



Benten-jima

Kamoenai Coast

弁天島

Paddling Map

1:25000





3hrs

Time



8km

Distance



4/10

Difficulty



2/5

Remoteness



5/5

Water clarity



Jun-Sep

Best season

Benten-jima Island 弁天島 is a pleasant rocky island, sitting only about five meters from the coast on the south-western side of Shakotan Peninsula in southwestern Hokkaido. It's the main feature of the Sakazuki swimming beach 盃海水浴場, which is a perfect place to launch sea kayaks or SUPs. Paddling around the island takes about ten minutes, but the coast north of the island is well worth a leisurely out-and-back paddle. There are several secluded coves and shallow reefs, and the main road is always high above the coast, so there's a good feeling of being away from it all, while



always having escape options. For the rock-hopping sea kayaker, there are some great spots worth paddling to and spending a few hours playing.

LOCATION

We've called this short section of coast the 'Kamoenai Coast', but Benten-jima itself is in Tomari Village, just north of Iwanai Town near Niseko in southwest Hokkaido. This section of coast is at the southern-most end of the Shakotan Peninsula.

PUT-IN LOCATION

The put-in is at the Sakazuki swimming 'beach' 盃海水浴場, in the small settlement of Sakazuki 盃. It's a curious little cove, with Benten-jima Island just off the beach, a footbridge to the island, and a dedicated sea-swimming pool on the island too. There's a large car park in front of the shoreline, which costs 500yen per day to park. It's possible to pitch a tent on the concrete embankment to sleep overnight. Adjacent to the embankment is a public toilet. Wide concrete steps lead down to the shore, making launching kayaks very easy. We put 'beach' in parentheses because there is no sandy beach. The concrete steps lead straight into the water.

TAKE-OUT LOCATION

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

GENERAL NOTES

Benten-jima and Sakazuki swimming beach are popular among families in the area. The cove is nicely protected from swells. It's a great place for young kids to enjoy the sea-side safely. The main National Highway 229 runs the entire length of the coast, but it's high enough off the coast not to bother paddlers. High overpasses send traffic high up and over coves along the way, so paddlers will rarely



hear traffic noise. Here and there are passage-ways carved into the reef-like intertidal zones, making for a fun labyrinth for the paddler to explore.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

Launch from the Sakazuki swimming beach, and do a loop of Benten-jima first, before heading north for about 4km to Kamoenai Bay.

There are secluded coves along the way to paddle into. Once at Kamoenai Bay, head back the way you came.

TRANSPORT

By car | There is plenty of parking next to the concrete steps down to the seaside. Parking costs 500yen per vehicle per day.
Public transport | There's a public bus running from Iwanai Bus Terminal 岩内バスターミナル to Moiwa Bus Stop 茂岩バス停, right next to the beach parking area. Google Maps has good timetabling information.

SAFETY NOTES

This section of coast is exposed to the Japan Sea, so it will be affected by westerly weather. Escape options are relatively frequent, however, so if conditions deteriorate, paddlers will be able to access the main highway from a couple of the coves along the way. Paddlers will be unable to access the coast between coves due to high cliffs.

ONSEN NEARBY

Sakazuki Onsen Chokaso 盃温泉ホテル 潮香荘 (600yen) is a 2-minute drive (950m) south of Sakazuki Beach, and has great views across the sea from the outdoor baths. For an onsen even closer to the beach, consider the old Moiwa Onsen 茂岩温泉 (500yen), just a couple minutes' walk from the beach. ■



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/kamobenten>



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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hokkaidowilds.org 2023/10/30

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Supported by



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.

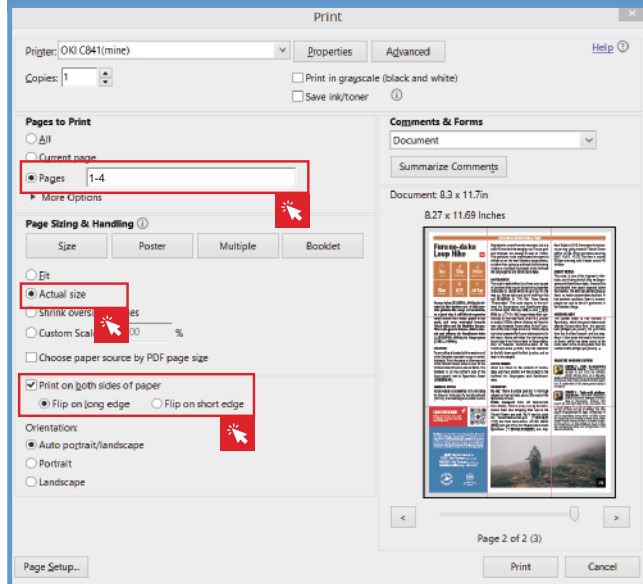
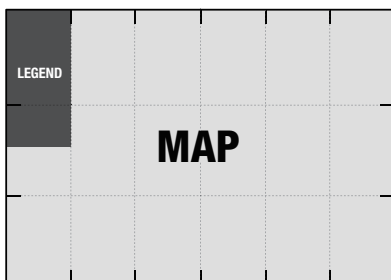


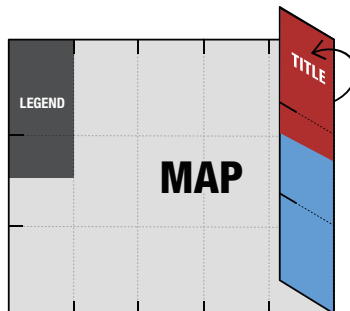
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

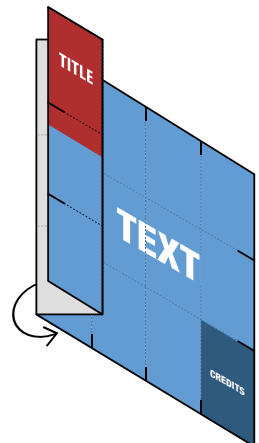
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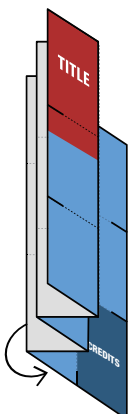
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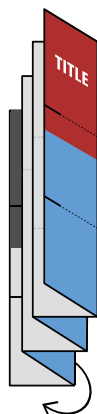
3



4



5



6



7

