

Hiking Routes South of the Core Lodge

The headwaters of Babcock Creek, south of the Core Lodge, offer some excellent alpine hiking. These trips are only suitable for experienced hikers with good route finding skills. The alpine ridges are often windy, and fog may roll in unexpectedly. Take a map and compass, and know how to use them.


Directions to the Core Lodge

From Tumbler Ridge, drive south on Hwy 52 E (Boundary Road). The paved road passes the turnoff to Kinuseo Falls at km 12.7; keep going straight on Hwy 52 E for 6.8 km to a right turn onto the Core Lodge Rd. This road is radio controlled - watch for industrial traffic. At 12.5 km, there is a fork. Take the right fork, following the sign saying "all other traffic". The left fork is for mine traffic only. From Hwy 52 it is 14 km to the Core Lodge.

The key to access these hikes is the Five Cabin road, which heads south from the Core Lodge and is passable as far as km 8. This rough dirt road is suitable for 2 wheel drive vehicles in dry weather, but a 4X4 is needed in wet conditions.


The following routes on the west side of the Five Cabin road access an interconnected alpine ridgeline which has spectacular views in all directions.

Mount Kostuik (#37)

Time/Distance: 5-6 hours/8 km return to summit
Elevation Gain: 500 m (1640 ft)
Rating: Challenging 


This route ascends old coal exploration trails into the alpine, then climbs the ridge to the summit of Mt. Kostuik. To reach the trailhead, drive south from the Core Lodge on the Five Cabin road for 0.6 km and look for the sign for Mt. Kostuik. Park here and head up the dirt track to the west. After 100 m, turn right, following this road which climbs steadily. After 2 km, the trail levels out and enters subalpine meadows. From here, you can scramble up to the ridgetop and head for the summit (cover photo), which is composed of conglomerate, a rock type with pebbles and cobbles. There are excellent views, especially to the south, where peaks of Monkman Park are visible. Anglo American's Trend coal mine is visible to the east. Roman Mountain, the highest summit in the area, has a syncline or downfold in the strata.

Hidden Valley

Time/Distance: 3-4 hours/6 km return to saddle
Elevation Gain: 300 m (985 ft)
Rating: Challenging 

Following a cutline to the west of the Five Cabin Rd, this route leads into the subalpine bowl on the west side of Mt. Kostuik. Follow the Five Cabin road south from the Core Lodge for 1.4 km and look for a wooden sign on the right. Follow the path uphill for 200 m to where it joins the cutline, then follow the cutline into the meadows. It is possible to go to the saddle and climb Mt. Kostuik from the south, or go south from the saddle.


The Terminator (#38)

Time/Distance: 3-4 hours/6 km return to summit
Elevation Gain: 450 m (1475 ft)
Rating: Challenging 

The pyramid shaped peak visible from the Core Lodge is known as the Terminator. Drive south on the Five Cabin road for 5.3 km to the start. The route heads up a reclaimed gas well road to the meadows on the north side of the Terminator. From there, it is a steady climb to the top. The steep bowl to the south is known as the Super Bowl. You can continue around the bowl and down through the forest on an unmarked route to the Five Cabin road.

The above routes can be combined into longer hikes, like a route to the top of Mt. Kostuik, exiting on the Hidden Valley route. For a full day hike, drop a vehicle off at Five Cabin Pass, start hiking on the Mt. Kostuik route, then keep going south along the ridgelines (known as Windy Ridge) to the Terminator, dropping down to your vehicle.

Roman Mountain


Time/Distance: 5-6 hours/10 km return to summit
Elevation gain: 550 m (1800 ft)
Rating: Challenging 

Roman Mountain is the large peak on the east side of the Five Cabin road. Currently the road is passable as far as km 8, where the culverts have been removed at a creek crossing. From here, you can walk or bike up the road to access the alpine areas of Roman Mountain. This is the old route of the Emperor's Challenge Mountain Run, a 20 km circuit which starts at the Core Lodge. Extensive alpine areas provide excellent views, and caribou are sometimes seen.

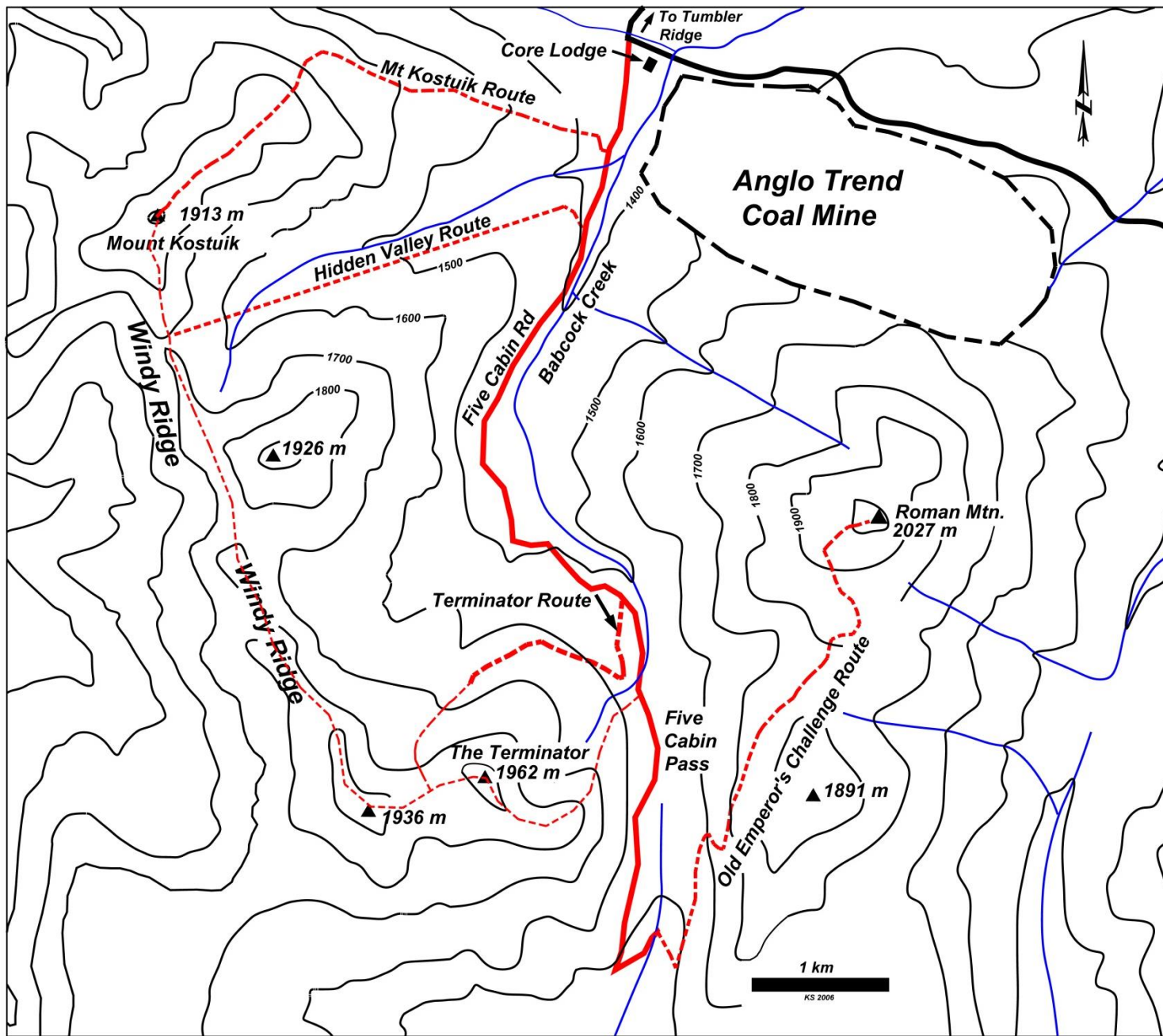
#37 & #38

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Rating: Challenging 
Time: Variable





Hiking Routes South of the Core Lodge

- These routes are in bear country; travel in groups and make noise
- Please pack out what you packed in



The Terminator

1:50,000 map reference:
93 I/14, 93 I/15

For more information, contact:

**Wolverine Nordic and
Mountain Society**

Kevin Sharman (250) 242-4860

Charles Helm (250) 242-3984

Photo Gallery website:

www.wnms.ca

**Tumbler Ridge
Visitor Centre**

(250) 242-3123

Tourism website:

www.TumblerRidge.ca

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