


Fukuyama to Tomiuchi


Mukawa River

鵜川 (福山〜富内)

Paddling Map


1:25000






5hrs

Time




5.5

Gradient (mpk)




Class III

Difficulty




17km

Distance



4/5

Water clarity



Jun-Oct

Best season

The Mukawa River 鵜川 is one of Hokkaido's premiere whitewater rivers, with a 40km+ middle section consisting of regular CIII rapids, very remote access, and numerous boulder gardens. This section from Fukuyama 福山 to Tomiuchi 富内 is the lower-most section of the rowdy part of the Mukawa, but does not let up in terms of descent. Expect house-sized boulders,

a very real feeling of remoteness, and frequent long rapids. Supremely packraftable, and a great challenge for experienced open-deck canoeists.

LOCATION
The Mukawa River is a major waterway flowing from deep in the northern Hidaka Range in western-central Hokkaido, southwards out to the Pacific Ocean east of Tomakomai on Hokkaido's southern coast. This section of the river flows directly south from a remote section of National Highway 274, about 10km east of the small settlement of Hobetsu.

Put-in: The put-in for this section of the Mukawa is on river-right under Fukuyama-ohashi Bridge 福山大橋. There's a rough gravel road down to the gravel riverbed with room to turn around under the bridge.

Take-out: The lower-most take-out location is about 100m downstream from Tomiuchi-bashi Bridge 富内橋, just south of the Tomiuchi settlement. This lower take-out does involve more slow-moving water paddling, however. If you'd prefer to only paddle the best stuff, without the last 4km or so of slower paddling, then it's also possible to take out 4km or so upstream river-right. There's a tiny space off the side of Route 610 where you could park one vehicle. Note that access to the riverside may be overgrown, so we suggest scouting this take-out well before committing to it.

GENERAL NOTES
The 40km or so stretch of the Mukawa River from Shimukappu Village to Tomiuchi settlement is, without a doubt, one of Hokkaido's most captivating sections of whitewater river. Above Shimukappu, the river is a gentle meander along a high plateau. Below Tomiuchi, the river saunters across the plains to the Pacific Ocean. In between, the river transforms into a constricted, boulder-strewn, remote whitewater playground. Riversides are untouched, and cliffs tower over the paddler below. Mercifully, it's also largely free of concrete monstrosities that otherwise plague many other Hokkaido rivers.

This 17km stretch of whitewater between Fukuyama and Tomiuchi is essentially the last of the whitewater on the Mukawa. Beyond this section, there's just under 50km of C I to C II river until the river hits the Pacific Ocean. Despite being the last of the whitewater, the gradient doesn't let up much. The rapids are long and relatively steep, but still only top out at around CIII in normal water flows. Between rapids are relaxed sections of river to catch your breath.

Difficulty on this section of the Mukawa will

depend greatly on water levels. In height-of-summer low water flows, you'll be doing more rock-dodging than anything else. The river rises fast with rain however, and at elevated levels, open-deck canoeists will have their hands full. In a packraft in most levels, it's just a matter of pointing your raft downstream and enjoying the ride. For experienced kayakers in hard-shell kayaks, the rapids will be suitably fun, with the main attraction being the overall remoteness of the paddle which is a rarity in Japan.

Rapids: On the map, we've marked some of the more significant rapids in this section of river. These are not the only rapids, however, and it's fair to say the river changes fairly regularly with each seasonal flood. Take our rapids markings with a grain of salt and make sure to do your own scouting.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
In a double duckie with two strong paddlers, we've smashed out this section in just under three hours, including a 15-minute walk around the derelict hydro power station. With a larger group with less experienced paddlers, or if you're paddling an open-deck canoe where more scouting is required, we'd recommend allowing around at least five hours.

From the Fukuyama-bashi Bridge 福山橋, you've got about 1.5km of swifts and relaxing moving water before the rapids start in earnest. After that, rapids randing from CII to CIII come every 500m or so. Most are relatively straightforward, but can have large rocks in the middle of them, sometimes only just concealed in the whitewater. If you're paddling an open-deck canoe, there may be frequent scouting missions required. Scouting is easy

HIDAKA RANGE
though, as there's usually a gravel beach to one side of the river.

The first significant rapids come at just under 7km from the put-in. A set of pushy rapids about 150m long will keep paddlers on their toes. Another 1km downstream you'll see an old covered roadway slowly being consumed by the eroding cliffs above. Once again there's a long (300m+) set of rapids, but these are generally suited to pointing downstream and paddling hard.

At the 8.3km mark, there's an old weir to contend with. At lower river levels, this can be run on river-right, through the gate. At higher levels, however, a strong backwash can appear. Also note on the left of the opening is jagged steel plate. We'd generally recommend scouting the opening before running it. Another 1km downstream from the old weir is what some paddlers refer to as the Crux Rapids. The river flows left to right over a messy, rocky ledge here. This could be very tricky in an open-deck canoe at lower water levels. Just after this is a significant (but fun) boulder garden, which could be tricky in higher water levels.

At 10km is the derelict Fukuyama Hydroelectric Power Station. This old building is worth stopping at to take a look around if you have time. It's a bit of a scramble from the river up to the building.

We haven't marked any rapids beyond the old power station, but they certainly do exist. Pray for higher rather than lower water, as they're most certainly easier when the water is higher, as the large rocks will be submerged. The final 3km or so to the take-out at Tomiuchi is very relaxed. The rapids are over and it's now a gentle meander to the take-out about 100m downstream of the Tomiuchi Bridge on river right.

TRANSPORT
By car: If there's one thing that will put most paddlers off this section of river, it's the shuttle. For this one 17km stretch of river, the shuttle is a circuitous 35km. The Route 610 marked on the map does not connect from Fukuyama to Tomiuchi. As for parking, there is room for parking at the put-in and take-out – access

RIVER DETAILS

This route is on Mukawa River (鵜川), or Muk-up in the Ainu indigenous language. The river is a Class A (一級河川) river, 135km in total length. This section of the river is between 3m and 50m wide. The gradient for this section of river is 5.5 mpk (29.04 FPM).

the riverside at the put-in via a short gravel double-track. There's plenty of room to park under the bridge. Parking at the take-out is more limited – two cars at a push could park in the turn-around area at the end of the gravel road on the raised stopbank. If more parking is required, consider parking nearby at the old train station in the Tomiuchi settlement.

Public transport: There is no public transport to this route.

SAFETY NOTES
The main concern on this section of the Mukawa is difficulty of access to the river. Route 610 along the river is more or less destroyed and is impassible by vehicle. Paddlers should be self-reliant. There is very little cellular reception on the river – take an alternative form of

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

communications such as a satellite messenger (SPOT or Garmin inReach). Note that the Mukawa River is known for rising quickly after heavy rain.

ONSEN NEARBY
If your post-paddle driving takes you back towards Sapporo City, then we recommend dropping in to the Jukai Onsen Hakua 樹海温泉はくあ (520yen) in Hobetsu Village on Route 274 (about 10km west of the take-out). They have lovely outdoor baths, and there's a post-office attached, curiously. If you're headed back to Shimukappu, then we'd recommend Yunosawa Mori-no-shiki Onsen 湯の沢森の四季温泉 (550yen). There's no outdoor baths, but the attached restaurant has great food at a reasonable price. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <https://bit.ly/muktom>



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


MAP, TEXT | Rob Thomson

PHOTOS | Rob Thomson, Timbah Bell, Koharu Fujita


hokkaidowilds.org 2023/11/13

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



Palm



Aqua Bound

Supported by

Symbol Key

- 2.5km

Route (distance)

National Highway

Prefectural Highway

Municipal Road

Minor Road / Track

Bus route / Stop

Municipal boundary

Land contour lines (100m, 10m)

Trees / No trees

Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks
- Put-in/Take-out

Rapids / Dam/Weir/Waterfall

Portage required/ Bridge

Parking / Orsen

Shop / Public toilet

Campground / Camp-site (no facilities)

Buildings

Shrine / Temple

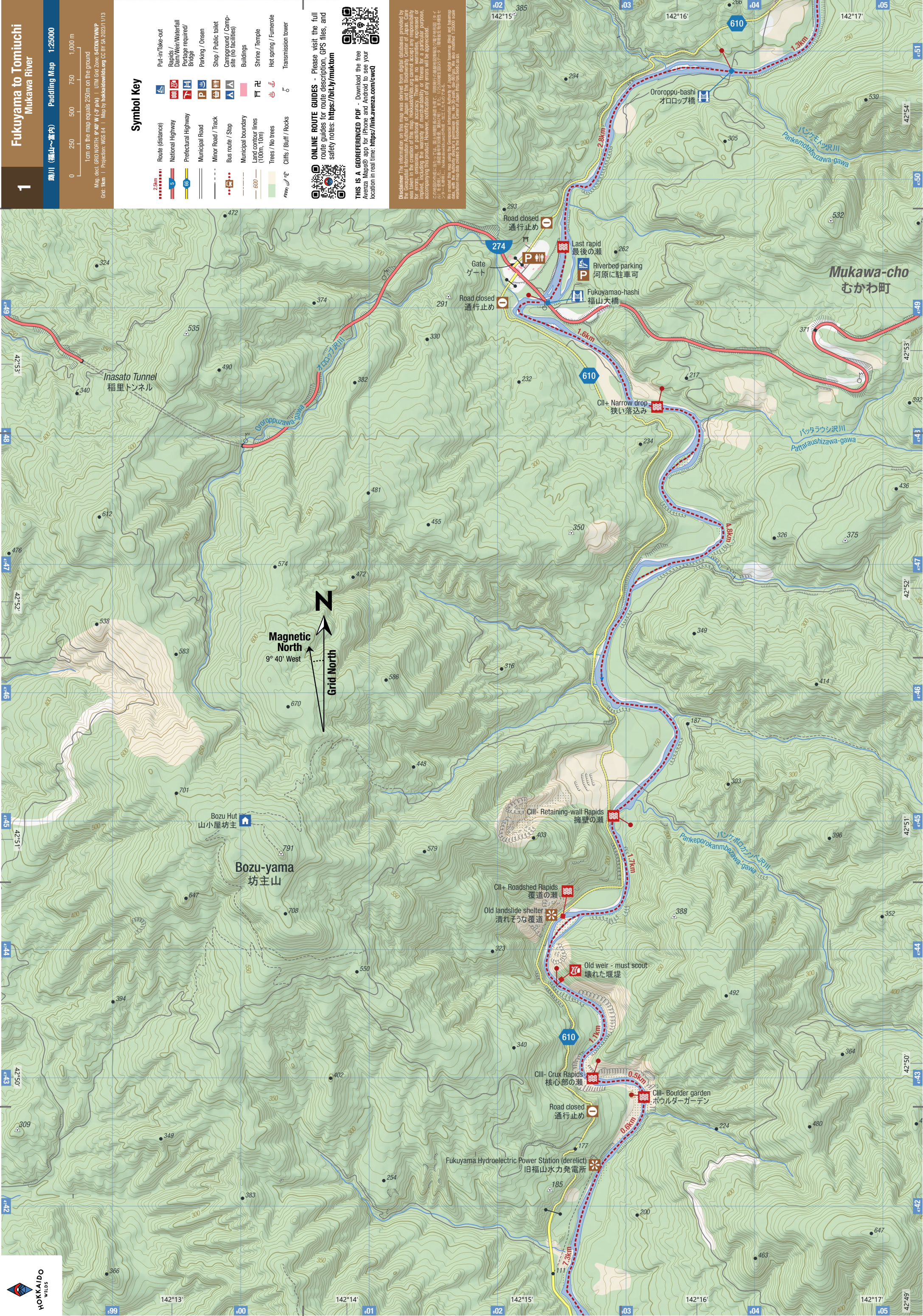
Hot spring / Fumerole

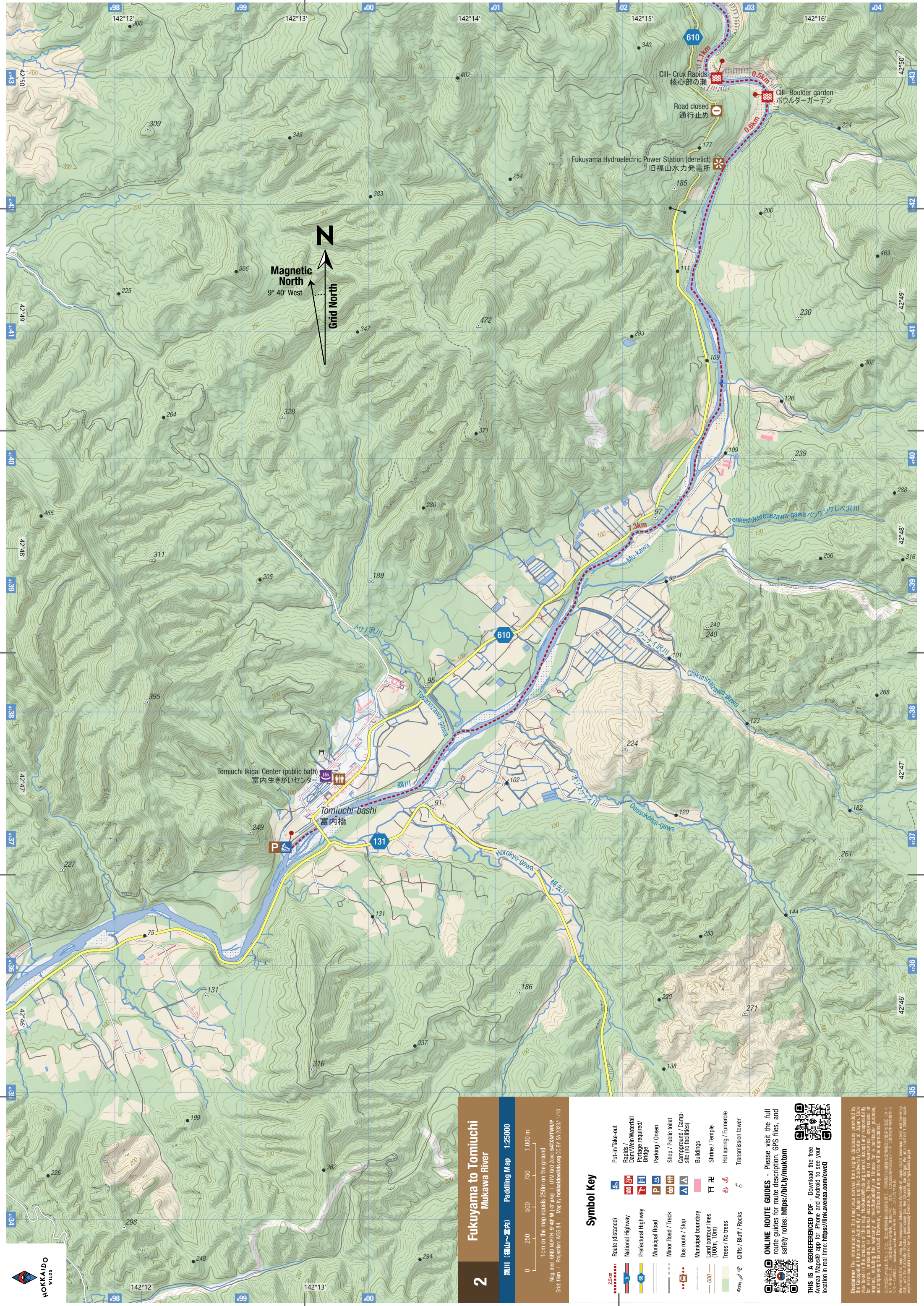
Transmission tower

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDES - Please visit the full route guides for route description, GPS files, and safety notes: <https://bit.ly/muktom>

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/cwqd>

Disclaimer: The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the data, but the map is not a warranty of accuracy or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated. この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地院からの提供データ、および他の関係者からの提供データに基づいて作成された。地図の精度は十分に確保されているが、必ずしも完全なものである。また、この地図は、特定の目的のために使用されることを意図したものではない。この地図の精度や内容について、お問い合わせは、国土地院または関係者にお願いします。 We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital base map and the Biodiversity Center of Japan digital base map. The map is not a warranty of accuracy or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this product. However, notification of any errors will be appreciated. この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地院からの提供データ、および他の関係者からの提供データに基づいて作成された。地図の精度は十分に確保されているが、必ずしも完全なものである。また、この地図は、特定の目的のために使用されることを意図したものではない。この地図の精度や内容について、お問い合わせは、国土地院または関係者にお願いします。







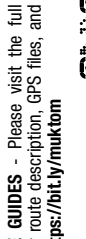
Fukuyama to Tomiuchi
Mukawa River

Paddling Map 1:25000

3' p/a) | UTM Grid Zone: 54TXN/TWN/P
 op by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/11/13

Symbol Key

	Put-in/Take-out
	Rapids / Dam/Weir/Material
	Portage required/ Bridge
	Parking / Onsen
	Shop / Public toilet
	Campground / Camp- site (no facilities)
	Buildings
	Shrine / Temple
	Hot spring / Fumerole
	Transmission tower



GUIDES - Please visit the full route description, GPS files, and <https://bit.ly/muktom>



F - Download the free
and Android to see your
venza.com/cwcQ

was derived from digital databases provided by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, the National Center of Japan, Carlsberg, and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Carlsberg and the Biodiversity Center of Japan do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the data. We do not warrant the accuracy. There are no warranties, expressed or implied, and no responsibility for any inaccuracy, completeness, timeliness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The inclusion of any errors will be appreciated.

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.



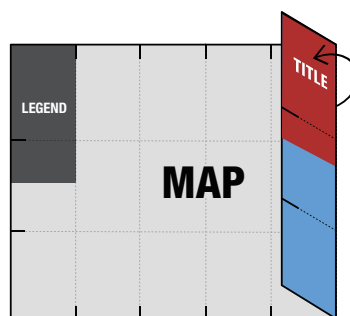
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

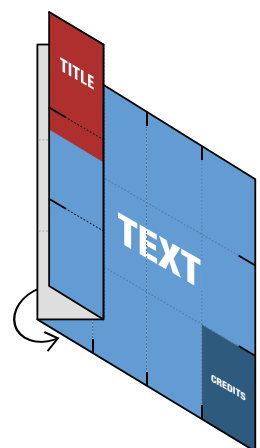
1



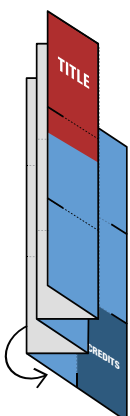
2



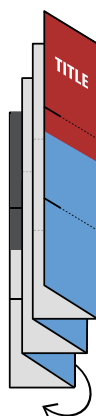
3



4



5



6



7

