




Daisetsuzan  
Higashi-dake

大雪山系東岳 Ski Touring Map 1:25000







10hrs  
Time




1300m  
Total Climb




2067m  
Highest point



21km  
Distance



7/10  
Difficulty



Jan-Jun  
Best season

Daisetsuzan’s Higashidake 大雪山系東岳 (2067m) is one of the more easily attained 2000m+ peaks on the eastern side of the Daisetsuzan National Park in central Hokkaido. The long approach is amply rewarded with access to a smorgasbord of freeride terrain on the peak’s broad and varied eastern face. Exposure to technical terrain can be easily dialed up and down depending on skiers’ appetites. The summit affords expansive views across the vast alpine Daisetsuzan plateau that makes up *Kamui-mintara*,

the playground of the gods.

LOCATION

Higashi-dake sits at the northeast corner of the Daisetsuzan Range in central Hokkaido, surrounded by more familiar peaks and locations such as Hakuun-dake 白雲岳 (2230m), Aka-dake 赤岳 (2078m), and Ginsendai 銀泉台 (1517m). This winter approach to Higashi-dake starts at the Taisetsu Plaza 273 大雪プラザ273 on National Highway 273 that cuts across the northern reaches of the Daisetsuzan Range from Obihiro to Sounkyo/Kamikawa.

GENERAL NOTES

There’s no summer trail to the summit of Higashi-dake. As such, it’s a winter objective only for the hardest of ski tourers, seeking a long day of walking and climbing. This route to the peak, approaching from the east, gives excellent access to Higashi-dake’s broad east-facing slopes, offering a multitude of steep ski lines of varying difficulty and complexity. The peak will only add fuel to the fire of desire to explore more of the Roof of Hokkaido.

**Mountain name:** The reason we put Daisetsuzan in front of Higashi-dake is because there’s another tall Higashi-dake in Hokkaido. The other one is in far eastern Hokkaido, on the Shiretoko Peninsula. That one is commonly referred to as Shiretoko Higashi-dake 知床東岳 (1520m).

**Mechanized approach:** The 16km-return forestry road walking might prompt visions of using a snowmobile to make the

approach more palatable. Recreational use of snowmobiles in this area of the Daisetsuzan National Park, even on forestry roads, is not permitted (as per signs posted at the entrance of the Ginsendai access road).

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

In firm spring conditions, it’s unlikely that fit parties will get much change out of 10 hours return on this trip. In deep winter, with deeper snow conditions, this will be a very committing trip that could feasibly take up to 12 hours return. In reality, skiers may find that camping

at the base of the eastern face will open up time for more exploration options.

From the large car parking area at Taisetsu Plaza 273, walk about 200m south along the main highway to the entrance to Route 1162, the narrow road leading west up to the turn-off to Ginsendai 銀泉台. The turn-off to Ginsendai is about 1.6km. From the turn off, keep heading straight west along the Horokaishikari-gawa River ホロカイシカリ川|. The forestry road continues another 4km or so to altitude 1180m. Once the forestry road ends, it’s still an easy skin alongside the river to where multiple streams converge, at around 1300m.

From this point, there are several uphill options available. Keep heading straight west for a steep approach to the summit ridge, often requiring boot crampons for the final approach. Head northwest up towards Oku-no-daira 奥の平 for a more circuitous but much more mellow approach that will unlikely need crampons.

For the descent, either take the conservative approach by skiing the circuitous descent via Oku-no-daira, or ski any of the steeper lines you scoped out from below as you ascended. The descent out on the forestry road is just enough of a decline that it’s unlikely skiers will need to don skins again. Some minor poling will ensure a quick exit via your skin track.

CENTRAL HOKKAIDO

TRANSPORT

**By car:** Taisetsu Plaza 273 is a 3hr drive from Sapporo on the Doo Expressway via Asahikawa and Sounkyo. There is ample parking at the Taisetsu Plaza 273, as well as public toilets. Note that there’s very little in the way of services once you leave Sounkyo village.

**Public transport:** There is no public transport to this route. The closest that public transport will get you is the mountain village of Sounkyo 層雲峡, to the bus stop just outside the Sounkyo Post Office. From there, it would be a 15-minute taxi ride to the trailhead. The only taxi company in Sounkyo is Sounkyo Kanko Hire 層雲峡観光ハイヤー (TEL: 01658-5-3221). We’d recommend calling (in Japanese) in advance of your visit to let them know you’re coming.

SAFETY NOTES

The Daisetsuzan Range is a big, remote place.

| 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   |

This remote northeast corner of the range is particularly so. Skiers should have a high level of self-reliance. Temperatures in this area of Hokkaido can be extremely cold – be prepared. Any peak over 2000m in Hokkaido is serious alpine terrain. Take wind and visibility forecasts seriously, and make conservative decisions.

ONSEN NEARBY

On your way back through Sounkyo, we highly recommend having a soak at Kurodake-no-yu 黒岳の湯 (600yen). There’s a relatively good view towards the mountains from the 2nd floor open air bath. They have a sauna and cold plunge pool, and large relaxation area with massage chairs. On the 1st floor is the Bear Grill Canyon restaurant, serving pasta and other European-style meals. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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

**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.

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PHOTOS | Rob Thomson, Timbah Bell

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MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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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.

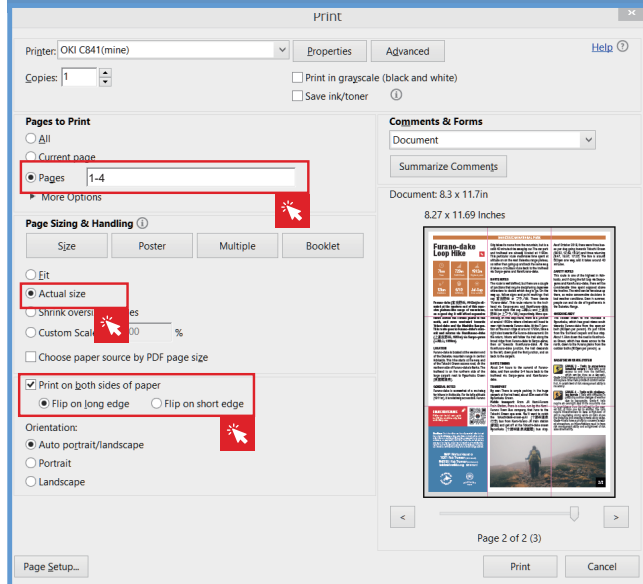


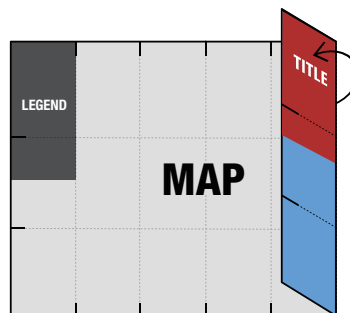
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

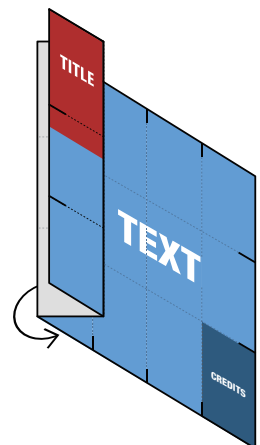
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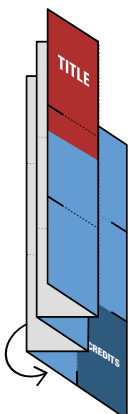
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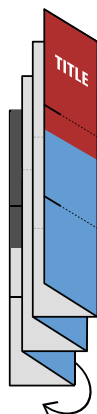
3



4



5



6



7

