

CENTRAL HOKKAIDO

Sandan-yama 🖪



Sandan-yama (三段山, 1,748m) is a classic staple for backcountry skiing in the Tokachi Ranges, and is renowned for its powder snow. The route starts and ends on an old ski area, so even the lower reaches on the downhill allow for fun tree-free runs. The route is accessed from the hopelessly amazing Hakuginso Lodge - a mountain lodge boasting to be the "mecca of powder" with everything you could possibly want: onsen hotsprings, a large communal kitchen, a large basement drying room, friendly staff, and only 3,250yen a night. On a clear day you'll be able to see across to the Furano Plains and Mashike Ranges.

LOCATION

Sandan-yama sits as advance guard to the mighty Tokachi-dake, Kamifurano-dake, and Furano-dake in the Tokachi Ranges, part of the Diasetsu mountain range in central Hokkaido. The route starts from the excellent Hakuginso Lodge (白銀壮). Hakuginso Lodge is about a 40 minute

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE Please visit the full route guide for GPS file, interactive map, and extra safety notes: https://hokw.jp/sandan



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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS I Rob Thomson

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drive northeast from central Furano.

GENERAL NOTES

This is one of those must-do peaks in the Tokachi Ranges, certainly before attempting to take on the higher-altitude Tokachi-dake or other peaks further up in the ranges. It gives an excellent lay of the land from the summit, and should help anyone spending some time in the area to gather their bearings.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

This route is not marked. About 3 hours from Hakuginso Lodge to the Sandan-yama summit, and another one hour back down. The first 1km or so of the route is following an old ski area, so navigation is fairly straight forward. After less than an hour of climbing, however, skiers will be above the treeline - expect magnitudes more wind and exposure. The broad triangular face of the mountain makes it relatively easy to navigate to the summit, since climbers will generally be 'funnelled' to the summit. Beware on the descent, however, and take the time to take bearings frequently to avoid getting disoriented.

TRANSPORT

By car: Hakuginso Lodge has ample parking in their carpark. If not staying at the lodge, cars/ campers can be parked overnight at the lodge carpark for a nominal fee.

Public transport: From JR Kami-Furano Train Station (上富良野駅), there is a bus, run by the Kami-Furano Town Bus company, that runs to the Hakuginso Lodge at Fukiage Onsen. You'll want to catch the *tokachidake-onsen-yuki* (十 勝岳温泉行き) bus from the train station and get off at the Hakuginso (白銀荘) bus stop. As of February 2019, there were three buses per day there (08:52, 12;49, 16:31). The fare is around 500yen one way, and it takes around 30 minutes.

SAFETY NOTES

As with any above-the-treeline winter routes in Hokkaido, this route is particularly susceptible to high winds and bone-chilling temperatures. At the lodge it is regularly below -15°C, so with windchill at Mt. Sandan's peak, it will quite happily get to below -25°C. Don't take this mountain lightly.

ONSEN NEARBY

Of course Nakadake Onsen is a prime spot for soaking weary legs, but the bottom of the ropeway is in Asahidake Onsen village, with a number of onsen to choose from. Yukoman Onsen (location) was nice (800yen per person).



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Details: Fully serviced mountain lodge. Massive onsen attached with mixed bathing area (swimsuits OK). Full self-catering kitchen, bunk beds, basement drying room and ski racks. Basic foodstuffs available. Capacity: 70 persons. Cost: 3,250yen per night. Contact: Hakuginso Lodge (吹上温泉保養 センター 白銀荘), TEL: 0167-45-4126. Booking details: Lodge busy on weekends - booking highly recommended.

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A4 printer paper (210mm x 297mm). If you've only got Letter size (215.9mm x 279.4 mm), just follow the instructions below. You'll achive 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.



ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

