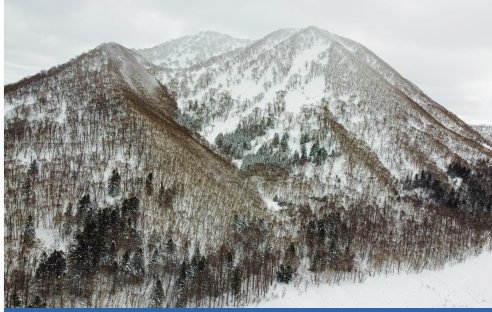




# Shiribetsu-dake Northwestern Gully

尻別岳北西 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°48' W | MGRS Zone: 54TVN  
Grid spacing: 1000m | Projection: WGS 84 / UTM zone 54N  
Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2022/03/23

## Symbol Key

3:00	Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) *	600	Contour lines (100m, 10m)
Red dashed line	Freeride Route *	Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks	
Blue dashed line	Advanced Route *	Trees / No trees	
Yellow line	National Highway	Buildings	
Blue line	Prefectural Highway / Gate	Backcountry gates	
Black line	Municipal Road	Ploughed parking / Onsen facility	
Thin black line	Minor Municipal Road	Shop / Public toilet	
Black line with cross-ticks	Forestry Road	Hut / Campground	
Red line with cross-ticks	Bus route / Stop	Shrine / Temple	
Blue line with cross-ticks	Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift	Hot spring / Fumerole	
Blue dashed line	Municipal boundary	Transmission tower	
Black line with cross-ticks	Power lines		



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

**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/pGaN>

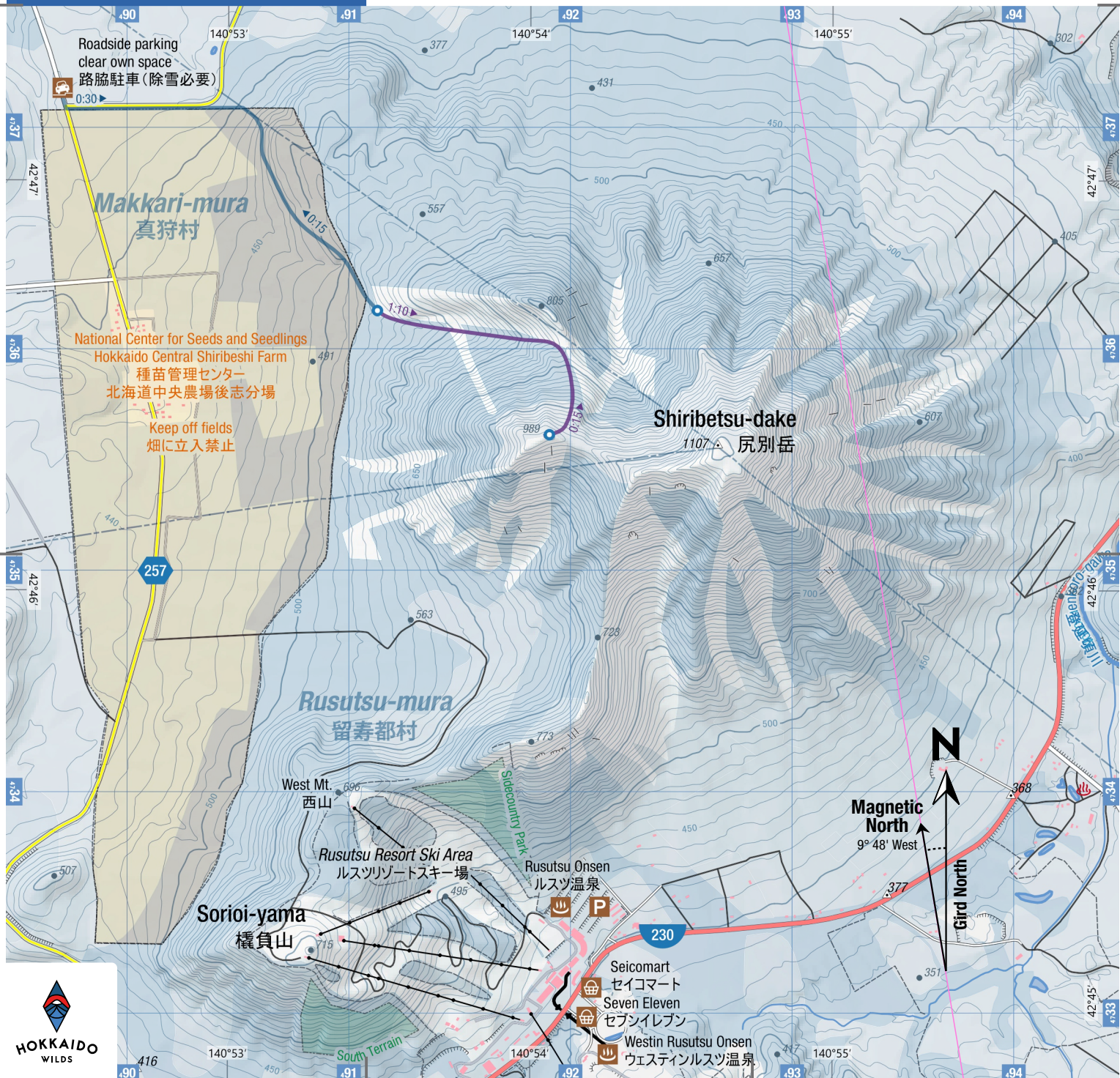


## Japanese Map Glossary

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
toge	峠	waterfall
yama/san/zan	山	pass
		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縮尺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 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).





# Shiribetsu NW Gully



2.5hrs Time	580m Total Climb	1076m Highest point
6.7km Distance	6/10 Difficulty	Jan-Mar Best season

This route up the northwestern corner of Shiribetsu-dake 尻別岳 (1107m) is, relatively speaking, a mellower route to the popular 989m false peak on the mountain. It offers relatively lower-trafficked access to the false peak than the West Bowl, easily one of the most popular backcountry zones in Hokkaido. The 989m peak offers a number of appealing descent aspects for the experienced backcountry traveller prepared to carefully assess snowpack conditions. Locally, Shiribetsu-dake is known as Hokkaido's most avalanche-prone mountain, so extra care must be taken on this very accessible, attractive peak.

## LOCATION

Shiribetsu-dake arguably sits as the southeastern terminus of the string of volcanoes that make up the Niseko Range and Yotei-zan line of fire. They're all dormant volcanoes, sitting in the southwest of Hokkaido, near the popular Niseko ski resort area. Shiribetsu-dake is home to the sprawling Rusutsu Ski Resort on its southwestern foothills. This route up Shiribetsu-dake starts at the end of the snowclearing on a minor road just off Route 257, on the northwestern side of the mountain.



## GENERAL NOTES

Shiribetsu-dake has somewhat of a folklorish presence within the Hokkaido backcountry skiing community. On the one hand, it offers some of the most easily accessible steep skiing in southern Hokkaido. The snow, too, is extremely deep and dry. There's a reason it's home to Hokkaido's only heliskiing operation – the snow is that good.

On the other hand, it's also known locally as a melting pot of every sort of avalanche you'll encounter in Hokkaido, all in one convenient package – colossal glide cracks (the 'crevasses' of Hokkaido), full-depth avalanches, loose dry and loose wet activity. This peak sees it all, on all aspects, all season long. That said, with good terrain management on the part of skiers, Shiribetsu-dake can be a fantastic place to ski.

The route outlined here accesses the 989m peak from the northwest, via a relatively mellow gully through well-spaced old-growth forest glades. On the descent, there are a few options available that can be dialled according to the day's avalanche conditions and one's own appetite for and experience with exposure to avalanche terrain. This route accesses the 989m peak from a different direction than the more popular West Bowl route.

## ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

A simple out-and-back mission would likely take a fit party around 2-3 hours.

Park up well to the side of the road about 20m north of the intersection where Route 257 heads east, around here. Further north, the road is closed in winter. Start skinning east on the snowbanks along Route 257, to where Route 257 veers north again. Don't be tempted to cut across the fields. The general public is asked to keep off the National Seed and Seedling Center's land. Soon after where Route 257 veers north, start heading south along the eastern border of the National Seed and Seedling Center – there's a clear boundary seen on Google Satellite. After about 1km, start climbing in earnest east up the distinct western gully. It won't take much time to arrive at the saddle between the 805m and 989m peaks. From there, head south up the ridge to the 989m peak.

On the descent, there are a number of options. Either head back the way you came up to keep exposure low, or ski the northern slopes from the 989m peak

down to the western gully. Once in the gully, return the way you came.

## TRANSPORT

**By car:** Route 257 is a relatively busy road, with quite a lot of heavy truck traffic at times. Hence our recommendation to park off Route 257 near the end of the snow clearing north of where Route 257 heads east, around here. Even then, make sure to park well to the side of the road, taking precautions not to block traffic.

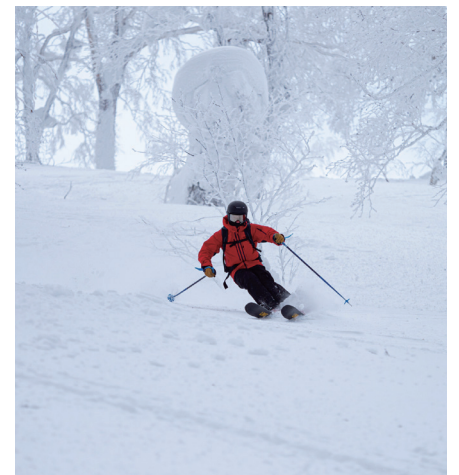
**Public transport:** This route is not accessible by public transport.

## SAFETY NOTES

The route as outlined on this page is described as relatively mellow, but there is still a very real exposure to remotely- or skier-triggered avalanche from above when travelling along the gully floor. The first 1/3 of the climb up through the gully is, essentially, one long terrain trap. At the risk of flogging a dead horse, 1) check the avalanche advisory, 2) keep aware of your surroundings, and 3) seek safer terrain if in any doubt.

## ONSEN NEARBY

You won't be very far from the Rusutsu Onsen ルスツ温泉 (1,300yen). It's a bit pricey, but the views are amazing from the large outdoor baths. If you're heading direct back to Niseko, we recommend dropping by Makkari Onsen まっかり温泉 (600yen) – the outdoor baths have incredible views of Yotei-zan. ■



## ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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 2022/04/28

A4 MAP CONCEPT | Markus Hauser  
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

