




Kenbokki Island

嶮暮帰島 Paddling Map 1:25000







3hrs
Time




10km
Distance




5/10
Difficulty



3/5
Remoteness



3/5
Water clarity



Jan-Oct
Best season

Kenbokki Island 嶮暮帰島 is an uninhabited, specially-protected island just off the Pacific Ocean coast in eastern Hokkaido, close to the small fishing village of Hamanaka 浜中. Access to the island requires a registered guide to be present, but kayakers are able to enjoy the island’s high coastal cliffs, accessed by a short 1km paddle from the mainland. In winter and early spring, spring water seeping from the cliffs results in impressive ice waterfalls along the entire northern shoreline. This is a relatively safe paddling location, with good protection from southerly and westerly conditions.

LOCATION
Hamanaka is a small town on the Pacific Ocean coast in eastern Hokkaido, just east of Akkeshi City. The area is home to a number of beautiful windswept capes and islands – namely Cape Kiritappu 霧多布岬 and Kenbokki Island 嶮暮帰島. This area is about a five hour drive (371km) east of Sapporo City.

PUT-IN LOCATION
The most convenient and protected place to put in is at the southwestern end of Biwasewan Bay 琵琶瀬湾, just east of the small Biwase settlement. There’s a small fine gravel beach, where paddlers can choose to set off on the north or south side of the Kenbokki Island Spit, depending on the direction of conditions on the day. Given the great protection the spit gives from northerly and southerly conditions, there will usually be some sort of protection available from the put in beach.

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

GENERAL NOTES
According to Masao Ashida, owner and lead guide at Land’s Edge tours in Hamanaka, his favourite season for sea kayaking near Kenbokki Island is winter. “On a calm, crisp day, the huge walls of ice on the cliffs are really spectacular,” he explained when we visited him. On our first kayaking trip to the area, we were just at the tail-end of winter, so we only saw a small glimpse of the ice-falls’ former winter glory, but could see how in winter, the area would be very impressive. Summer in the area is also very beautiful, however, with plenty of sea mammals (otters and seals) and sea birds. The whole inner section of Biwase Bay is beautifully protected from the otherwise large Pacific Ocean swells that pummel the rest of the pacific coast in eastern Hokkaido, so it’s a

very accessible spot to go paddling, even for relative beginners.

Landing on Kenbokki Island: Kenbokki Island is a specially protected uninhabited island, and as such, visitors who want to land and walk on the island need to do so accompanied by a registered guide (such as Ashida-san).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
This is a perfect location for taking your time, checking out the coastal areas of Kenbokki Island. We’d suggest a leisurely 3 hours in total.
From the beach at Biwase, paddle along the prominent spit connecting the mainland and Kenbokki Island until you arrive at the island – a distance of about 950m. The spit is intertidal – at high tide it is only just covered, and at low tide, it transforms into a prominent gravel bar. From where the spit attaches to the island, it’s a 1.5km paddle east along the protected northern shoreline to the eastern end of the island. In winter and spring, this shoreline has impressive ice waterfalls along the low cliffs.

From the eastern most point of the island, either paddle around the very exposed southern side of the island, or return the way you came, for a nice short paddle. If you’d like to extend the paddle, we thoroughly recommend paddling 1km north-northeast to Kojima Island

, and then another 500m to Azechi Cape アゼチの岬. Take care on the western tip of Kojima Island, as the sea bed rises somewhat, creating large breaking waves if the Pacific swell is running high.

On the return from Azechi Cape, you’ll have a great view of the cliffs and precipices of the northern side of Kenbokki Island – it’s all very photogenic.

TRANSPORT
By car | There is ample parking at the put-in, on the gravel beach in Biwase. Make sure not to block access to the gravel ramp over the concrete wall, as this beach is frequently used by local kelp harvesters.
Public transport | A local bus runs from Chanai JR train station 茶内駅 to central Hamanaka. From central Hamanaka, there’s very local ‘on demand’ bus that runs from central Hamanaka to the Biwase settlement, but only if reserved in advance. Unfortunately, these bus routes are not yet in Google Maps’ database, neither are they registered with Japan’s domestic transport mapping prowess Navitime. For those who can make sense of the Japanese (and handle the pre-booking in Japanese on the phone), here are the details. Given the limited time slots even for pre-booking, most paddlers may be better served by catching a taxi. Kiritappu-Chuo Hire 霧多布中央ハイヤー is

located in central Hamanaka here. Call them on 0153-62-3141 to book (they’re unlikely to speak English). From Chanai JR Station to the put-in is about 12km. In a taxi, that would likely cost around 4,500-5,000yen one-way.

SAFETY NOTES
This is a relatively protected area for sea kayaking, with protection from open ocean swells and conditions on almost all sides. That said, there is some fetch across Biwase Bay, so strong northeasterly winds will quickly whip up waves and whitecaps. Once at the island, there are very few places to escape to the mainland, so do check the weather forecast


closely before setting off. If planning to paddle around the southern side of the island, be prepared for some very large Pacific swells, and understand that the outer coast is exposed to the open ocean.

ONSEN NEARBY
On the Kiritappu Peninsula (technically an island) is the fantastic Kiritappu Hot Spring Yuyu 霧多布温泉ゆうゆ (500yen). There’s a great view from the outdoor baths, an attached restaurant, and large relaxation area. It’s one of our favourite onsen in Hokkaido. ■

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/kenbokkis>



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.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson


hokkaidowilds.org 2023/10/04


MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

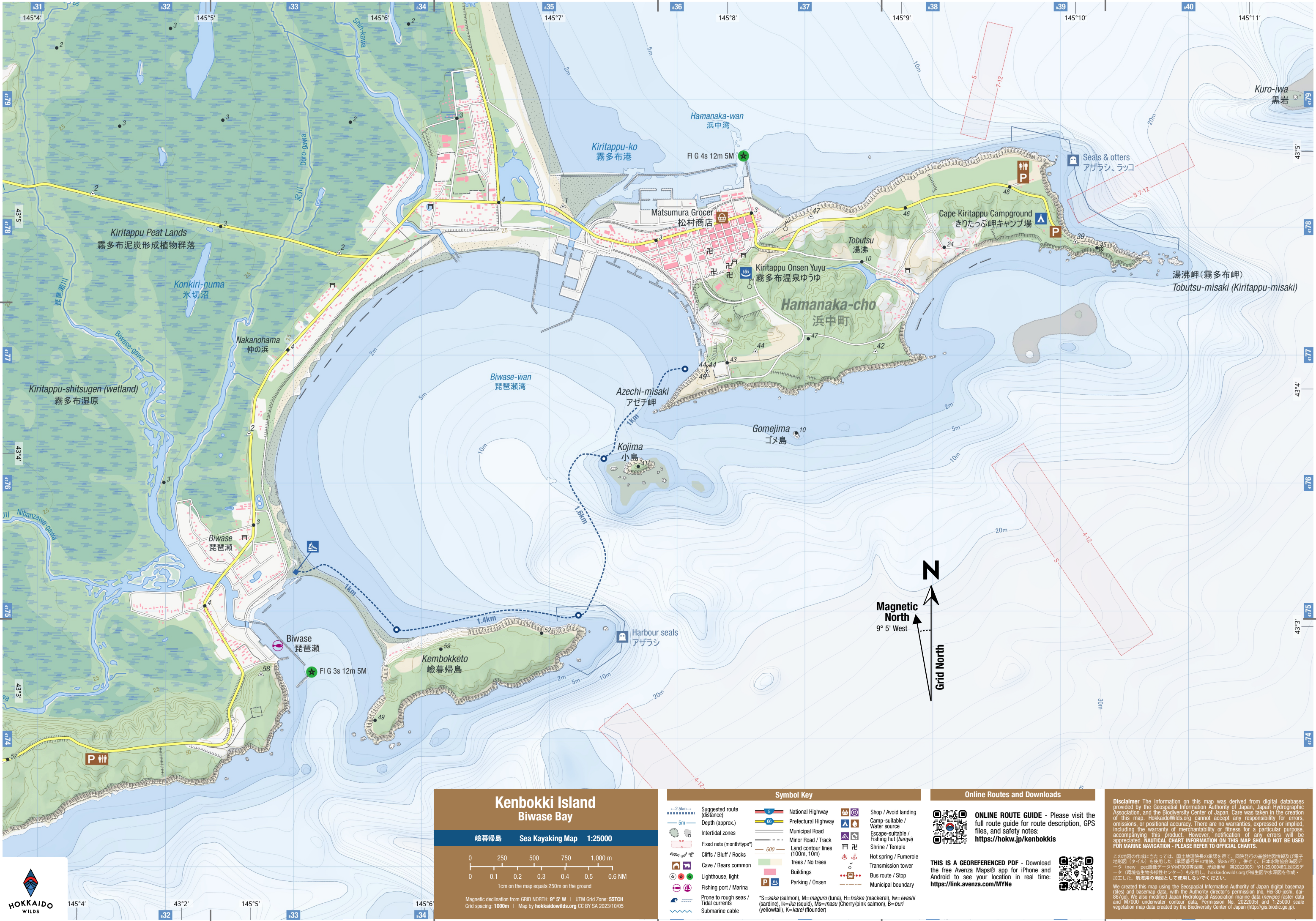
Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF (pages 1 to 1) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0). Please attribute <author-name> (hokkaidowilds.org), and let us know so we can link to your work. E.g., "Photo by Rick Siddie (hokkaidowilds.org)"

HOKKAIDO
WILDS

Supported by

Palm

Aqua
Bound



Kenbokki Island Biwase Bay

嶮暮帰島 Sea Kayaking Map 1:25000

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 NM

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9° 5' W | UTM Grid Zone: 55TCH
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/10/05

Symbol Key

*S=sake (salmon), M=maguro (tuna), H=hokke (mackerel), lw=iwashi (sardine), Ik=ika (squid), Ms=masu (Cherry/pink salmon), B=buri (yellowtail), K=karei (flounder)

Online Routes and Downloads

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS files, and safety notes:
<https://hokw.jp/kenbokkis>

THIS IS A GEOREFERENCED PDF - Download the free Avenza Maps® app for iPhone and Android to see your location in real time:
<https://link.avenza.com/MYNe>

Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, Japan Hydrographic 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.**

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の基礎地図情報及び電子地形図（タイル）を使用した（承認番号平30情使、第867号）、併せて、日本水産協会海図データ（new pec画像データやM7000等海図、承認番号 第2022005）や1/25,000地形図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが種生図や水深図を作成・加工した、航海用の地図として使用しないでください。

We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. Hei-30-joshi, da-867/g). We also modified Japan Hydrological Association marine data (newpec raster data and M7000 underwater contour data, Permission No. 2022005) and 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).

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.



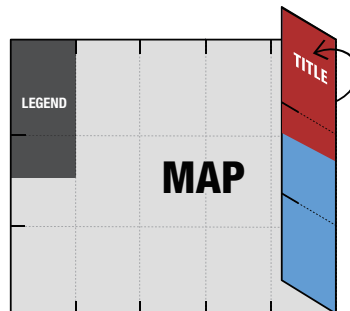
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

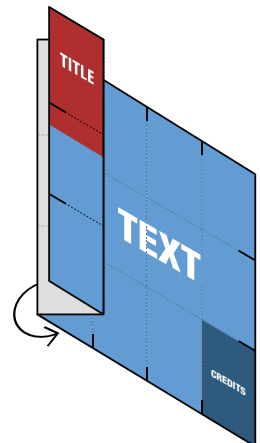
1



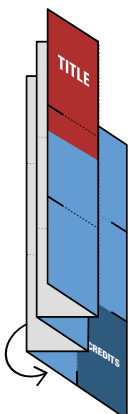
2



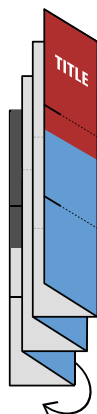
3



4



5



6



7

