



Mashike Coast

Sea Kayak Trail


増毛海岸 Paddling Map 1:25000






2 days

Time




35km

Distance




7.5/10

Difficulty




4/5

Remoteness



3/5

Water clarity



Jul-Sep

Best season

The Japan Sea coast just south of Mashike Town is the sea kayaking paradise that no one seems to know about. This remote section of coast is dotted with waterfalls, sea caves, birdlife, and rugged cliffs. It's a Little Shiretoko - we'd go out on a limb to say it's some of the best coastal paddling in Hokkaido. It's a lonely coast, with very little fishing activity. There's one small beach along the way that can be pressed into service for a rough overnight camp, or, consider landing at the lonely lwao fishing port and camp there - replete with onsen just up the hill.



LOCATION
This section of coast sits to the south of Mashike Town, about 100km north of Sapporo along the Japan Sea coast.

PUT-IN LOCATION
The southern put-in for this route along the Mashike Coast is a convenient gravel parking lot in the sleepy village of Poro 幌, about 35km south of Mashike Town 増毛町. Put-ins are relatively few and far between along this coast, which makes it a little challenging to shorten the trip. The only alternative put-in we noticed along the way was an old boat ramp at Cape Ofuyu 雄冬岬. It was strewn with large driftwood logs, but it would be suitable in a pinch for escape, or for shortening the route.

TAKE-OUT LOCATION
The take out is what dreams are made of. It's possible to paddle up into the mouth of Shokanbetsu River 暑寒別川, allowing for a freshwater rinse at the end of the trip. There's also a free municipal campground there, replete with drinking water and toilets. There's a large parking area where vehicles can be left overnight. The take-out is a short walk from the Mashike 7/11 convenience store, and an even shorter walk from the Auberge Mashike onsen.

GENERAL NOTES
As a photographer, I can't recall the last time I was so busy on a 30km section of coast. It was as if every single corner, cape, and cove was a treasure-trove of beauty and novelty. A majestic cliff here, a deep cave there, a towering waterfall cascade over here, and then all three at once just around the corner. It felt like we were paddling along a mini-Shiretoko. Not least of all was the feeling of remoteness. We saw no other water users for the majority of the paddle, particularly along the more rugged sections.



To anyone who has studied the satellite imagery around this area, this should come as no surprise. The main national highway is routed either high up on the bluffs, or carves its way through long tunnels along this inaccessible and remote coast. This all adds up to prime sea kayaking.

Technically, a Hokkaido-wide by-law prohibits paddlers from using the lwao fishing port 岩尾漁港 except in an emergency. It's a very quiet fishing port, however, so we don't anticipate paddlers to have any issues pulling up there and setting up tents on the concrete. This has the benefit of being able to use the lwao onsen just up the hill.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
We completed this paddle over the course of two very leisurely days. About five hours on the first day, two hours on the second day.

We put in at the gravel parking lot at the Poro River mouth. It's an exposed, steep, rocky beach, which would only be suitable for launching and landing in calm conditions. An

NORTHERN HOKKAIDO

alternative location nearby to put in would be the stony beach just south of Poro Fishing Port proper. Parking in the vicinity is likely to be limited though.

From Poro, head north along the heavily fortified National Highway 231 coast – for about 2.3km, the government spared no expense to protect the highway using concrete, tetra-blocks, and a 20ft iron fence. However, from the 2.5km point, the road cuts deep into the hills via a tunnel, and the paddler now has the coast to herself for around 7km. Here and there, remnants of the national highway sit decaying. Caves, waterfalls, and beautiful coves line this section of coast around Cape Ofuyu.

From the Cape Ofuyu area, paddlers will again follow National Highway 231 along the coast, eventually passing lwao Hot Springs. The only place to land is in the lwao Fishing Port 岩老漁港, but it's a small enough port that you're unlikely to get complaints if you land and camp there.

The section of coast north of lwao is arguably the highlight of this paddle. For about 15km, the coast is a smorgasbord of waterfalls, caves, and coves. National Highway 231 is entirely absent. The one thing this section of coast lacks is a decent spot to camp. We found a tiny patch of mostly flat sand here, but it's unlikely it'll be there after a full winter or two of storms. Camping along this stretch of coast is best considered a very rough-and-ready experience!

Once you're past the picturesque Kamuie-to Cape カムイエト岬, you're on the home stretch to Mashike Town. The coast is now concrete-fortified gravel beaches all the way to the Shokanbetsu River mouth 暑寒別川. If conditions allow, it's possible to paddle up into the river mouth for a very pleasant landing just next to the Shokan Seaside Campground 暑寒海浜キャンプ場. The campground is a free municipal-run affair, with basic covered kitch-

en area and toilets.

TRANSPORT
By car | Access by car is via the coastal National Highway 231 either from Mashike in the north, or Sapporo in the south. There are a lot of tunnels along this section of National Highway 231, which is exactly why the coast is so nice for sea kayaking. For the Poro put-in, there's a large gravel parking area on the southern side of the mouth of Poro River. We can only guess the car park is used primarily by fishers. When we used it at the end of July 2024, we were the only ones parked there. At the northern take-out, there's plenty of parking at the Shokan Seaside Campground.
Public transport | At the southern end of the route in Poro, there's the Poro bus stop 幌, about 500m from Poro Fishing Port. At the Mashike Town end of the route, there's the Shokancho 1-Chome bus stop 暑寒町1丁目, just outside the Shokan Seaside Campground.

SAFETY NOTES
This is a very exposed part of the Japan Sea coast, especially around the Ofuyu Cape area. There's nowhere to hide from any sort of westerly wind. That said, the prevailing wind




Japanese Map Glossary		
Romaji	Kanji	English
cho	町	town
dake/mine	岳/峯	peak
eki	駅	station
goya/koya	小屋	hut
gyoko	漁港	fishing port
ike	池	pond
iwa	岩	rock
kaigan	海岸	coast
kawa/gawa	川	river
ko/mizumi	湖	lake
ko	港	port
misaki	岬	cape
onsen	温泉	hot spring
sawa	沢	stream
shima	島	island
tani/dani	谷	valley
taki	滝	waterfall
today	灯台	lighthouse
toge	峠	pass
wan	湾	bay
yama/san/zan	山	mountain

in Hokkaido in summer tends to be from the southeast, so paddlers will likely find an abundance of lee wind forecasts from June to September. Also note that there are relatively long sections of coast without access to roads. At least 50% of the route is also cliff-bound. Paddlers should be confident in a variety of sea states, just in case they get caught out without anywhere to land.

ONSEN NEARBY
Halfway along the route is the nice lwao Hotspring Attamaru 岩尾温泉あったまゝゐる (500yen). The only practical access from the water to the lwao settlement is via the lwao fishing port 岩尾漁港, but it's a very small port with very little boat traffic – we don't anticipate any issues in landing there in sea kayaks (despite the wider Hokkaido by-law ban on kayaks using fishing ports). In Mashike at the northern end of the route is the hotspring Auberge Mashike オーベルジュましけ (600yen). There's no outdoor baths, but it's a nice enough soak. Sauna and cold plunge pool is available. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

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



Disclaimer The information on this map was derived from digital databases provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, the Japan Hydrological Association, 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. NAUTICAL CHART INFORMATION ON THIS MAP SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR MARINE NAVIGATION - PLEASE REFER TO OFFICIAL CHARTS.

MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson
hokkaidowilds.org 2025/01/18
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan
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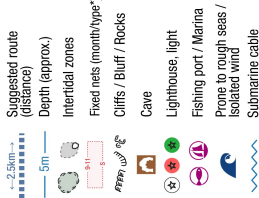




Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10°08' W | Zones: 54TWP (MGRS), 54N (UTM)

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10°08' W | Zones: 54TWP (MGRS), 54N (UTM)

Symbol Key



Mashike Coast

Horo ↔ Mashike

3

塩谷海岸

Sea Kayaking Map Map

1:25000

02505007501,000 m

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1cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10° 11' W | UTM Grid Zone: 54TWP

Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2025/01/08

Symbol Key

2.5km

5m

Fixed nets (month/type*)

Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks

Cave

Lighthouse, light

Prone to rough seas / Isolated wind

Submarine cable

Suggested route (distance)

Depth (approx.)

Intertidal zones

Fixed nets (month/type*)

Cliffs / Bluff / Rocks

Cave

Lighthouse, light

Prone to rough seas / Isolated wind

Submarine cable

5

60

Minor Road / Track

Land contour lines (100m, 10m)

Trees / No trees

Buildings

Parking / Onsen

National Highway

Prefectural Highway

Municipal Road

Minor Road / Track

Land contour lines (100m, 10m)

Trees / No trees

Buildings

Parking / Onsen

Shop / Public toilet

Kayak guide / Freshwater hose

Campground / Camp-site (no facilities)

Shrine / Temple

Hot spring / Fumerole

Transmission tower

Bus route / Stop

Municipal boundary

S=Sake (salmon), M=maguro (tuna), H=hokke (mackerel), lw=iwashi (sardine), lk=ika (squid), Ms=masu (Cherry/pink salmon), B=buri (yellowtail), K=karei (flounder)

Online Routes and Downloads

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

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Disclaimer

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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、同院発行の基礎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信使、第867号）。併せて、日本水産協会海図データ（new pec画像データやM7000等海図、承認番号 第2022005）や1/25,000陸生図GISデータ（環境省生物多様性センター）も使用し、hokkaidowilds.orgが補正図や水深図を作成加工した。航海用の地図として使用しないでください。

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-887/00). We also modified Japan Hydrological Association marine data (newpec raster data and M7000 underwater contour data, Permission No. 2022005) and 1:25000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp>).

This topographic map of the Mashike Coast area in Hokkaido, Japan, provides a detailed view of the coastline and surrounding land. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with major peaks reaching over 500 meters. Key geographical features include the Shokan Kaihin Campground, Seven-Eleven, Auberger Mashike, and various rivers and streams such as the Betsukari-gawa, Kuchene-gawa, and Otarumanai-gawa. The map also shows several tunnels, including the Makkamisaki Tunnel, Obetsukari Tunnel, and Perika Tunnel. A scale bar at the top left indicates distances up to 1,000 meters, and a magnetic north arrow shows a 10° 11' West declination. The map is overlaid with a grid showing coordinates from 141°25' to 141°31' East and 43°49' to 43°52' North. The map is titled 'Mashike Coast Horo ↔ Mashike' and is a Sea Kayaking Map Map at a scale of 1:25,000. It includes a symbol key for various features like roads, trails, and landmarks, and a disclaimer about the data sources and usage.

HOKKAIDO

WILDS

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.

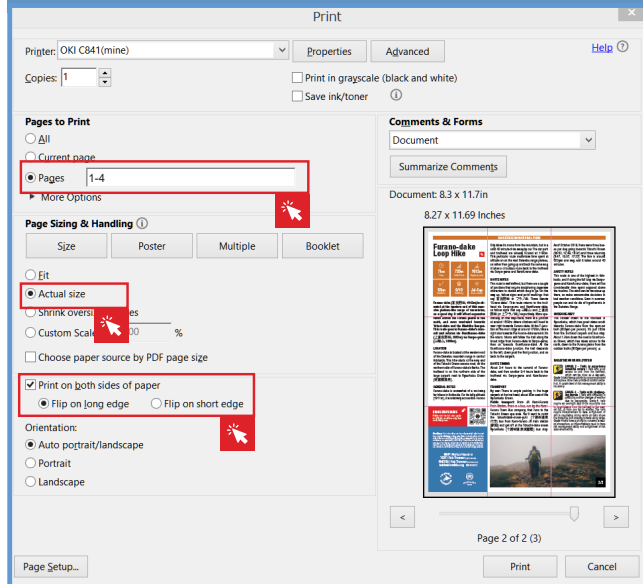
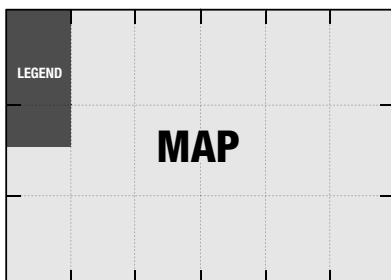


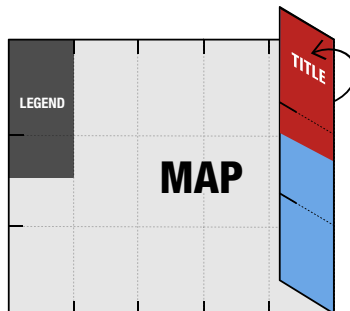
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

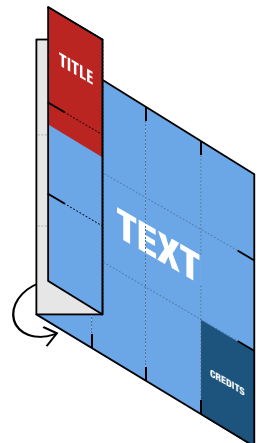
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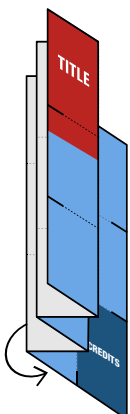
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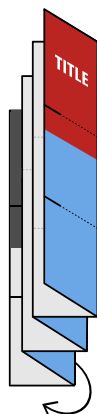
3



4



5



6



7

