the route from Sapporo, you'll be returning to the city via the Jozankei onsen area. There's a number of options, including Yu-no-hana 湯の花 (850yen), a large onsen complex with good views of the Jozankei river gorge from the outdoor baths. They also have a large, airy, open restaurant/lounge area. Closer to Sapporo City is also the more down-do-earth Matsu-no-yu 松の湯 (650yen), right next to the Toyohira River. They also have a small restaurant, plus lovely views of the river gorge from the outdoor baths. ■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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) 2021/02/01

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

