


# Ashibetsu-dake


(Shindo Route plus Yufure Hut)

芦別岳 (新道)

Ski Touring Map


1:25000






9hrs

Time




1400m

Total Climb




1762m

Highest point




16km

Distance



8.5/10

Difficulty



Jan-May

Best season

**Ashibetsu-dake 芦別岳 (1796m) is an imposing massif dominating the sky-line to the west of the southern Furano plains. On the descent from the peak the slope is steep but manageable, and then the terrain mellows out to near-perfect pitch. Even in spring, to get to the summit requires up to six hours, and then at least two hours on the descent, making this a long but rewarding objective. From the summit you'll enjoy panoramic views across to the Hidaka Range, the Daisetsu Range, and of course along the Yubari Range. From the plains below, it's the Yufure Hontani Gorge that dominates the view of the mountain - a smorgasbord of extremely steep, consequential, and committing chutes and couloirs. For those wishing to spend more time ensconced in the terrain, it's possible to ski down to the basic Yufure-goya Hut for multi-night missions.**

**LOCATION**  
Ashibetsu-dake is the highest peak in the Yubari mountain range, about 15km south of central Furano City in central Hokkaido. It's about 2.5 hours drive from Sapporo City. This Shindo (New Trail) Route up the mountain starts at the summer trailhead. Parking is a 10 minute walk north of the trailhead (see transport options below).

**GENERAL NOTES**  
Ashibetsu-dake is a formidable looking peak in both summer and winter. Its impressive Yufure Hontani Gorge, climbable spurs, couloirs, and cliff faces are clearly visible on the drive south from Furano City. The route outlined here is arguably the bread-and-butter winter ski touring route, approaching the peak via the summer trail (not marked). The climb only gets technical at the last steep slope up to the summit, where boot crampons are often required. We also include the spring-time adventure-skiing (a.k.a. Type 2 fun) option of dropping off the main ridge north to the Yufure-goya Hut, nestled deep in the Yufure Hontani Gorge.

**Season:** As a long daytrip (9hrs return), this Shindo Route on its own is popular from January through till May. Climbing in January and February will require a well-before dawn start, and will reward the effort with excellent powder snow. From mid-March onwards, the days are longer, and the going is easier.

**Dropping down to the hut (and getting back out):** The route down to the Yufure-goya Hut roughly follows the old unmarked Kakutaro Trail (named after the hermit who built the hut) from the 1107m point. This would be feasible from late January onwards. However, do note that the trail from the hut east down the Yufure River back to the trailhead is generally not traveled in the deep winter months (Dec-Feb) due to lack of snow bridges and lack of snow

on the gorge sides to facilitate traversing. If visiting the hut in deep winter, one has two feasible options for the return. One would be to return up the steep Kakutaro Trail ridge to the main Ashibetsu-dake ridge. The other arguably preferable option, would be to ski up and over the 1085m saddle between Ochacha-dake お茶茶岳 and Shinpaku-yama 慎柏山, and descend down the Juhachisen-sawa 十八線沢 valley with no wet-feet river-crossings required. Allow at least four hours for the second option from hut to car.

**Couloirs:** We haven't skied any of the couloirs on the north face of Ashibetsu-dake, but here's our beta, for what it's worth. First, it's only the Hontani Couloir and 'A' Couloir we've heard reports of people skiing. The Hontani Couloir, accessed from the plateau directly west of Ashibetsu-dake summit, is steep but wide enough to be almost undeserving of the couloir moniker. The 'A' Couloir is accessed from the shallow col at the base of the Ashibetsu-dake summit face to the east of the summit. It's much steeper and narrower. We've not seen reports of anyone skiing the other three couloirs.

Importantly, the season for skiing into (or up) the Hontani gorge is extremely limited. Late March is a rarity (but snow looks amazing), mid-April till beginning of May is normal. It's very rare for anyone to drop into the Yufure Hontani earlier than March. The main concern is how filled in the Yugure Hontani gorge is,

particularly at the 'narrow gorge' marked on our map. This is a waterfall which gets a solid skiable/walkable snow covering from March till May, but is often open before that.

Also note that with the warmer temperatures from late March till late April, the upper spires and craggy slopes of the gorge start shedding their winter snow in the form of colossal wet slab and full-depth avalanches. Many of these avalanches easily cross the entire width of the gorge, particularly down low. In such Russian Roulette conditions, one may prefer to be skiing down the gorge, rather than spending the 3 hours required to hike up from the hut. Keep an eye on the temperature forecast and only make the most conservative of choices.

**ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES**  
For the up-and-back daytrip route, expect 6-7 hours on the ascent, and 2 hours on the descent. For the hut detour, allow the same 6 hours on the ascent, but 1.5hrs from the summit to the hut. Expect the descent from the hut along the Yufure River to take between 2 and 3 hours.

Park up near the shrine about 10 minutes walk north of the summer trailhead. Avoid parking on the side of the road where you may obstruct traffic. Skin 10 minutes back to the summer trailhead, and head up the main ridge towards the first main lookout point, Miharashidai 見晴台, at around 850m. Enjoy the expansive views east towards the Daisetsuzan Range.

Continue climbing to the 1107m knob, and if planning on dropping down to the hut, depot overnight gear here. From this point, you may mistake the rocky crags above you as the summit, but it's only when you get to Hanmen-yama 半面山 (1377m) after 4 hours of climbing that the summit will come into view.

From just past Unpo-zan 雲峰山 (1579m), snow conditions may require boot crampons, so make the decision early. The summit itself offers an impressive feeling of airy exposure, with no-fall slopes on all sides. Take care when skiing from the summit as it can be steep and icy. Soon the slope mellows out to some excellent skiing down towards the east southeast, in a wide gully. At the confluence of another gully from the north, climb back up to Hanmen-yama and make the final descent back down the summer ridge to the trailhead.

If planning on staying at the Yufure-goya Hut, the ski down the old Kakutaro Trail ridge is mellow at first, and then it's steep tree skiing

to the valley floor. The hut is on the opposite side of the river, but the river is very shallow and there's a few slippery step-stones to step on.


The spring-time descent from the hut along the Yufure River is a mixed bag, requiring good, highly granular route-finding skills. There are places where exposed, consequential, and difficult traverses may be required high above the river. Lower down, there are multiple places where river crossings are required. That said, the rivers crossings, while numerous, are shallow and short. Bring heavy-weight plastic bin-liner bags to stuff between your ski boot liners and shell to keep water out.





**TRANSPORT**  
**By car:** Ashibetsu-dake summer trailhead ( 芦別岳登山口) is a 20 minute (14km) drive south from Furano City. There are woefully few options for parking at the trailhead in winter, however. Particularly if staying overnight, skiers should either arrange a drop-off or take public transport.  
**Public transport:** The JR Yamabe Station 山部駅 (location) is a 40 minute walk (3.5km) from the Ashibetsu Trailhead (see the route here). Yamabe Station is a 14-minute train ride from Furano Station.

**SAFETY NOTES**  
The final 100m climb to the summit can be icy, and a fall, particularly from the final few ten meters or so, could be quite consequential. Carry boot crampons. Some form of self-arrest ability is also highly recommended. The descent from the hut along the Yufure River,

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

YUFURE-GOYA HUT






**Details:** Remote, basic, stone-walled, dirt floor hut. May be fully buried in winter. Wood stove, but no wood supplied. River nearby. Trail access to hut is tricky in winter.  
**Capacity:** 10 persons.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**Contact:** Furano City Council, TEL: 0167-39-2312.

as mentioned above, requires some high traverses above the river – take care not to fall.

**ONSEN NEARBY**  
If there's just one thing that the immediate Furano area lacks, it's good natural onsen. Drive 40 minutes up to the Tok-achi Onsen area, and you'll be in heaven – our pick is Hakuginso's massive out-door onsen complex. But if you're headed back to Furano, try out the pokey but cute Hotel Naturwald Furano ホテルナトゥールヴァルト富良野 (600yen), right next to the Furano ski area. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**Disclaimer** The information on this map was derived from digital data-bases 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.

**TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP** | Rob Thomson

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

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Symbol Key

3:00

Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) \*

Freeride Route \*

Advanced Route \*

5

National Highway

66

Prefectural Highway / Gate

Municipal Road

Minor Municipal Road

Forestry Road

Bus route / Stop

Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift

Municipal boundary

Power lines

600

Contour lines (100m, 10m)

Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks

Trees / No trees

G3 G8

Buildings

P

Backcountry gates

Ploughed parking / Onsen facility

Shop / Public toilet

Hut / Campground

Shrine / Temple

Hot spring / Fumerole

Transmission tower

\* 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. Ashibetsu-dake: <https://hokw.jp/ashind>. Ochacha-dake: <https://hokw.jp/ochayuf>. Hanmen-yama: <https://hokw.jp/ashbhan>.

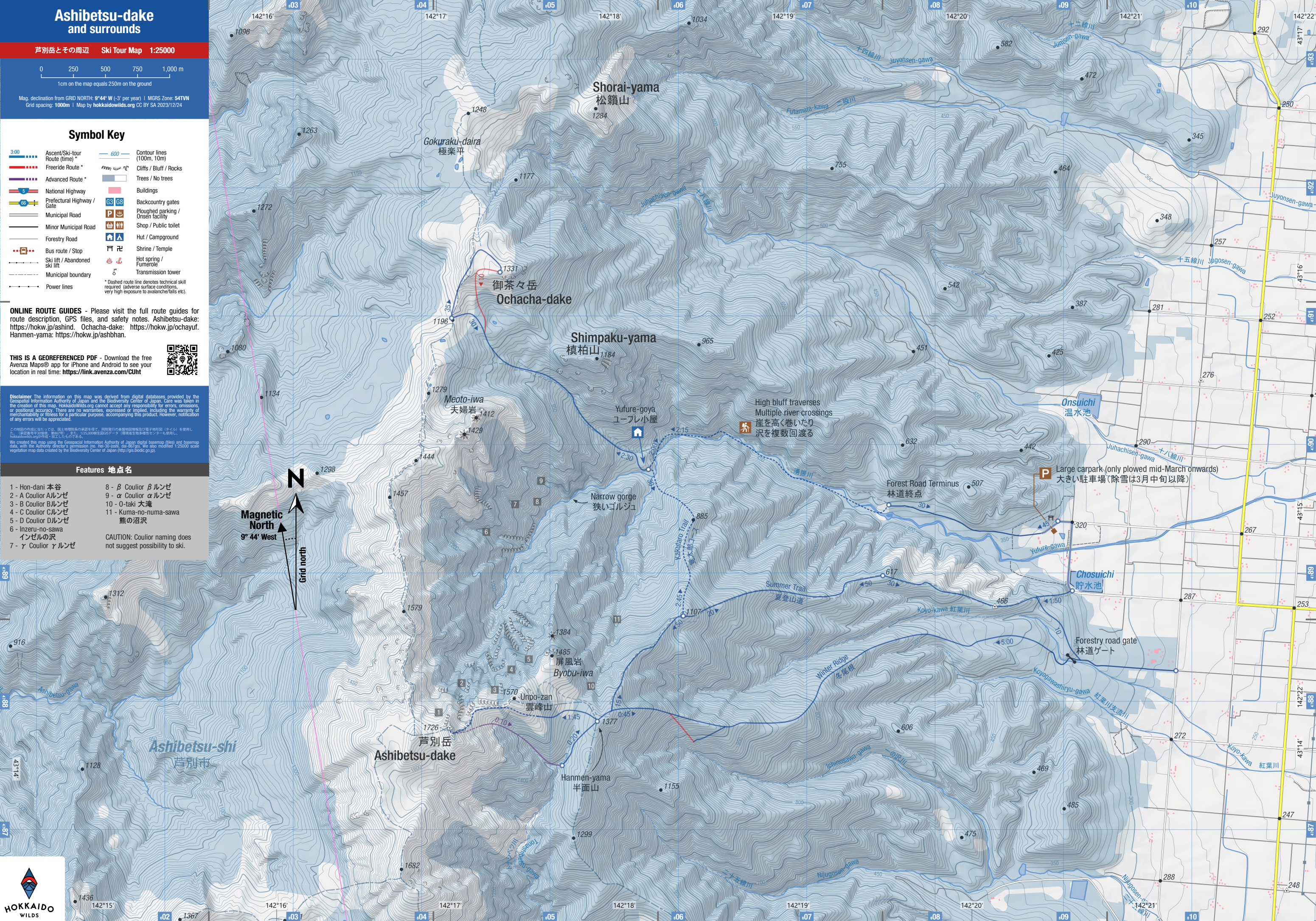
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We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (tiles) and basemap data, with the Authority's direct permission (no. 446-20-001, date: 2022/02). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).

Features 地点名	
1 - Hon-dani 本谷	8 - β Coulior βルンゼ
2 - A Coulior アルンゼ	9 - α Coulior αルンゼ
3 - B Coulior ブルンゼ	10 - O-taki 大滝
4 - C Coulior クルンゼ	11 - Kuma-no-numa-sawa 熊の沼沢
5 - D Coulior ドルンゼ	
6 - Inzeru-no-sawa インゼルの沢	CAUTION: Coulior naming does not suggest possibility to ski.
7 - γ Coulior γルンゼ	



## 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.

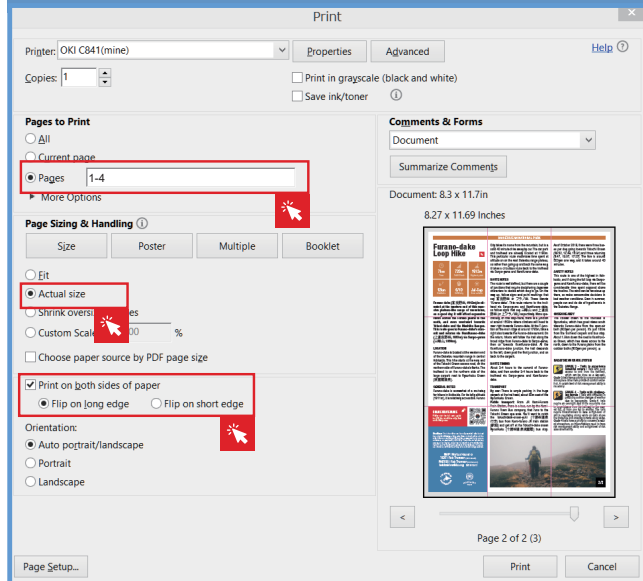
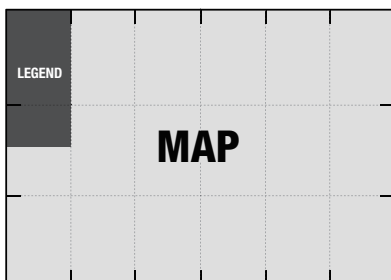


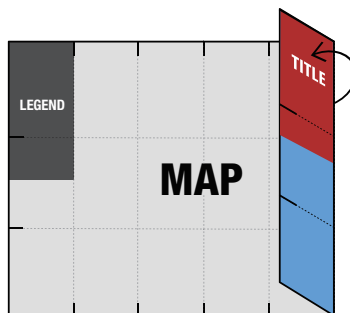
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

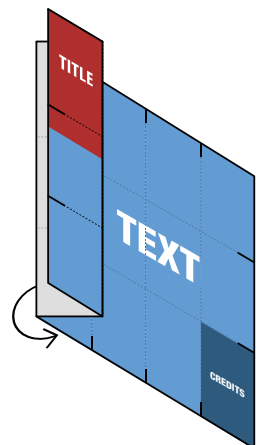
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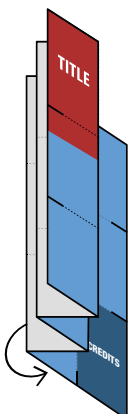
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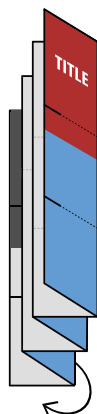
3



4



5



6



7

