


# Raiden-misaki


Iwanai ↔ Rankoshi

雷電岬

Sea Kayaking Map


1:25000






4.5hrs

Time




12km

Distance




6/10

Difficulty




3/5

Remoteness



4/5

Water clarity



Jun-Oct

Best season

The coastline near Raiden-misaki 雷電岬 cape is an enigmatic mix of stunning untouched beauty and the decaying remains of human encroachment, slowly being reclaimed by Mother Nature. Surprisingly remote in places, this short section of exposed coast includes tall waterfalls, deep caves, and narrow passageways. For much of the route, paddlers will enjoy distinctly Jurassic Park vibes, replete with private beaches with waterfall showers along the way. It's a short shuttle between the put-in and take-out, so cycle-shuttling is certainly feasible.

**LOCATION**  
Raiden-misaki cape sits at the very western terminus of the Niseko Range in southwestern Hokkaido, about a 40-minute drive from the bustling winter ski resort of Niseko. It's a few minutes' drive from central Iwanai. Here, we outline a route from a convenient put in near Iwanai Town, to the surf beach at Rankoshi Town. Naturally, paddlers can do this route in either direction, in consultation with the weather and well forecast, as well as on-location scouting on the day.

**Put-in location:** The northeastern-most feasible put in for this stretch of coast is at the northern end of Narukami Tunnel 鳴神トンネル in the tiny settlement of Shikishimanai 敷島内 south of central Iwanai on Route 229, next to the small

fishing port. The beach is rocky, and the trail down to it is rough, but it's doable so long as the sea state is manageable. Pleasure-boaters (including kayaks and SUPs) are not allowed to use the fishing port (as per Hokkaido bylaw). It's also possible to put in at the derelict Raiden Onsen area, but doing so will mean paddlers will miss out on a nice (albeit minor) waterfall inlet at the northern end of the route, at Binno-misaki ビンノ岬 cape. If weather and skills permit it, we recommend paddling the full route.

**Take-out location:** The southerly takeout for the route is the lovely Rankoshi Beach, just north of the Shiribetsu-gawa river mouth. If there's a strong northwesterly swell running (rare in summer), this beach will have considerable surf, so do take note of the swell forecast and scout if it looks like there might be surf. There's a massive gravel parking area next to the beach. Also note that this beach is very popular among anglers, particularly in autumn.

**GENERAL NOTES**  
This is a somewhat forgotten coastline, once dominated by National Highway 229 running along the Japan Sea coast. The highway now avoids the coast completely for the majority of the route, as it now runs through multiple tunnels. The old decaying remains still remain, but don't detract from the route too much. If anything, they add to the enigmatic charm of the place.

**Raiden-misaki cave:** Naturally, Fura-ku-no-dokoutsu 不落の洞窟 cave at Raiden-misaki is a big drawcard on this route. It's a wide, deep cave that offers great adventure vibes if the sea state is calm. It is, however, also home to a large colony of native Hokkaido bats. Therefore, if heading deep into the cave, it's important to keep very quiet, and keep light use to a minimum – human encroachment into bat habitats is one of the biggest causes of habitat loss for bats, and diminishing bat numbers. Particularly in the summer months, maternity colonies are most prevalent in the cave, so paddlers should avoid going into the

NISEKO AREA

cave further than natural light will allow during the months of June, July and August.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
We recommend allowing about 4.5hrs for this route, to make the most of the coves, waterfalls, and deserted highways along the way.

Put in at either end of the route; here we describe paddling from north to south. The put in at Shikishimanai is a big awkward, as the beach consists of large, round rocks. Once on the water, however, it's a short paddle to Binno-misaki, a small point with some picturesque waterfalls. Further on are a couple more waterfalls, much higher this time – the Kuru-ma Falls 車滝 and Hashigo Falls 梯子滝. The remaining 4km to Kasupeno-misaki カスペノ岬 is along a rocky shoreline, and the view in the distance of the impressive buttress of Raiden-misaki 雷電岬 and the gnarled shape of Benkei-no-katanakake Rock 弁慶の刀掛岩 (literally *Strongman's Sword Rack Rock*) will draw you southwards.

You might get excited at the prospect of a hotspring soak at Raiden Onsen 雷電温泉, as marked on the map. Unfortunately, however, the old hot spring facilities, once popular since their opening in 1963, are now derelict (the last one closed in 2019). There's a parking area, public toilets, and concrete stairs down to the coast, however, so it's a good spot for a break if needed.

If you'd rather avoid civilization altogether, carry on just a few hundred meters further south to arguably one of Hokkaido's most picturesque coastal inlets. Unmarked on maps, this gorgeous inlet has a fine gravel beach, overhanging cliffs that will keep you out of the rain, and two beautiful waterfalls. One waterfall is a wide cascade, the other is a tall shower dropping from an overhang 20m above the ground.

Just a few hundred meters on, there's Raiden-misaki proper with Benkei-no-katanakake Rock and Furaku-no-dokoutsu cave. As noted above, the cave is a Hokkaido native bat habitat. Late June till late August is when maternity colonies are most active, so avoid paddling further than natural light will allow during this period (mother bats are prone to dropping their pups if disturbed). Regardless of the season, keep as quiet as possible if you paddle deep into the cave to its terminus (it's about 75m long).

From Raiden-misaki to Rankoshi Beach, it's a 3km paddle south along the decaying remains of the old National Highway 229. The beautiful high cliffs are slowly reclaiming the road. On a calm day, it's a fantastic fast paddle. Rankoshi

Beach is a popular surf spot when there's a swell running from the west, but in summer, this is rare. It's a beautiful spot to take out.


**TRANSPORT**  
**By car** | Parking is somewhat limited at the northern put in at Shikishimanai, just at the entrance to Narukami Tunnel. There's a small gravel parking area large enough for about five cars to park (if parked efficiently). At the southern end of the route at Rankoshi Beach, parking is essentially unlimited in the massive gravel area. At Raiden Onsen, there's a small paved parking area next to the public toilets.  
**Public transport** | In summer, the Niseko Bus company runs a bus from Iwanai to Suttsu – the Raiden Line 雷電線. If doing the full route outlined on this page, you'll want to take note of the Shikishimanai Bus Stop 敷島内バス停 at the northern end of the route, and the Seishin-bashi bus stop 精進橋バス停 at Rankoshi Beach at the southern end of the route. From the Iwanai Bus Terminal 岩内バスターミナル heading south to the put in at Shikishimanai, there's six buses per day as of April 2022 – 9:52, 11:10, 14:10, 16:50, 18:10, 19:22. From the take out at Rankoshi beach north back to Iwanai, there's also six buses – 6:53, 8:48, 9:38, 12:23, 15:03, 18:13. If you just want to potter about the Raiden-misaki area from Raiden Onsen, then get off the bus from Iwanai bus terminal at Raiden-onsenkyo 雷電温泉郷. Iwanai Bus Terminal is easily accessible by bus from Kutchan.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
On a calm day with a clear forecast, this route is a walk in the park. Paddlers should take caution, however, as this is a very exposed section of coast with a very large fetch. It is also very remote in places, with little option for

escape should paddlers be stranded on the coast due to heavy weather or high winds – think very high cliffs and capes un-navigable on foot. Paddlers should only attempt this route after a very careful consultation with the weather.


**ONSEN NEARBY**  
There's no onsen close to the put in or take out for this route, but previously we've enjoyed the onsen at the Okae-rinasai Ryokan いわない温泉 おかえりなさい (800yen) near Iwanai Resort. They've got indoor and semi-outdoor baths. Note that on Saturdays and public holidays the onsen is only open to day visitors until 3pm (other days it's open till 9pm). ■

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: <http://hokw.jp/raimiski>




**Disclaimer** The information on this map was derived from digital data-bases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, the Japan Hydrological Association, and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWids.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. NAUTICAL CHART INFORMATION ON THIS MAP SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR MARINE NAVIGATION - PLEASE REFER TO OFFICIAL CHARTS.

### MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson


[hokkaidowids.org](http://hokkaidowids.org) 2022/08/16


MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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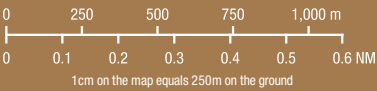






Cape Raiden-misaki  
Iwanai ↔ Rankoshi

雷電岬 Sea Kayaking Map 1:25000



Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10° 00' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TVN  
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2022/08/16

**Symbol Key**


\*S=sake (salmon), M=maguro (tuna), H=hokke (mackerel), lw=iwashi (sardine), Ik=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/raimiski>

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<https://link.avenza.com/h6kb> (inset is not georeferenced)

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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-887/90). We also modified Japan Hydrographic Association marine data (newpec raster data and M7000 underwater contour data; Permission No. 2022005) and 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).





## 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.



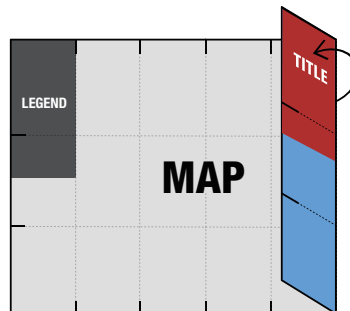
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

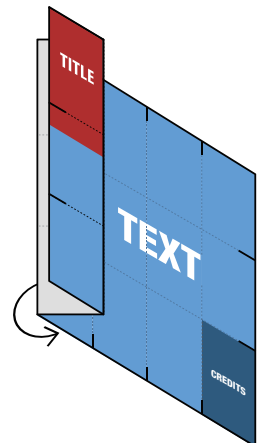
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3



4



5



6



7

