



Maemekunnai-dake South Face

前目国内岳南面 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 CC BY SA 2023/02/08

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 / Fumerole
	Municipal boundary		Transmission tower
	Power lines		

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



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

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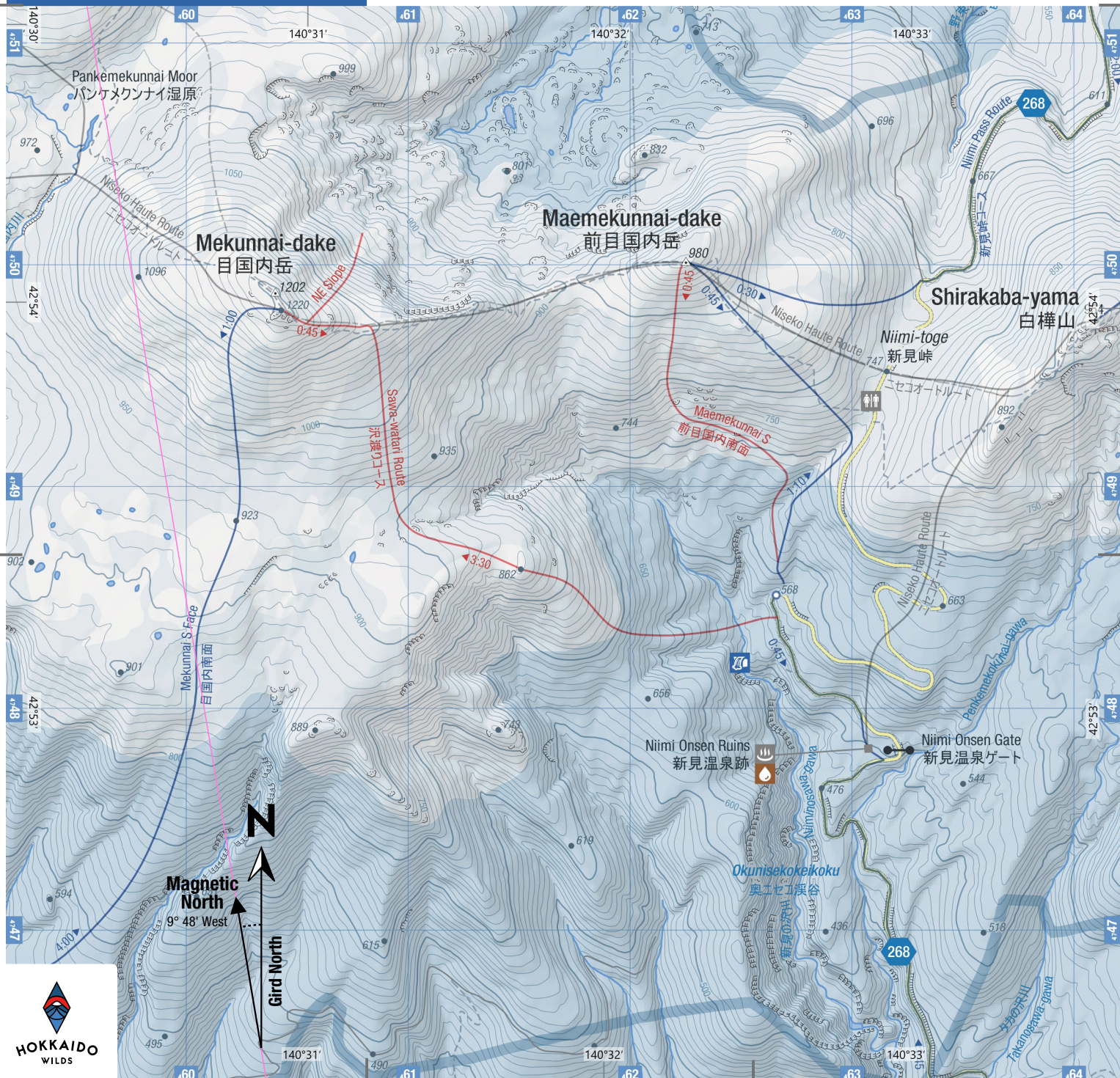


Japanese Map Glossary

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

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植生図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センターも使用し、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 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).



Maemekunnai-dake South Face



4hrs Time	733m Total Climb	981m Highest point
13km Distance	4.5/10 Difficulty	Jan-Apr Best season

Maemekunnai-dake 前目国内岳 (981m) is a minor peak in the Niseko Range, just east of the much more imposing Mekunnai-dake 目国内岳 (1220m). It boasts a short but sharp south-facing descent from the summit, and a very easy approach. The long snowed-in Route 268 road can put some people off this route, but it's a great relaxed hike on skis, particularly in the less-deep spring months. The ruins of the old Niimi Onsen 新見温泉 still remain in the form of foundations and hot spring water still gushing from the hillside.

LOCATION

Maemekunnai-dake sits less than 2km east of its bigger sibling Mekunnai-dake, just west of Niimi Pass in the center of the Niseko Range in southwest Hokkaido. This approach to Maemekunnai's diminutive peak starts well down the snowed-in Route 268 south of Niimi Onsen.

GENERAL NOTES

Niimi Onsen used to be a hidden oasis until around 2019, when it finally closed its doors to the public. With the onsen's closure, Route 268 is no longer cleared in the winter. Skiers wishing to access Mekunnai-dake or Maemekunnai-dake must now make a long 4.5km trek along



the closed road before getting to the start of the ascent proper. It's a nice enough ski along the road though, with good views of the Okuniseko Gorge along the way.

Niimi Onsen is a shadow of its former self. The buildings have been demolished, and only the foundations remain. There's still an impressive amount of hot spring water gushing from the hillside though, so it makes for a curious distraction along the way.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Expect around 3hrs for the ascent from car to peak, then about 1hr on the return.

Park up near (but not too close to) the end of the snow clearing on Route 268 to Niimi Onsen. Skin the 4.5km or so to just past Niimi Onsen, on the road the entire time. At the hairpin bend at the 568m mark after the onsen, gain the ridge on the looker's left of the gully and start the gradual climb due north. Just climb along the gully until you find a suitable safe point to cross. The gully all but disappears not too far from Niimi Pass proper, so there's no need to rush across the gully too soon.

Once across the gully, the climb becomes steeper, but there's only a very short section where kickturns might be necessary. The broad, non-descript summit itself is just beyond the treeline, with good views west to Mekunnai-dake, and east along the range to Shirakaba-yama 白樺山 and Shakunage-dake シャクナゲ岳.

For the descent, skiers have the option to ski back the way they came (less steep and less complicated) or to ski the south face proper. If skiing the south face proper, there will be some traversing to do to get back to the gully you ascended beside on the way up. Depending on the season and surface conditions, there may also be some ascending required as you find a suitable place to cross the gully.

On the 4.5km descent back down the road, spring surface conditions can make it possible to 'skate' along the rather flat, only just downhill road. In softer surface conditions, skiers may face the agonizing decision whether to struggle with poling along their uptrack, or committing to putting on skins – either

way, the road is quite frustratingly flat but not flat.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is no dedicated parking for this route – skiers will typically park on the side of the road near the end of the snow clearing. Don't park right at the end of the snow clearing, as this disrupts snow-clearing work. There are signs at the end of the snow-clearing requesting that people don't park there.

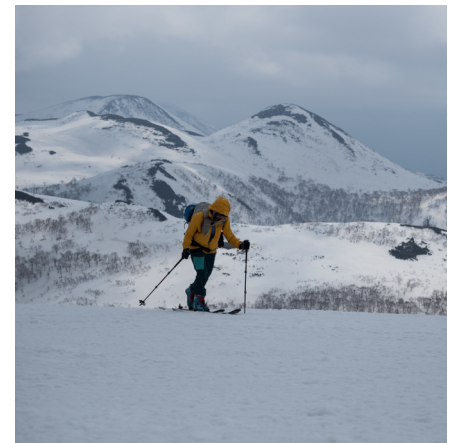
Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES

The main point of concern on this route is the creek/gully crossing soon after leaving the road at around 650m in altitude. In spring, this gully with its tall, steep walls is easily navigated, but in the deep winter months, it is a considerable terrain trap. Make sure to look for a suitably safe crossing point.

ONSEN NEARBY

The closest onsen to the trailhead is Yukichichibu Onsen 雪秩父温泉 (700yen). This 'muddy' onsen is a must-visit in the area, with good outdoor baths. They also have a lunch-oriented restaurant. For the hardy, it's also not impossible to have a soak in the Niimi Onsen ruins, but beware of broken glass and other remains in the concrete channel. The spring water is also unregulated and therefore very hot. For most, using it as a foot bath will suffice. ■



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



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hokkaidowilds.org 2023/02/08

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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.

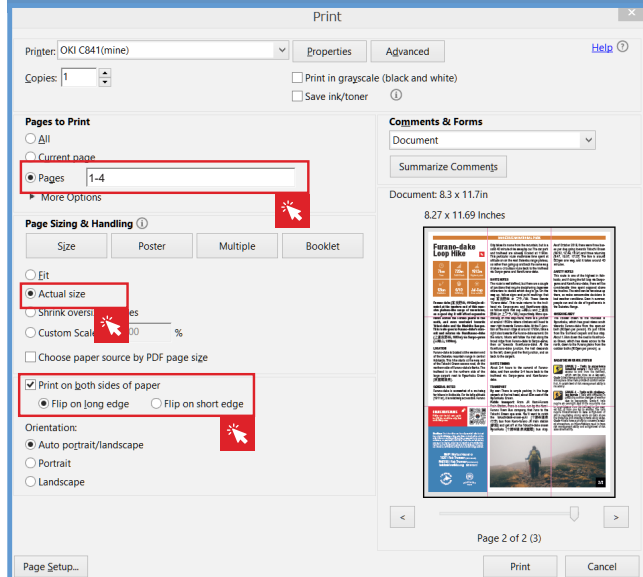


Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size", and Pages 1-4 are selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

