



Shirakaba-yama North Ridge

白樺山北尾根 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 2022/02/22

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
	Municipal boundary		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/shiranth>

THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://link.avenza.com/C2gZ>

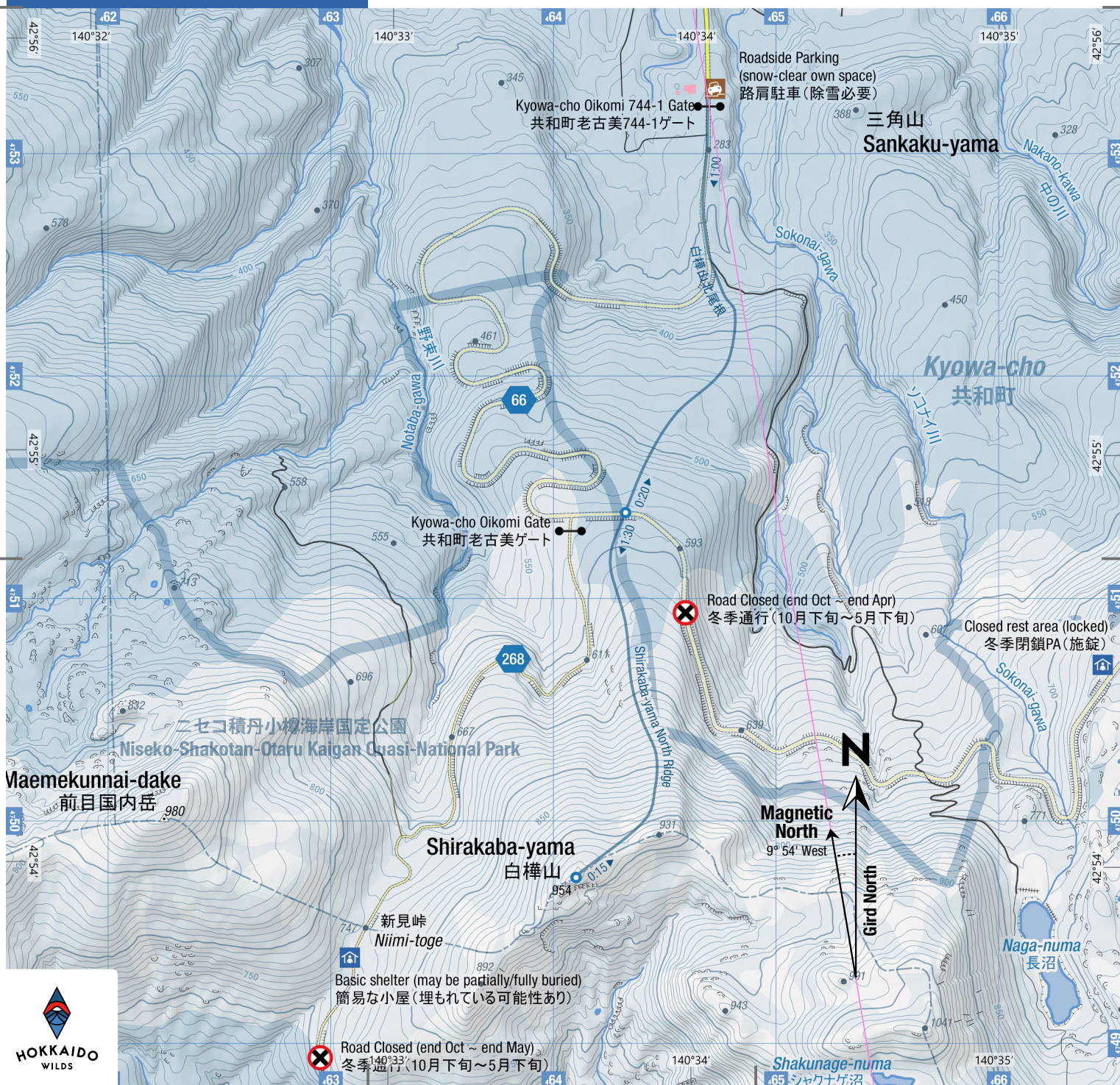


Japanese Map Glossary

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
numa	沼	gorge
onsen	温泉	pond
sawa	沢	hot spring
taira/daira tani/dani	平谷	stream
toge	峠	plateau
yama/san/zan	山	valley
		waterfall
		pass
		mountain

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土情報院長の承認を得て、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-867-go). We also modified 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Shirakaba-yama North Ridge



 3.5hrs Time	 675m Total Climb	 959m Highest point
 8km Distance	 4.5/10 Difficulty	 Jan-Mar Best season

Shirakaba-yama 白樺山 (954m) is a minor peak in the center of the Niseko Range in southwestern Hokkaido. This is the most common way to get to the peak in winter, via the mellow northern ridge. Family-friendly, more of a walk than a ski, it's a perfect peak for those just getting their feet wet navigating, skiing, and exploring the backcountry. There is even a couple of fun, steeper-pitch sections on the descent that will keep the freerider in you happy. The peak offers inspiring views to Mekunnai-dake in the west, and Chisenupuri to the east, plus the Japan Sea coast to the northwest.

LOCATION

Shirakaba-yama sits in between Chisenupuri and Mekunnai-dake in the Niseko Range in southwestern Hokkaido. It's about a 45-minute drive from the bustling international ski resort of Niseko. This ski touring route starts on the northern side of the range, at the end of the snow clearing, near the Kyowa Town incinerator facility.

GENERAL NOTES

Given how minor this peak is compared to its towering, free-ride oriented neighbours, it's easy



to write Shirakaba-yama off. However, this northern ridge route up the mountain fills a unique niche among Niseko Range peaks. For less experienced downhill skiers, it's a wonderful peak to get acquainted with the concept of skiing in deep powder, because the steeper sections are short and manageable. For the less experienced backcountry navigator, it's the perfect peak to hone one's mapreading skills – there are a number of features along the way to keep things interesting. There's also a short alpine section that will hone one's decision-making skills in less than ideal weather. For more experienced backcountry skiers, this is a great option for those stormy days when you just want to get out and stretch the legs. We'd hardly put this on a must-ski list for backcountry skiers tight on time in the area, but for anyone else, it's simply one of the most fun and chill peaks in the range.

Shirakaba: *Shirakaba* 白樺 means Japanese white birch.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

For a simple peak-hunt mission with no lapping of the better skiing slopes on the way down, expect about 2.5 hours on the ascent, and 30 minutes on the descent.

Park up well to the side of Route 66 at the end of the snow clearing at Kyowa-cho Oikomi 744-1 Gate 共和町老古美744-1ゲート. Avoid parking in the large cleared area on the east side of the road – this is a turn-around area for snowploughs. Skin south along Route 66 for about 750m, leaving the road where it bends to the west. Carry on south up the broad northern ridge through tight stands of spruce changing to nicely spaced old-growth white and gold birch. You may see sporadic pink tape marking a route, but don't rely on these – they are few and far between.

The first destination for the climb is the first crossing of the snowed-in Route 66. Just below this crossing at around 500m altitude is a short, 75m slope that is perfect for lapping. In heavier weather, this short slope is a decent final destination for the day in its own right. From the start of the route, it's about a 1 hour hike to this point.

From the Route 66 crossing, it's another 1.5 hours to the summit. The broad ridge is tight with younger white birch for a few hundred meters before opening up to a beautiful mellow slope with well-spaced

trees. This slope continues at an even pitch to the broad alpine saddle above the treeline between the minor 931m peak to the east and the main Shirakaba-yama peak at 954m. Take care here in low visibility as it could be easy to get disoriented – keep an eye on your map and position.

The summit gives fine views across to Mekunnai-dake 目国内岳, Shakunage-dake シャクナゲ岳, and Chisenupuri チセヌプリ. Return the way you came.

TRANSPORT

By car: Parking is on the side of Route 66, about 100m north of the Kyowa-cho Oikomi 744-1 Gate 共和町老古美744-1ゲート, just across the road from the Kyowa refuse incinerator facility. While it's technically illegal to park on the side of the road, it's common practice in winter – as a courtesy, spend about 15 minutes to clear enough snow to get your car a few meters more off the road. Avoid parking in the large snow plough turn-around area on the eastern side of the road.

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

SAFETY NOTES

We position this route as an easy, relaxed way to stretch the legs, but don't be fooled – the upper alpine area is exposed to the weather where wind chill temperatures can drop to -20°C or lower. Take appropriate gear. Similarly, the route is only sporadically marked with pink tape. Despite being bordered on the northern side by Route 66 and Route 268, it's still easy to end up in different drainages on the descent without a keen eye on the map.

ONSEN NEARBY

The northern side of the Niseko Range is a little less replete for onsen than the southern side. The Iwanai Resort area has a few good options though, so it's worth heading in that direction. 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 an adorable pet dog. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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.

TEXT, MAP, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2022/03/03

A4 MAP CONCEPT | Markus Hauser
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"



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

