



Shubuto-gawa


朱太川Canoeing Map1:25000





4hr  
Time

2.3  
Gradient (mpk)

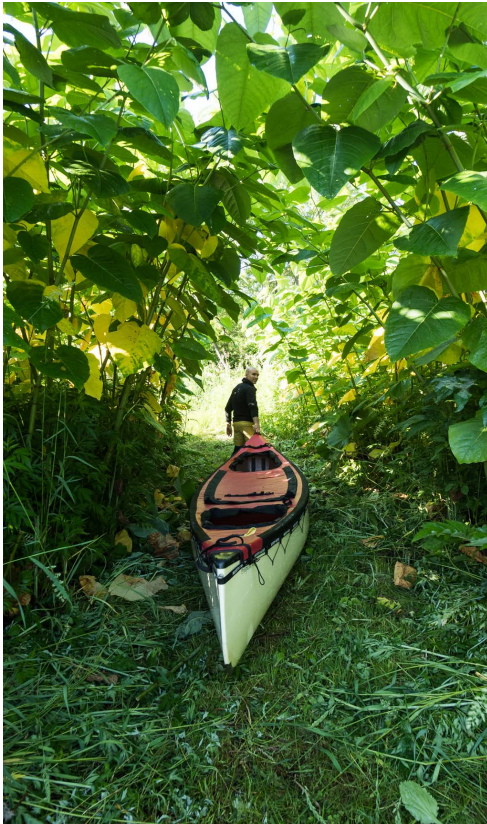
Class II  
Difficulty

23km  
Distance

3/5  
Water clarity

May-Oct  
Best season

Shubuto-gawa 朱太川 is a beautiful meandering waterway flowing from the famous beech forests of Kuromatsunai 黒松内 to the Japan Sea in southern Hokkaido. Suitable even for beginners, there's plenty of sights to see along the way, including high clay cliffs and beautiful bedrock. It's not far from the international resort of Niseko, and well suited to packrafters as well as open deck canoeists looking for a leisurely outing. On a hot mid-summer day, this is the antidote to the midday heat.



**LOCATION**  
Shubuto-gawa flows through the small town of Kuromatsunai in southern Hokkaido, about 1hr drive west from the international resort of Niseko.

**Put-in:** If water levels are appropriate, paddlers will put in just downstream of the Shubuto-bashi bridge 朱太川橋, on the river right. There's a small area to park about three cars. If water levels are low, paddlers will put in under Midori-bashi bridge 緑橋 in Kuromatsunai Town, on river right.

**Take-out:** We're always pretty keen to paddle

to river mouths on a river canoe trip, so the takeout location is the Shubuto-gawa river mouth, at the beach. It's a lovely beach with good access, so we'd highly recommend it if the wind isn't too much in your face. Alternatively, there's also a good river access spot on river left just upstream of Sakae-bashi bridge 栄橋, which is also closer to bus stops.

**GENERAL NOTES**  
This is another classic mellow Hokkaido river, popular with canoe guides when they want to give clients a nice chill canoe experience. The fact the river flows though the nice little town of Kuromatsunai only adds to the river's charm. There's a couple of onsen in the area, and the Kuromatsunai Autocampground is really nice. The campground is next to the northern-most extent of beech forest in Japan. Just all round a nice natural-feeling place.

**Water level:** The upper half of the route can suffer from low water levels during the height of summer, with some river-walking required in places. Late spring and autumn after rain is usually a more reliable time to do the upper section without scraping the bottom of the boat on the riverbed.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
Taking it really easy, this route from Shubuto-gawa-bashi bridge to the sea will likely take around four hours. It might take longer in the height of summer where river walking may be required.

Depending on the water levels, either put in at the Shubutogawa-bashi bridge, or further downstream at the Midori-bashi bridge. If starting from Shubutogawa-bashi bridge, note that there's one particularly nasty strain-

er across the entire river about 1.5km downstream. In normal water levels, this is relatively easily avoided by keeping hard river left, but you'll still be ducking branches. After that, it's pretty smooth sailing.

Approaching Kuromatsunai Town, the river is a bit of a rock garden, which can be tricky in lower water levels.

The two concrete block weirs after Kuromatsunai are curious, seemingly pointless structures. In certain conditions, they can be run on the hard river right, but definitely scout before committing. We had to line the first one, but managed a clumsy but clean line on the hard river right on the second.

Towards the end of the river, the flow slows down considerably, and paddlers will likely be plagued by on-shore breezes impeding progress somewhat. Pushing through this, however, rewards with a very picturesque river mouth and beach.

**TRANSPORT**  
**By car** | There's plenty of parking at all put ins and take-outs. Kuromatsunai is about 1hr drive from Niseko.

**Public transport** | This route is great for those traveling with a packraft on public transport. Catch the JR train to Kuromatsunai station 黒松内駅, and call the local taxi company for a lift to Shubuto-bashi bridge. Show the taxi driver your paddle and the kanji for Shubuto-bashi bridge 朱太橋 and they'll probably get the idea. The taxi company is Kuromatsunai Hire 黒松内ハイヤー, TEL: 0136723055. If you'd prefer not to bother with the hassle of talking to them on the phone, just wander over to their office, a few minutes walk from the station. For getting away from the river mouth, you'll have to walk 20 minutes or so to Route 229, to the Ogawa bus stop 小川バス停. From there, there's three buses per day back to Kuromatsunai (6:48, 10:18, 16:32 as of 2021) on the Niseko Bus Oshamambe/Kuromatsunai Line.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
Do keep vigilant about strainers, as there were a few on the outside of corners in the upper section, as well as one whole tree right in the middle of the river which we opted to line

RIVER DETAILS

This route is on Shubuto-gawa (朱太川), or Shupki-puto in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 43.5km in total length. This section of the river is between 10m and 150m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 2.3 mpk (12.14 FPM).



around. Take care when approaching the concrete block weirs beyond Kuromatsunai and scout before attempting to run.

**ONSEN NEARBY**  
Yubetsunoyu ゆべつのゆ (500yen) onsen is about 3km from the rivermouth, and is very highly recommended. Large indoor and outdoor baths, and the restaurant serves the regular good value onsen fare. They also have cabins available for overnight stays (10,000yen per night for the hole cabin, sleeps four). ■



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

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <http://hokw.jp/shbto>



**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

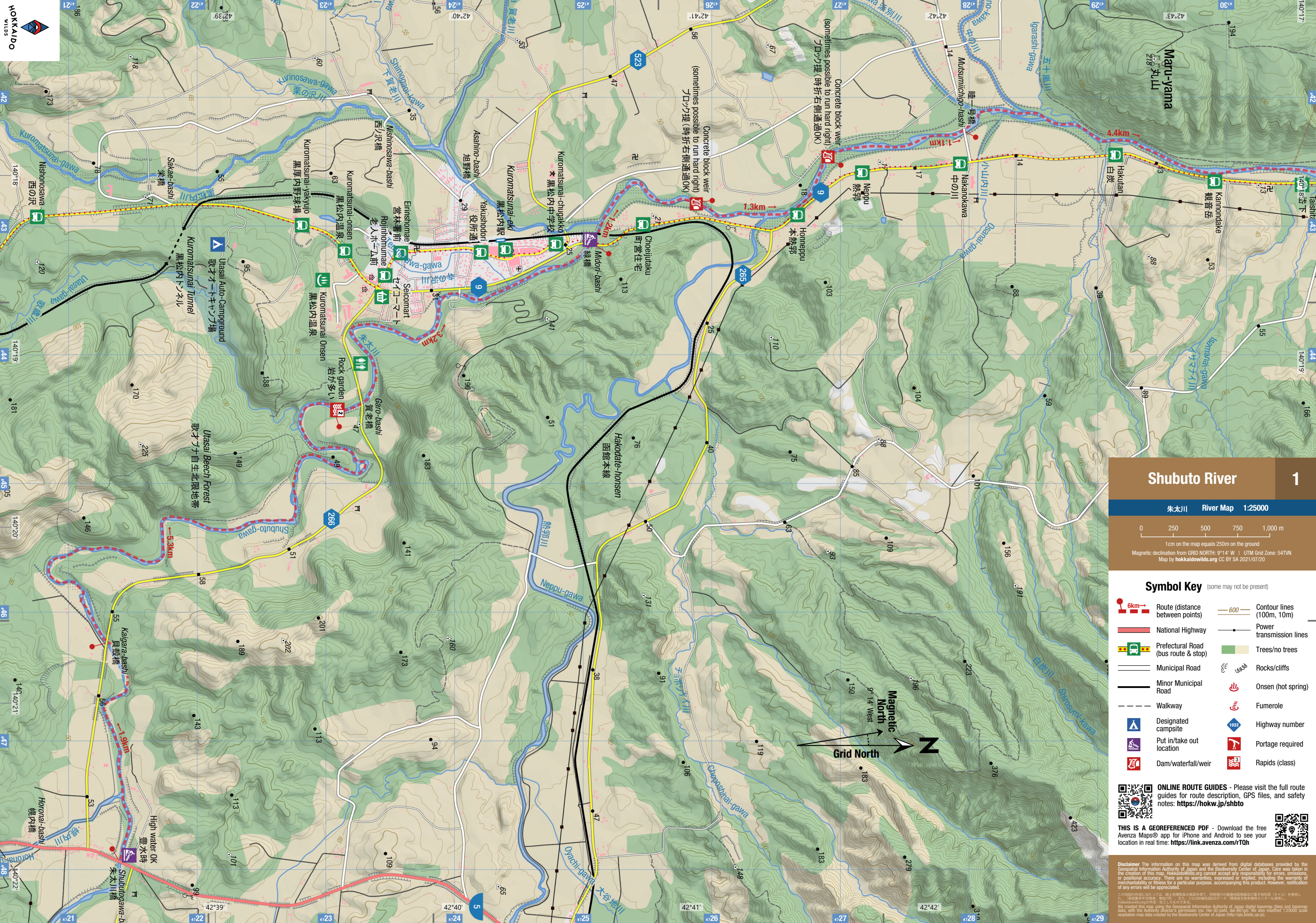
[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2021/07/21

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"







## Shubuto River

1

朱太川 River Map 1:25000



















1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9°14' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TVN

Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2021/07/20

## Symbol Key

(some may not be present)

- |   |                                     |   |                           |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Route (distance between points)     |  | Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
|  | National Highway                    |  | Power transmission lines  |
|  | Prefectural Road (bus route & stop) |  | Trees/no trees            |
|  | 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/weir                  |  | Rapids (class)            |



**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES** - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/shbto>

**THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF** - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://link.avenza.com/rTQh>



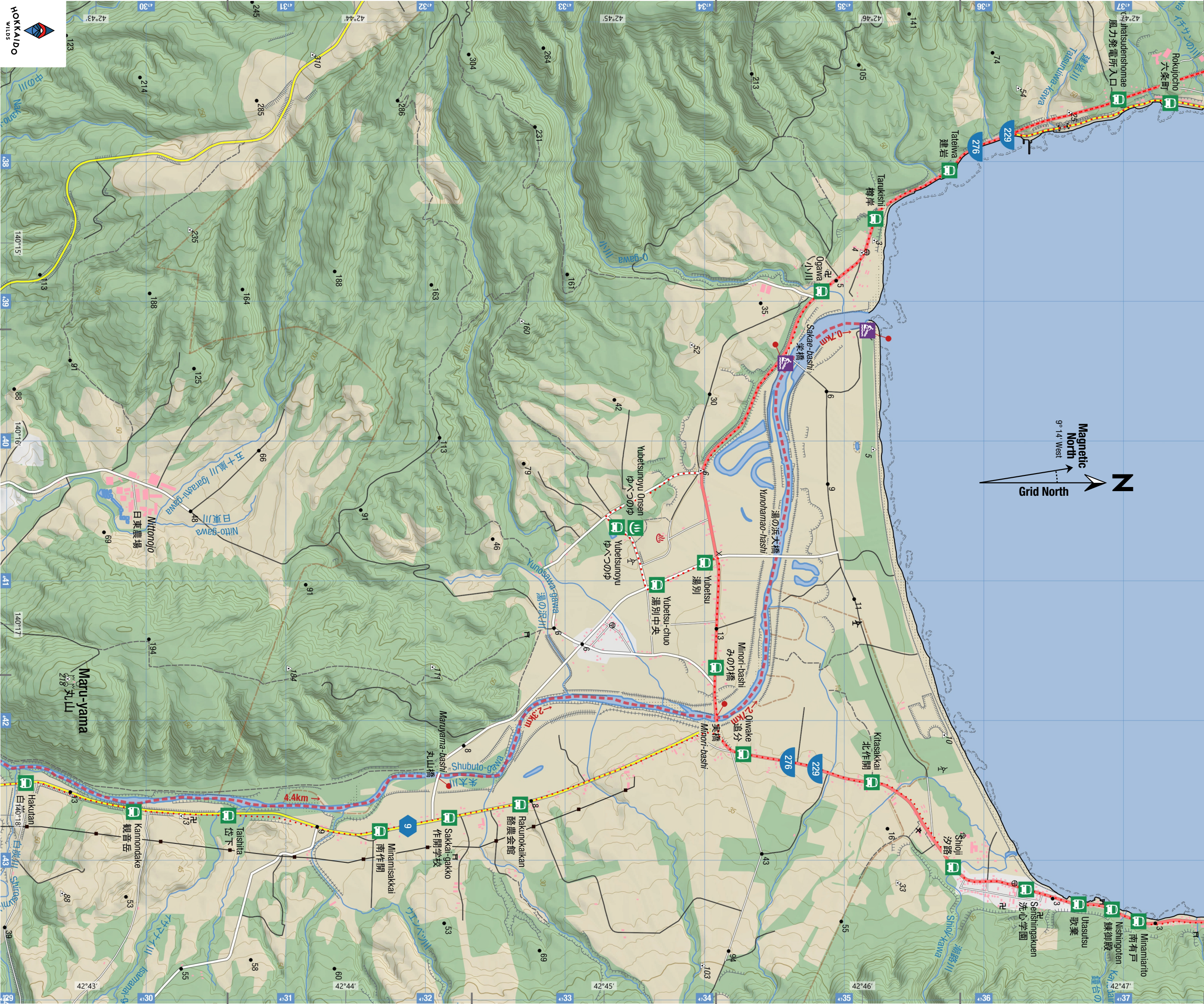
**Disclaimer** The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWilds.org cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or positional accuracy. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification

any errors will be appreciated.

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、（地学調査番号303提供、第867号）、また、1/25,000地形図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、[nkdanddata.gis.go.jp](http://nkdanddata.gis.go.jp)）で作成・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, 4867-gō). We also modified 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp>).





## Shubuto River



















## 2

朱太川 River Map 1:25000

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9°14' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TVN  
Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2021/07/20

**Symbol Key** (some may not be present)

- |   |                                     |   |                           |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Route (distance between points)     |  | Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
|  | National Highway                    |  | Power transmission lines  |
|  | Prefectural Road (bus route & stop) |  | Trees/no trees            |
|  | 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/weir                  |  | Rapids (class)            |



**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES** - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/shbto>



**THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF** - Download the free  
Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your  
location in real time: <https://link.avenza.com/rTQh>

**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. However, no warranty, expressed or implied, for errors, omissions, or damages of any kind is made. The user assumes all liability for any use of the information, its merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated.

この図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院の提供による、国土地理院デジタル地形図データ（タイル）を使用し、(株)地籍情報システム（地籍情報）と、株式会社1/25,000スケールデータ（国土地理院多用途データ）を使用し、(株)WebLogの作成したものです。

This map was created using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital base map (tiles) and base map data, with the Authority's permission (no. Hei-30-joshi, dat-86/93). We also modified 1/25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://www.biodic.or.jp>).



## PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1

Load your printer with A3 printer paper (297mm x 420mm). If you've only got Tabloid or Ledger size (279mm x 432 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.

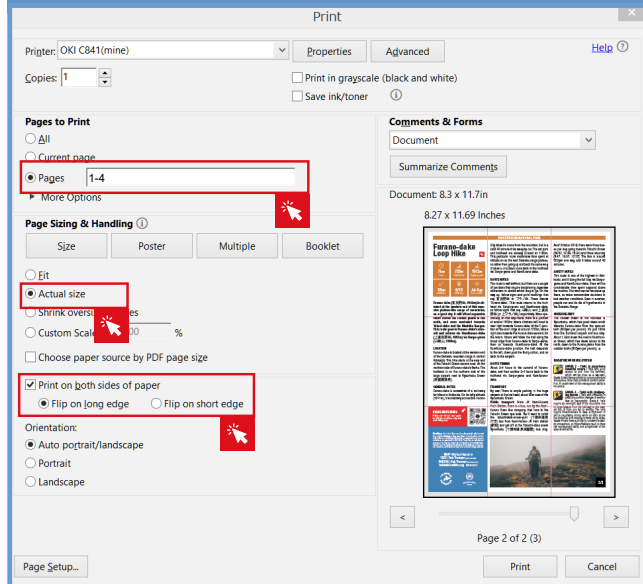
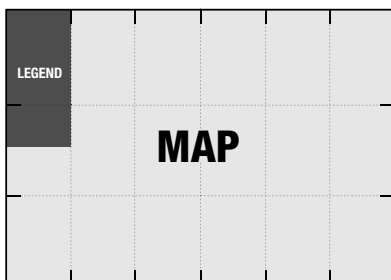


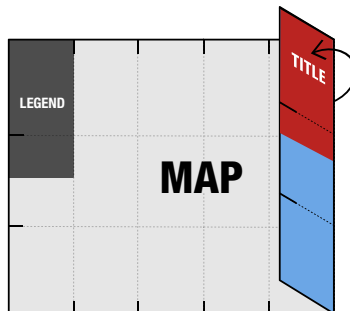
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

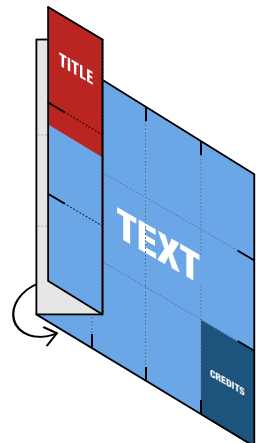
1



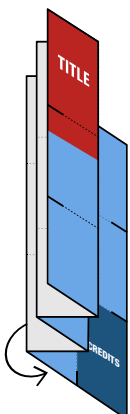
2



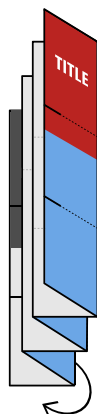
3



4



5



6



7

