



Iwanai-dake Northern Ridge

岩内岳北尾根 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°54' W | MGRS Zone: 54TVN
Grid spacing: 1000m | Projection: WGS 84 / UTM zone 54N
Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2022/02/26

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
	Municipal boundary		Fumerole
	Catski Area (keep out)		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/iwniN>

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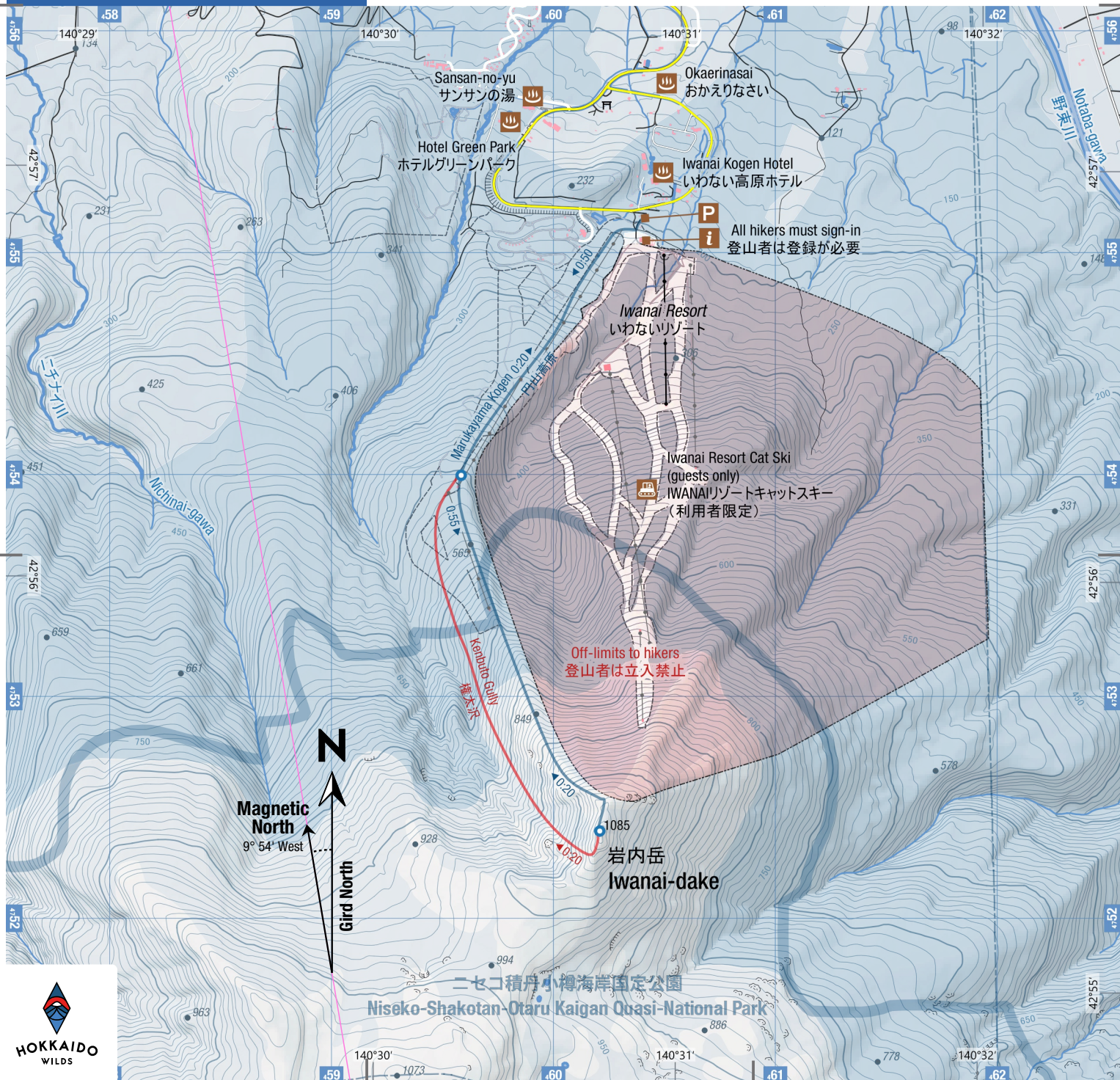


Japanese Map Glossary

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

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縮小図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/>).



Iwanai-dake North Ridge



4.5hrs Time	850m Total Climb	1086m Highest point
7km Distance	6/10 Difficulty	Jan-Apr Best season

Iwanai-dake 岩内岳 (1085m) is a conspicuous peak sitting at the far western end of the Niseko Range. To the west of the sprawling Iwanai Resort and catskiing area is a public up-track to the peak. From the peak, there is some excellent skiing to be had in the inspiring northwestern bowl - the Kenbuto Gully. The Kenbuto Gully requires careful attentiveness to snowpack conditions, but there is some very playful, steep terrain and drops available for those who wish to seek them out. There's a reason the catskiing is popular on this out-of-the-way mountain - the powder is cold and plentiful and views over the Japan Sea are incredible.

LOCATION

Iwanai-dake sits at the western end of the Niseko Range, just to the north of Raiden-yama 雷電山 (1211m) and Mekunnai-dake 目国内岳 (1220m). The Niseko Range is in the southwestern part of Hokkaido. Iwanai-dake is home to Iwanai Resort いわないリゾート.

GENERAL NOTES

Iwanai Resort describes themselves as existing on "a lost coastal corner abutting the Sea of Japan," with Iwanai-dake rising majestically



1,086m above the bay. It's an apt description for this peak, at least insofar as it's part of an otherwise internationally well-known range – the Niseko Range. From Hirafu (the main village in the 'Niseko' resort), it's about 40 minutes by car towards the Japan Sea. Undeservedly, it's also known as a wind-swept part of the range, somewhat exposed to the prevailing northwest winter storms. This is undeserved because, in fact, the north-facing gullies and slopes from the peak hold the snow remarkably well. They're without a doubt the easiest-access north-aspect slopes in the entire Niseko Range. Think season-long, deep, cold-smoke powder. With unrivalled views to boot.

Iwanai Resort and access: Iwanai Resort has been commissioned by Iwanai Town to lead all search and rescue operations on the Iwanai side of Raiden-yama – that includes Iwanai-dake. Therefore, anyone accessing Iwanai-dake from the resort parking area must sign in with their intentions at the lodge before skinning up to the peak. Hikers are also asked strictly not to ski in the main northern bowl below the peak. Follow all instructions given.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect about three hours on the ascent, and one hour on the descent. This timing assumes hiking to the peak and returning either along the ridge or a drop-and-traverse into the Kenbuto Gully. Experienced backcountry skiers would happily spend a full day exploring zones in the broader Kenbuto Gully bowl.

Park up at the Iwanai Resort parking area, and walk up to the main lodge (here). Sign in at the lodge as hikers, and then follow the signposted public up-track to the looker's far right of the resort. On the topomap

you'll see marked the outline of the old ski runs that are now re-planted – this is the ridge you'll be hiking up. You'll spend some time under or next to the old derelict ski lifts. The trees can be tight at times, but after about 1.5 hours or so, you'll emerge around 770m to incredible views north towards Iwanai Bay. From there you'll also see the final alpine approach to the summit. This approach is not steep, but can be icy at times, particularly in spring.

For the descent, either head back down the ridge the way you came, or consider skiing the skier's left bowl, to the west of the ridge you hiked up. Referred to by some as the Kenbuto-sawa 権太沢, this is a complex-terrain bowl with a number of knolls, mini-peaks, spurs, small cliffs, and open areas. Some experience with skiing complex terrain is recommended, and experienced backcountry travellers will discover at least a few days worth of zones to explore there.

Regardless of which descent option you choose, at some point you will be subjected to the return to the resort via the replanted ex-ski-slopes. The trees are tight. There are some half-buried old chairlift cables...it's a bit of a survival-ski situation. Just remember the good times you had further up, and visualize the hot onsen after the finish line...

TRANSPORT

By car: There is plenty of parking at the large carpark at the end of the snow clearing on Route 58. Note, however, that this parking can fill up quickly, especially on weekends. By 9am you may find the carpark full.

Public transport: Iwanai Town is accessible by bus from all major nearby cities including Sapporo City and Kutchan. From Niseko, it takes about 1.5hrs (1230yen). From the Iwanai Bus Terminal, there is a municipal 'shared taxi' – *Iwanai Noriai Taxi* 岩内乗合タクシー. For 200yen, you can catch this four-times daily taxi to Iwanai Resort – 8:55am, 10:25am, 12:40pm, 2:40pm. Return times from Iwanai Resort are 9:17am, 10:47am, 1:02pm, 3:02pm. These times are subject to change. A normal taxi from downtown Iwanai would cost about 2,000yen one way.

SAFETY NOTES

This route goes well into the alpine, well exposed to the elements. In low visibility, the summit ridge could be disorienting. If skiing into the Kenbuto Bowl, take care to check snow stability. The gullies can be deep, with deep holes down to the stream below.

ONSEN NEARBY

Our pick of onsen is Okaerinasai おかえりなさい (800yen), a traditional-feeling hot spring just 750m from Iwanai Resort. Note that on Saturdays and days before public holidays it closes to day visitors at 3pm. Sansan-no-yu サンサンの湯 (500yen) is also a lovely onsen – they have

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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TEXT, MAP, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2022/02/28

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

