



Sapporo Kokusai to Teine Traverse


札幌国際～手稲縦走 Ski Touring Map 1:25000






10hrs

Time




650m

Total Climb




1023m

Highest point




25km

Distance



7.5/10

Difficulty



Jan-Apr

Best season

**Sapporo Kokusai 札幌国際スキー場 to Teine Ski Area 手稲スキー場 is a classic ski traverse across the hills west of Sapporo City. Fully situated within the city limits, this traverse introduces the skier to the vast alpine playground sitting on the Sapporo City dweller’s doorstep. The traverse takes in the full gamut of ski-touring terrain. Knife-edge boot-pack ridges, vast alpine snowfields, steep traverses, heady cliff bands, backcountry huts along the way, and some top-shelf ski descents to top it off. Fully public transport accessible, with a final ski descent right into town, this traverse should be on any Sapporo City ski tourer’s hit list.**



LOCATION

This traverse is located between the popular Sapporo City ski resorts of Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area and Teine Ski Area, to the west of Sapporo City central. While it’s possible to complete the traverse in either direction, it’s arguably better to start from Sapporo Kokusai Ski Area (just north of Jozankei Onsen) and heading east back to the city. This will give you more downhill skiing overall. See the “Transport” section below for public transport options to and from the route.

GENERAL NOTES

The low mountains west of Sapporo City offer some incredible terrain for long days of exploring on skis, all within city limits. This relatively popular traverse takes in some of the best of that terrain, hitting several popular local peaks along the way. It’s also fully accessible by public transport, so there’s no need for a vehicle shuttle. There are two huts along this traverse - the Helvetia Hutte and Okuteine-yama-no-ie Hut.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

As a team of skiers with varying levels of confidence and strength, we spent a total of 11 hours from Sapporo Kokusai to Miyanosawa Subway Station (including the 40-minute walk along pavement to the station). Stronger and more confident skiers would likely complete the traverse in around 8 to 9 hours, depending on the snow surface conditions. Skiers may also want to consider an overnight at the Okuteine Hut.

Note that the earliest skiers will get to either Sapporo Kokusai ski area or Teine using public transport will be around 9:30am. This will

put some timing pressure on the end of the traverse, as generally, the final public buses leaving the ski areas will be around 5pm (see Transport notes below). If it seems likely that your party may not make it for the final buses from the ski areas, we recommend skiing from Kokusai to Teine (west to east), as this allows for a final descent down into the city on skis.

The Sapporo to Sapporo Kokusai ski area bus will drop you off just outside the main ski area building. Gear up at the bus stop and walk east towards the lower right side of the large parking area. There’s a large diesel power station at the northeastern corner of the parking area. Don skis there, and start skinning on the slight decline along Route 1 on the southern side of the road for about 2km to the Okuteine-yama trailhead. Most streams along this section should have snow bridges, but there’s one where it’s likely you’ll need to cross using the road bridge. About halfway between Kokusai Ski Area and the Okuteine-yama trailhead is the historic Helvetia Hut.

From the Okuteine-yama, it’s about 1.5km of gently ascending snowed-in hiking trail to the turn-off to climb Tsuge-yama. If the weather is good, we heartily recommend making the climb up to the Tsuge-yama peak at this point. Doing so will mean that you’ll be up at treeline for the remainder of the traverse to Teine-yama, with good views most of the way.

If conditions (visibility, wind, snow etc) mean that you’d rather limit the amount of time up high, then continue along the Okuteine-yama trail to the Okuteine-yama-no-ie Hut. From the hut, head due east to Hoshioki-yama.

SAPPORO AREA

The first 10km of the traverse, from Sapporo Kokusai ski area to Hoshioki-yama, is so beautifully mellow that you’ll likely be lulled into the false impression that it’ll continue that way all the way to Teine-yama. Things change dramatically, however, from Hoshioki-yama eastwards. In the distance you’ll see ginormous, impenetrable cliffs and buttresses lining the eastern flanks of Teine-yama. Between those vertical rock walls and Hoshioki-yama is a narrow ridgeline, knife-edge at times.

Depending on the snow conditions, most skiers will likely find themselves having to bootpack at some point along this ridge, clambering up short ledges while pulling themselves up with shrubs and trees as hand-holds. If you’re lucky, you might be able to complete the 1km or so along this ridge by traversing just under the ridgeline, but the slopes are steep and wooded.

This narrow ridge will lead you to a pleasant, compact plateau just below the high Teine-yama cliffs. From here, wrap around the northern side of Teine-yama, below the imposing cliffs, via a steep traverse. Take care here, as sidecountry skiers also use this descending traverse to access the more remote sidecountry zones around the ski area. They won’t be expecting to see climbers on their access tracks.

The steep traverse around the northern flanks of the Teine-yama summit will lead you to the old Teineyama Ropeway station (no longer in use). From here, you can access the ski area. If you’re there before ski area closing time, you can have a hot drink in the upper cafe here.

From the top of the ski area, you’ll decide to either ski down to the Teine Highlands ski center and take the bus back to Sapporo (last bus is around 4:30pm), or carry on to Teine Neopara peak and ski down into Sapporo City via the Neopara ski tour route descent. Our preference is to ski the entire way down to Sapporo City, even if this means that you’ll have to walk 30 minutes from the exit of the route along suburban streets to Miyanosawa Subway Station. The Neopara descent can offer some great skiing in the right conditions, and the walk through the quiet streets of Nishino suburb is nice.

TRANSPORT

**By car:** Both Sapporo Kokusai and Teine ski areas have large public parking areas. There is no fee to park in either parking area. If leaving a vehicle overnight in either of the car parks,

talk to a ski area staff member to let them know.  
**Public transport:** Sapporo Kokusai and Teine Resorts have detailed public transport information on their respective websites. The earliest that public transport will get you to Sapporo Kokusai is 9am. The earliest for Teine ski area is 9:23am. NOTE: The ski area buses do not allow passengers to wear ski boots on the bus. Either carry a light pair of slippers/shoes for the bus, or wear your ski boot liners on the bus. The buses also require skis to be packed into bags of some sort. Long plastic ski bags are fine.

SAFETY NOTES

This is a long day out, so make sure your party is up for the distance. The climb up to Tsuge-yama, and the narrow ridge traverse to/from Teine-yama are a hot-bed of isolated terrain features which may be loaded and have isolated snowpack instabilities. The open plateau from Tsuge-yama to Hoshioki-yama is relatively featureless; in low visibility conditions, it would be difficult to navigate without the help of a GPS. The majority of the route is just



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

at treeline – if high winds are forecast, these higher areas may be very exposed to the wind. Note that the final approach to Teine-yama from the west (traversing under the cliffs) is an area used by side-country skiers. Take care when skinning eastwards along the base of the cliffs, as skiers will likely come fast down the traverse, and won’t be expecting to see climbers.

ONSEN NEARBY

On the Sapporo side of the traverse, the closest sento public bath to the Nishino exit from the route is the super local and super traditional Fumi-no-yu 文の湯 (490yen). It’s out of the way though, and will add a solid 30 minutes to the walk east to the Tozai Subway Line from the exit of the traverse. On the other end of the route, if you’ve got a vehicle, consider having a soak in one of the Jozankei Onsen facilities. The large Yu-no-hana in Jozankei 湯の花 定山溪殿 (980yen) is a good choice for bathing and a large restaurant relaxation area. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



**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

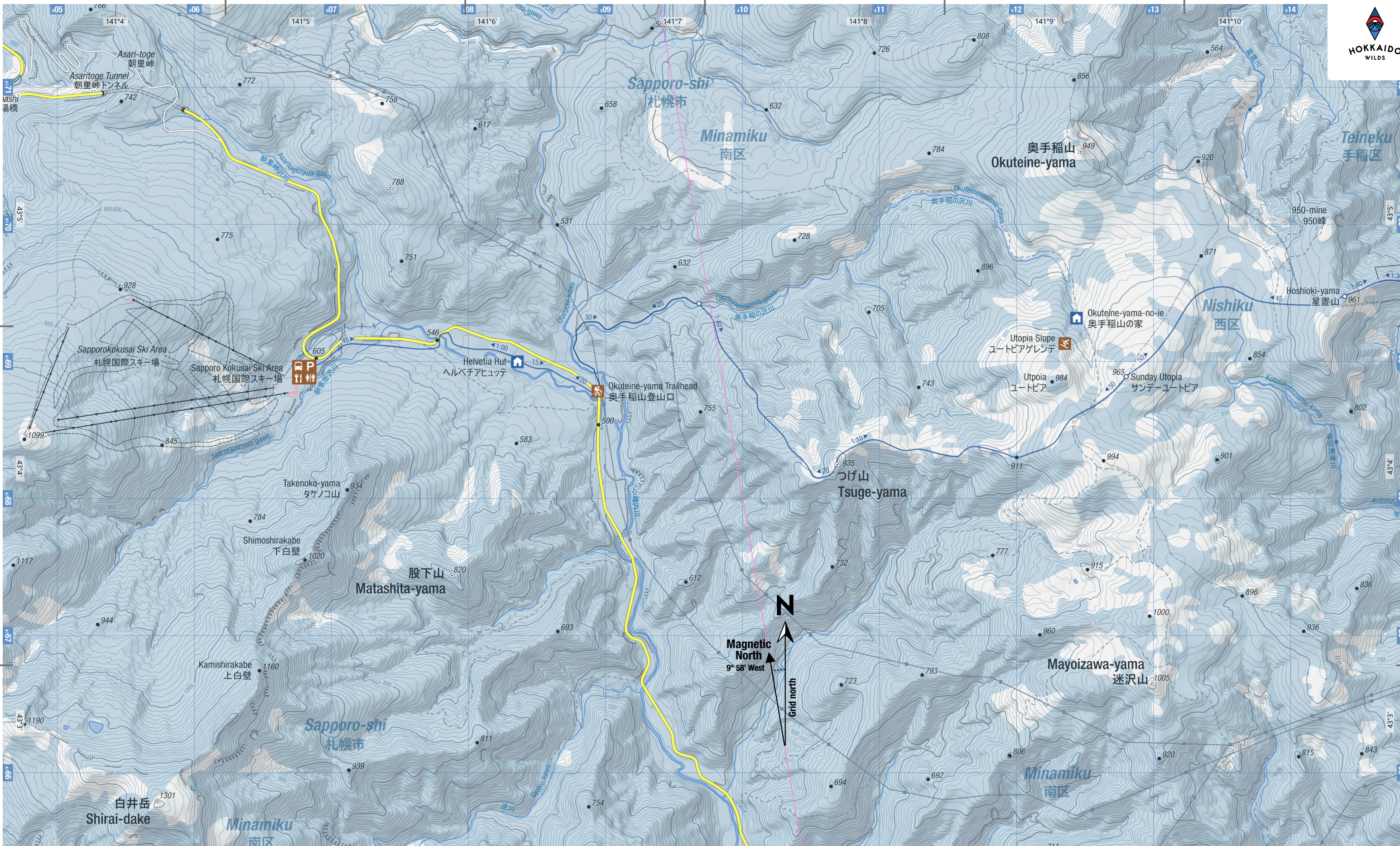
[hokkaidowilds.org](https://hokkaidowilds.org) 2024/04/23

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

Unless indicated otherwise, all content on this PDF 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 Siddle (hokkaidowilds.org)”

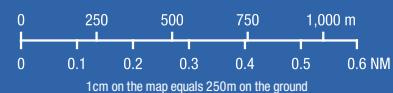






## Kokusai to Teine Traverse

国際～手稲縦走 Ski Touring Map 1:25000



Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9° 57' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TWN  
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2024/04/02

1

### Symbol Key

3.00	Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) *	Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift	Shop / Public toilet
Freeride Route *	Municipal boundary	Hut / Campground	
Advanced Route *	Power lines	Shrine / Temple	
National Highway	Contour lines (100m, 10m)	Hot spring / Fumerole	
Prefectural Highway / Gate	Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks	Transmission tower	
Municipal Road	Trees / No trees		
Minor Municipal Road	Buildings		
Forestry Road	Backcountry gates		
Bus route / Stop	Ploughed parking / Onsen facility		

\* Dashed route line denotes technical skill required (adverse surface conditions, very high exposure to avalanche/falls etc).

### Online Route and Downloads



**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE** - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS files, and safety notes:  
<https://bit.ly/kokuteine>

**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/y3KE>

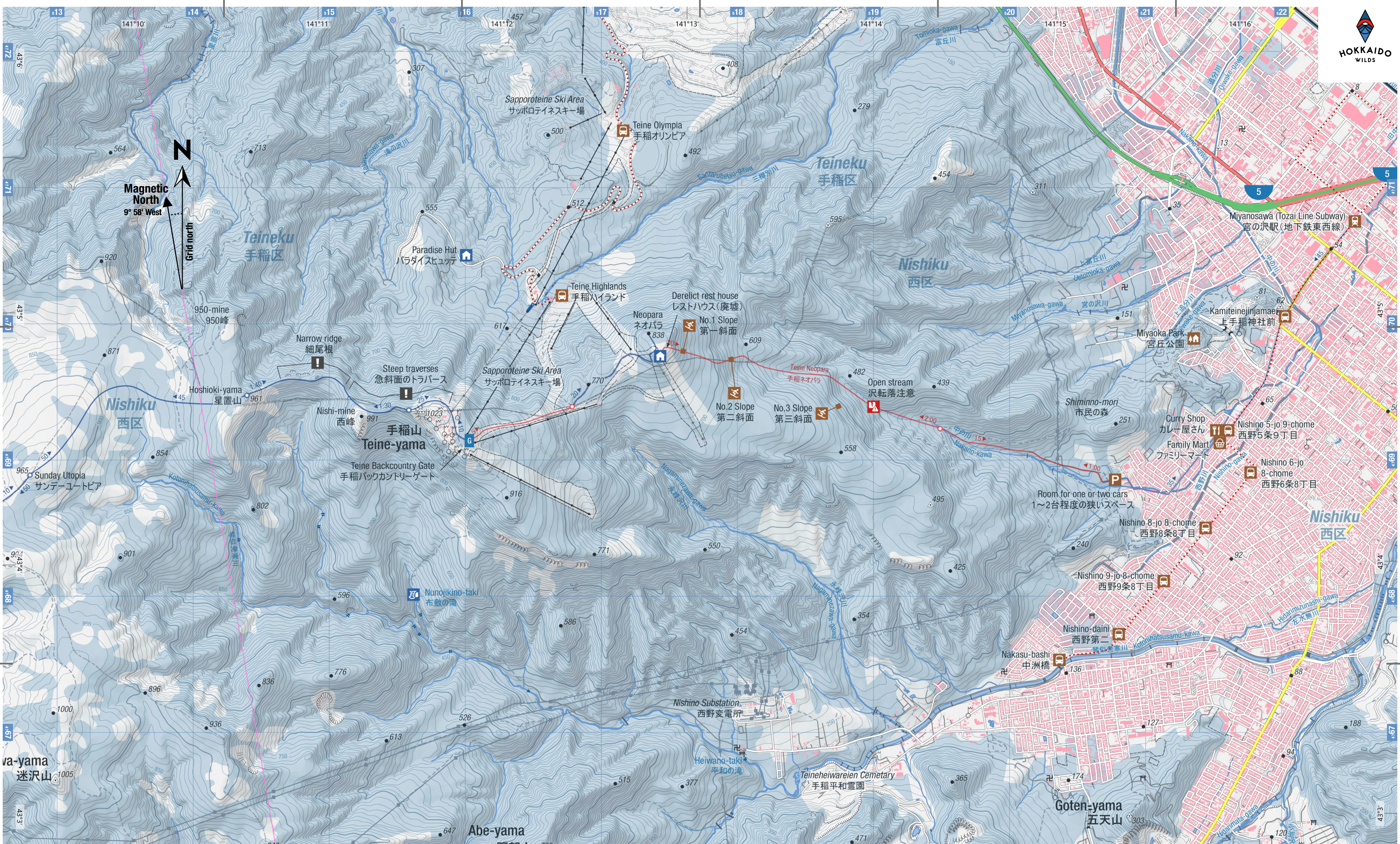


**Disclaimer** The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Biodiversity Center of Japan. Care was taken in the creation of this map. HokkaidoWilds.org cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional 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.

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、同院発行の基盤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、1/25,000植生図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが植生図や水深図を作成・加工した。

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, dai-867go). We also modified 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp>).





### Kokusai to Teine Traverse

2

国際〜手稲縦走 Ski Touring Map 1:25000

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 NM

1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 9° 57' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TWN  
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by [hokkaidowilds.org](http://hokkaidowilds.org) CC BY SA 2024/04/02

Symbol Key			
3.00	Ascent/Ski-tour Route (time) *		Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift
	Freeride Route *		Municipal boundary
	Advanced Route *		Power lines
	National Highway		Contour lines (100m, 10m)
	Prefectural Highway / Gate		Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks
	Municipal Road		Trees / No trees
	Minor Municipal Road		Buildings
	Forestry Road		Backcountry gates
	Bus route / Stop		Ploughed parking / Onsen facility
	Shop / Public toilet		Hut / Campground
	Shrine / Temple		Hot spring / Fumerole
	Transmission tower		

### Online Route and Downloads

**ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE** - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS files, and safety notes:  
<https://bit.ly/kokuteine>

**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/y3KE>

**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.

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、同院発行の基盤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、1/25,000植生図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが植生図や水深図を作成・加工した。

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, dai-867go). We also modified 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.

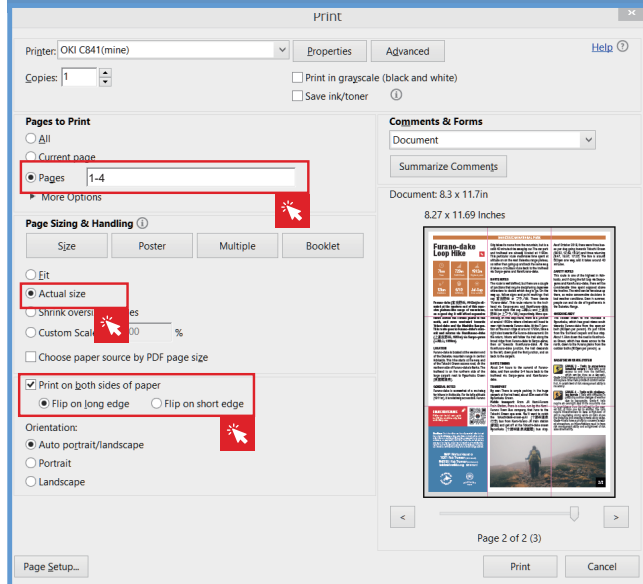


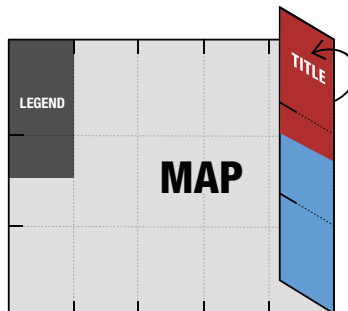
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

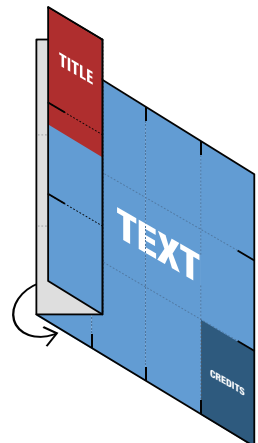
1



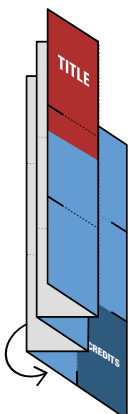
2



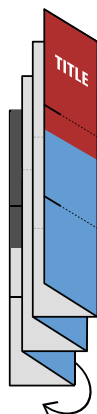
3



4



5



6



7

