



# Bozu-yama


Hobetsu

穂別坊主山 Ski Touring Map 1:25000







3hrs  
Time




400m  
Total Climb




791m  
Highest point



8km  
Distance



4/10  
Difficulty



Feb-Mar  
Best season

**Bozu-yama in Hobetsu 穂別坊主山 (791m) is a diminutive peak surrounded by beautiful snowfields, at the far southern end of the Yubari Range 夕張山地. The terrain is very mellow, and as such, is a perfect spot for beginner backcountry skiers to get some experience navigating and travelling in the backcountry. The views are stellar. Pacific Ocean, Yubari-dake 夕張岳 (1668m), and the Hidaka Range. For the intrepid, there's the option of overnighiting in the pokey little Yamagoya Bozu Hut 山小屋坊主, but you'll need to haul your own wood up for the**



**stove. Bozu means ‘skinhead’ in Japanese, and refers to the lack of large trees near the summit - just vast sasa bamboo grass fields.**

LOCATION

Bozu-yama lies at the very far south end of the Yubari Range 夕張山地. So far south, in fact, that it could almost be mistaken for being at the far northwest of the Hidaka Range 日高山脈. In summer, the trailhead is at the south-southwest side of the mountain. In winter, however, it's possible to approach from the north, from National Highway 274, at the eastern entrance to Inasato Tunnel 稲里トンネル. Snowmobilers often approach from the southwest, at the gate on Route 610, around here.

GENERAL NOTES

Take a look at Bozu-yama's peak on Google Satellite, and you'll understand why it's called Bozu-yama, literally ‘crew-cut peak’. The peak is surrounded by large expanses of sasa bamboo grass fields, and from afar, the peak does indeed look neatly trimmed of large trees. This creates some beautiful, picturesque snow fields in the winter. The approach is straight forward – just a quick 2hr skin along a nicely-steep forestry road and then through some old-growth forest, and finally the short but steep climb to the summit proper. Downhill skiing in the area is a bit limited, but if you're happy to lap slopes, some fun can be had.

**When to visit:** This area isn't known for its copious snowfall – it's just on the outer edge of the Yubari Range's heavy snowfall zone. Therefore, it's best to visit in late Feb and March.

**Snow conditions:** Related to the above, consider yourself very lucky if you get deep powder conditions on Bozu-yama.

**Purchasing firewood:** If you're dead-set on hauling wood up to the hut, the closest place for buying firewood (if approaching from Sapporo) is the Nicot in Yubari City. Expect to pay about 900yen for 5kg. They don't always stock it during winter, so it's best to stock up in a larger city beforehand (at any large home center such as DCM).

**Pulling a pulk:** The entire approach to the summit plateau is suitable for pulling a pulk, but make sure to keep weight manageable. Our sleds were about 20kg each, and we were able to pull them just fine along the forestry road, and then with some effort up the final ridge. The descent along the ridge was more challenging, with the pulks wanting to run away on us. We strongly recommend planning on having an empty (or close to empty) pulk on the return to the trailhead.



HIDAKA AREA

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES

If you're making a quick peak-hunt up to the summit and back, you'd be unlikely to spend more than three hours on this route. However, given the mellow lapping potential of the upper area, plus the existence of Yamagoya Bozu Hut, it'd be a pity not to spend a bit longer, even overnight. The gradient of the approach forestry road is quite steep, so even snowboarders will find the return to the trailhead very quick.

From the cleared area at the entrance to Inasato Tunnel, head south along the forestry road along Ororoppusawa-gawa River. The forestry road continues for about 2.8km, gaining altitude the entire way (the road's incline is perfect for a quick exit on the downhill). At the terminus of the forestry road, as marked on the map, it appears the road keeps continuing steeply to the left. Don't follow the road, and instead drop to the right, down to the creek. Find a suitable snow bridge to cross, and continue another 200m along the looker's right side of the creek. At around the 200m mark, there's a small gully to the right. About 50m up the gully is a convenient road-like cutting that will allow you to gain the moderately-steep ridge that will lead you up to the summit plateau.

You'll pass by the cute little Yamagoya Bozu once on the plateau, just before the final climb up the free-standing summit ridge. This final climb can be icy, but by wrapping around the summit, it's unlikely you'll need to boot-pack.



## YAMAGOYA BOZU



**Details:** Small hut just below the Bozu-yama summit, at 745m. Has a wood stove, but no wood provided. Hut approach is suitable for pulling a pulk. No water supply at hut. In winter, access hut from unlocked rear window. Affords great star-gazing, as well as night view of Tomakomai.  
**Capacity:** 8 persons, max (5 is comfortable)  
**Cost:** Free.  
**Contact:** Mukawa Town Hall Hobetsu Branch, Commerce and Tourism Department (むかわ町農林水産課商工観光戦略グループ), TEL: 0145-42-2416

From the summit, you'll have great views of the Pacific Ocean, Yubari-dake, and the Hidaka mountains. It's possible to ski from the summit, and we found the best slopes to be to the east of the summit. There are several mellow lines that can be lapped. Note that especially on the weekends, you may find you're competing with local snowmobile clubs for fresh lines. Southern aspects also looked good to us, but with a week of preceding warm weather, the steep southern slopes were a mess of full-depth slides and glide cracks.F or the return to the trailhead, follow your up-tracks.

TRANSPORT

**By car:** The trailhead is on National Highway

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

274, a major trunk line cutting across Hokkaido. The start of the forestry road is at the eastern entrance to Inasato Tunnel 稲里トンネル. Here, there is a large snow-ploughed area, large enough to park about 10 vehicles. That said, after heavy snowfall, parking too many vehicles here will disrupt snowclearing work, so do try to carpool where possible, to reduce parking pressure. If staying overnight in the hut, we recommend leaving a note on the dashboard, informing high-way crews when you plan to return.  
**Public transport:** There is no public transport to this route.

SAFETY NOTES

There are many open snow fields around the Bozu-yama summit—in low-visibility conditions, navigation would be difficult. High winds would also make travel difficult on the summit plateau. Note also the area is popular among snowmobilers – take care, particularly on weekends, when local clubs may be active.

ONSEN NEARBY

The obvious choice for a post-ski onsen soak would be the Jukai-onsen Hakua 樹海温泉はくあ (520yen), only 9 mins drive west of the trailhead. However, they're closed during Jan, Feb and March. Other options are further away, but still worth while. For example Biratori Onsen Yukari びらとり温泉ゆから to the south (500yen, 2,700yen for private baths), or Yuni Onsen ユニの湯 (800yen) to the west. Both options have attached restaurants and outdoor baths. ■

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guide for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <https://bit.ly/hob-bozu>



**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.

TEXT, PHOTOS, MAP | Rob Thomson

[hokkaidowilds.org](https://hokkaidowilds.org) 2025/03/03

MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | @welldonegan

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Bozu-yama

(Hobetsu)

穂別坊主山

Ski Tour Map

1:25000

02505001000

02505001000

1 cm on the map equals 250m on the ground

Map: declination from GRID NORTH: 9°43' W (-3° per year) | MGRS Zone: 54TXWTWV  
Grid spacing: 1000m | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2023/03/03

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

**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/MgKtH>

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**Map Symbols**

Ascort/Ski-tour Route (time)

Freeride Route \*

Advanced Route \*

National Highway

Prefectural Highway / Gate

Municipal Road

Minor Municipal Road

Forestry Road

Bus route / Stop

Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift

Municipal boundary

Power lines

Contour lines (100m, 10m)

Cliffs / Butte / Rocks

Trees / No trees

Buildings

Backcountry gates

Ploughed parking / Onsen facility

Shop / Public toilet

Hut / Campground

Shrine / Temple

Hot spring / Fumerole

Transmission tower

Caution: Snowmobiles

Road closed

Gate

Bus route / Stop

Ski lift / Abandoned ski lift

Municipal boundary

Power lines

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.

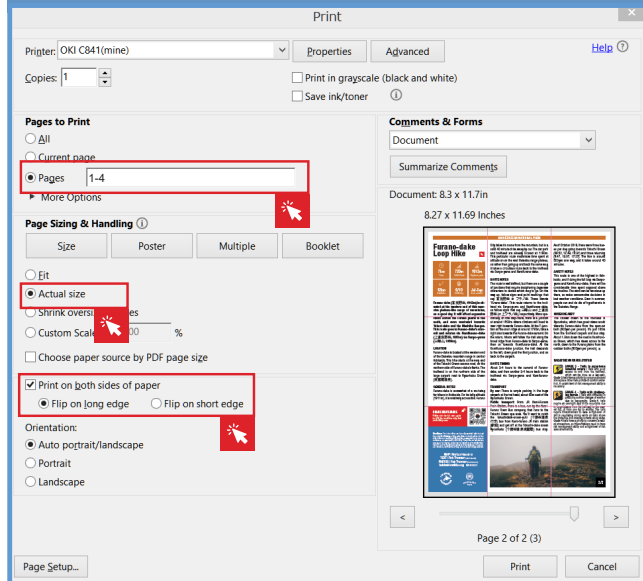
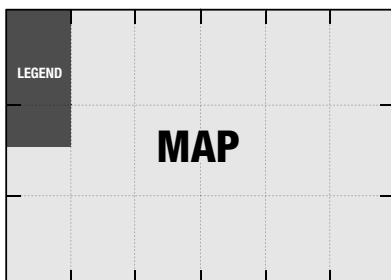


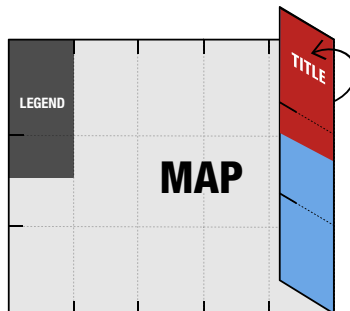
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

## ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

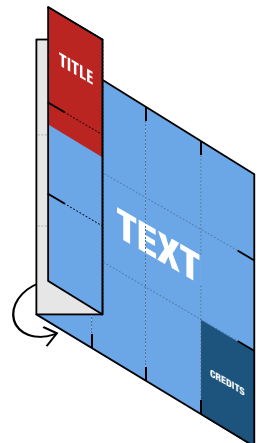
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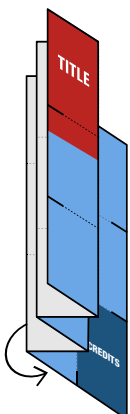
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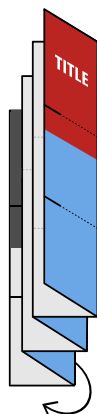
3



4



5



6



7

