

Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Geosites

The Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark contains a variety of geological attractions, from waterfalls and canyons, rock formations, dinosaur trackways, and karst features to mountain summits and extensive alpine meadows. Forty-one geosites are accessible. Some, close to town, are just a few minutes away; many involve short hiking trails of less than 3 km; others, deep in the mountains, provide for full day trip excursions or multi-day backpacking adventures. The brochures produced by the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society provide details for these hikes and destinations: www.wnms.pris.ca. Visit the Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre to pick up a brochure and get more detailed information.

The **Dinosaur Discovery Gallery**, beside the Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre, forms the main Geopark attraction in town. Here, in addition to numerous exhibits, educational camps and field trips to dinosaur footprint sites are offered: www.trmf.ca

The two publicly accessible dinosaur footprint sites, accessible via guided tours, are the **Cabin Pool** site (#1) on Flatbed Creek and the **Wolverine River** site (#2). The latter is best visited in the evening with lanterns. Dinosaur Gorge, a remote canyon leading up a creek-bed to a vertical rock wall festooned with large dinosaur tracks, lends itself to hardier adventurers.

Close to town, **Flatbed Falls** (#3), the **Overhanging Rock Pool** (#4), **Top Pool** (#5) and **Mini Falls** (#6) on Flatbed Creek provide scenic pools and rock formations. The trail to **Tumbler Point** (#7) provides expansive views, while the **Wolverine Trails to Lost Haven Cabin** (#8) provide forested trails with riverine sections and view sites.

Off Hwy 52, just a few kilometres from town are the trails to **Quality Canyon** (#9 - 5 km return) and **Quality Falls** (#10 - 2.5 km return), followed by the **Murray Canyon Overlook** (#11 - 6 km return) and **Tepee Falls** (#12 - 6 km return).

Off Hwy 29 is a spur road to the trails to **Bergeron Falls** (#13 - 12 km return) and **Bergeron Cliffs** (#14 - 6 km return). Further along the highway is **Gwillim Lake Provincial Park** (#15).

More ambitious trips lead off spur roads from this highway: off the Wolverine Forest Service Road are **Mt Reesor** (#16 - 8 km return) and **Mt Spieker**, (#17 - 6 km return). The magnificent **Albright Ridge** (#18) requires a long, rough drive and at least a full-day hike. Off the Windfall Lake Forest Service Road are superb hiking areas: **Holzworth Meadows** (#19), **Windfall Lake** (#20 - 10 km return) and **Pinnacle Peak** (#21 - a tough route with considerable elevation change). In this same area the splendid anticline of **Mount Crum** (#22) is clearly visible from a distance, and quite impressive when seen from the road at its base.

Destinations along the Sukunka Forest Service Road include **Sukunka Falls Provincial Park** (#23) with waterfall features, and the resurgence spring at **Hole in the Wall Provincial Park** (#24). En route, enjoy Martin Falls off Hwy 29.

A day trip to the biggest waterfall, **Kinuseo Falls** (#25) in Monkman Provincial Park, can be combined with side-trips en route to **Barbour Falls** (#26 - 2 km return), **Nesbitt's Knee Falls** (#27 - 2 km return), the **Stone Corral** (#28) with its caves and unusual rock scenery (4 km return), **Canary Falls** (#29 - 1 km), and **Jade Lake** (#30 - 2 km).

A multi-day trip to the **Cascades** (#31), a series of magnificent waterfalls, is highly recommended (20 km each way). Beyond the Cascades, deep in the northern Rockies are **Monkman Lake** (#32) and **Monkman Tarns** (#33).

The finest rock scenery lies in an area close to the Peace River Coal Mine. Here trails to the **Boulder Gardens** (#34 - 4 km return) and the **Shipyard-Titanic** area (#35 - 4 km return) provide hiking and rock-climbing opportunities, while nearby **Babcock Falls** (#36) offers a refreshing swimming hole. Further afield is Wapiti Lake Provincial Park, featuring **Wapiti Falls** (#37 - 7 km each way) and **Wapiti Lake** (#38 - 20 km each way). Also in this area are **Bootski Lake** (#39), with splendid alpine scenery, and **Red Deer Falls** (#40 - 250 m each way).

For those interested in caving and karst, the Stone Corral trail and Hole in the Wall Provincial Park are recommended. For more adventurous cavers the Albright Ridge and Windfall Lake areas hold further potential.





The **Murray River** (#41) is a central artery running through the area. It provides access by jet-boat not only upstream to Kinuseo Falls, but downstream to spectacular formations, waterfalls and the Murray Canyon. A canoe trip downstream from town leads through untouched wilderness for three days before the next bridge.

Helicopter tours provide another excellent way to appreciate the scenery and geology of the region. Many of the geosites are accessible by snowmobile in winter. The coal mines, wind turbines and natural gas operations are a constant reminder of how geology has shaped the history and economy of the area.

For the more adventurous backpacker there are many more features to reach and explore, including the area's glaciers and highest peaks, and waterfalls that have been visited by only a select few.



For further details:
 Visit the Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark webpage at www.trmf.ca or contact Dr. Charles Helm, Chairperson of the Steering Committee at (250) 242-3984 or email helm.c.w@gmail.com.

© 2014 Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society

Photos by: Kevin Sharman and Charles Helm