



Karifuri-dake


NE Slopes

狩振岳北東斜面Ski Touring Map1:25000







4hrs*
Time




647m*
Total Climb




1323m
Highest point



8km*
Distance



6.5/10
Difficulty



Jan-Feb
Best season

Karifuri-dake 狩振岳 (1323m) is an inconspicuously tall peak sitting to the southeast of the sprawling Tomamu ski resort in the northern Hidaka Range. Deep, gorgeous powder settles on the eastern aspects of this peak, in the lee of the prevailing north-westerlies. This route requires skiers to commit to climbing back up to the ridge to exit the zone, but the effort is more than worth it. Set a good uptrack, and skiers can pump out at least a few laps before making the exit. Expect old-growth forest and deeper-than-deep powder. For those adverse to climbing, there’s also the option of catskiing nearby.

LOCATION
Karifuri-dake sits about 9km southeast of the sprawling Tomamu ski resort in north of the Hidaka Range. This route ascends to the peak from the west, from the small farming settlement of Kami-tomamu.

GENERAL NOTES
If anyone has heard of Karifuri-dake, it will be in relation to Tomamu’s cat-skiing operation in the area. The cat-skiing operation accesses a different zone than the actual Karifuri-dake proper; they mainly access the east-aspect slopes below Soshubetsu-dake (双珠別岳, 1383m), about 2.5km southeast of the Karifuri-dake summit (Soshubetsu-dake



is not named on Japan government maps). The cat-ski operation accesses the head of the Ruomanshisorapuchi River valley via a gated road (Kushinai Dai-ni Gate 串内第2ゲート). As such, the route described here does not encroach on that cat ski zone.

Parking: As mentioned below, the trailhead for this route is nestled deep in a quiet farming community. There’s no dedicated parking in the trailhead vicinity. Be wary, especially after heavy snowfall, that snowplows will need the entire width of the road – park judiciously, allowing space for traffic to pass and snowplows to turn around (avoid parking in front of large snow piles).

ROUTE TIMING* AND NOTES
The timing above only applies to the ascent/descent to the summit from the trailhead. We happily spent 7 hours in the area, lapping to our hearts content, until our legs could no longer face the prospect of another climb.

From the end of the snow-clearing, head southeast along a narrow snowed-in road. Follow this to its terminus – a large clearing – and then gain the ridge, crossing under high-tension power lines after a short climb through the forest. Keep following this ridge southeast, past the 1038m point, until you hit the 1233m peak. Note that this ascent ridge can be corniced on the climber’s left side, and somewhat wind-scoured on the climber’s right. Once on the summit ridge, you’ll drop a little from the 1233m peak as you cross the saddle and climb the final 100m or so to the Karifuri-dake peak proper at 1323m.

Transition and ski the first lap down the north aspect slope about 150m into the wide gully. Climb back to the northern ridge towards the 1209m peak. Note that the northern ridge here

can be heavily corniced on the east side of the ridge. Drop the eastern aspect from the northern ridge for a very pleasant 300m or so of vertical drop down to the gully. If you’ve got it in you, re-use your uptrack for another lap, this time a little further north along the ridge.

The return to the trailhead requires climbing back up to near the Karifuri-dake summit, and essentially following your nose back to the saddle between the summit and the 1233m point on the map. Generally, the western aspects on Karifuri-dake can be dense with bush, particularly in the upper 200m or so around the treeline. Dropping down from the saddle in a descent/traverse northwest can open up some relatively open skiable pitches.

TRANSPORT
By car: This route has no dedicated parking. Furthermore, the trailhead is at the end of the snow-clearing in a quiet farming community – parking on the road, particularly after heavy snowfall (and before community snow-plows have come through), will get in the way of daily activities in the area. Be sensitive and con-



siderate. This is a trailhead where you should assume you need to spend 20 minutes clearing snow to get your vehicle off the side of the road as much as possible. After heavy snow-fall, avoid parking in front of convenient-looking cleared areas in front of large snow piles. These areas are not car parks – they’re areas where snowplows push snow when clearing roads.
Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES
This route requires skiers to traverse an alpine ridge, and the northeastern slopes require skiers to drop down into areas that require a hefty climb to get back out of in order to return to the trailhead. Ensure that everyone in your party has it in them to commit to another 300m+ vertical of deep-snow trail breaking after dropping down the eastern/northern aspects. Also note that once on the eastern/northern aspects below the summit, you’ll be relatively insulated/sheltered from the prevailing northwestern weather. Keep an eye on what the weather is doing near the ridges, as it can get very inhospitable very quickly for the return along the ridge.


ONSEN NEARBY
If you’ve never been, the Tomamu resort Kirin no Yu 木林の湯 (900yen), right in the guts of the bewilderingly colossal resort complex is very worth a visit. The outdoor baths look over a beautiful snowy-forest scene. They’re definitely the most incongruous onsen baths we’ve ever been to in Hokkaido. You walk past a full Olympic-sized swimming pool to get to them. And park next to lodges where visitors can pay thousands of dollars per night to stay. All of this in an area where the nearest convenience store is a 30-40 minute drive away. Tomamu is an enigma... ■



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/karifuriNE>




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

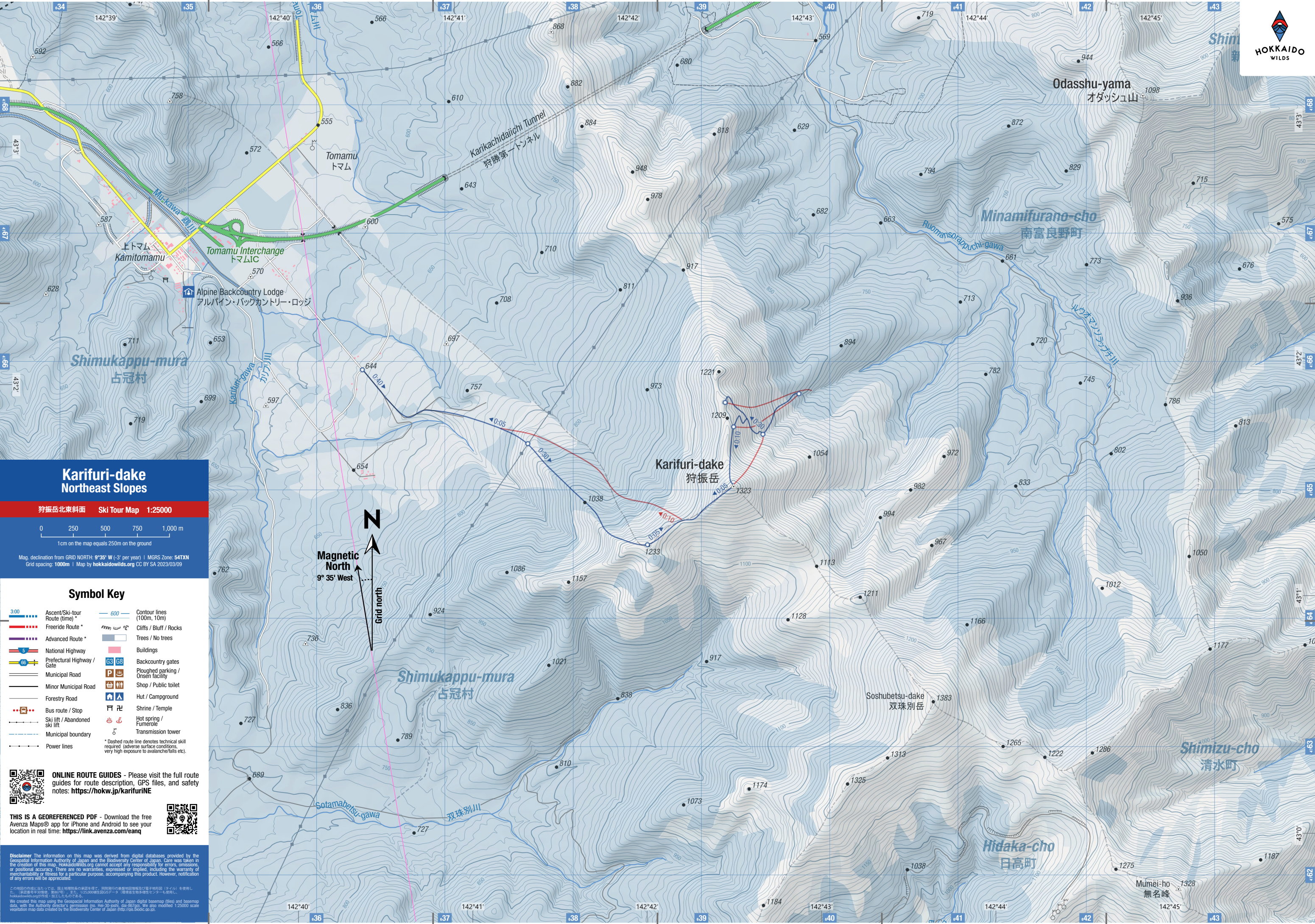
hokkaidowilds.org 2023/03/10

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



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.



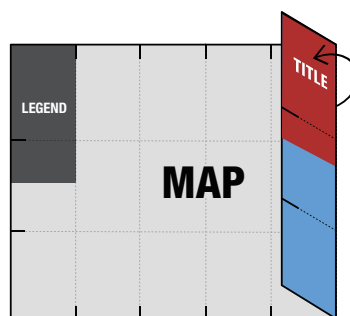
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

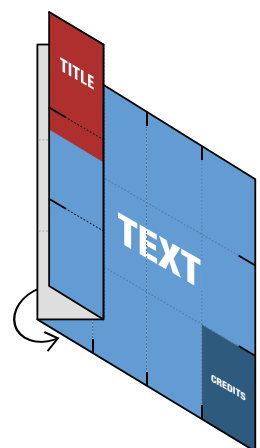
1



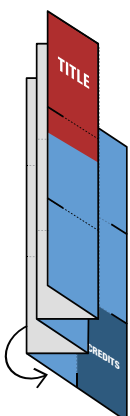
2



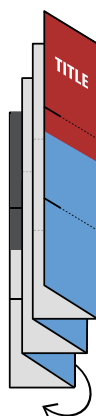
3



4



5



6



7

