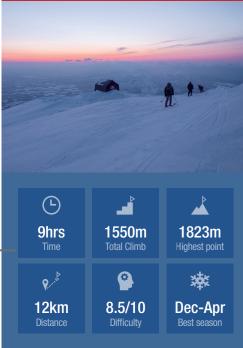


## 羊蹄山比羅夫コース Ski Touring Map 1:25000

·



The Yotei-zan Hirafu Route 羊蹄山 比羅夫コース is a relatively popular route up the western side of Yotei-zan 羊蹄山 (1898m), the unavoidable perfectly-conical volcano just east of the bustling Niseko ski resort area. This western side of the mountain is the side visible when viewed from Hirafu village. The route offers relatively direct access to the rime-caked Yoteizan Emergency Shelter hut, as well as good access to excellent crater skiing. Regularly buffetted by the northwest storms, this side of the mountain requires more care in planning, and surface conditions can be less reliable than the eastern and southern aspects.

### LOCATION

Yotei-zan sits at the east of the bustling international ski resort of Niseko, in the southwest of Hokkaido. This route starts at the Lake Hangetsu parking area on the western side of the mountain.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

If you've ever gazed towards the great towering volcanic peak of Yotei-zan from anywhere in Hirafu (the main hub settlement of the Niseko ski resort), you'll have gazed upon this western aspect of the mountain. It looks gnarly, and on the ground, those looks are not deceiving. It's one of the steeper routes to the summit. Despite bearing the brunt

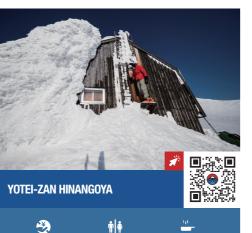
of the northwesterly storms, however, surface conditions can be quite good if you visit on the right day. It's also arguably the most direct route to the guaint little unmanned hut on the mountain - the Yotei Emergency Hut 羊蹄山 避難小屋 - making for a fine mid-winter hut trip.

Yotei-zan Emergency Hut winter use: The hut is available for overnight stays in winter access to the hut is via the second-story door. Hut fees (2000yen cash per person) should be deposited in the deposit box provided. There's a small coke-burning stove on the first floor, but don't rely on this to work for you. Coke stoves are notoriously difficult to get running, and equally difficult to keep running. If you do need to use the stove, use fuel very sparingly (there is a limited supply). Rime may need to be cleared from the exterior of the flue before lighting. Clean the stove out thoroughly before leaving, salvaging any unspent coke.

## **ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**

If you're assuming skiers are carrying overnight gear, are committed to attaining the crater rim, and are seeking to ski into the crater, then allowing a solid 9 hours would be wise. If making this a daytrip, fit and experienced parties could make the return trip in around 8hrs total.

Park up at the cleared Lake Hangetsu parking area and head south-southeast for just over 1km, climbing slightly across a small saddle with the 365m point on your right. There's



Details: Rebuilt in 2014, the two-story Yoteizanhinangoya hut 羊蹄山避難小屋 is well insul perched high up near the western edge of the Yoteizan crater rim. No hutkeeper present in winter. No water supply at hut. Access hut from 2nd story hatch in winte

Capacity: 20 persons. **Cost:** 2000yen per person per night Contact: Mt. Yotei Management & Conservation Liaison Committee (羊蹄山管理保全連絡協議会), TEL: 0136-23-3388 a large shoulder to the left; you'll round this and keep this on your left as you head on an easterly bearing across a broad, gently rising plateau. There are a lot of dead, standing trees in this area, allowing for a good view of the main slope ahead of you that you'll eventually be climbing.

At around 600m mark, the climb starts in earnest. With the 933m knob and the municipal boundary on the map as your guide, zig-zag your way up the broad, steep slope for around 900m vertical meters. In favourable surface conditions, this is a long but relatively straightforward climb. If you encounter icy conditions, switch to ski- or boot-crampons early, as the slope angle doesn't let up. For the entire climb, you'll have stellar views of the entire Niseko resort area and Hirafu village.

At 1600m, there's a prominent bench-like sloping plateau. The hut is situated near the southern end of this. The hut will likely be caked in a very thick layer of rime, camouflaging it against anything but a bright blue sky. It's not easy to find in low visibility.

From the hut, it's a short 100m vertical climb on a moderately steep slope to the crater rim. The crater is only about 150m deep, so its' worth hiking a little to the higher prominence to the northeast of the hut, to squeeze a couple more turns out on the descent. The east and south sides of the crater are rimmed with cliffs. Generally, most skiers ski any of the southwest, west or northern sides of the crater.

Skin back out of the crater and return to the hut the way you came. For the descent from the hut back to the parking area, simply follow the same route you came up, for some excellently consistent-angle skiing. The lower areas (900m and below) offer a lot of very interesting half-pipe-like gully features.

### TRANSPORT

By car: The Lake Hangetsu parking lot is very large, and is kept cleared of snow in the winter. Easy access from Hirafu village (10 mins) and central Kutchan (10 mins).

Public transport: This is one of only two Yotei-zan winter routes accessible by public transport. If travelling from central Kutchan, it's an easy one-shot bus ride on Route 5 to the Yotei-tozanguchi bus stop 羊蹄登山口 バス停 - about 12 minutes on the local bus from Kutchan JR Train Station. From the bus stop, it's a 1km walk/skin to the trailhead. If travelling from Hirafu village (the main Niseko resort area), you'll have to first take a bus to central Kutchan, for a total travel time of 40 minutes. Realistically, if travelling from Hirafu village, it would be much faster and less hassle to take a taxi (expect about 2000yen one way - 10 minutes, 7km). Either way, Google Maps has good bus timetabling information.

### SAFETY NOTES

Yotei-zan is an exposed, free-standing volcano. While ski tours to the treeline are relatively straightforward, forays into the alpine on Yoteizan require a solid skillset and experience with a variety of surface conditions. Deep winter ski tours to the crater rim will take longer than you think - very deep snow, steep kickturns, switching to boot crampons, limits of fitness... all these things add up to a long day in the alpine, where daylight is already short. Beforedawn alpine starts are a norm for crater rim attempts on Yotei-zan.

#### **ONSEN NEARBY**

Unlike the south and easterly aspects of Yoteizan, onsen options close to this west side of the mountain are limited. Arguably the closest (and nicest) onsen to the Hirafu trailhead is the onsen opposite the Niseko JR train station the Kiranoyu Onsen 綺羅乃湯 (500yen). It's a lovely public-run facility, with a very relaxed, local vibe. It has outdoor pools. If headed back to Hirafu village, there's also the option of the large Niseko Prince Hotel Hirafutei ニセコプリ ンスホテルひれふ亭 (1200yen).





峠

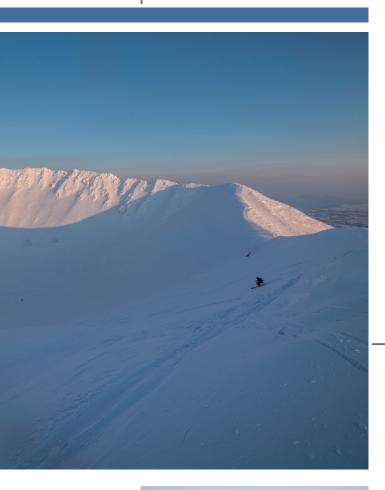
ш

toae yama/san/zan

tani/dani

taki

#### **NISEKO REGION**





## **Japanese Map Glossary**

iji	English
支 支	junction
	town
峯	peak
_	station
Ē	hut
∖屋	shelter
	pond
-	river
]	crater
	lake
	gorge
Ę	pond
え	hot spring stream
	plateau
	valley
	waterfall
	pass
	mountain
	mountain

### **ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE**

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safet notes: **https://hokw.jp/yothiraf** 

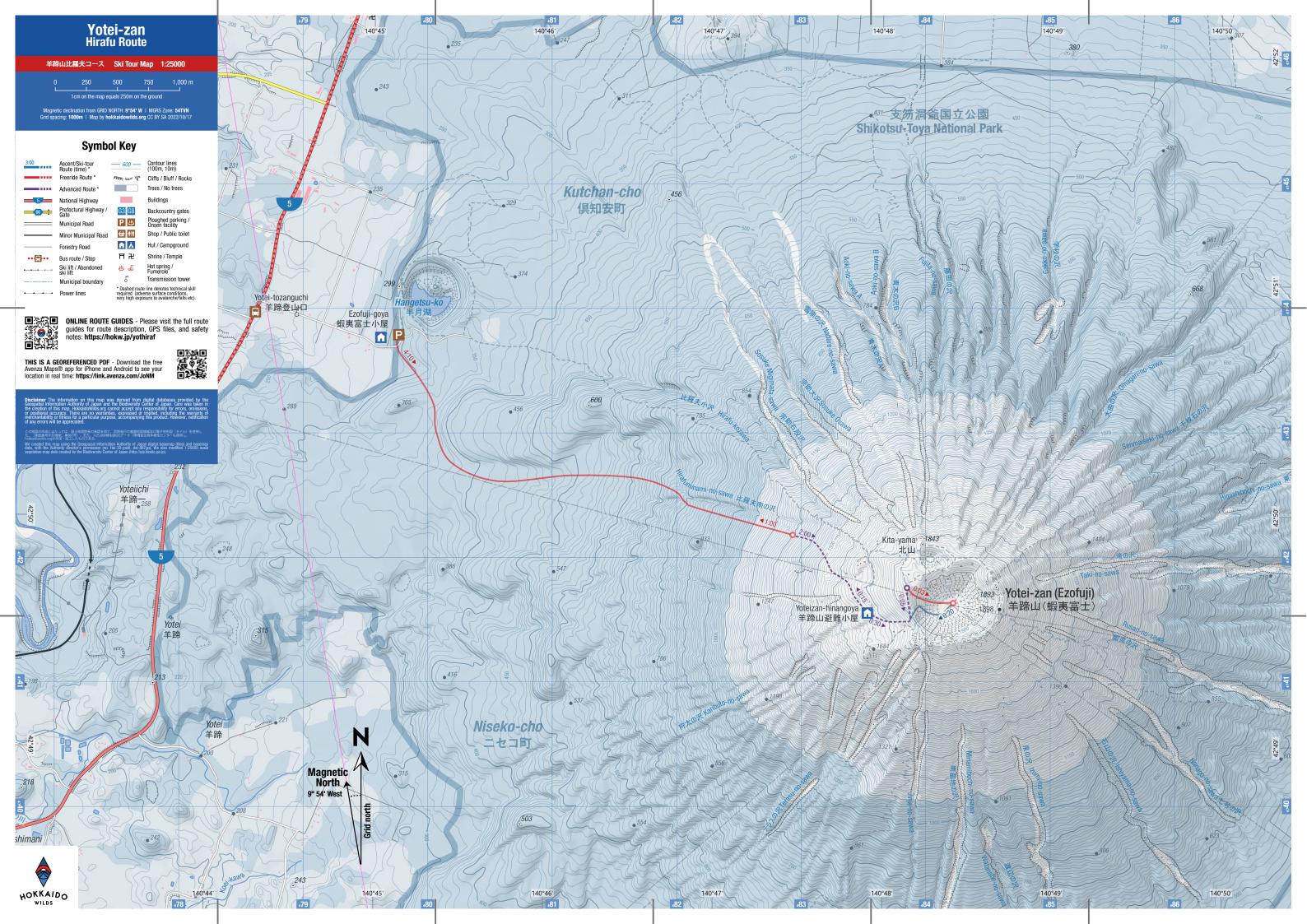


TEXT. PHOTOS. MAP I Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2022/10/17

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





# 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 achive 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

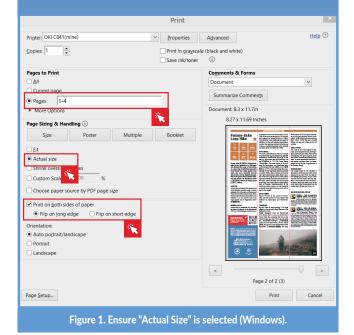
You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

### 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.



# ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

