



Tonashibetsu-gawa

トナシベツ川

Paddling Map


1:25000






5.5hrs

Time




9.1

Gradient (mpk)




Class III

Difficulty




11km

Distance



4/5

Water clarity



May-Oct

Best season

Tonashibetsu-gawa トナシベツ川 is a beautiful, unspoiled mountain river nestled deep in the southern Yubari Range, south of Furano City in central Hokkaido. It runs into the Sorachi-gawa 空知川, a major tributary to the mighty Ishikari-gawa 石狩川. For open-deck canoeists, it's an enjoyably challenging river with tight bends, rock gardens, and fast-moving rapids. It's also a blast in a packraft, suitable for a pleasant 1.5hr walk along quiet roads through the forest for those

seeking a shuttle on foot. There's one easily scoutable crux on the route, consisting of a 1.5m drop.

LOCATION

Tonashibetsu-gawa flows east-northeast from the eastern flanks of Yubari-dake 夕張岳 (1668m) in the southern Yubari Range 夕張山地, about 20km south of central Furano City in central Hokkaido.

Put-in: The upper-most put-in for paddling the Tonashibetsu is usually river right under the Ryusei-bashi bridge 流星橋 on the Kanayama-rindo forestry road 金山林道. It's also possible to put in about 2km downstream on the river right just downstream of Hazawa-bashi Bridge 羽沢橋.

Take-out: The furthest downstream takeout that is practical is on river left under Satsuki-bashi Bridge 五月橋 on Route 237, about 1.5km downstream of the confluence of the Tonashibetsu River and Sorachi River. That is, you'll actually be taking out on the Sorachi River. The take-out under the Satsuki-bashi bridge is a bit awkward, but doable – the Sorachi River at this point is more akin to a lake, due to the weir a few kms downstream. For a shorter run, take out on the Tonashibetsu River at the 8km point. At that point, there's a nice gravel beach on the inside of a bend.

GENERAL NOTES

The Tonashibetsu-gawa is the only easily paddleable river in the Yubari Range, and as such is a nice waterway to tick off the list. The forest is dense, the water clear, and the valley is deep. The approach to the put in is part of the adventure too. To access the Kanayama-rindo

forestry road, you'll pass through a high deer fence gate that demarcates the front country from the back country. The gravel road crosses the river a couple of times, giving glimpses at the wild river below. In between bridges is a remote-feeling gravel road flanked on both sides by forest and a tight valley.

For the entirety of this section of river, from Ryusei-bashi bridge all the way to the confluence with the Sorachi-gawa river, it's best to assume it's one continuous CII rapid with only fleeting reprises here and there, plus the odd CII+, CIII- and CIII problems to solve. Some of the rapids are difficult to scout in their entirety, so paddlers will need to be confident in pulling into eddies along the way to stop and scout.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

The distance is relatively short on this section, but you may need more time than expected due to scouting - about 5.5 hours on the water should be a good conservative estimate.

Clamber down to the river from Ryusei-bashi bridge via a rough trail just to the left of the

CENTRAL HOKKAIDO

bridge. The trail is relatively well-defined, as it's also used by fishers. Right off the bat, paddlers will be enjoying a CII-CII+ fast-moving river with some blind corners here and there. It's not a river that is run commercially, so do be on the look out for strainers, particularly in the first two to three kilometers.

At the 2km point, just before the Kazawa-bashi Bridge is a pushy CII+ rapid on a right-hand bend that pushes hard into a granite bluff on the river left. The small rapids continue for another 2km until another pushy rapid culminating in a sharp left-hand bend. In an open-deck canoe we'd class this as a CIII-, and it's best to eddy out on the river right just before the bend in order to ferry out again to get a good line for the rather rowdy bend.

Another 600m downstream from the bend is arguably the crux of the route – a must-scout boulder problem with a drop and often topped with lodged logs. In higher water, the optimal line is often on extreme river left, but it's best to take a look beforehand. It's possible to eddy out on river right about 100m upstream of the boulders and clamber along the riverside to take a look. The double packraft in our party, as well as us in our tandem canoe, both cap-sized after getting our lines wrong on this. The aftermath is relatively easy to manage, however, as the river takes a break from the rapids just below the boulders – in our tandem canoe, we were able to self-rescue with the aid of our long painter ropes.

From the crux, it's another 2.8km of enjoyable fast-moving, relatively non-technical paddling until the early take-out option. We'd recommend paddling all the way beyond the confluence of the Sorachi River to Satsuki-bashi Bridge, however, as it's a nice relaxing end to a fun and fast-paced paddle.

TRANSPORT

By car: There is parking at all put-ins and take-outs, but it's very limited – a couple of vehicles at best. Access to the put-in is via a sometimes potholed forestry road, but it's perfectly navigable, even for two-wheel drive sedans. On the way, there's a large deer-control gate – it's not locked, but make sure to close it once you've passed through.

There are no taxis in the vicinity, so for shut-

RIVER DETAILS

This route is on Tonashibetsu-gawa (トナシベツ川), or Tunas-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. This section of the river is between 5m and 20m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 9.1 mpk (48.05 FPM).

ting with only one car, packrafting paddlers may want to consider a hike-in shuttle along the forestry road. In this case, it's a 6km (1.5hr) pleasant walk along quiet, forest-lined roads from the early take-out spot to the upper put-in at Ryusei-bashi Bridge. This will give you about 8km of the best paddling of this section of river.

Public transport: There's no public transport to this route.

SAFETY NOTES

This is a fairly remote paddling route, with difficult access to the river throughout – think difficult scrambling through thick undergrowth. Paddlers should be confident of their paddling

skills and have a solid backup plan in place should anything go wrong. Cellular reception is very limited, so we'd recommend carrying a satellite messenger for emergency communications.

ONSEN NEARBY


The closest onsen to this route is the cheap and cheerful Kanayama Hoyo Center (かなやま湖保養センター, 410yen) next to Lake Kanayama. It's about a 15-minute drive (11km) from the take out at Satsuki-bashi Bridge. This basic hot-baths facility has one indoor bath for each gender, and it's right next to the campground on the lake. ■

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: <http://hokw.jp/tonashi>



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.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson

hokkaidowilds.org 2023/06/27

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) 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 Siddie (hokkaidowilds.org)"



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.



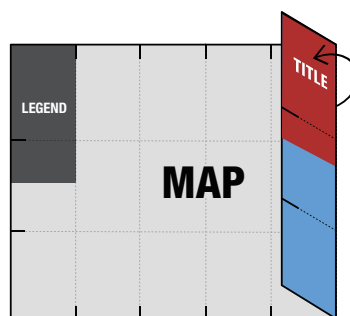
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

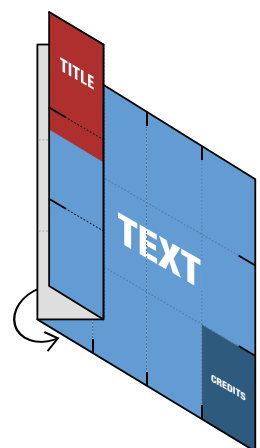
1



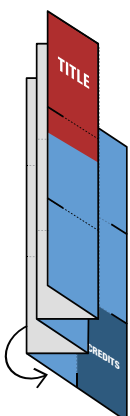
2



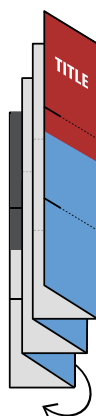
3



4



5



6



7

