

Hiking Trails in the Flatbed Valley

Just outside the town of Tumbler Ridge is the picturesque valley of Flatbed Creek, which offers a variety of hiking trails and a chance to see some of the dinosaur tracks that Tumbler Ridge is known for. These trails form part of the 28-kilometer-long TR Trail, which encircles three quarters of the community of Tumbler Ridge, and there are signs along the trails to indicate this.

Directions to the Trailheads

The main starting point for the Flatbed trails is the Flatbed Falls parking area. From town, take Mackenzie Way and turn left onto Hwy 29. Drive 400 m along the highway, and the parking lot is on the right. Another starting point is at the Lions campground. For this trailhead, take Hwy 29 from town towards Chetwynd, and turn right at the bottom of the hill.

Flatbed Falls (#2)

Time/Distance: 1-2 hours/2 km return
Rating: Moderate ■

This walk leads through the forest to a 4 m high waterfall on Flatbed Creek. The rock shelf that forms the falls is a favourite picnic area, and the pool below the falls provides a great swimming hole for the brave. There is a log picnic shelter and outhouses just before the falls.

Flatbed Pools Hiking Trail (#1)

Time/Distance: 2-3 hours/4 km return
Rating: Moderate ■

This trail also starts at the Flatbed Falls parking area, on the left side of the parking lot. After a 100 m walk through the forest, the trail leads along the top of an open south-facing slope that provides views of the valley. The trail then goes along a sharp ridge known as the Razorback, which drops off on both sides. After the Razorback the trail enters the woods and soon reaches Nominister

Abbey, a rough cabin which was reportedly used by a fugitive from justice in the town's early years.

After 1 km, a fork is reached. The right hand fork leads to the Cabin Pool and two dinosaur track sites. It descends to creek level, where the remains of a partially built cabin overlook the creek. The rock slab below the picnic tables has dinosaur tracks of five different types. Across the creek and 100 m downstream is the first trackway discovered in the area, with a line of 23 Ankylosaur tracks. Guided interpretive tours of the track sites with the TRMF are recommended. The rocks that host the dinosaur tracks were once part of a shallow coastal plain. Ripples marks are visible on many of the bedding surfaces.

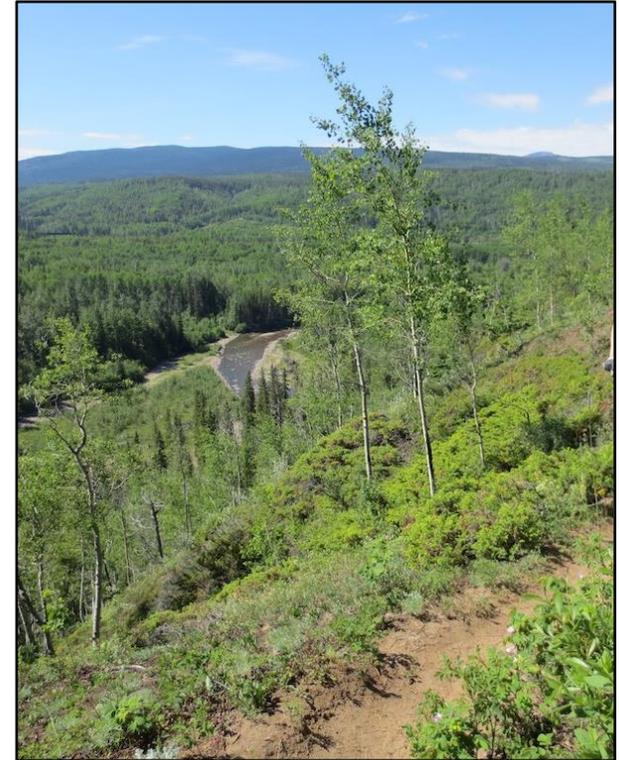
Following the left hand fork at km 1.0 leads to the Overhanging Rock Pool, Top Pool, the Flatbed Creek Peat Site and Kevin's Trail. At 1.1 km take the left fork to continue on Kevin's Trail to the start of the TR Trail. Taking the right fork at 1.1 km leads to the other three sites. A short side trail to the left at 1.7 km leads to the Flatbed Creek Peat Site, where interpretive signs explain the significance of the layer of peat which is exposed along the bank. At 1.9 km there is a junction at the start of a loop that descends to creek level. Head left for Top Pool and continue along the loop to the Overhanging Rock Pool, both of which are good spots for picnicking and swimming.

Linking Trail

Time/Distance: 1.5 hours/3 km one way
Rating: Moderate ■

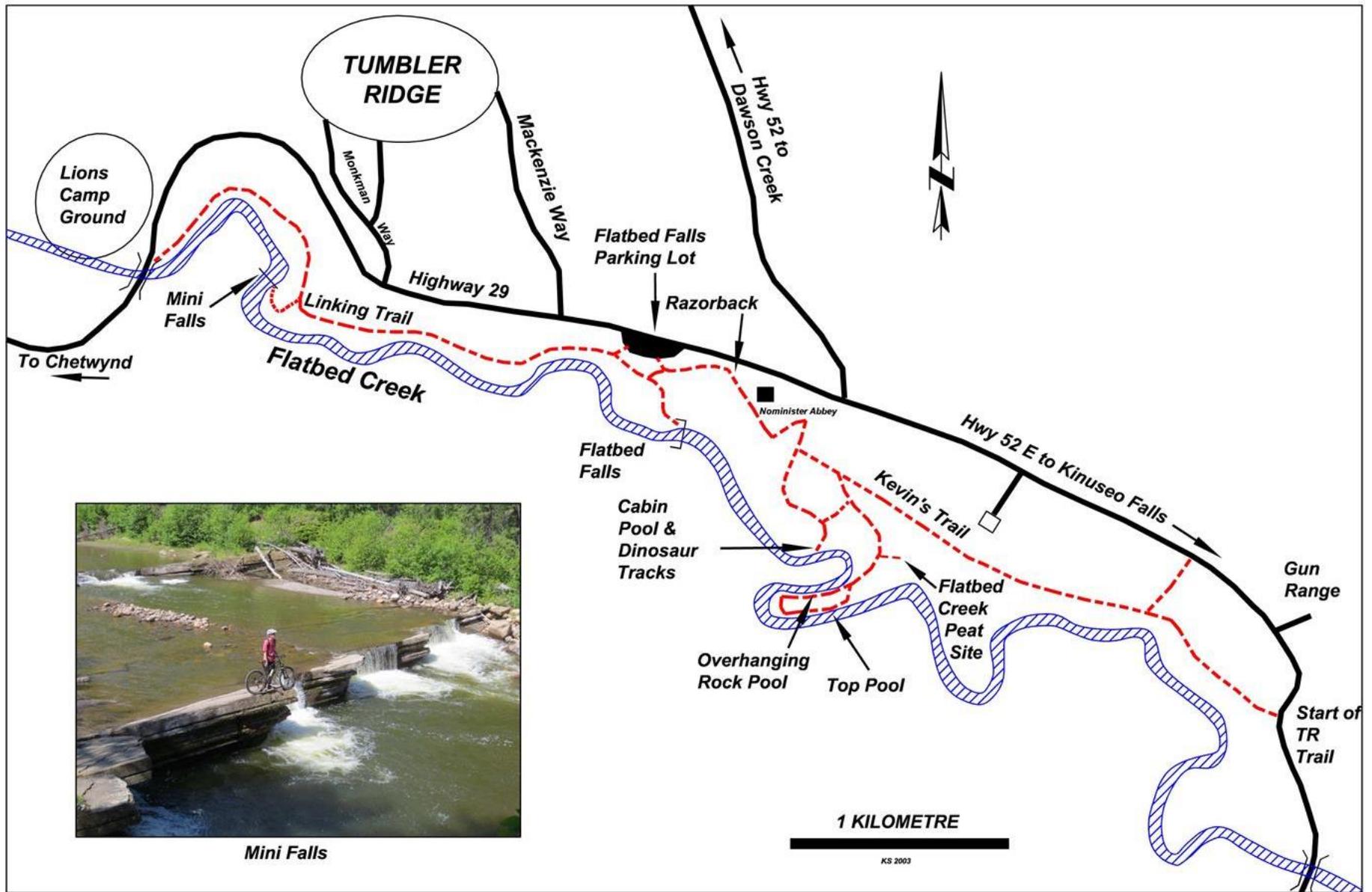
The Linking Trail heads downstream from the Flatbed Falls trail, following the edge of the escarpment along the creek. Good views of the creek valley can be found along the way. A side trail leads down to the Mini Falls, a small waterfall with a deep pool below its serrated lip. Near the end, the trail descends steeply at a staircase before passing under the highway bridge and ending at the Lions campground.

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Rating: Moderate ■ 
Time: Variable 





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- These trails are in bear country; travel in groups and make noise
- Please pack out what you packed in
- Please do not remove or deface dinosaur tracks

For more Information: Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society (250) 242-4860 or (250) 242-3984 www.wnms.ca
 Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre (250) 242-3123 www.TumblerRidge.ca

Photo Credit: Carina Helm

