



Niseko Annupuri

Kita-shamen to Goshiki Onsen Loop

アンヌプリ北斜面→五色温泉 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



0 250 500 750 1,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9°38' W | MGRS Zone: 54TVN
Grid spacing: 1000m | Projection: WGS 84 / UTM zone 54N
Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2022/02/08

Symbol Key

	Route (time between points)		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 GUIDE - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS file, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/anngosh>

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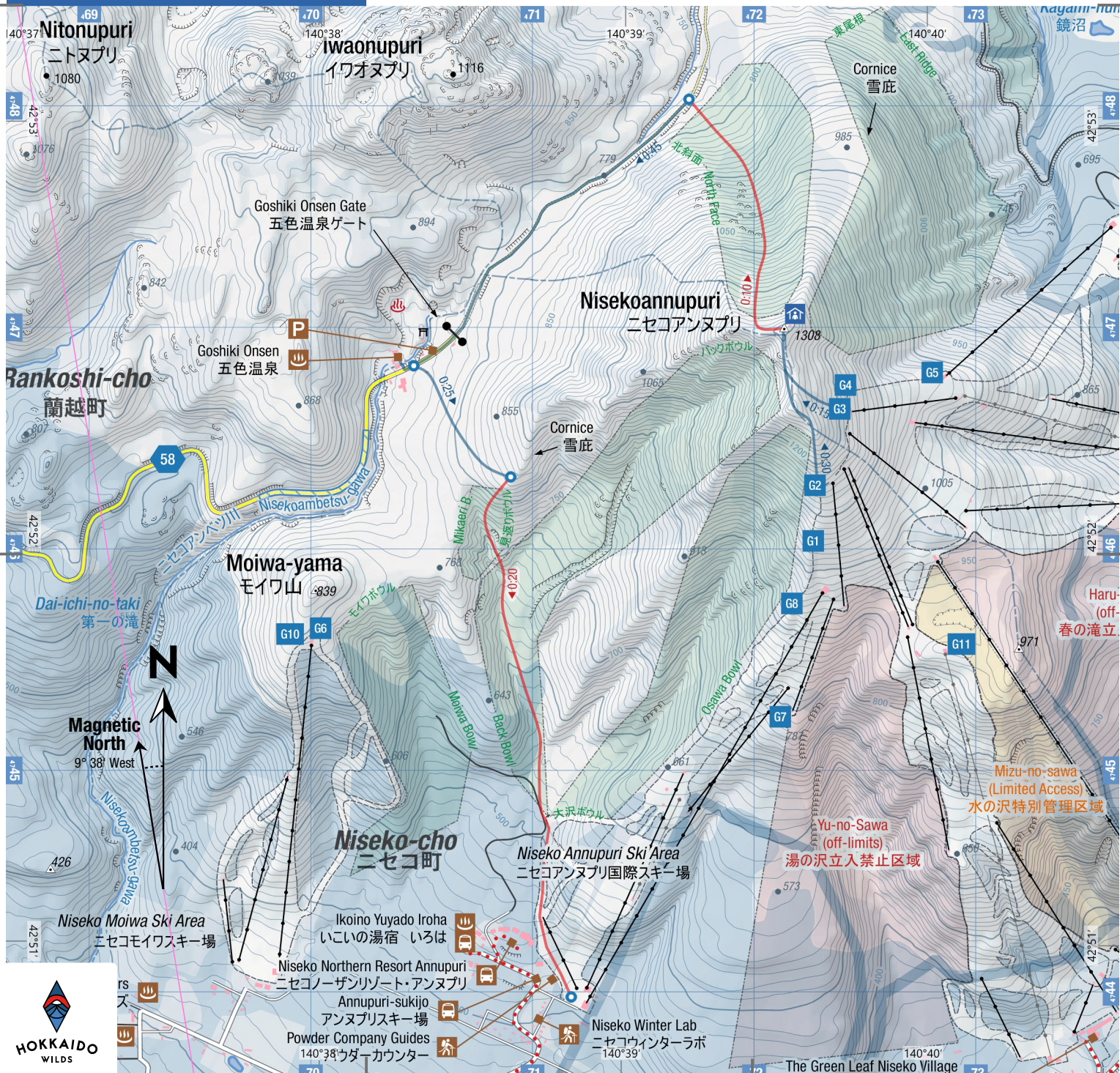


Japanese Map Glossary

Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki cho	分岐町	junction town
dake/mine eki	岳/峯 駅	peak station
goya/koya hinangoya	小屋 避難小屋	hut 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、国土院院長の承認を得て、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植生図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 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Niseko Annupuri Kita-shamen to Goshiki Onsen Loop



 4-5hrs Time	 250m Total Climb	 1308m Highest point
 7km Distance	 5.5/10 Difficulty	 Jan-Apr Best season

As far as solid lift-assisted day-tours go in Hokkaido, there are few that compare to the Niseko Annupuri Kita-shamen ニセコアンヌプリ北斜面 to Goshiki Onsen 五色温泉 loop. With a number of options available to extend the day's adventuring, this loop should appeal to backcountry skiers of all levels. The route starts with a mind-bending 550m vert in the deepest of deep Niseko powder. Next is a picturesque skin along a snowed-in road, surrounded by volcanoes. Then you'll have a natural hotspring soak before another hit of quality powder turns, leading you back to where you started at Annupuri ski area. Did we mention you'll climb no more than 250m on this loop?

LOCATION

Niseko Annupuri ニセコアンヌプリ (1308m) sits at the southeastern terminus of the Niseko Range, about 2.5 hours drive west of Sapporo City. Its southeastern slopes are home to the

Niseko United ski resort, well known internationally for good powder snow. Given that this route finishes at Annupuri ski area, we recommend that skiers start there too – at the gondola. This requires a 30-minute bootpack and/or skin from the top of the Annupuri Jumbo Pair Lift #4 (Gate 2) across the ridge to the Niseko Annupuri summit. If you'd rather keep the bootpack as short as possible, you could ride the Niseko Grand Hirafu ski area gondola + King Hooded Quad Lift #3 + King Lift #4 to Gate 3, and head to the summit from there. Note however that Niseko Grand Hirafu lifts are orders of magnitude more busy than the Annupuri lifts, particularly on a weekend. If the weather is good, and getting there is not too much of a bother, we heartily recommend starting from Annupuri.

GENERAL NOTES

Kita-shamen means, literally, North Slope (*kita* 北 north, *shamen* 斜面 slope). On the initial bootpack up to the Niseko Annupuri summit, you may be forgiven for wondering if you'll get any fresh tracks at all on this tour. Rest assured, however. The overwhelming majority of punters trudging up to the summit, dragging their resort skis behind them, are huffing and puffing and hoping in vain for their slice of untracked pow down the seething south and eastern aspects from the summit. The remote western and northern aspects of Niseko Annupuri are much more committing, only accessible to those with the means of hiking back out.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

On its own, moderately fit skiers will complete this loop (including a 1hr soak in the onsen) in around 4 hours. For this reason, many fitter skiers will tack on an ascent of Iwaonupuri (either the popular south face or more committing northeastern face). Not including a soak in Goshiki Onsen, including Iwaonupuri will make the trip around 5 hours.

Via Niseko Annupuri or Niseko Grand Hirafu ski areas, take the lifts up to their respective upper reaches, and hike from there to the Niseko Annupuri summit. If accessing via Niseko Annupuri, you'll exit the ski area via Gate 2. In this case, it's worth either putting skins on or attaching your skis to your backpack – generally, the ridgeline bootpack trail is firm underfoot, but heavier hikers may fall through to the undergrowth below. If accessing from Niseko Grand Hirafu, you'll exit via Gate 3 – this bootpack trail is partly groomed, and is sufficiently firm underfoot the entire way. You'll be sharing this hike with a steady stream of resort-goers, many with questionable levels of backcountry preparedness.

There's a small concrete shelter at the summit. The ambient temperature inside the shelter differs little from the outside. After the obligatory summit photos, head about 100m west along the summit ridge before dropping north into the Kita-shamen. We recommend just riding the fall line the entire way, in the centre of the vast, bowl-like terrain. The very top of the slope can get wind-scoured but quickly transforms into excellent surface conditions.

Once at the snowed-in Route 58 road, skin southwest

for just under 2km along the road to Goshiki Onsen. There may or may not be an existing skin track. If on snowshoes, make sure to bring the high floatation type – surface conditions can be very, very, very deep. Goshiki Onsen is just beyond the public car park at the end of the snow-clearing; you'll be walking on the cleared road for the final 200m or so to the onsen.

Have a long soak in the onsen. Then drag your body back out into the cold for the final 25-minute skin over the saddle between Annupuri and Mt. Moiwa. We recommend climbing up an extra 100m or so before dropping into Mikaeri Bowl – there are some nice powder turns to be had before hitting the race-track in the gully back to the base of Annupuri ski area. Keep left at any junctions in the gully and you'll be sure to end up in Annupuri (there's a junction part way that will take you to Moiwa Ski Area).

TRANSPORT

By car: There is plenty of parking at Annupuri ski area. If starting from Hirafu, note that traffic can be mind-bogglingly congested through the central Hirafu village during the high season. We would recommend avoiding that area by car at all costs. There is also plenty of parking at Goshiki Onsen for those with two vehicles who would prefer to run a shuttle.

Public transport: Niseko United runs a shuttle service between the major ski areas in the Niseko United group. Get off at the Annupuri Suki-jo アンヌプリスキー場 bus stop, and you're more or less right at the Annupuri gondola. Timetables available online. There is a regular public bus service to and from the Niseko resort area from Sapporo City. Note that there is no public transport to Goshiki Onsen in the winter. If you want to cut the trip short at Goshiki Onsen, a taxi fare from Goshiki Onsen to central Hirafu (23km) would cost around 7,500 to 8,000yen one way (there are no callout fees in Hokkaido).

SAFETY NOTES

This route accesses the backcountry from the Niseko United ski area gates, but the entire route outside of the gates is very much uncontrolled backcountry. There are no patrols, no avalanche control, and hazards are not marked. This is one of the busiest backcountry zones in Hokkaido; be aware of backcountry users above and below you at all times.

ONSEN NEARBY

Goshiki Onsen 五色温泉 (800yen, 10am till 7pm) is a gorgeously rustic natural onsen half way through the route. It is a must visit onsen, with 100% pure hot spring water, flowing into outdoor baths surrounded by meters of snow. If you'd prefer a soak after the whole loop is completed at Annupuri Ski Area, walk 300m from the base of Annupuri ski area to Ikoi-no-yu Onsen hotspots いこいの湯 (800yen). It's 100% natural too, with some great outdoor baths. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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TEXT, MAP, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2022/02/08

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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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.

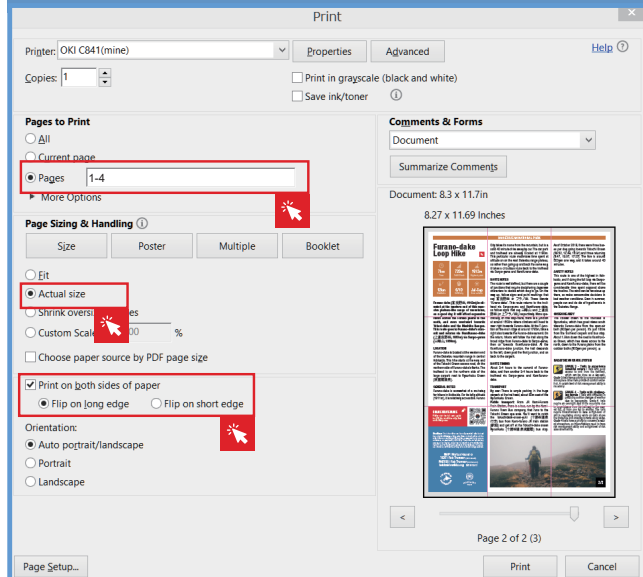


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

