




Soshubetsu-dake

双珠別岳 Ski Touring Map 1:25000







3hrs
Time




570m
Total Climb




1383m
Highest point



11km
Distance



5/10
Difficulty



Jan-Mar
Best season

Soshubetsu-dake 双珠別岳 (1383m) is an easily-attained peak in the Nissho Pass 日勝峠 (1022m) area of the northern Hidaka Range. Because the route for the southern slopes starts from National Highway 274 near the Nissho Pass, Soshubetsu-dake’s inspiring old-growth Hokkaido forest is some of the most accessible forest in the Hidaka Range. Beyond the treeline, there is a gorgeously mellow treeless slope which would be perfect for beginner backcountry skiers to get accustomed to skiing Hokkaido’s classic powder snow. Soshubetsu-dake’s northeastern aspects are home to Tomamu Resort’s cat-skiing operation.

LOCATION
Soshubetsu-dake is situated in the far northern reaches of the Hidaka Range

in southern central Hokkaido. It is connected to the greater Nissho Pass area – the main national highway linking Obihiro City and the Tokachi Plains to southwestern Hokkaido. The watershed to the west of peak flows into the Soshubetsu River 双珠別川, which flows through the small mountain town of Shimukappu. This route up to Soshubetsu-dake peak starts south of the peak, from the Chisaka Parking Area 千栄パーキングエリア on Route 274 (the Nissho Pass road).

GENERAL NOTES
With a few much more popular and worthy backcountry routes in the area (Mumei-ho and Nissho Peak), this lovely ski-tour-oriented peak doesn’t get much traffic in comparison. It is, comparatively, a mainstay for snowshoers and winter hikers. It’s not for want of ski-worthiness, however. The mellow alpine slopes at the upper portion of this Soshubetsu-dake route are gorgeous, and the views from the summit ridge are fantastic. If you’re looking for mellow, easy-access, untracked skiing in the Nissho Pass area, this peak will deliver.

Cat skiing: Tomamu Resort runs a cat skiing operation in the Ruomansorapuchi River catchment on the northeast side of the Soshubetsu-dake peak. The cat road goes all the way to the very top of the peak, so do watch out for heavy machinery when at the peak, and keep off cat-access roads. The cat staff are lovely. As far as we know, no land is leased by Tomamu for their cat-skiing

operation besides the cat-access roads (we approached Tomamu Resort for comment on leased area but received no reply). If skiing the northeast side of Soshubetu-dake peak, be nice and don’t ski where catskiing groups are skiing.

Peak naming: Soshubetsu-dake is not named on official Japan government topomaps. We’re not aware of who named the peak, but it is indeed referred to within the mountaineering community as Soshubetsu-dake. There’s another Soshubetsu-dake in the area too (1347m).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
The timing of three hours applies to consolidated-snow spring conditions. Add on a little more if doing this route in deep mid-winter conditions.

This route is not marked. From the large plowed Chisaka Parking area, cross on foot to the northern side of the busy Route 274. This is a main arterial route for heavy transport across the Hidaka Range, so watch out for trucks and other traffic. Skin due northwest for about 100m through the forest until you meet up with the forestry road. Follow the road uphill for about 3km to around 1050m before heading due north through the forest to the summit ridge.

The treeline is at around 1200m, and beyond that, the route traverses a wide open mellow treeless slope stretching to the east and west. Continue uphill to the northeast until you arrive at the 1383m point – the summit of Soshubetsu-dake. There will likely be a cat-track at the summit – take care in low visibility conditions, as there is quite a drop in places down to the track.

For the descent, follow your skintrack back southwest along the ridge, and enjoy some blissful turns in the short alpine section before returning to the forest. Take care on the descent, as there are many small gullies and spurs not marked on the map. Once back at the forestry road, enjoy the mellow gradient to get your free ride back to the highway via your uptrack.

TRANSPORT
By car: This route is accessed via the main National Highway 274 (Nissho Pass) running between the Tokachi Plains and southwestern Hokkaido. At the trailhead, there is plenty of parking in the large plowed Chisaka Parking Area.
Public transport: This route is not accessible by public transport.

SAFETY NOTES
Take care when climbing beyond the treeline in this area, particularly when approaching the ridge. Climbers may be sheltered from prevailing NW winds on the ascent and may find that conditions at the ridge are much more serious than lower down. Also note that the route starts at nearly 800m in altitude – temperatures near

Nissho Pass can be much colder than other winter mountain objectives elsewhere, particularly in southwestern Hokkaido. Tomamu Resort runs cats up to the peak on the northeast side – keep off cat access roads.

ONSEN NEARBY
If you’re headed back west (in the direction of Sapporo), then the closest onsen is the Hidaka Kogenso Onsen ひだか高原荘温泉 (500yen), at the foot of the Hidaka International Ski Hill 日高国際スキー場. This onsen doesn’t have any rotenburo outdoor pools, but there’s a sauna, cold pool (extremely cold), and medium-sized indoor hotspring pool. ■

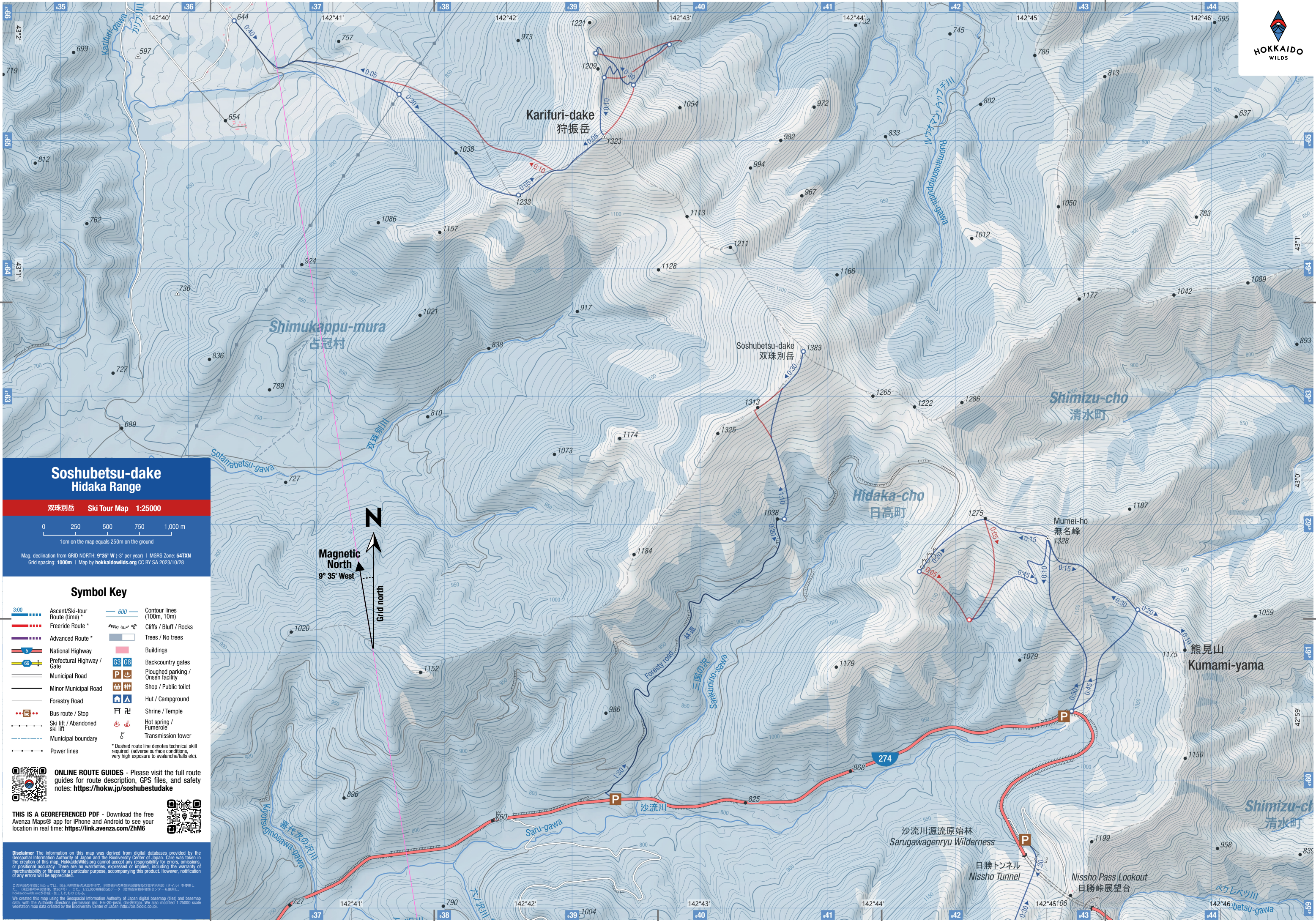
Japanese Map Glossary		
Romaji	Kanji	English
bunki	分岐	junction
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
hinangoya	避難小屋	shelter
ike	池	pond
kawa/gawa	川	river
kako	火口	crater
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
kyo	峡	gorge
numa	沼	pond
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
taira/daira	平	plateau
tani/dani	谷	valley
taki	滝	waterfall
toge	峠	pass
yama/san/zan	山	mountain

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE
Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/soshubetu>

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TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP | Rob Thomson
hokkaidowilds.org 2023/11/09
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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Soshubetsu-dake Hidaka Range

双珠別岳

Ski Tour Map

1:25000

02505007501,000 m

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Mag. declination from GRID NORTH: 9°35' W (-3' per year) | MGRS Zone: 54TXN

Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/10/28

Symbol Key			
	Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) *		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	Freeride Route *		Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks
	Advanced Route *		Trees / No trees
	National Highway		Buildings
	Prefectural Highway / Gate		Backcountry gates
	Municipal Road		Ploughed parking / Onsen facility
	Minor Municipal Road		Shop / Public toilet
	Forestry Road		Hut / Campground
	Bus route / Stop		Shrine / Temple
	Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift		Hot spring / Fumerole
	Municipal boundary		Transmission tower
	Power lines	* Dashed route line denotes technical skill required (adverse surface conditions, very high exposure to avalanche/falls etc).	

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

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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.



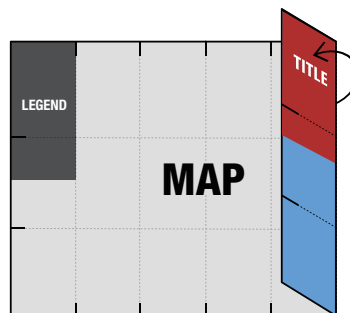
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

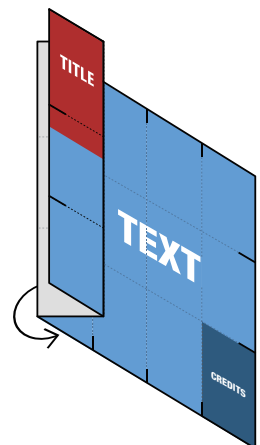
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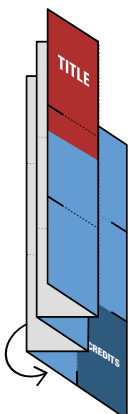
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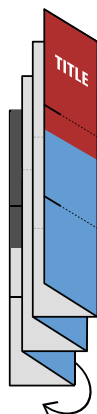
3



4



5



6



7

