



Shioya-Otamoi Coast

Shukutsu ↔ Ranshima


塩谷オタモイ海岸 Sea Kayaking Map 1:25000






5-7hrs

Time




20km

Distance




7.5/10

Difficulty




3/5

Remoteness



5/5

Water clarity



Jun-Sep

Best season

The Shioya-Otamoi Coast 塩谷オタモイ海岸 is one of Hokkaido's premier sea kayaking destinations. 100m+ high cliffs, sea bird colonies, navigable caves, towering arches, crystal clear water, remote beaches. Don't let its proximity to Sapporo and the bustling tourist city of Otaru put you off - the coast is rugged and remote. This 20km stretch of coast takes in the best the area has to offer, including sandy beaches and excellent surf zones. Camping is possible along the way for hardy paddlers happy with rough camping on stony beaches.

LOCATION
This sea kayaking route is about a one-hour drive west of central Sapporo, just west of the bustling tourist town of Otaru, in western Hokkaido. The route skirts the Otamoi and Shioya coastlines, from Ranshima to the Shukutsu suburb of Otaru City. Whether one paddles from east to west or the other way around will depend on the wind direction for the day. All things being equal, if starting early in the day, paddling east to west (Otaru to Ranshima) may be more comfortable, as the sun will be behind you, rather than reflecting off the water into your eyes.

Put-in location: Here we assume a Ranshima Beach start, in the west. Ranshima Beach is a bustling swimming beach in summer, so it's best to put in (or take out) at the far eastern end of the



beach. Avoid putting in at the small fishing port – as is the case for all fishing ports in Hokkaido (as per the Prefectural bylaw), kayakers aren't allowed to use fishing ports unless in an emergency.

Take-out location: The Otaru end of the route is a bustling cape area with a fishing port, yacht marina, tourist-magnet lighthouse, and to top it all off, a popular aquarium. The most convenient spot to take out is a rocky artificial embankment, just north of the marina. Next to the embankment is a large gravel area, suitable for parking if it's not too busy. In the busy summer months, the only practical place to park will likely be the aquarium parking area (1000yen per day).

Take-outs En-route: There are a couple of places where it's possible to escape from the sea if necessary. Momonai 桃内, Shioya Beach 塩谷ビーチ (far eastern end is most sheltered from swell/waves), the parking area above the amusement park ruins, and the trail down to the Otamoi Coast. The latter two

escape options are not ideal – the foot trails are overgrown and not maintained; you'd struggle to get kayaks away from the coast via these trails.

GENERAL NOTES
This is hands-down one of Hokkaido's premier sections of coastline. Its proximity to a major metropolis (Sapporo is home to 2 million people) just adds to the appeal. Note that during the weekends and on public holidays, you'll be sharing highlights such as the Blue Cave and Sekiryu Cave with small tourist charter boats, particularly between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

Difficulty: In the *Yamakei Sea Kayaking Map* guidebook, Kato-san from Blue Holic Sea Kayaks notes that in the summer months this route is suitable for beginners, due to more common southerly winds – this coast ends up in the lee of the wind. Spring and autumn bring more changeable conditions, so the route in these months is pegged at Intermediate to Advanced.



Fishing Ports: As per Hokkaido Bylaws, all fishing ports on this route (including Shioya and Shukutsu) are off-limits to kayaks and other small recreational craft, except in emergencies.

Swell, wind and weather: This section of coast is exposed to the open sea, with a very large fetch to the north. In summer, the prevailing wind in Hokkaido tends to be from the southeast. Therefore, this section of coast is often in the lee of the wind. Note, however, that localized topographic features can produce some unexpected wind directions – we've experienced strong northwesterly winds along the Otamoi coast on a day where strong southeasterlies were blowing elsewhere. Take care when anything over 15km/h is forecast on Windy.com. The *Yamakei Sea Kayaking Map* notes in spring and autumn, northwesterly winds are common, causing more challenging sea conditions (Kato, 2005, p. 20).

En-route Camping: There are a number of rugged stony beaches suited to wild camping along this route.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
There is so much to see on this section of coast – beaches, arches, caves, rock gardens...start early and allow around 7 hours of very leisurely paddling.

The eastern end of Ranshima Beach is relatively protected from waves. Push off and paddle around the Oshoro-wan peninsula. At the head of the peninsula is a gorgeous inlet, just beyond the mouth to Oshoro-wan. It's a unique bay, with a definite feel of relaxed slow-life. Once you've rounded Ryuga-saki cape, you'll be paddling with cliffs to your right, nearly 100m in height. You may be sharing this section between Ryuga-saki and Momo-iwa with small fishing boats. After about an hour and a half of solid paddling, you'll enter the Shioya Bay area. There's a lovely sandy beach, bus stop, cafe, surf if you're lucky, and Blue Holic kayaks.

This first 10km or so of paddling is somewhat of a warm-up for what is to come – the mighty Otamoi Coast. From Shioya Bay, once rounded Tate-iwa cape, paddlers are greeted with an extraordinary 4km of 120m high cliffs, sea bird colonies, remote inlets, towering arches, and a number of navigable caves. Each of the minor points along the way – Tate-iwa, Mado-iwa, and the other un-named point – consist of navigable arches for sea kayaks at high tide (and favourable sea conditions).

At around the 14km mark, you'll see a precarious foot trail skirting the cliffs about 30m

above the sea, along with some oriental-looking stone adornments. This is an old (now closed to the public) trail to the ruins of the Otamoi Amusement Park オタモイ遊園地, first built in the 1930's, destroyed by avalanche and landslide in 1940, rebuilt in 1946, and eventually destroyed by fire in 1952. The full story of this curiously ambitious place is written up in full detail here (in Japanese, with photos). The small stony beach which attracted so many locals in the mid-1900's is now only accessible by sea.

From the Otamoi Amusement Park ruins, there remains just 5km of paddling to go to cape Takashima-misaki 高島岬. This section of coast, while not as precipitous as the cliffs previously, is equally as impressive. Massive red rock and scorched earth falls into the sea. This area, referred to as Akai-iwa 赤岩, is a popular rock climbing zone. Access to the shore is possible on closed-to-the-public trails (closed due to rockfall risk). Just before rounding Takashima-misaki, you'll paddle past the throngs of tourists visiting the outdoor portion of the Otaru Aquarium おたる水族館. Take out just before the marina.

TRANSPORT
By car | There is plenty of parking at the Otaru end of the route, either in the large gravel area next to the coast, or at the Otaru Aquarium parking area (1000yen per day). At the Ranshima end of the route, parking is a little more challenging outside of the beach season – many of the parking areas are roped off. You'll be parking on the side of the road. During the busy beach swimming season (July-Aug), parking costs around 500yen to 1000yen per day.
Public transport | There's public bus access

to both ends of the route. At the Otaru end of the route, take a bus from Otaru JR train station towards Shukutsu, getting off at the Shukutsu Bus Stop 祝津バス停 – about 25 minutes in total. For the Ranshima end of the route, there's also a bus from Otaru JR Station – take the bus to the bus stop closest to the coast, the Ranshima-kankomae bus stop 蘭島観光前バス停 at the western end of Ranshima Beach. Note that according to Google Maps this bus stop may also be called Ranshima-nishi . Either way, Google Maps has good timetabling for all bus stops along the Shakotan Peninsula.

SAFETY NOTES
Whereas the Ranshima-Shioya section has plenty of options for escape should anything go wrong, the Shioya-Shukutsu section along the Otamoi Coast is much more remote. There are sections of up to 6km where escape from the sea is nearly impossible – think 120m high cliffs straight into the sea and/or steep bluffs. Any coast access to these eastern sections is via closed-to-the-public trails that are no longer officially maintained. As is the case with most Hokkaido sea kayaking routes, this section of coast is exposed to the open sea.

ONSEN NEARBY
The large Yu-no-Hana Onsen Temiya 湯の花温泉手宮殿 (770yen) about 3km south of the Shukutsu take-out/put-in is the ideal spot for a post-paddle soak. There's a massive restaurant/relaxation area on the second floor. ■

Japanese Map Glossary		
Romaji	Kanji	English
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
gyoko	漁港	fishing port
ike	池	pond
iwa	岩	rock
kaigan	海岸	coast
kawa/gawa	川	river
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
ko	港	port
misaki	岬	cape
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
shima	島	island
tani/dani	谷	valley
taki	滝	waterfall
today	灯台	lighthouse
toge	峠	pass
wan	湾	bay
yama/san/zan	山	mountain



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/shioyask>



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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2022/06/28

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Shioya Coast

Ranshima ↔ Shukutsu

塩谷海岸 Sea Kayaking Map Map 1:25000

02505007501,000 m

00.10.20.30.40.50.6 NM

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10° 00' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TVN

Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2022/07/19

Symbol Key

2.5km

5m

Suggested route (distance)

Depth (approx.)

Intertidal zones

Fixed nets (month/type)

Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks

Cave

Lighthouse, light

Fishing port / Marina

Submarine cable

National Highway

Prefectural Highway

Municipal Road

Minor Road / Track

Land contour lines (100m, 10m)

Trees / No trees

Buildings

Parking / Onsen

Shop / Public toilet

Kayak guide / Freshwater hose

Campground / Camp-site (no facilities)

Shrine / Temple

Hot spring / Fumerole

Transmission tower

Bus route / Stop

Municipal boundary

S=sake (salmon), M=maguro (tuna), H=hokke (mackerel), lw=iwashi (sardine), lk=ika (squid), Ms=masu (Cherry/pink salmon), B=buri (yellowtail), K=karei (flounder)

Online Routes and Downloads

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes:
<https://hokw.jp/shioyask>

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Shioya Coast

Ranshima ↔ Shukutsu

2

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Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2022/07/19

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2.5km

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Prone to rough seas / Isolated wind

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PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A3 printer paper (297mm x 420mm). If you've only got Tabloid or Ledger size (279mm x 432 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.

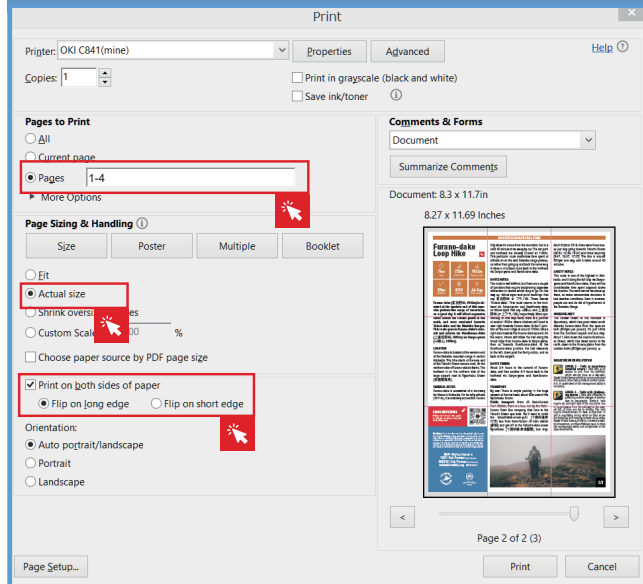
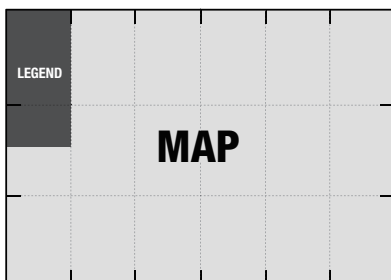


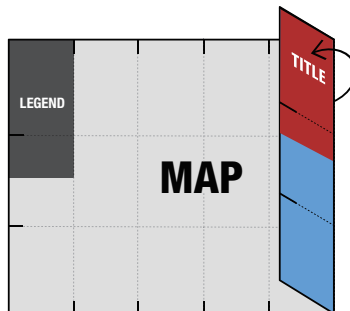
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

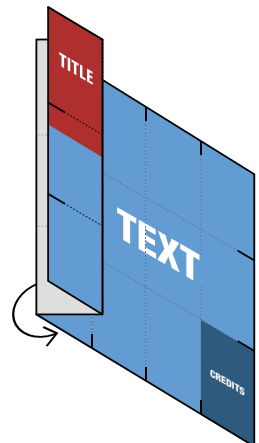
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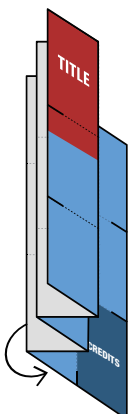
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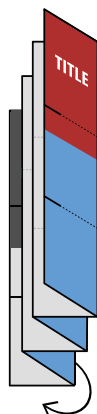
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4



5



6



7

