

Upepesanke-yama Dayhike



10hrs Time	1245m Total Climb	1848m Highest point
17km Distance	7/10 Difficulty	Jun-Oct Best season

Upepesanke-yama (ウペペサンケ山, 1848m), is the southernmost of the large outlier mountains to the south-east of the main Daistsetsu massif. Its Ainu name means 'the mountain that produces much meltwater in the spring thaw'. It is characterized by its long and narrow summit ridge which is a delight to wander along on a good day with fantastic views over the rugged landscape of central Hokkaido and beyond. Although a long day it is relatively straightforward and makes a rewarding excursion into Hokkaido's high alpine landscapes.

LOCATION

Upepesanke is off Route 273 which runs down the east side of the Daisetsusan massif, just north of the onsen town of Nukabira at the northern end of the Tokachi Plain. This hike starts and finishes at about 600m from the trailhead 7.5km from Nukabira Onsen.

GENERAL NOTES

The main season for summer hiking on Upepesanke is June into October; before and after this you need to be prepared



and equipped for snow on the ground and/or falling from the sky. The base for this climb is at Nukabira Onsen, a small collection of lodgings with (extremely) hot springs and an ageing ski resort. There is a Youth Hostel (Tel: 0156 44 2004) and a campsite at the southern end of the village.

ROUTE NOTES

Expect about 6hrs on the ascent, and 4 hours on the descent. The route is generally well defined throughout, though was rough in places on the lower sections when we were there. Once on the ridge proper there are no problems. There are some signs and route markers in Japanese. From the new trailhead the path follows the river, with a few stream crossings, to reach the old trailhead in about an hour and 20 mins. From here you climb up fairly steeply in places to meet the ridge at 1399m after 1hr 30mins. From here turn right (NNW) and ascend the ridge, first through forest and then haimatsu creeping pine, over minor peaks for about 2 to 2 and a half hours to reach Nukabirafuji (糠平富士, 1835m). Now turn left along the narrow main summit ridge, over some minor bumps and one major gap, to reach the main summit marker at 1848m in under an hour. The return along the same route should take around 4 hours.

TRANSPORT

By car: Easy road access from Route 273. The trailhead is a short way up a signposted gravel forest road just north of Nukabira Onsen. There is parking for a number of cars.

Public transport: Tokachi Bus (Tel : 0155 23 5171) runs four buses a day from the Obihiro Bus Terminal to Nukabira Onsen. From there a taxi would be necessary to get to the trailhead (around 3,500yen).

SAFETY NOTES

This route traverses exposed alpine terrain and can be a dangerous place in bad weather with real risks of hypothermia for poorly equipped hikers. Conditions can change quickly, it is very exposed to the wind and the upper slopes can be much colder than down at the trailhead. Carry appropriate gear. Like all high mountain terrain in Hokkaido it is bear country so take the usual precautions.

ONSEN NEARBY

Our favourite in nearby Nukabira Onsen is the boiling hot spa at Nakamura-ya (中村屋, 500 yen, location), a rambling old building with a mixed rotenburo and free coffee in the entrance lounge. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, interactive map, and extra safety notes: <https://hokkw.jp/upepe>



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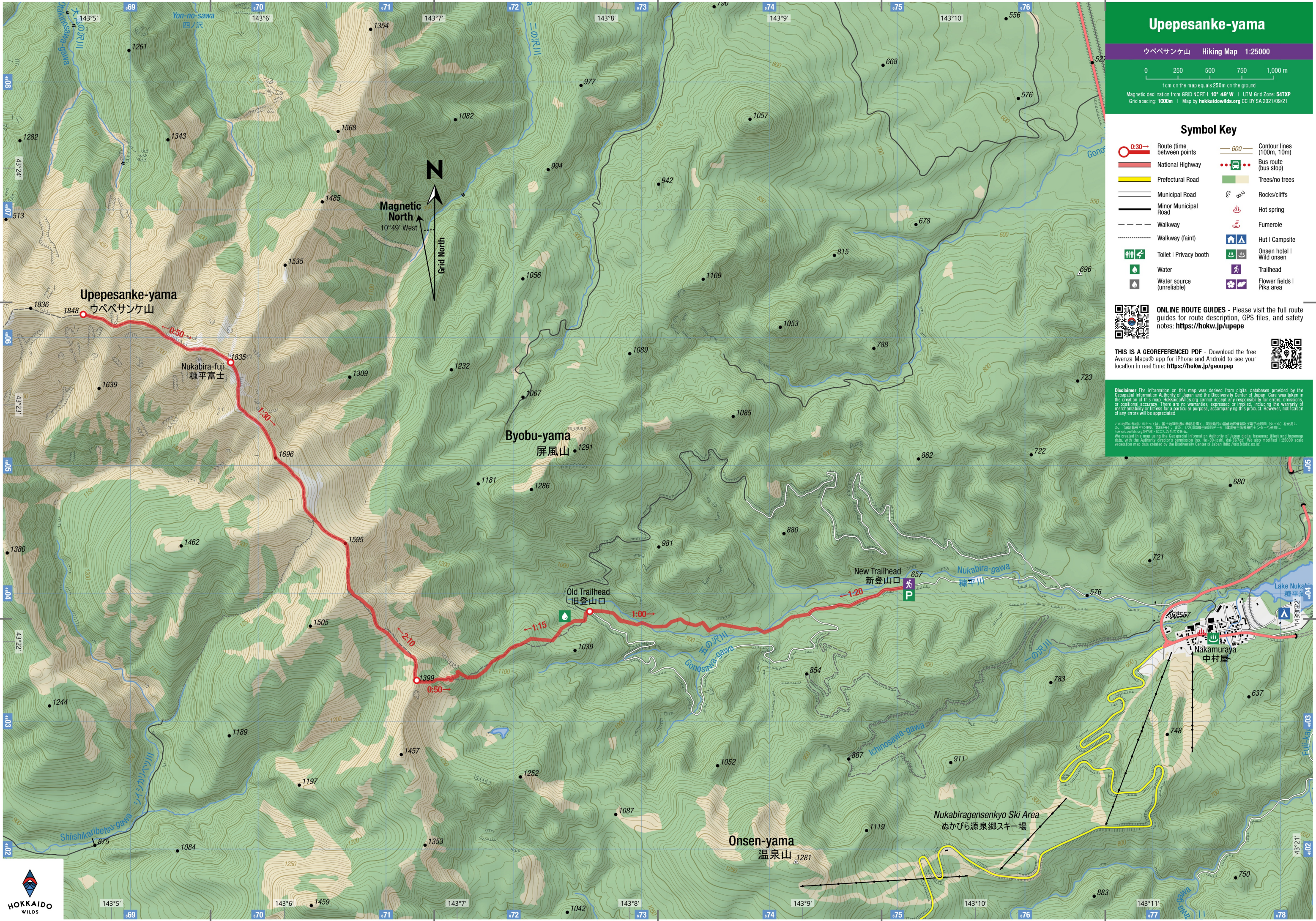
TEXT, PHOTOS | Rick Siddle
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hokkaidowilds.org 2021/09/21

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Upepesanke-yama

ウベペサンケ山 Hiking Map 1:25000



1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground
Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10° 49' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TXP
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY-SA 2021/09/21

Symbol Key

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 0:30 → | Route (time between points) | 600 | Contour lines (100m, 10m) |
| | National Highway | | Bus route (bus stop) |
| | Prefectural Road | | Trees/no trees |
| | Municipal Road | | Rocks/cliffs |
| | Minor Municipal Road | | Hot spring |
| | Walkway | | Fumerole |
| | Walkway (faint) | | Hut Campsite |
| | Toilet Privacy booth | | Onsen hotel Wild onsen |
| | Water | | Trailhead |
| | Water source (unreliable) | | Flower fields Pika area |



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

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We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority's permission (no. 100-2024-00001). We also modified 1:25000 scale vector map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (data/2024/09/21).



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.

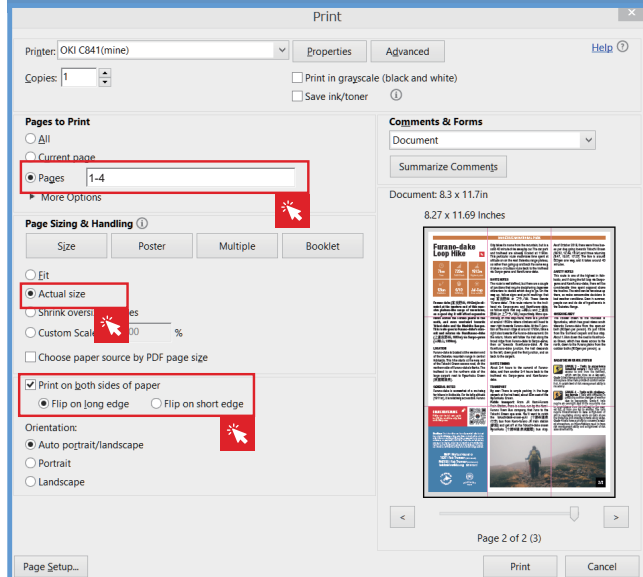


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

