New Zealand team to document 20 northern Japan sea kayaking routes
URL: https://hokkaidowilds.org/paddling

Sapporo City, Japan: HokkaidoWilds.org, a website providing serious Hokkaido outdoor information in English, has announced they will cover and publish nearly 20 Hokkaido sea kayaking routes between May 2022 and October 2024. Since its establishment in 2018, HokkaidoWilds.org has published more than 300 Hokkaido summer mountaineering routes, canoe routes (rivers and lakes), bicycle touring routes, and ski mountaineering routes. In this vein, we plan to provide highly accurate English-language sea kayaking maps, detailed route information, and high-quality photographs of Hokkaido's wild coastal areas.

Table 1
Proposed locations (ranked by difficulty)

No.	Location	Distance	Duration	Level
1	Otamoi-kaigan Coast	9km	3hr	Beginner
2	Cape Raiden-misaki	4km	1hr	Beginner
3	Rishiri-jima (Peshi-misaki)	2km	1hr	Beginner
4	Shiretoko Peninsula - Shiretoko Shizen-mura Campground to Otoko-no-namida Falls	6km	2hrs	Beginner
5	Kamui-misaki	4km	1hr	Beginner
6	Notsuke Peninsula	20km	1 day	Beginner
7	Shioya-kaigan Coast (Otaru to Ranshima Beach)	20km	4hr 30min	Intermediate
8	Cape Shakotan-misaki (Bikuni to Irikamura)	14km	3hr 30min	Intermediate
9	Iwabe-kaigan Coast (Fukushima-cho Iwabe to Shiriuchi-cho Kotai-ishi)	10km	3hr 30min	Intermediate
10	Hakodate-yama (Hakodate-shi Sumiyoshi to Irifune)	8km	3hr	Intermediate
11	Chikyu-misaki	7km	2hr 30min	Intermediate
12	Okushiri Island (Cape Inaho-misaki to Aonae beach)	38km	2 days	Intermediate
13	Muroran-kaigan (Etomo to Itanki Beach)	15km	3hr 30min	Advanced
14	Teuri-jima circumnavigation	12km	5hr	Advanced
15	Okushiri-jima circumnavigation	12km	5hr	Advanced
16	Cape Erimo-misaki (Toyo port to Erimo-misaki Kita-no-hama)	8km	3hr	Advanced
17	Rebun-jima (Motochi port to Funadomari beach)	28km	2 days	Advanced
18	Shiretoko Peninsula - Full circuit (Aidomari to Utoro)	62km	5 days	Expert

Hokkaido Wilds planned sea kayak touring database features:

- GPX and KML route files for use in GPS navigation apps
- Printable PDF topographic maps with English place names (created by HokkaidoWilds.org based on Japan government base map data)
- Information on launching and landing sites and public transportation
- Explanation of fishing ports and other ordinances related to sea kayaking
- Route search based on your current location
- Detailed route directions with photos
- Information on hot springs near the route
- Safety information and frequently asked questions
- Recommended local sea kayaking guides for each route

Ainu place names: HokkaidoWilds.org makes effort to include Ainu river, lake, and mountain names on route guide posts. HokkaidoWilds.org is committed to acknowledging historical and contemporary Ainu heritage of Hokkaido.

Sea kayaking documentation team

- **Rob Thomson** (New Zealand) - Rob is a New Zealander, and initially founded HokkaidoWilds.org as a space on the web for his Hokkaido adventure stories, originally posted on his personal travel blog 14degrees.org. He still holds the Guinness World Record for the Longest Journey by Skateboard (12,159km). He also previously cycled 12,000km from Japan to Switzerland. He holds a Ph.D. in Behavioral Science, and currently works at Hokusei Gakuen University in Sapporo City as an assistant professor in media and communications (specializing in Internet psychology). Swift Water Rescue Technician (SRT1).
- **Haidee Thomson** (New Zealand) - Haidee is a Kiwi, and has lived in Hokkaido for almost 10 years, having lived and worked in Sapporo, Niseko, Muroran, and Chitose City. Keen on the outdoors and birdwatching, Haidee planned most of the multi-day cycle touring routes on The Hokkaido Wilds, including campgrounds, daily distances, and onsen hotsprings. Haidee is an assistant professor of applied linguistics at Hokusei University Junior College. Swift Water Rescue Technician (SRT1).
- **Chris Auld** (New Zealand/UK) - Chris is a data scientist with Microsoft Asia, but he's also originally from New Zealand. As a whitewater kayaker, mountain biker and skier with a cabin in Hokkaido he's keen to share both high adventure and family fun trips on Hokkaido Wilds. Chris is a qualified ski guide, avalanche and whitewater rescue technician, outdoor first-aider.
- **Greg and Mari** (Canada and Japan) - Greg and Mari are one of the most prolific Canadian canoeing couples in Hokkaido, with a host of multi-day canoe trips under their belt. Greg has a slew of previous paddling guiding experience.

HokkaidoWilds.org Offline

We're increasingly working alongside local Hokkaido tourism promotion agencies, NPOs and the Japan Ministry of Environment to further Hokkaido English-language outdoor adventure promotion and education. In the past three years, HokkaidoWilds.org team members have presented keynote addresses and presentations at a number of events inside Japan and overseas.

These include an invited keynote address at a Japan Ministry of Environment national park symposium, FOSS4G Hokkaido conference and Montbell's Sea to Summit event, a workshop at the popular Hokkaido Outdoor Forum, and snow safety lectures in Singapore. Hokkaido Wilds won two national awards at the 2019 Geo Contest, hosted by the Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in Tokyo in November 2019, for our printable A4 topographical maps. At the

2021 Geo Activity Contest we won grand prize for our UTM grid maps.

About Hokkaido Wilds: The Hokkaido Wilds is a non-profit website that exists to inspire people to explore and enjoy Hokkaido's extraordinary outdoors by ski, bicycle, foot, and canoe in an informed and responsible way. The site currently boasts over 300 ski touring, cycle touring, and hiking routes, all accessible for free.

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