



Biei-dake


Karasawa Sagan-one

美瑛岳 涸沢左岸尾根 Ski Touring Map 1:25000







9.5hrs
Time




1450m
Total Climb




2052m
Highest point



14km
Distance



8/10
Difficulty



Mar-Apr
Best season

Biei-dake 美瑛岳 (2052m) is a strato-volcano just northeast of Tokachi-dake 十勝岳 (2077m) in the southern half of the Daisetsuzan Range in central Hokkaido. To the south of the summit, there are awe-inspiring views of the expansive Ponpi-sawa basin - a colossal area of jagged rock, chutes, and spurs. From the summit, there can be good skiing in shallow gullies. Lower down, broad snowfields offer expansive and inspiring views of the Furano Plains below as you descend. For the more ambitious, it's very feasible to do a loop tour, linking up Biei-dake and Biei-fuji.

LOCATION
Biei-dake is the next peak (about 3km) northeast of Tokachi-dake in the Tokachi Range in the southern end of the Daisetsuzan National Park. This approach to the peak follows a winter-only ridge (i.e., there's no summer trail), starting from just northeast of the Shirogane Onsen village on the northwest side of the range.

GENERAL NOTES
Being one of the 2000m+ peaks in the Daisetsuzan Range, Biei-dake is a natural candidate for a good old-fashioned winter peak-bagging mission. The highlight of the peak itself is being able to stand high over the Ponpi-sawa bowl. With a real



feeling of exposure, there's a precipitous drop away to the south into a mess of aesthetic spurs and gullies. The approach is relatively straight forward, and in most cases skiers will be able to access the summit on skis with aid of ski crampons. Boot crampons may also be required depending on conditions.

ROUTE TIMING* AND NOTES
TIn spring, bit and experienced parties going at a leisurely pace will likely take about 7hrs up and 2hrs down (no trail-breaking to speak of). In deep winter conditions, with the hefty trail-breaking that this involved, even fit parties should allow at least 10 hours to be on the safe side (pre-dawn start should be assumed a must).

Skin directly southeast from the end of the snow clearing, past the large weather station building on the right. Follow the vague remnants of a road, marked on the topomap, until around the 700m point, where you'll cross the snowed-in river. Continue to follow the road marked on the map to the 827m point on the topomap. At this point, you'll head due south along the Karasawa Sagan-one ridge. Soon after gaining the ridge, there's a stand of replanted conifers, all planted in rows. This can feel like a maze to get through, but just keen heading uphill along the ridge and you'll be fine.

At around 930m, there's a conspicuous clearing in the woods, but keep on heading southeast along the ridge another 100m in altitude to the sudden treeline at 1030m. Here, you'll be standing in front of the first decent climb of the route, requiring some kick turns. Once on the gently rising plateau-like broad ridge, you'll have views of Biei-dake in front of your and Biei-fuji to the climber's left of Biei-dake.

As you climb, the ridge gets messier, with ridges and shallow gullies. In poor visibility, it would be relatively easy to lose sense of where you should be going without a GPS. Many of the ridges on the way up will be wind-scoured, so it's a matter of finding comfortable pitches to zig-zag your way up – of which there are many.

Like many peaks in the Daisetsuzan Range, the final 100m or so of vertical to the summit proper can be steep and very rimed. Many skiers will find they can get to the summit on skis, but there will be times when boot crampons will be necessary – best to carry them just in case.

The descent is essentially the same as the ascent. There are, however, some nice shallow gullies to consider for the descent, which hold snow well. Keep note of these as you ascend. Even more so than the ascent, poor visibility conditions will make the descent very confusing if you're not aware of exactly where your uptrack is. The Karasawa Sagan-one Ridge is broad, featureless in places, and



has lots of smaller ridges. Make sure you know where you are at all times.

TRANSPORT
By car: There is no official parking area for this trailhead in winter, so skiers will typically park on the side of the road or at the end of the snow clearing. Make sure to park as far to the side of the road as possible, so as to not block traffic.
Public transport: It's possible to get within 450m of the start of this route using the public bus from Biei JR train station – Shirogane-yaeijoumae 白金野営場前 bus stop is just down the road from the end of the snow clearing. Google has timetabling information, so just get public transport directions on Google. It's about 30 minutes on the bus from Biei JR train station to the Shirogane yaeijomae bus stop.


SAFETY NOTES
This is a very remote route in winter, and as such you're unlikely to see anyone else on the route. Skiers should be even more self-reliant and self-sufficient on this route than peaks further south in the range. Be aware that the alpine zones around this area are very bad places to be in inclement weather. 2000m in the Daisetsuzan National Park is a very harsh environment, with temperatures and conditions similar to 3000m peaks elsewhere in Japan. Plan accordingly, and make the call to keep to lower elevations in the face of an unfavourable weather forecast.

ONSEN NEARBY
Our pick of onsen in the area is the Shorigane Yumoto Onsen 白金湯元温泉 (1000yen). The outdoor bath is beautiful, perched above the Biei River and Shirahige Falls (although you can't see the falls from the onsen). ■



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/bieisagan>



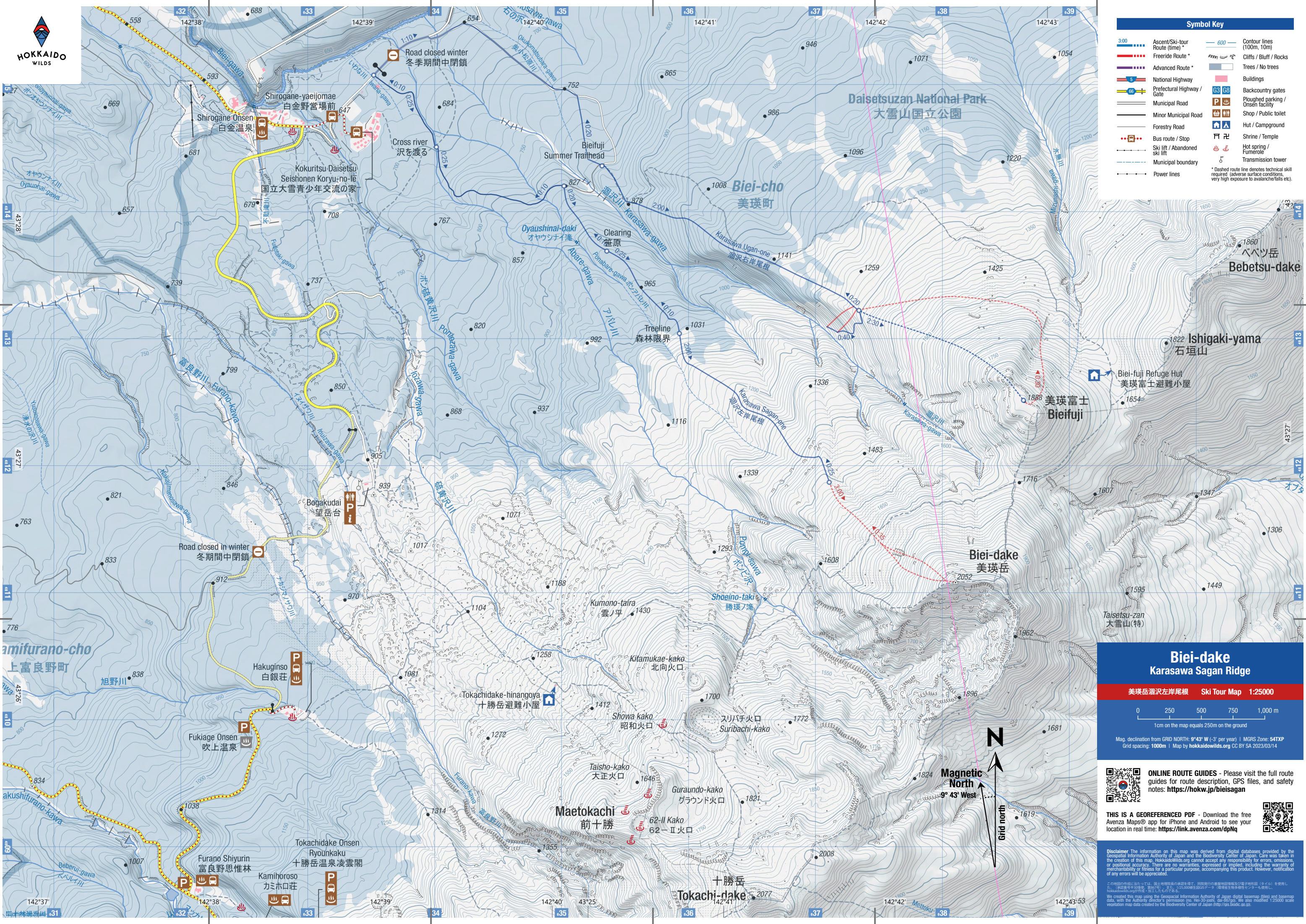
Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWilds.org cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional 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.
























TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP | Rob Thomson
hokkaidowilds.org 2023/03/14
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)"



HOKKAIDO
WILDS



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 / Fumeroles
	Municipal boundary		Transmission tower
	Power lines		

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

Biei-dake

Karasawa Sagan Ridge

美瑛岳涸沢左岸尾根 Ski Tour Map 1:25000



Mag. declination from GRID NORTH: **9°43' W** (-3' per year) | MGRS Zone: **54TXP**
Grid spacing: **1000m** | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/03/14



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



THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time: <https://link.avenza.com/dpNq>

Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWilds.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.

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-86790). We also modified 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.



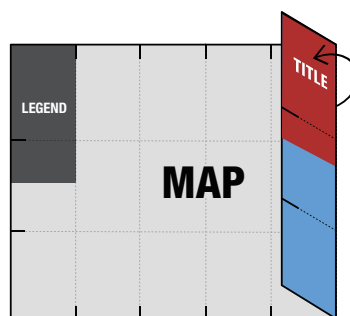
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

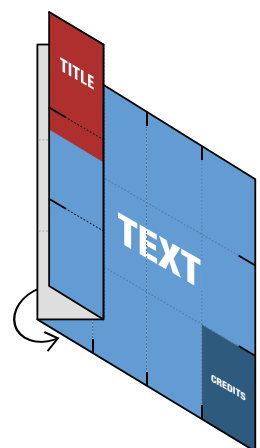
1



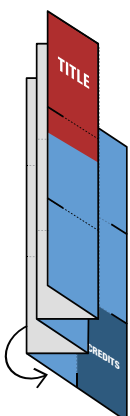
2



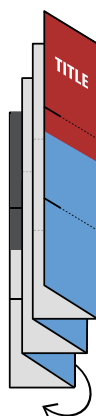
3



4



5



6



7

