

611

140°14

614

140°13

581

140°12′

HOKKAIDO

Oshamambedake













Oshamambe-dake 長万部岳 (972m) is a deceptively steep and impressive peak, despite its low height. Situated at the northern end of Oshima Peninsula in southern Hokkaido, it offers incredible views to both the Pacific Ocean and Japan Sea from the summit. The approach is long but the forest evolves as one climbs, to well-spaced white birch, with vibes of ancient times. The route is well marked to the saddle, with well-kept ski-touring specific route markers attached to trees.

LOCATION

Oshamambe-dake sits at the northern reaches of the Oshima Peninsula in farsouth Hokkaido. The winter route to the summit follows the summer trail, via an old derelict onsen, a curious bell, and a gorgeous high saddle. The route starts at the end of the snow clearing on the lonely Route 842, here, just at the turn off to the Futamata Radium Onsen 二股らぢうむ温泉.

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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GENERAL NOTES

This is a somewhat quirky ski tour route deep in the Oshima Peninsula mountains. It's quirky in the sense that it's one of the very few well-marked ski touring routes in Hokkaido, the approach is long and gradual, the final summit approach can be surprisingly icy and dangerous, and at the end of the trip there's a rare radium onsen at the end of it all.

The long approach is likely to put some skiers off, but this would make for a very fine overnight tent trip for the more intrepid skiers wishing to make the most of the steep (and very avalanche-prone) northeastern bowls and spurs from the summit. If shooting for an overnight trip, it would be perfectly reasonable to pull a sled all the way to the saddle beneath the summit, or at least to the mine remains near the bell for a more sheltered option.

Final summit push: The steep northern ridge from the upper saddle to the summit is usually hard-packed icy snow. If set on the summit, we highly recommend carrying boot crampons and an ice-axe for self-arrest.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect about 4.5 hours on the ascent, and about 2 hours on the descent

Park up hard against the snow bank near the turn-off to the Futamata Onsen. Park slightly downhill from the very end of the snowclearing, to leave room for snow-clearing equipment to turn around. On skis, head northwest along the remaining snowed-in part of Route 842, past the old derelict Shin-ei Onsen. Soon you'll pass under some high tension wires, in a large clearing with a good view of Oshamambe-dake far in the distance. From here you'll continue to follow an old road, with plenty of ski-touringspecific route markers. Cut corners where it makes sense to do so. There will be a couple of bridges missing along the way where you'll have to head up- or down-stream a bit to find a suitable snowbridge to cross.

At around 600m, there's a nice clearing with a bell. Give it a good ring as you gaze in wonder at the impressive east-northeastern spined face of Oshamambe-dake. From the clearing, it's still another 1.5hrs to the summit. Just before the final summit push, there's a saddle.

You'll want to decide early on whether to switch to crampons here or not. The ridge up to the summit is very steep and can be windswept and icy. Return the way you came.



The gradual approach is mostly steep enough to zoom back in one's up-tracks, with only occasional poling.

TRANSPORT

By car: Route 842 up to Futamata Onsen is conveniently accessible from the Oshamambe Expressway Interchange. There's plenty of road-side parking on the quiet Route 842 near the turn-off to Futamata Onsen. Park a little downhill from the turnoff to allow plenty of room for snowclearing machinery to turn around at the end of the road.

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

SAFETY NOTES

This route is deceptively long, so requires a good early start. Note also that the trailhead is quite remote, which adds to the remoteness of the route in general. The eastern/northeastern bowls directly below the summit are a freerider's wet dream, but are classic avalanche terrain. They'll often be wind-loaded from the prevailing northwesters, so be very conservative. As noted above, the final approach from the saddle is steep and very often icy — carry the appropriate gear if shooting for the summit.

ONSEN NEARBY

Please make sure you don't miss visiting the Futamata Radium Onsen 二股ら ぢうむ温泉 (1100yen). It's hands down one of the most unique onsen we've ever been to in Hokkaido. It has somewhat of a cult following, known for its somewhat miraculous health benefits. People with a range of health ailments will stay for weeks on end at the onsen accommodation, soaking in the pools for up to 10 hours every day. The onsen claims they're the only onsen in the world to have radium in trace amounts in the water, safe for human soaking. The outdoor pools are all mixed-gender, and there's a surprising comradery among those staying and using the onsen. Thoroughly recommended.

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









