



Daikoku Island


大黒島   Paddling Map   1:25000






5.5hrs

Time




17km

Distance




8/10

Difficulty




4/5

Remoteness



3/5

Water clarity



Jun-Sep

Best season

Daikoku-jima 大黒島 is a 2km by 0.6km uninhabited island off the coast of Akkeshi, in eastern Hokkaido. About 2km off the Pacific Ocean coast, this island gets buffeted by large Pacific swells, but is a worthy challenge in the right conditions. It's accessed via the small intermediary Ko-jima 小島, situated about halfway between the mainland and Daikoku-jima. While visitors require a permit to land on the island, it nonetheless offers an extraordinarily rugged coast that can be enjoyed from the water. Expect plenty of seals, the odd sea otter, and lots of sea birds.



**LOCATION**  
Daikoku-jima lies 2km off the Pacific Ocean coast near Akkeshi in eastern Hokkaido.

**PUT-IN LOCATION**  
Access to the coast around Akkeshi is somewhat limited – the coast is lined with konbu kelp drying fields and private beaches used by small-scale fishing operations. The closest put-in for Daikoku-jima, arguably, is a small beach about 2km southeast of Cape Aikappu. The narrow road down to the beach is essentially private, however, so it's really important that paddlers seek to speak to locals in the area to let them know your intentions.

When we visited, there was a friendly kelp harvester in his shed halfway down the road – we knocked on his door and asked if it was OK to park down the road, and he was more concerned that his truck might be in the way. That said, be very aware of where you're parking, and park so you're not blocking access to the road or beach. If at all possible, avoid paddling before 9am, as kelp harvesters and fishers are usually active the most in early morning – the road down to the beach will be most busy during these times.

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

**GENERAL NOTES**  
Daikoku-jima covers an area of 1.08km2, and it's highest point is 105m. Almost 47 people used to live on the island (in the 1960's), and there was even an elementary school there, but since 1970, the island has been uninhabited. The island is an important sea bird haven, and as such has been a specially protected area since 1972 – a permit is required to land on the island. It's home to birds such as the Slaty-backed gull, short-tailed albatross,



rhinoceros auklet, and is home to millions of Leach's storm-petrels. In very rare cases, tufted puffins and spectacles Guillemots have also been observed on the island. Along the coast can be seen harbor seals and spotted seals, as well as otters in rare instances. At the north-western end of the island are also relics from WWII – there are berthing bays carved into the cliffs for Japan navy special attack boats (berthing bays are now disused).

**Landing on the island:** Daikou-jima is designated as a specially protected natural habitat and therefore is off-limits to the general public – landing on the island requires a permit.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
Allow plenty of time for this paddle, just in case you have to wait out misty weather. Also, if you're lucky enough to have calm conditions on the eastern coast of Daikoku-jima, you'll want plenty of time to explore the various inlets and rocks.

Start from the small beach and paddle southwards around Aininkappu-misaki アイニンカ ヅ岬. You should be able to Daikoku-jima to the south-southeast as soon as you round Aininkappu-misaki. For the first 3km or so, paddle along the shoreline past Yukafuchi fishing port 床淵漁港 until you're more or less directly due north of Ko-jima 小島. This will ensure

EASTERN HOKKAIDO

the shortest distance across open water to the smaller island. It's just a shade over 1km from the mainland to Ko-jima island. Ko-jima Island is home to several fishing huts, and it's easy to land on the island's western side.

From Ko-jima, it's another 1km or so to Daikok-jima. This crossing is relatively protected from the Pacific Ocean swells coming from the southeast, as the sea-bed between Ko-jima and Daikoku-jima is quite shallow – it doesn't get much deeper than 5m. That said, unless you're specifically seeking out some reef-break surfing opportunities, it's best to keep to the western side of the crossing, as the eastern side often has breaking waves.

A full circumnavigation of Daikoku-jima is about 6km. The island's eastern side will invariably be lively, with heavy Pacific swells hitting the steep cliffs with force. Reflective chop can be quite significant, so it's a rare day indeed that paddlers can enjoy a close-to-shore inspection of the eastern shoreline. Once around the island's southern tip, paddlers will be protected from swell. There are seals on both sides of the island, so if the eastern side is looking too lively (or too foggy), a simple out-and-back along the western side is still very well worth the paddle.

Return the way you came, back to the main-

land.

**TRANSPORT**  
**By car** | From central Akkeshi, you'll head south across the mouth of Lake Akkeshi, on Route 123 towards Hamanaka. The put-inn is at a small beach near Aininkappu Cape, accessed via a narrow one-lane, steep private road. There's only room for perhaps two vehicles to park at the end of the road, without blocking access to the beach for kelp-harvesters – they launch their skiffs from the beach. Kelp harvesters are most active before 9am, so we recommend avoiding accessing the beach earlier in the day than that. Regardless, do make sure to find someone in the area to ask if it's OK for you to park down the road.  
**Public transport** | This route is not accessible by public transport.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
This location is arguably one of Hokkaido's most exposed paddling locations. Paddlers will have to manage heavy Pacific swells, reflective chop, reef-breaks, remote shorelines far from the mainland, and to top it all off, the very real risk of dense, impenetrable fog. It is the latter that arguably contributes most to the difficulty rating on this paddle. Very localized



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

fog in this area is often not forecast on the likes of Windy.com, and it can come and go very quickly at any time of the day. Even with a clear forecast, we strongly recommend paddlers make use of GPS navigation apps, have them handy, and have them on tracking mode so they can safely navigate back the way they came if necessary.

**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 40 mins drive east of Daikoku Island. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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.

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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.



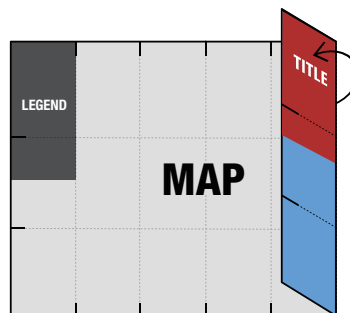
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

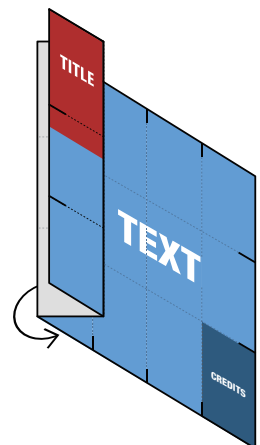
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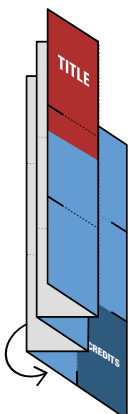
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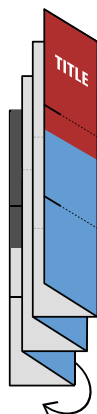
3



4



5



6



7

