



# Toshibetsu-gawa

## Oyochi to Aiwa-bashi

利別川 (大誉地〜愛和橋)Paddling Map1:25000





6hrs

Time



6.7

Gradient (mpk)



Class II

Difficulty



28km

Distance



3/5

Water clarity



May-Oct

Best season

**Toshibetsu-gawa 利別川 is a remarkably untouched, winding river deep in southern central Hokkaido. It's close to Rikubetsu Town, known as one of Japan's coldest towns with winter temperatures recorded down to -38.4°C. In spring, just after the winter thaw, the Toshibetsu River can be a great place to get some early season paddling in, as well as seeing colossal**



**ice-floes stranded on the riversides. Even in summertime, however, there is plenty to see - towering clay cliffs, deep green forest, and a gentle flow in the river that will suit paddlers of most skill levels.**

**LOCATION**

The Toshibetsu River flows from north to south from the northeast side of the Daisetsuzan Range in eastern Hokkaido. It flows through the small towns of Rikubetsu (Japan's coldest town) and Ashoro, as it makes its way to the mighty Tokachi River and onwards to the Pacific Ocean.

**Put-in:** For the full 28km run, put in on river right at Homare-bashi 誉橋 in the small settlement of Oyochi 大誉地, about half way between Ashoro and Rikubetsu on National Highway 242. There's a flight of stairs from the top of the stopbank to about half way down to the river. From there, you'll need to lower boats down the bank.

**Take-out:** The take-out for the full 28km run is just downstream of Aiwa-bashi 愛和橋 on river right. There isn't much of an eddy to speak of, and it's a bit of a clamber through thin undergrowth to a gravel road.

**GENERAL NOTES**

The towering clay cliffs at almost every bend in this river is what sets the Toshibetsu River apart from other rivers in Hokkaido. Two in particular are especially spectacular – colossal, dazzling white cliffs. There's hardly any rapids to speak of, so this is a river that even relative



beginners can paddle at lower water levels. Another highlight of this river is the wildlife. We saw at least two pairs of red-crested cranes – a real rarity!

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**

At almost 30km long, this section might appear to be a very long day on the water. The reality is, however, that the river does move at a quick pace. Expect around 5-6hrs on the water, with timing closer to the lower end of 5hrs in spring when the water is up.

Put in at Oyochi and enjoy the paddle down

**CENTRAL HOKKAIDO**

river. There's not much else to say about this section of river! Do note, however, that the first 1km or so from Oyochi has seen some human intervention – a widening of the river overall, which has made it quite shallow in spots. Particularly in summer, it may be quite shallow, requiring some river walking in places. However, once past this 1km or so, the river starts its wending and winding.

**TRANSPORT**

**By car:** There is limited parking (about two to three cars) at the put in and take out.

**Public transport:** Oyochi bus stop 大誉地バス停, accessible from Ashoro Town, is only a five-minute walk from the put-in at Homare-bashi bridge. Google Maps has bus timetabling information. Ashoro Town is, in turn, accessible by bus from Obihiro City 帯広市, a large city located in the center of the Tokachi plains in southern central Hokkaido. There's no bus stops near the take out though – the nearest (Ashoro dobokugengyosyo mae Bus Stop 足寄土木現業所前) is 2.5km walk south along Route 242. Instead of taking a bus, it might make more sense just to walk to central Ashoro Town from the take out – 4km. Alternatively, consider continuing to paddle downstream to Ashoro-bashi bridge 足寄橋 and taking out there on river right under or near the bridge.

**RIVER DETAILS**

**This route is on Toshibetsu-gawa (利別川), or Tus-pet in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 150km in total length. This section of the river is between 10m and 40m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 6.7 mpk (35.38 FPM).**



From there it's a 1km walk to central Ashoro Town.

**Taxis:** There's one taxi company in Ashoro Town - Ashoro Taxis 足寄タクシー (TEL: 0156-25-2666). Note that they're unlikely to understand English, let alone the names of bridges along the river.

**SAFETY NOTES**

The main concern on this section of the Toshibetsu River is access off the river. Generally, access to the river is limited, and if you did want to get off the river near bridges, there

would be some bush-bashing and clam-bering involved. Overall, however, this river is relatively free from strainers and the flow is fairly gentle.

**ONSEN NEARBY**

The closest place for a post-paddle soak is the small and pokey Ginga-no-yu Ashoro 銀河の湯あしよろ (400yen), about 5km south of the take-out near Aiwa-bashi, in Ashoro Town. Nearby is the Satomigaokakoen Camping Ground 足寄町里見が丘キャンプ場 (400yen per tent). ■

| 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/toshioyo>



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**MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson**

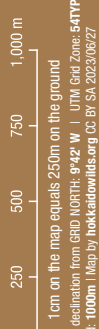
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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

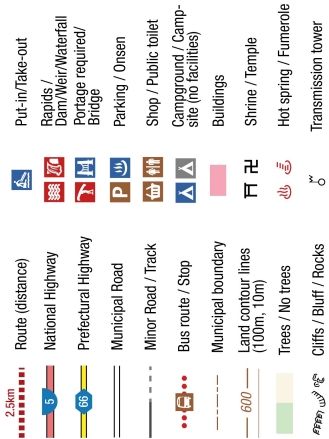
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### Symbol Key



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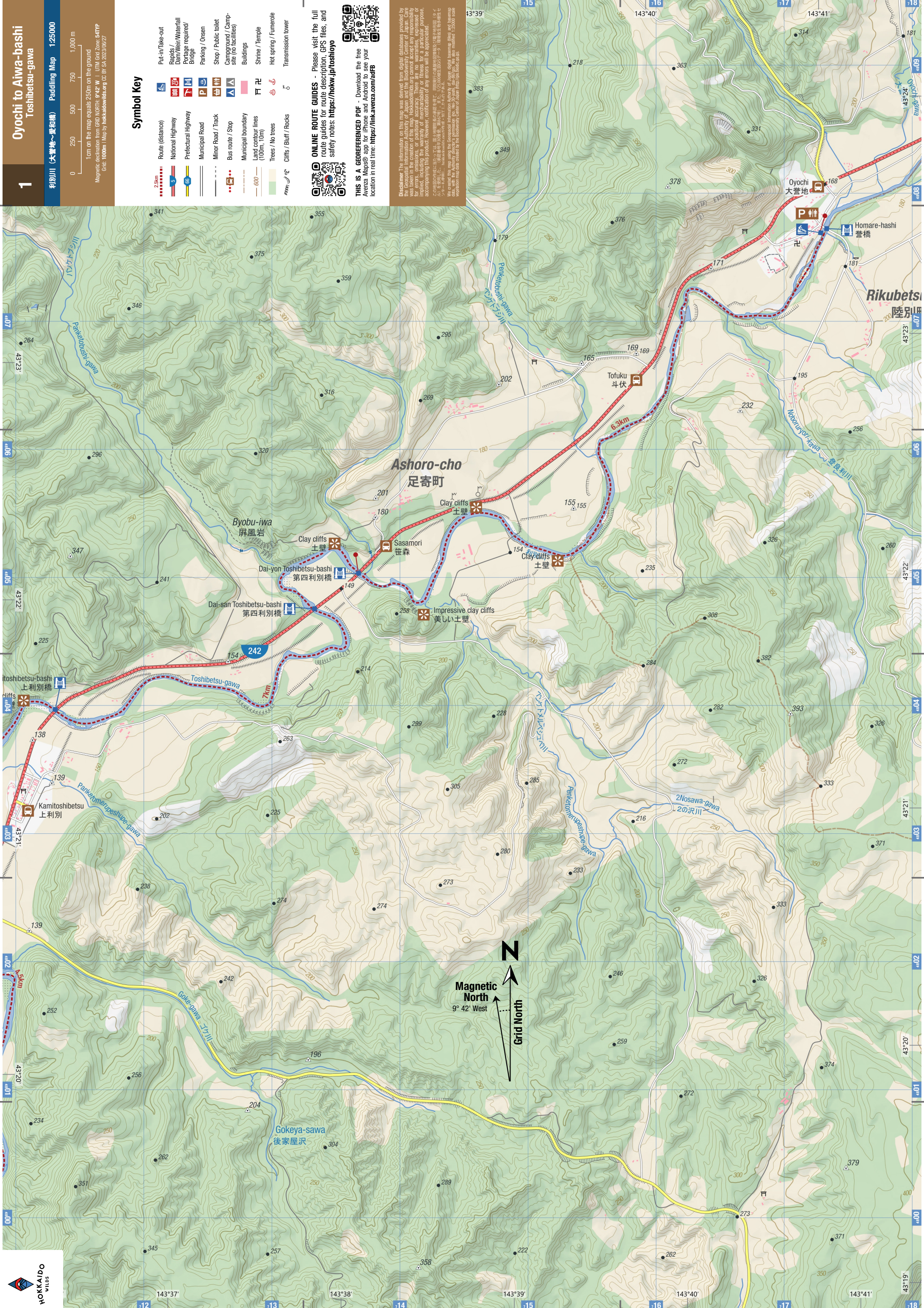
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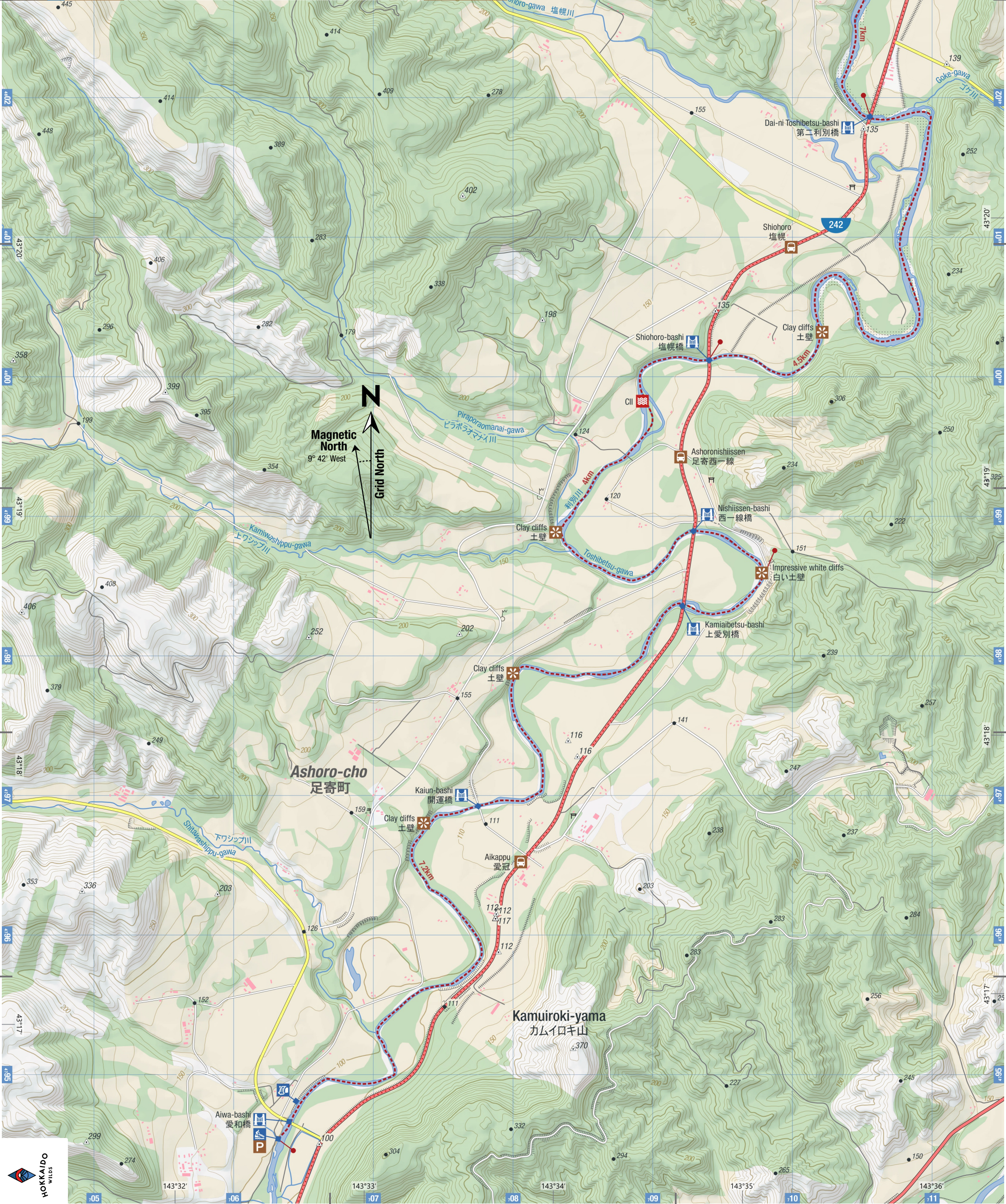
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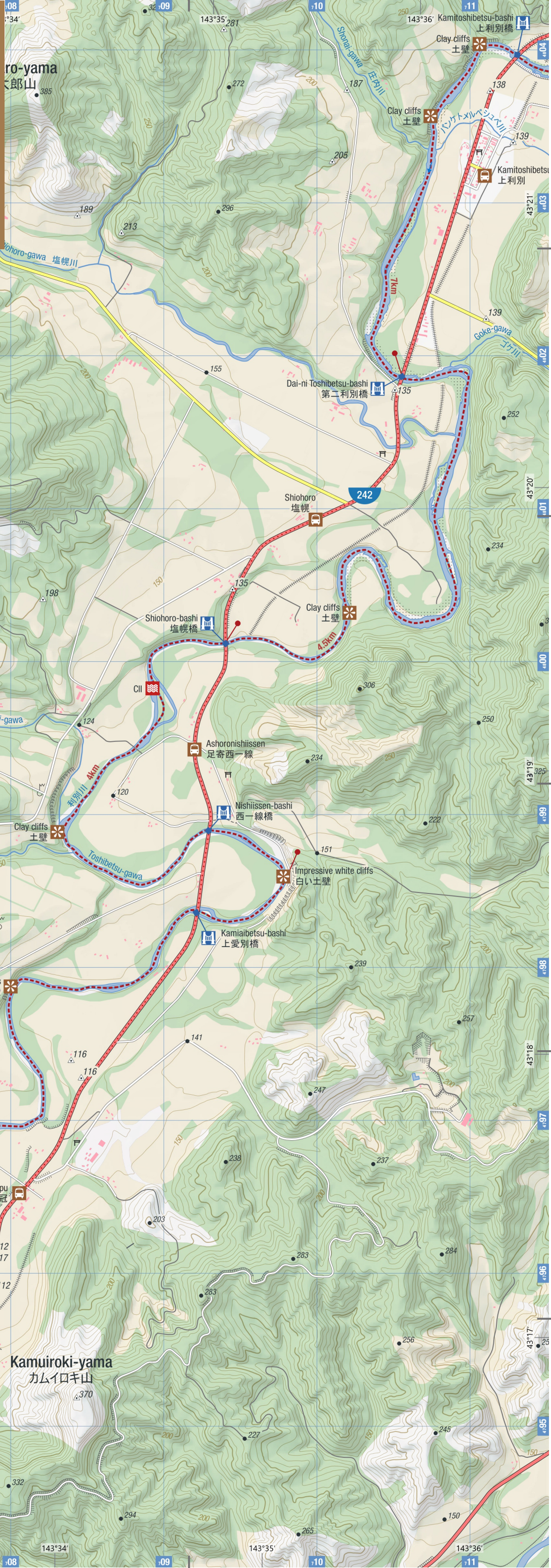
| Symbol Key |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
|            | Put-in/Take-out                       |
|            | Rapids / Dam/Weir/Waterfall           |
|            | Portage required/ Bridge              |
|            | Parking / Onsen                       |
|            | Shop / Public toilet                  |
|            | Campground / Campsite (no facilities) |
|            | Buildings                             |
|            | Shrine / Temple                       |
|            | Hot spring / Fumerole                 |
|            | Transmission tower                    |

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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.

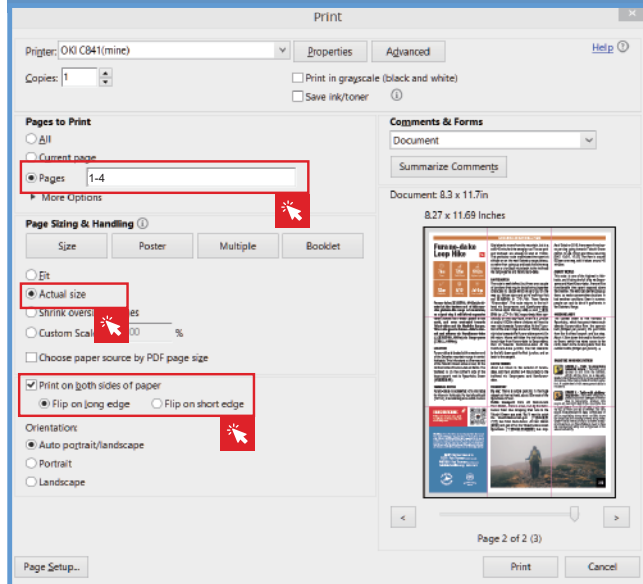
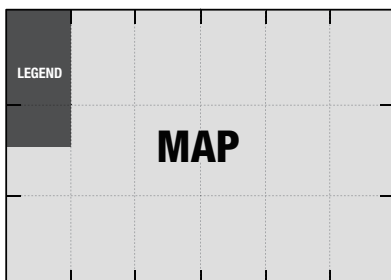


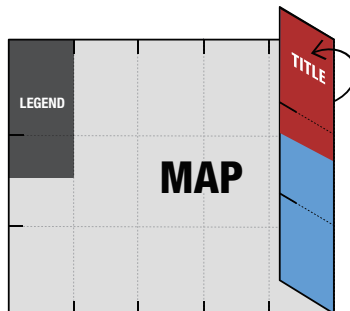
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

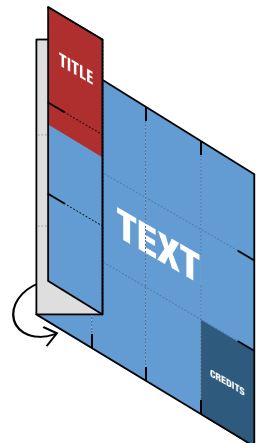
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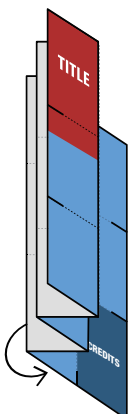
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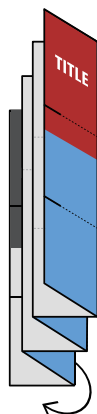
3



4



5



6



7

