




Cape Shirepa

尻羽岬 Paddling Map 1:25000







4hrs
Time




16km
Distance




6/10
Difficulty



4/5
Remoteness



2/5
Water clarity



Jun-Sep
Best season

Cape Shirepa 尻羽岬 is a prominent cape at the southwestern end of Akkeshi Bay 厚岸湾 in eastern Hokkaido. The outer Pacific Ocean side of the cape consists of towering cliffs and bluffs. Hokake-iwa 帆かけ岩 awaits with its torii gate perched precariously on top of the rock, as the base of the rock gets battered by the heavy Pacific swells. Expect to see seals, deer, and sea eagles on the sheltered approach to the cape proper..

LOCATION
Cape Shirepa is at the southwestern edge of the expansive Akkeshi Bay in eastern



Hokkaido. From Sapporo, it's about a 5-hour drive to reach the put-in. It's on the Pacific coast of far east Hokkaido, only a stone's throw from Russia.

PUT-IN LOCATION
The most convenient put-in for paddling to Cape Shirepa is arguably the beach outside Sempoji fishing port 仙鳳趾漁港. This will allow for a relatively sheltered paddle southeast to the cape, with paddlers only exposed to the open ocean for the last little poke out from the cape at the end. Be aware, however, that the beach can have dumpy waves, and the area is somewhat of a fishing-waste dumping wasteland. It is what it is, however. It's an interesting look into little-seen Hokkaido local fishing culture and practices. The waves get less dumpy the further south along the beach you go, so have a look around to find the most suitable spot to launch.

TAKE-OUT LOCATION
The take-out is the same location as the put-in.

GENERAL NOTES
Cape Shirepa isn't high on the list for many sea kayakers, but it makes for a worthy excursion if you're in the Akkeshi area. The approach to the cape is beautifully protected from open-ocean swells, and paddlers can choose how much exposure they want to the open ocean once at the cape proper. On the approach, expect seals and sea eagles. If conditions do allow it, it is absolutely worthwhile paddling a few hundred meters west along the exposed Pacific coast. The swells are thick and heavy, the cliffs and bluffs are towering, and Hokake-iwa Shrine – just a torii gate is visible from the water – is delightfully photogenic.

Naming: The name 'Shirepa' comes from the indigenous Hokkaido Ainu language. *Sir* means



'cliffed', *pa* means 'cape'.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
We completed this paddle in just over four hours.

Launch off the beach at Senposhi port and head southeast along the coast towards the cape. After about 3km, you'll arrive at an old

deserted bay with a few old fishing cabins. Just southeast of the bay is a small stream cascading into the sea. From there, it's another 3km to the cape, passing several small waterfalls along the way. There are small protected beaches along the way suitable for landing on for a break.

To round the cape, paddlers will need to find a 100m-wide clear channel of less rowdy water, flanked by reef breaks to the east and shore breaks to the west. This channel is usually easy to see. Once on the Pacific side of the cape, paddlers will be fully exposed to the heavy Pacific swell that characterises eastern Hokkaido's shoreline. So long as it's not too windy, this swell is usually perfectly manageable.

It's possible to paddle to Kushiro along this coast from Cape Shirepa, a distance of around 40km. For this daytrip, however, paddling about 1km west from the cape, past Hokake-iwa Shrine to the first main headland and back should suffice for getting a feel of the dramatic coastline around here. Return the way you came.

TRANSPORT
By car | There is plenty of parking at the gravel beach on the outside of Senposhi port. Note that this area is used mainly by oyster and

fishing operation staff, so do try to park in a way that doesn't block access.
Public transport | This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES
The approach to the cape along the protected Akkeshi Bay southwestern coast is relatively easy. Beyond the cape on the Pacific Ocean, however, paddlers will be very exposed to the open ocean. Carefully check the weather before setting off, and make conservative decisions when deciding to round the cape or not.

ONSEN NEARBY
Akkeshi has a real lack of onsen in the immediate area. The only public bath in the town is Kiraku-yu 喜楽湯 (490yen). While you might

be tempted to shun the place because it is not a natural hot spring, we would still highly recommend visiting at least once. It's one of the few very traditional sento 銭湯 public baths in Hokkaido, so it's very worthwhile to visit. If you're heading further east anyway though, we would recommend Kiritappu Hotspring Yuyu 霧多布温泉ゆうゆ (500yen). This large facility has a restaurant, a large relaxation area, indoor/outdoor pools, and sauna (cold plunge pool included). Kiritappu is about 1hr drive east of Cape Shirepa. If you're heading west to Kushiro, we recommend the large Taiki-yu Onsen Harutori Baths 大喜湯 春採店 in the east of the city (490yen). They have a large indoor bathing area, sauna, cold plunge pool, and an outdoor pool. ■



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://hokkw.jp/shirepa>

Disclaimer

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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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.

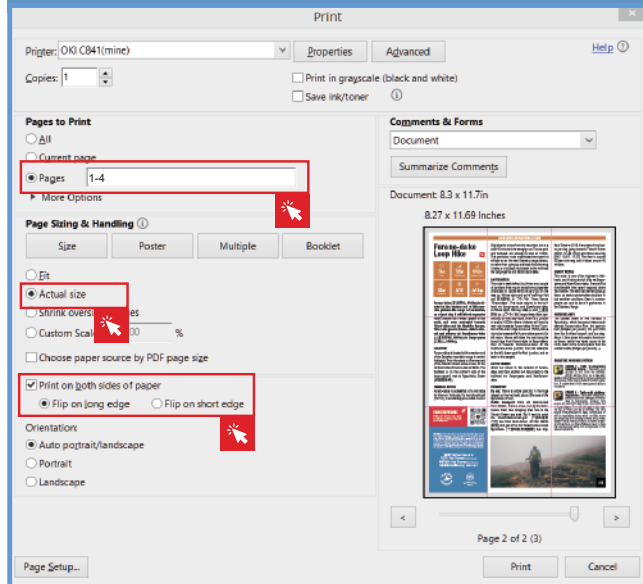
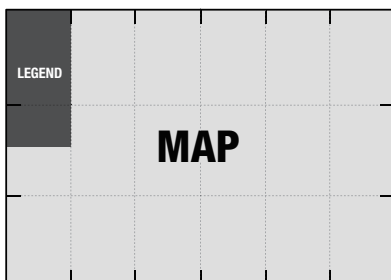


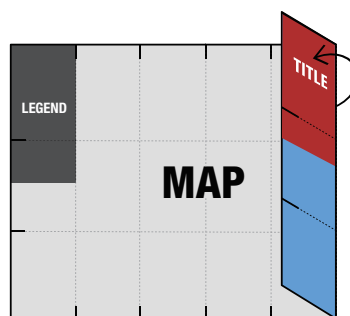
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

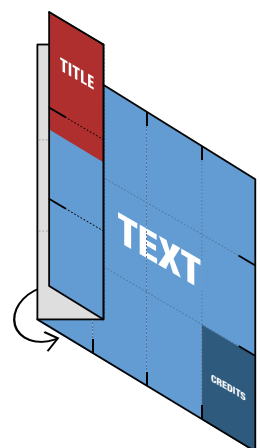
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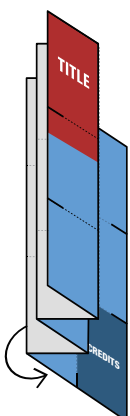
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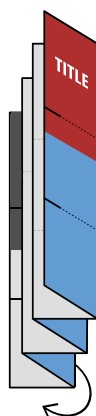
3



4



5



6



7

