



# Konbh-dake


## North Ridge

昆布岳北尾根Ski Touring Map 1:25000







8hrs  
Time




1120m  
Total Climb




1045m  
Highest point



16km  
Distance



7.5/10  
Difficulty



Jan-Mar  
Best season

**Konbu-dake 昆布岳 (1045m) is a conspicuous, sharkfin shaped peak to the southwest of the bustling Niseko ski resort. On a clear day, it's a dominant feature of the horizon as seen from the sprawling resort area. Up close, Konbu-dake's unique peak offers an exciting knife-edge final approach, and there's some incredible deep powder skiing to be had off the otherwise very mellow approach along this Northern Ridge. Be warned though - it's a long walk to get to this elusive peak. This northern approach allows for worthy intermediary objectives for those who want to see the peak up close, but don't want to commit to the full sum-miting experience.**

**LOCATION**  
Konbu-dake sits about 18km directly south



of Niseko Annupuri and the bustling Niseko ski resort village in southwestern Hokkaido. This route approaches the summit from the north, from a quiet farming community, near Niseko Golf Course.

**GENERAL NOTES**  
There are a number of ways to summit Konbu-dake. From the south, west, east, north, and a couple of bearings in between. To be brutally honest, from a purely backcountry skiing perspective, they're all a bit crap. Most of the ridges to the summit include at least some up-and-down along the way, for the most part the ridges themselves are very mellow in terms of steepness, and it's a long way – about 16km return. It's fair to say that if tagging Konbu-dake's peak is your objective, then it's best to consider this a ski-tourer's adventure peak.

That said, given Konbu-dake's prominence on the Niseko skyline, it is a very worthy peak to bag for the committed ski tourer. The final short knife-edge-esque walk along the ridge to the summit is exhilarating. The views are stellar. For the adventurous, there's a very short but very steep ski off the summit to the north.

If you're more of a downhill-oriented skier, however, don't count Konb-dake out completely. Skiers seeking good, deep, untracked powder turns should also keep Konbu-dake on their radar. Be happy with summiting the 835m false peak on this

northern ridge route, and enjoy some great 200-300m long lappable slopes to the skier's right of the ridge. There's a reason there are snowmobile-assisted guided backcountry ski tours in the area (e.g. the folks at Rura Guiding and Par Powder Paradise) – the snow here is as good as it gets in the region in deep winter.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
Summiting Konbu-dake is a long, rewarding day out. Plan for around 7hrs+ in spring, and around 9hrs in deep winter.

From the t-intersection near the Niseko Golf Course, head along the forestry road direct south for about 1.5km to the first significant bend in the road. This road is frequently used by snowmobiles in the winter, so for a more relaxing ski up, at your earliest convenience



gain the ridge west of the road (to the looker's right of the road). Follow the ridge through the forest for another 1.5km, where you'll cross that same forestry road again. From here, head to the southwest to gain the broad, mellow northern ridge proper. You'll be sharing this ridge for the rest of the way to the 835m false peak with snowmobiles, so take care.

At around 650m on the ridge is an extraordinarily picturesque snow meadow with jaw-dropping views of Yotei-zan and the Niseko Range. If this satisfies your appetite for slogging uphill in deep snow on a very mellow ridge, then dropping from here into the valley below would make for a very satisfying lapping slope. Otherwise, keep on along the ridge to the 835m false summit.

The 835m false summit gives gorgeous views of the sharkfin Konbu-dake summit just out of reach to the south. Snowmobiles are known to come all the way to this false summit. If pressing on to the Konbu-dake summit proper, you'll need to drop about 80m vertical down to the compact saddle to the south between the false peak and Konbu-dake. There's no practical way to avoid this - you'll need to don skins again on the return.

From the saddle to Konbu-dake saddle, it's about 1km in distance and 250m climb. Things get interesting at around 890m. Depending on the snow conditions, you may want to switch to boot crampons with skis on your back for the final walk along the knife-edge ridge to the summit. Depending on snow conditions, it may also be possible to wrap around the south side of the summit onto the mellow southern slope and do the final approach to the summit sign from the south.

In principle, the return is via the way you



came. If energy and daylight allows, it's also possible to drop down to the skier's right (east) of the main northern ridge north of the 835m false peak. Note however that any elevation dropped quickly around here will result in just more flat walking for the exit. Pick your battles and pleasures wisely.

**TRANSPORT**  
**By car:** There is no dedicated parking for this route. Skiers will typically park on the side of the road, which could interfere with snow-clearing work. Ideally, arrange a drop-off or pick-up. If you do park on the side of the road, park well to the side of the road, and avoid parking at the very end of the snow clearing (gets in the way of snowplows turning around).  
**Public transport:** This route is not accessible

by public transport.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
Watch for large glide cracks on the steep eastern faces off the main northern ridge, particularly later in the season. Also, be aware that this northern ridge is very popular among snowmobilers and snow-mobile-access backcountry tours. Always give way to snowmobiles.

**ONSEN NEARBY**  
The trailhead is only a 13 minute drive from the beautifully local Rankoshi Yusen-kaku Onsen 幽泉閣 (600yen). There are a number of interior baths, outdoor baths, and they've got a sauna and cold pool. They also offer accommodation. ■

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/konbnth>



**Disclaimer** The information on this map was derived from digital data-bases 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](https://hokkaidowilds.org) 2023/04/14  
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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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.



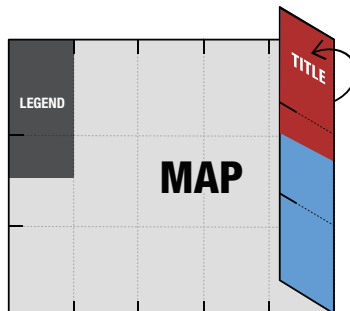
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

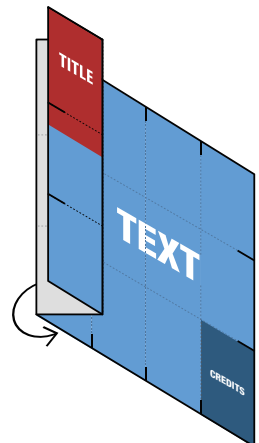
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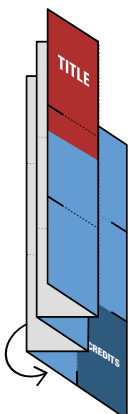
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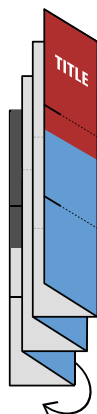
3



4



5



6



7

