



# Nitonupuri West Face

ニトヌプリ西面 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](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2022/03/21

## Symbol Key


**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE** - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS file, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/nitowst>

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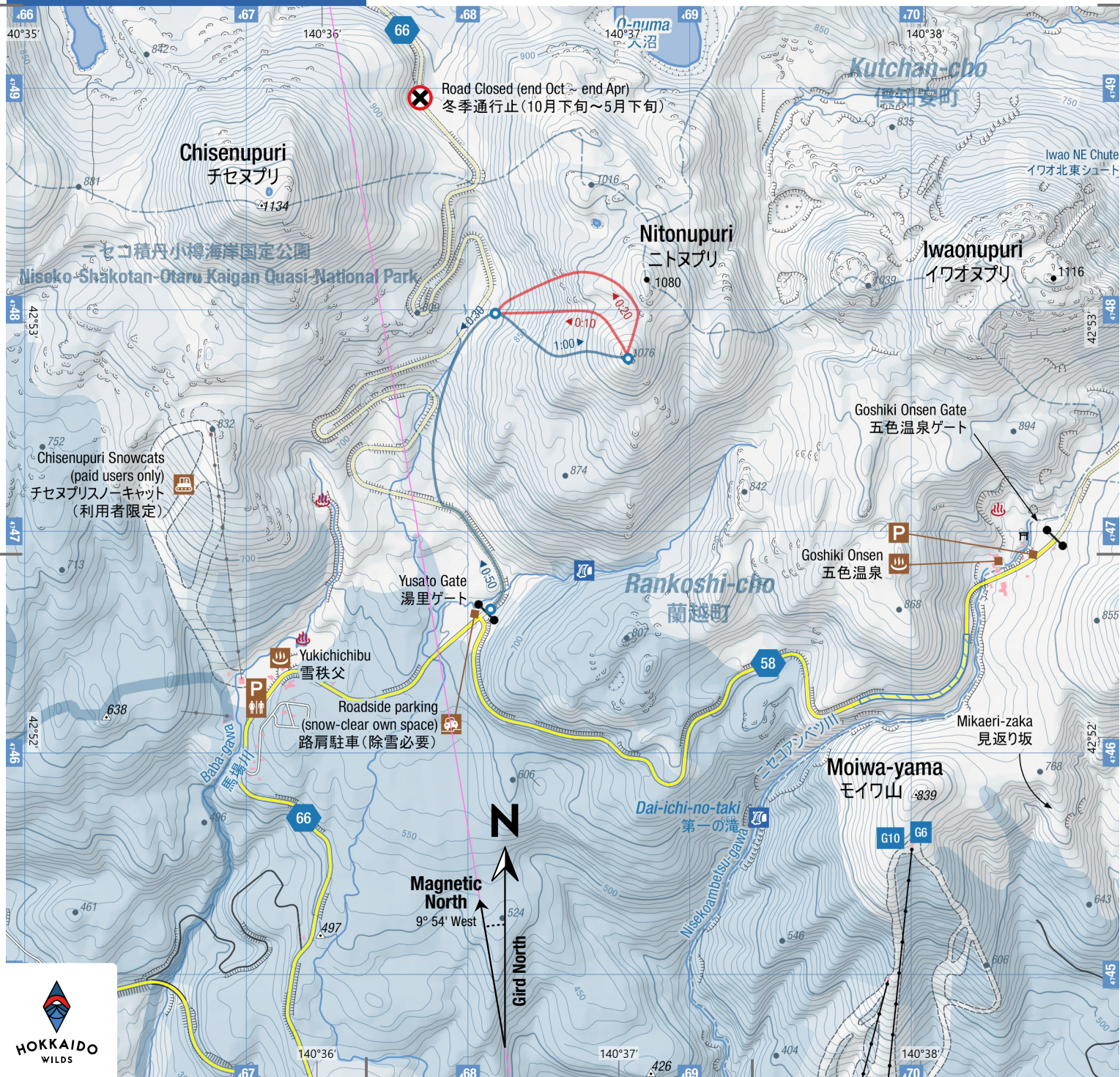


## Japanese Map Glossary

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	平谷	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）を使用した。（承認番号平30情使、第867号）。また、1/25,000縮小GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、[hokkaidowilds.org](http://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/>).





# Nitonupuri West Face



 <b>3hrs</b> Time	 <b>450m</b> Total Climb	 <b>1076m</b> Highest point
 <b>4.5km</b> Distance	 <b>5/10</b> Difficulty	 <b>Dec-Mar</b> Best season

The broad West Face of Nitonupuri ニトヌプリ (1080m) offers a lot of lapping real-estate on this popular Niseko backcountry peak. With northwest aspects also on offer, there are plenty of options to fine-tune access to powder turns even later into the season. Access to the West Face is a little longer than the in-your-face SW aspects, but the extra effort is justly rewarded. Views from the false peak (1076m) are also stellar on a good day. Gaze upon the eastern aspects of Chisenupuri, the Japan Sea to the northwest, the volcanic plateau summit of Iwaonupuri, and Niseko Annupuri further to the east.

## LOCATION

Nitonupuri sits in the heart of the Niseko range, between the obvious conical peak of Chisenupuri to the west, and Iwaonupuri to the east. It is probably the busiest of the region's ski touring spots, and the trailhead will usually be obvious for the number of cars parked there on any given morning. The trailhead is at the Yusato Gate the which closes route 66 for winter; about 800m drive up the road from Chisenupuri village.

## GENERAL NOTES

This western face of Nitonupuri joins the SW aspects as some of this peak's busiest zones. In



general, with the booming popularity of backcountry skiing, every region has a spot that's an order of magnitude busier than everywhere else. Think Grizzly Gulch in the Wasatch or Loveland Pass in Colorado. Nitonupuri is the Niseko Region's busiest ski touring spot, and for good reason. It's easily accessible, has a very short skin-in before climbing, and provides quality skiing on steep pitch slopes. That said, even on a busy day, it's usually easy enough to find some un-skied snow to enjoy on Nitonupuri, particularly on the western aspects.

The quality of the skin tracks tends to be quite variable though. The most pleasant routes set a long traverse to the north, well away from the main downhill runs, before switching back and they will often make the transition spot with just a single kick-turn. The least pleasant skin tracks switchback-a-palooza their way straight up the SE aspect and involve much kicking and cussing. Don't get suckered into following some other muggles poorly set skin-track.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

A simple out-and-back mission with no lapping would likely take a fit party around 3 hours. Add another couple of hours if lapping the face.

Start at the end of the snow clearing on Route 66, and from the road clamber up the 2-3m high snow walls to the snow above you. Head along the snowed in Route 66 for about 700m before veering north into the woods. Head due north for another 700m, climbing gently before starting the 300m-vertical climb to the false summit in earnest, due east. From the trailhead to the false summit it's usually about 2 hours. There's usually little need to hit the actual summit about 400m north of the false summit, but this can be satisfying on a clear day.

The skiing from the false summit to the treeline at 1000m can be average. Expect nice pockets of good snow interspersed with icy tips of bush sticking out of the snow. Below the treeline, however, the skiing is excellent on all aspects of the western face – WNW, W, and WSW. While the prevailing wind in the area is NW in winter, the wooded west face here is relatively protected by the bulk of Chisenupuri to the NW.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** There is a small area at the end of the snow-clearing around here, where four or five cars can fit without having to park on the side of the road along

Route 66. If this small area is already full, you may see others parked on the side of the road, hard up against the snowbanks on the left side of Route 66. Technically, this is illegal for a number of reasons – parking within the lane, parking too close to an intersection, etc. It can also effectively reduce Route 66 to one lane, causing traffic headaches. While we haven't heard of vehicles being towed, please obey any signs posted, and always make as much effort as possible to not obstruct traffic. As backcountry user numbers continue to increase, we hope to see a feasible solution. In the meantime, however, it's up to users to make good decisions and be careful not to cause inconvenience to others.

**Public transport:** This route is not accessible by public transport.

## SAFETY NOTES

Nitonupuri is a heavily trafficked ski touring area. This may lead you to a false sense of safety/security. The area includes plenty of steep avalanche prone terrain and we've had days when we've turned around based on the snow stability.

**The downhill ski terrain can be steep;** it is absolutely avalanche terrain. Check the forecast and familiarize yourself with the snowpack conditions for the aspect you intend to ski.

**It is a busy area;** be aware of backcountry users above and below you at all times. By following the recommended routes you'll have good spatial separation between skiing and skinning.

## ONSEN NEARBY

There are two obvious Onsen options for this run. Goshiki Onsen 五色温泉 (800yen, 10am till 7pm) is a gorgeously rustic natural onsen a few km drive up the road (route 58) from the trailhead. It is a must visit onsen for the region, with 100% pure hot spring water, flowing into outdoor baths surrounded by meters of snow. Yukichichibu Onsen 雪秩父温泉 (700yen, noon till 7pm, closed Tuesdays) on the way back to Hirafu (800m down route 66) is also a good natural onsen option, with a larger outdoor bath area. Yukichichibu also has an attached restaurant (11am till 2pm). Yukichichibu is a very sulphurous onsen and so you do tend to stink for a bit afterwards. ■

## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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.

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[hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) 2022/03/21

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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.



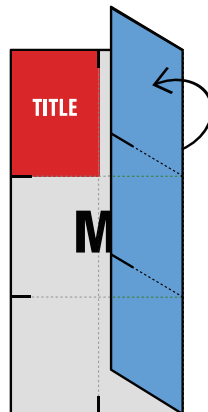
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

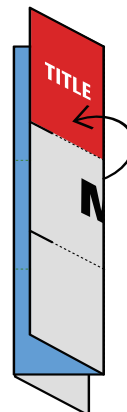
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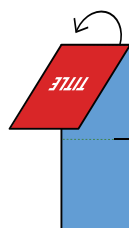
2



3



4



5

