




Muroran Coast

室蘭海岸Sea Kayaking Map1:25000







6hrs
Time




15km
Distance




6.5/10
Difficulty



3.5/5
Remoteness



4/5
Water clarity



May-Sep
Best season

The outer coast of Muroran’s Etomo Peninsula 絵鞆半島 is a spectacular stretch of cliffs that sits in stark contrast to the apocalyptic steelworks of the inner harbour. While the heaving industrial heart of Muroran spews steam into the air just a few kilometers to the north, this coastline retains its natural splendor. Expect high, pearly-white limestone and conglomerate cliffs, sea birds, dramatic capes, and ginormous tunnel rocks - Horaimon 蓬莱門 is a clear highlight. At the eastern end of the route, Itanki Beach is one of Hokkaido’s most popular surf spots - there’s plenty of room for kayaks to practice their surfing skills too.

LOCATION
Muroran is an industrial city of about 90,000 people in southwest Hokkaido, about a two hour drive southwest of Sapporo City. This sea kayaking section of coast follows the outer coast of Muroran’s Etomo Peninsula at the south of the city. The route runs from Cape Etomo to Itanki-hama イタンギ浜 beach, via cape Chikyu-misaki 地球岬.

Put-in location: For this full section of coast, put in at the small beach near Ebisu-jima island えびす島, at the western end of the route. This small beach is flanked by a fortress of bluffs, private accessways, and private property, so getting to it is quite the ordeal in itself. The only accessway is over/around an

old fence that stands between the southern terminus of the outer-most port breakwater and a clay bluff. Zoom in on Google Satellite, and you’ll see a foot path cutting its way through the sasa bamboo grass to the coast. Note that the road to this point is officially within a small fishing port area, which is officially off-limits to the public. There’s a gate here which is only open (unlocked) from 4am till 3pm. If you’re just unloading boats, you should have no issue with quickly dropping gear off before exiting and parking elsewhere (such as the Enrum Marina car park). Note that sea kayaks are not allowed to use the marina nor the fishing port. It is, naturally, possible to put in at Itanki-hama beach (see below).

Take-out location: If traveling from west to east, you’ll take out at Itanki-hama beach, a well-known Hokkaido surf spot. The beach is protected somewhat by breakwaters, however, so in most swell conditions you should be able to find a relatively sheltered spot to take out without too much excitement. That said, if there is a large swell forecast, we’d recommend scouting the take out in advance, before setting off on the trip. Alternatively, if the winds allow it, make Itanki-hama beach your put in.

Denshin-hama beach 電信浜: The alternative take out, about half way through this route, is Denshin-hama. This is a hopelessly picturesque sheltered bay with breakwaters off the beach, making it a fairly reliable escape option if you want to make the trip shorter. Access to the beach is via a 50m flight of stairs though – including a hairpin bend in the stairs part way up – so hauling long sea kayaks up to the road can be a little challenging. Parking near Denshin-hama can be challenging too. You’d get away with parking one or two vehicles near the entrance, but officially this is frowned upon. There’s official parking at the Muroran City Museum, or the Muroran City Library, both about 300m away.

GENERAL NOTES
For those only familiar with the somewhat grotesque interior of Muroran’s industrial wastelands, it may come as a surprise that the city is home to one of Hokkaido’s most spectacular stretches of coastline. Indeed, the Ainu themselves appreciated this coastline so much that they gave it the name Pirikanoka – “beautiful shape”. With splendid white cliffs, interspersed with grey conglomerate, plus organ-pipe volcanic formations in places, it’s really

SOUTHERN HOKKAIDO

quite extraordinary. This is all topped off by the towering Chikyu-misaki cape in the center of it all.

For the sea kayaker, adding to this visual feast is also some great rock-hopping options, and an excellent surf beach at the eastern end of the route – Itanki-hama beach.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
We recommend allowing about 6-7hrs for this route, to make the most of the rocks, beaches, and views along the way.

Here we describe paddling from west to east, but naturally this section can be paddled the opposite direction also. Put in at the small beach near Ebisu-jima island and paddle southeast along the coast. The coast is immediately flanked by beautiful white cliffs. Take care around here – small fishing vessels will be operating, harvesting sea urchins and Alab-one. There’s a small, remote beach flanked by cliffs about 1.5km after setting off, on the eastern side of Ginbyobu rock. This is a nice spot to pull up and make adjustments or stretch the legs.

From Ginbyobu rock, it’s about 3km of pleasant paddling past minor capes, through archways, and via rock-bound channels to Denshin-hama beach. The bay at Denshin-hama is nicely sheltered by a large breakwater forming part of the Oinaoshi fishing port. It’s possible to take out at Denshin-hama, via a flight of stairs.

From Denshin-hama, continue paddling along the coast, taking care to cross the mouth of Oinaoshi Port expediently, and while keeping an eye out for fishing vessels. A few kilometers beyond Oinaoshi port is Charatsunai bay. There are a couple of old *banya* fishing huts at the bay, just above an old concrete boat ramp, protected somewhat by a small rocky reef. It’s a good place to take a break before carrying on. From Charatsunai to Tokkarisho Beach, 4km away, there are limited places to escape from the water.

About 500m east from Charatsunai is a highlight of the trip – Horai-mon Gate. This colossal archway is fun to paddle through when conditions are calm and there’s little to no swell. When the swell is up, the swell gets constricted through the arch, surging upwards as it presses its way through. Even when conditions are calm, take a few minutes to observe the swell before committing to paddling through.

About 1.5km on from Horai-mon is Chikyu-misaki cape. This towering cape is worth paddling to just to take a look at it. Whether or not you paddle around it to the eastern side will

depend on sea conditions on the eastern side. The cape somewhat shelters the paddler from easterly conditions, so things might change suddenly near the cape.

If conditions are rather unfavourable east of the cape, there is a safe-haven at Tokkarisho-hama beach. This beach is sheltered by breakwaters off the beach. In a pinch, paddlers could escape from the coast up to the road above the beach via the old walkway. Hauling kayaks up this walkway wouldn’t be impossible, but it would be a chore. It’s about 500m, plus a 100m elevation gain.

Less than 1km north of Tokkarisho-hama beach are two 50m-high rocks sitting independently out from the coast. When there’s a swell running, the reefs around the rocks can be a great place for rock-hopping and surfing. In very low tide conditions, the entire reef is exposed, and accessible on foot. In the small bay directly southwest of the rocks is a colossal arch-way-like cave.

From the rock-hopping rocks, it’s another 2km or so to the take out at Itanki-hama beach. This is a popular surf spot, so watch out for surfers, and if the conditions are right, enjoy some surfing yourself. From the beach, it’s a 200m carry to the parking lot.


TRANSPORT
By car I Itanki-hama beach has plenty of parking in the large gravel parking lot. For the western-most put in, there’s no official parking next to the put-in. You’ll need to park about a 10-minute walk away at the marina. If taking out or putting in at Denshin-hama beach, the nearest official parking is at the Muroran City Museum, or the Muroran City Library, both

about 300m away from the beach access stairway.
Public transport I There are public bus stops near the western and eastern put ins. For the western-most put in, take a public bus from JR Muroran train station to Enrumu-marina-mae bus stop エンルムマリナ前. Google Maps has timetabling information. From the marina to the put in, it’s a 10-minute walk. For the take out at Itanki-hama beach, the Shiomi-koen-iriguchi 潮見公園入口 bus stop is a five-minute walk from the beach.

SAFETY NOTES
This section of coast exposes the paddler to two different aspects – westerly conditions and easterly conditions. Just because one side of Cape Chikyu-misaki is calm, doesn’t mean the other side will be. We recommend scouting conditions on both sides of the cape before setting off, and keep aware of what the weather is forecast to do during the day. Also note that while there are intermittent places to escape from the water if need be, not all of these locations have access to the roads above. Indeed, much of the route here is flanked by cliffs where escape from the water itself is also difficult.


ONSEN NEARBY
Muroran Onsen Yurara 室蘭温泉ゆらら (680yen) is our pick for a post-paddle soak. Near the western end of the route, this large public onsen has nice outdoor baths with views across the marina and Muroran port area. There’s an attached restaurant for simple meals. ■

Japanese Map Glossary		
Romaji	Kanji	English
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
gyoko	漁港	fishing port
ike	池	pond
iwa	岩	rock
kaigan	海岸	coast
kawa/gawa	川	river
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
ko	港	port
misaki	岬	cape
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
shima	島	island
tani/dani	谷	valley
taki	滝	waterfall
today	灯台	lighthouse
toge	峠	pass
wan	湾	bay
yama/san/zan	山	mountain



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <http://hokw.jp/murosea>




Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, the Japan Hydrological Association, 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. NAUTICAL CHART INFORMATION ON THIS MAP SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR MARINE NAVIGATION - PLEASE REFER TO OFFICIAL CHARTS.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson



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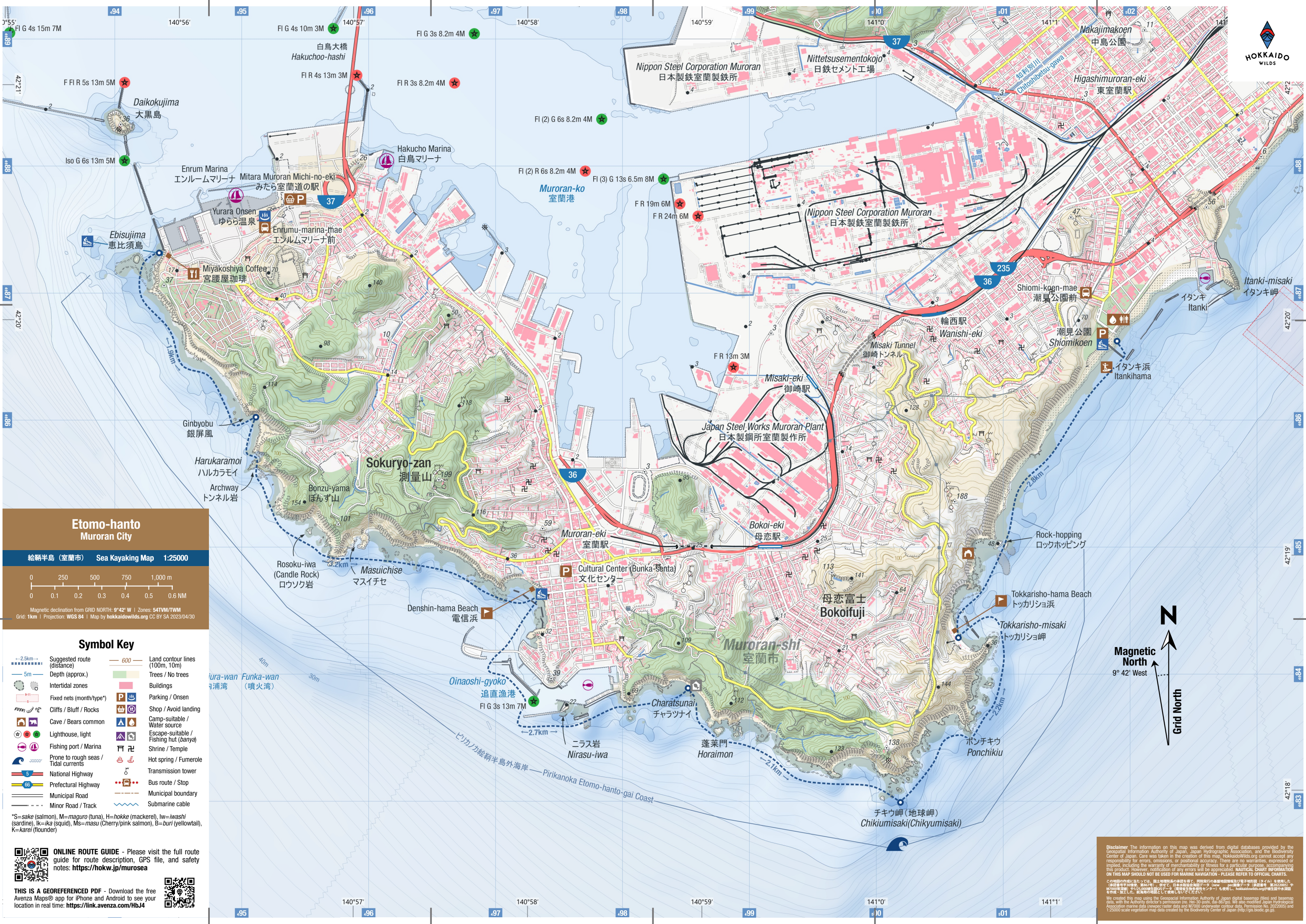
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT I Dominika Gan

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Etomo-hanto
Muroran City

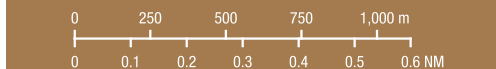
絵鞆半島 (室蘭市) Sea Kayaking Map 1:25000

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Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: **9°42' W** | Zones: **54TVM/TWM**
Grid: **11km** | Projection: **WGS 84** | Map by **hokkaidowilds.org** CC BY SA 2023/04/30

繪嶼半島 (室蘭市) Sea Kayaking Map 1:25000



Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9°42' W | Zones: 54TVM/TWM
Grid: 1km | Projection: WGS 84 | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/04/30

Symbol Key

	Suggested route (distance)		Land contour lines (100m, 10m)
	Depth (approx.)		Trees / No trees
	Intertidal zones		Buildings
	Fixed nets (month/type*)		Parking / Onsen
	Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks		Shop / Avoid landing
	Cave / Bears common		Camp-suitable / Water source
	Lighthouse, light		Escape-suitable / Fishing hut (<i>banya</i>)
	Fishing port / Marina		Shrine / Temple
	Prono to rough seas / Tidal currents		Hot spring / Fumerole
	National Highway		Transmission tower
	Prefectural Highway		Bus route / Stop
	Municipal Road		Municipal boundary
	Minor Road / Track		Submarine cable

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Suggested route (distance) | | Land contour lines (100m, 10m) |
| | Depth (approx.) | | Trees / No trees |
| | Intertidal zones | | Buildings |
| | Fixed nets (month/type)* | | Parking / Onsen |
| | Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks | | Shop / Avoid landing |
| | Cave / Bears common | | Camp-suitable / Water source |
| | Lighthouse, light | | Escape-suitable / Fishing hut (<i>banya</i>) |
| | Fishing port / Marina | | Shrine / Temple |
| | Prone to rough seas / Tidal currents | | Hot spring / Fumerole |
| | National Highway | | Transmission tower |
| | Prefectural Highway | | Bus route / Stop |
| | Municipal Road | | Municipal boundary |
| | Minor Road / Track | | Submarine cable |

*S=sake (salmon), M=maguro (tuna), H=hokke (mackerel), lw=iwashi (sardine), Ik=ika (squid), Ms=masu (Cherry/pink salmon), B=buri (yellowtail), K=karei (flounder)



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この図版の作成に当たっては、国土交通省の承認を得て、沿岸科の「基礎地形データ及び電子地形データ」を使用した。（承認番号：地保第867号）併せて、日本気象協会から「新データ（new pncaster data）（承認番号：第2022005号）（M7000等深線）」や「1/25000地形データGISデータ（国土地理院生物多様性センター）」も使用し、hokkaidowilds.jpが樹生図や水深図を作成・加工した。航海用の地図として使用しないぐでさい。

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-867jo). We also modified Japan Hydrological Association marine data (newpncaster data and M7000 underwater contour data, permission No. 2022005) and 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.

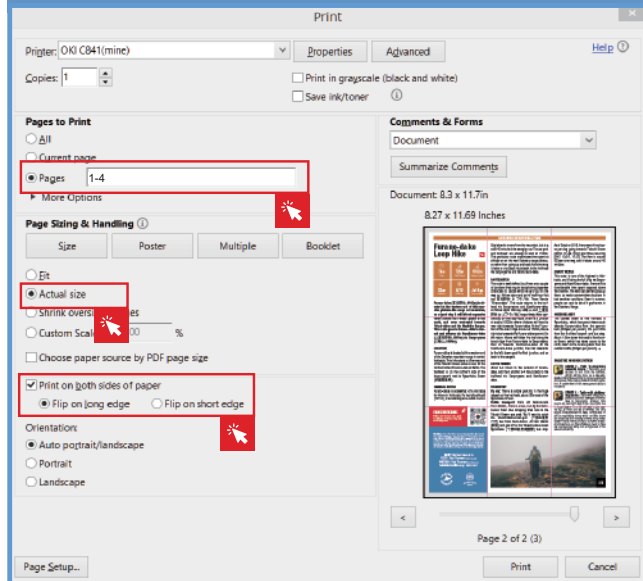
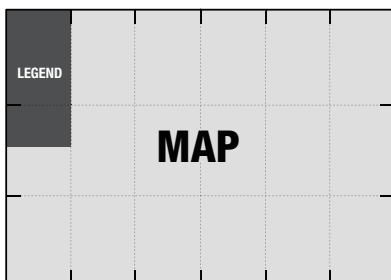


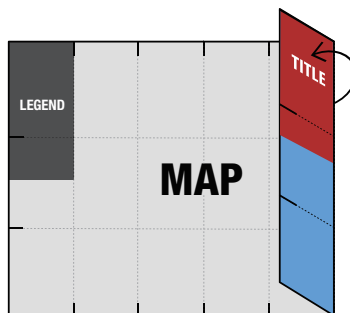
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

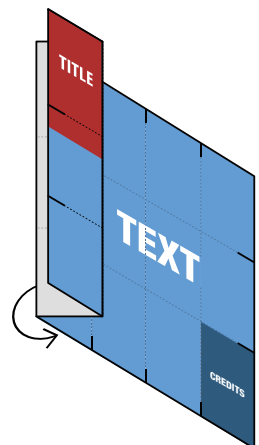
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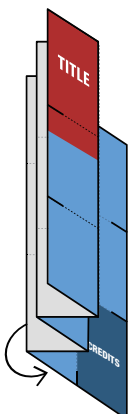
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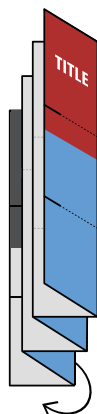
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