Snowshoeing in the Tumbler Ridge Area

There are numerous locations that are great for snowshoeing in the area surrounding Tumbler Ridge. Many are on trails that have hiking brochures describing the directions and the routes, and most lead to geosites that are within the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark. Visit the Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre which is open daily all winter for information. Brochures can also be downloaded from the WNMS website at <u>www.wnms.ca</u> or found at the Tumbler Ridge Community Centre by the front desk.

Common destinations are frozen waterfalls on frozen and snow covered creeks. Most of the trails are less than 5 km total distance. When snowshoeing on creeks, be aware of ice conditions and take the most cautious route to avoid breaking through the ice. If there are cross country ski tracks, please snowshoe well beside them rather than over top of them as this ruins the track for skiers. When snowshoeing to waterfalls, please respect the beauty of the frozen icicles and do not break any off. Supervise children to ensure they do the same. <u>Always be aware of avalanche risk.</u>







<u>Bullmoose Falls</u> (#20A) – Driving Time – 40 min. Driving Distance – 45 km (1 km gravel). Trail Length – 4 km total

Drive north on Hwy 29 from Tumbler Ridge for 25 km to the turnoff for the former Bullmoose Mine. Follow the Bullmoose mine road, and at 19 km you will arrive at the reclaimed mine site where the pavement ends. This road is not maintained to highway standard, so use caution. Park on the side of the road where the plowed road ends.

Snowshoe along the road, turning right and following the gravel road for another 1 km, where you will see the top of Bullmoose Falls on your right. Following the trail markers and orange flagging tape or existing snowshoe trail, continue less than 1 km to the base of the falls. You will cross a shallow creek on the way that does not freeze in winter, and will likely get your snowshoes and/or boots wet. The route climbs uphill to the base of the falls, which are nearly vertical. Use caution approaching the falls due to the possibility of falling ice, especially in warm conditions. If the conditions are very stable, it is possible to climb up to the base and walk behind the falls. It is common to see ice climbers here – please give them space and do not approach the falls while climbers are on it, until they tell you it is safe to do so. **Be aware of the avalanche risk.**



Bullmoose Falls



Looking behind Bullmoose Falls

<u>Shipyard-Titanic</u> (#36) – Driving Time – 35 min. Driving Distance – 34 km (13 km gravel). Trail length – 3 km access and 2 km trail length each way

Follow the driving directions in the "Shipyard-Titanic Hiking Trails" brochure: Drive south from Tumbler Ridge on Hwy 52 E. This paved road passes the turnoff to Kinuseo Falls at km 12.7. Keep going straight for a total of 19.5 km, then turn right on the gravel Core Lodge Road. Watch for industrial traffic on this road. At 12.5 km take the right fork, following the sign saying "all other traffic". The left fork is for mine traffic only. Currently the West Core Lodge Rd, the next right fork, is not plowed. Snowshoe up this road on the flanks of Mt. Babcock, past the Boulder Gardens parking lot, for 3 km to the Shipyard-Titanic summer trailhead, which is signed.

Follow the trail markers and flagging to the various features of the hike, including the Armada, Chockstone Ridge, the Bismarck, and finally the Titanic Rock at the end. It is helpful to bring along the Shipyard-Titanic trail brochure to explore these features. <u>Parts of this trail are subject to avalanche risk</u>, so it is advisable to be aware of avalanche conditions and carry appropriate gear.



The Armada on the Shipyard-Titanic Trail

<u>Babcock Falls</u> (#34) – Driving Time – 35 min. Driving Distance – 35 km (14 km gravel). Trail length – 2 km total

Follow the driving directions in the "Boulder Gardens and Babcock Falls" brochure: Drive south from Tumbler Ridge on Hwy 52 E. This paved road passes the turnoff to Kinuseo Falls at km 12.7. Keep going straight for a total of 19.5 km, then turn right on the gravel Core Lodge Road. Watch for industrial traffic on this road. At 12.5 km take the right fork, following the sign saying "all other traffic". The left fork is for mine traffic only. Drive a few hundred metres past the sign for the Babcock Falls hiking trailhead to km 14, and park either on the right just before the bridge or in the Core Lodge parking area.

Following the directions on the map in the hiking trail brochure, snowshoe just beside the road that leads to the left (north), for less than 100 m, to where the Babcock Falls hiking trail crosses. Turn right over a berm onto the marked trail, and follow it for 1 km to the viewpoint for Babcock Falls. The trail to the base continues steeply down to the left. There are several permanent ropes installed here to help you down the first section to the base of the falls. The falls are lovely, and the frozen seeps to their right create dramatic icicles.



Babcock Falls

For information on Babcock Seeps, see the Cross Country Ski brochure.

Quality Falls (#9) – Driving Time – 10 min. Driving Distance – 8 km. Trail length – 2.5 km return

Follow the directions in the "Quality Falls Hiking Trail" brochure: Drive north on Hwy 52 towards Dawson Creek for 8 km to the signed parking lot on the left side of the road, or park in the plowed pullout immediately on the right.

Snowshoe along the marked trail, which is mostly level. The trail descends to a viewpoint above the creek. After this first view of the falls there is a steep staircase that descends to creek level. It is possible to snowshoe to the base of the falls if the creek is frozen.



Quality Falls

Lost Haven Cabin (#7) – Driving Time – 5 min. Driving Distance – 3 km. Trail length – 2 km return

Drive north on Mackenzie Way, turn left onto Saddle Club Rd. and follow the signs for "Linda's Trail and Larry's Trail" to the parking area.

Snowshoe following the signs for "Linda's Trail and Larry's Trail" until the branch off to the right for the dedicated snowshoe trail to the Lost Haven Cabin. This trail was built by volunteers in 2017. Be sure to stay off of the groomed ski trails at the cabin and nearby Wolverine Trails. You can extend the trip by snowshoeing down Linda's Trail to the Murray River.



Lost Haven Cabin

<u>Flatbed Creek</u> (#1) – Driving Time – 5 min. Driving Distance – 3 km. Trail length – variable (up to 7 km).

Drive west on Hwy 29 towards Chetwynd to the bottom of the first hill, and turn into the Lion's Flatbed Campground. Park beside the bridge that is straight ahead.

You can snowshoe upstream to the left, which is more closed in with canyons all the way to Flatbed Falls at 3.5 km one way. If you head downstream to the right, the creek is more open, and joins the Murray River after 2 km. Flatbed Creek is a popular cross country ski spot, so please be aware of the ski tracks and snowshoe beside them, not on top of them.



Flatbed Creek - Downstream



Flatbed Creek - Upstream

You can also snowshoe on the upper part of Flatbed Creek. Drive east on Hwy 52 for 5 km to the bridge over the creek. Park on the far side of the bridge, well out of the way on the right side, and make your way down onto the creek heading downstream (left).



Upper section of Flatbed Creek

<u>Bergeron Falls and Bergeron Cliffs</u> (#13 & #12) – Driving Time – 20 min. Driving Distance – 13 km (6.5 km gravel). Trail length – 10 km (Cliffs), 11 to 15 km (Falls)

Follow the driving directions in the "Bergeron Falls (or Cliffs) Hiking Trail" brochures: Drive north toward Chetwynd on Hwy 29 for 6.5 km. Turn right onto a gravel road that is marked for these hiking trails. Drive 6.5 km on this road to where an abandoned building sits on blocks. Park here as the road is not plowed past this point. This adds another 1.5 km each way to the summer hiking trail.

Snowshoe along the road to the trailhead, which is to the left of a large gravel pit. Both of these trails have some steady uphill sections. Bergeron Falls leads to a beautiful huge waterfall (100m high) and the trail goes to the base of the falls as well as circling around to the top of them. Most winters there is an ice cave that forms behind the bottom section of the falls. The Bergeron Cliffs trail provides panoramic views of the Murray River valley, the town of Tumbler Ridge and the Rocky Mountains.



Bergeron Falls

Bergeron Cliffs

<u>Tepee Falls</u> (#11) – Driving Time – 25 min. Driving Distance – 35 km. Trail length – 6.5 km return

Follow the driving directions in the "Tepee Falls Hiking Trail" brochure: Drive north on the Heritage Highway (Hwy 52) towards Dawson Creek for 35 km. The parking area is signed and is on the right.

The trail to Tepee Falls starts on the other side of the highway. Follow the marked trail to the numerous viewpoints. The trail is relatively flat.



Tepee Falls

Other destinations suitable for snowshoeing include Murray Canyon Overlook and Boulder Gardens. See the hiking trail brochures for more detailed information.

Don't wait until it's too late, 911 rescues are free in BC.

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