



# Osannai Bowl


## Raiden-yama

雷電山オサンナイ川   Ski Touring Map   1:25000







6hrs  
Time




1060m  
Total Climb




1211m  
Highest point



15km  
Distance



7.5/10  
Difficulty



Mar-Apr  
Best season

**Osannai River オサンナイ川 is a small stream running south from the expansive Osannai Bowl, directly south of the Raiden-yama 雷電山 (1211m) peak in the far west of the Niseko Range. The bowl itself is everyone’s antidote to big mountain vibes in the Niseko Range. There are lines of varying exposure, all funnelling into a tight and fast gully. Here, we outline a ridge-line ascent, allowng the skier impressive views along the length of the Niseko Range, as well as Kari-ba-yama to the car south and across to the Japan Sea to the west.**

**LOCATION**  
Raiden-yama is the last major peak of the Niseko Range, before reaching the Japan Sea coast, in southwestern Hokkaido. Osannai Bowl is the expansive bowl due south of the broad Raiden-yama peak – it’s the catchment for the Osannai River. This route up to the Raiden-yama peak (and then back down via the bowl) starts in the Kamisato 上里 area of Rankoshi Town, at the end of the snow clearing.

**GENERAL NOTES**  
Raiden-yama is a gargantuan mountain with a plateau-like, very broad peak. Hence, ascent options and descent options abound, all very nice in their own right. Raiden can be a hard nut to crack, however, as it bears the unimpeded brunt

of northwesterly winter storms, straight off the Japan Sea. Hence, it’s relatively unheard of to see reports of skiers tackling the peak in mid-winter. Generally, mid-winter only allows ascents to Raiden’s foothills, such as Sankokunai. As the days grow longer, and the weather gets milder, however, March and April offer some excellent days for shooting for the summit, and hitting the attractive Osannai Bowl.

Being a south-facing bowl serves up its own challenges in spring, though. Surfaces can heat up quickly in fine weather, and suncrust is common. For all the potential this zone offers, it doesn’t give up the goods easily.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
This rouute is a very solid day out, so allowing 6-7hrs for the full return trip is wise.

Park up at the end of the snow clearing on the minor road off Route 229. Note that the road heading to the right is a private driveway, so make sure not to block this or park on that road. Skin north along the snowed-in road for about 500m before carrying on north for



about 2km, along a forestry road at first, then through some pine plantations. You’ll need to cross Osannai-gawa river at some point, and this is best done around where a summer trail is marked on the topomap. It’s a relatively deep gorge, with open holes in the snowpack to the river below, so you’ll likely need to be creative in your route selection for this minor ‘crux’.

Once across Osannai-gawa, it’s just a matter of making your way up to the main ridge that you’ll follow for the remainder of the way to the summit. The ridge starts out very broad at first, but narrows considerably in the final 25% or so of the climb. This final 45 minutes or so of the climb can be challenging – think rimed and icy surfaces with exposure to inconvenient falls. Boot crampons may be required, and some form of self-arrest ability is highly recommended.

The broad summit plateau is featureless. If visibility is low, consider turning around before getting to the summit plateau. There is a summit marker, but this may be buried.

For the descent, it’s not usually possible to ski direct south off the summit, as the entire northern rim of the Osannai Bowl is usually outlined with very large cornices. Head back the way you came, and descend into the bowl about 100m vertical meters below the summit on the ridge you used to access the summit.

There are a couple of steep cliff-like features on the western side of the bowl, so descend with caution, avoiding these if necessary. The bowl will naturally funnel you into the Osannai-kawa valley proper. Follow this valley back to where you crossed the valley earlier in the trip, or, at around 580m in altitude, start making a long, high traverse to the skier’s left away from the river. This will take you to a mellow run through trees to your original uptrack along the forestry road.

**TRANSPORT**  
**By car:** There is easy car access to the start of this route – the trailhead is at the end of the snowclearing on a minor gravel road off Route 229. There’s no dedicated parking, so make sure not to block access – consider clearing another 1m or so off the side of the road in order to get your car off the road as much as possible.  
**Public transport:** There is no public transport to this route.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
We’ve ranked this route as *Advanced*. There’s a relative technicality to the final ascent to the summit – exposure to falls. There’s very real exposure to avalanche in the bowl and in the tight gully. The gully in particular is one long terrain trap. Take utmost care. This is also a long route with skiers exposed to the elements for a long time in the alpine.


**ONSEN NEARBY**  
If you’re headed back towards the direction of Niseko, our natural choice of onsen is the down-to-earth and local Yusenkaku Onsen 幽泉閣温泉 (500yen) next to Kombu JR Train station. They’ve got a decent selection of indoor baths, an outdoor bathing area, and a nice relaxation area. They often sell local vegetables in the foyer area, as well as other local crafts, foods, and of course the famous Rankoshi rice. ■

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
taki	滝	waterfall
toge	峠	pass
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/osannai>




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**TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP** | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](https://hokkaidowilds.org) 2022/10/12

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

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HOKKAIDO  
WILDS



**Osannai Gully**  
**Raiden-yama**

**雷電山オサンナイ川**   **Ski Tour Map**   **1:25000**

0      250      500      750      1,000 m

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: **9°54' W** | MGRS Zone: **54TVN**  
Grid spacing: **1000m** | Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2022/10/12

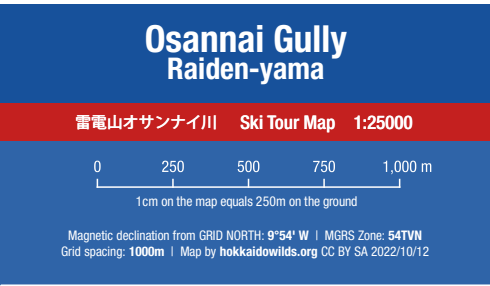
**Osannai Gully**  
**Raiden-yama**

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**Osannai Gully**  
**Raiden-yama**
























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



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## Symbol Key

	Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) *		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	Freeride Route *		Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks
	Advanced Route *		Trees / No trees
	National Highway		Buildings
	Prefectural Highway / Gate		Backcountry gates
	Municipal Road		Ploughed parking / Onsen facility
	Minor Municipal Road		Shop / Public toilet
	Forestry Road		Hut / Campground
	Bus route / Stop		Shrine / Temple
	Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift		Hot spring / Fumetore
	Municipal boundary		Transmission tower
	Power lines		
























\* Dashed route line denotes technical skill required (adverse surface conditions, very high exposure to avalanche/falls etc).

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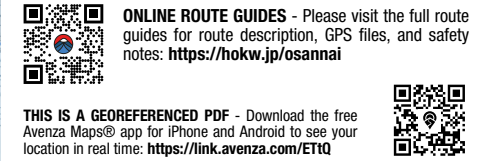
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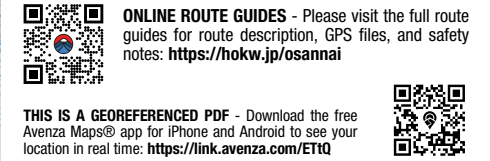


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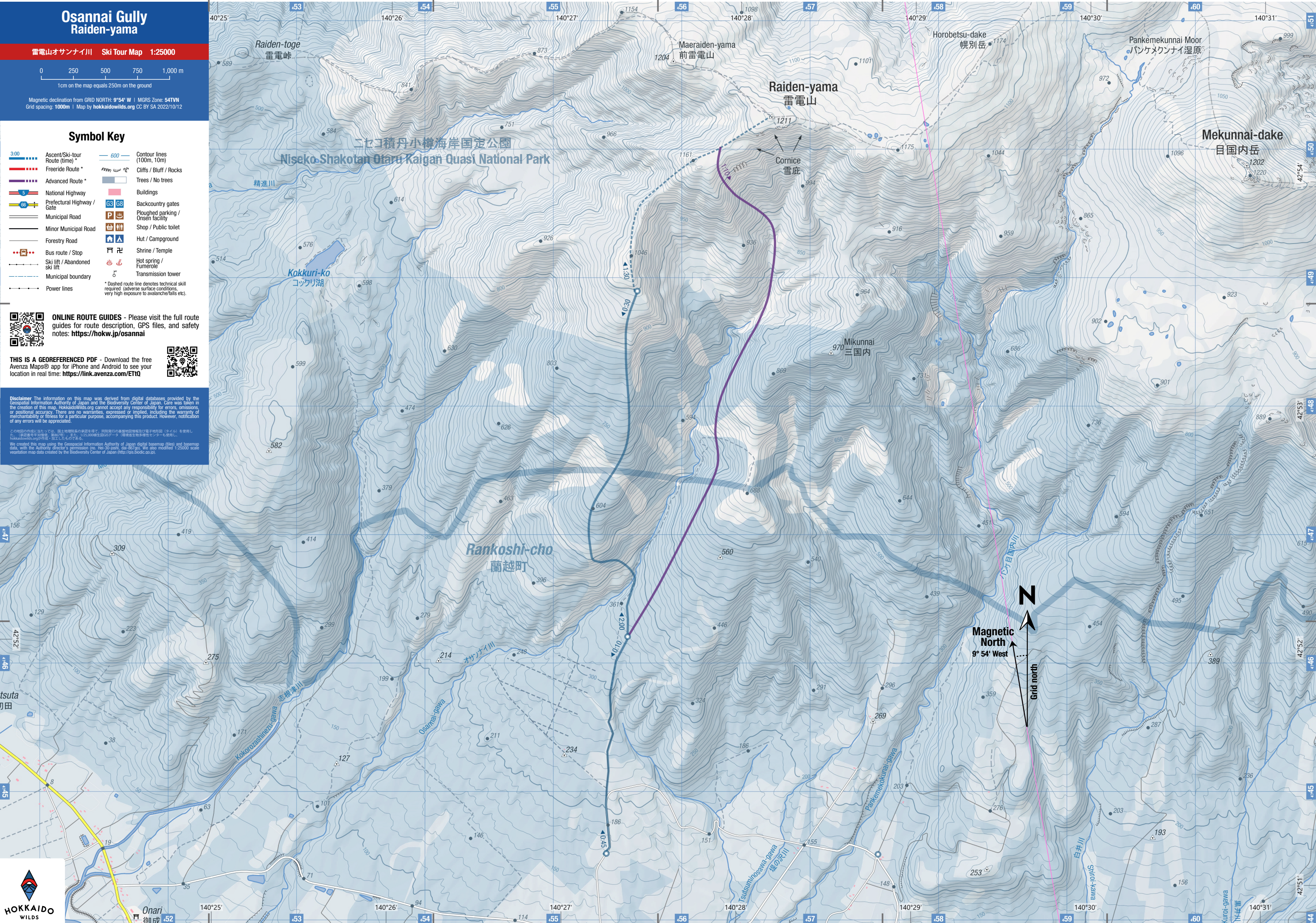
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## PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

### 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.



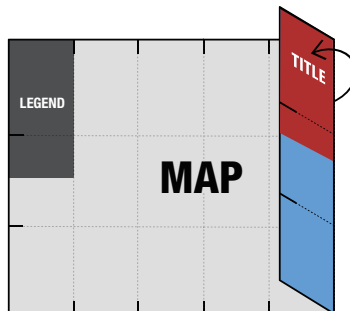
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

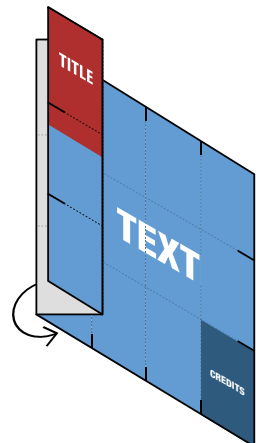
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

