

Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark

WILDERNESS WATERFALLS



*These waterfalls are in remote locations, no trails exist,
and GPS is required.*

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

Not every geosite needs a hiking trail. Providing ready access to all of Tumbler Ridge's waterfalls might make enjoying our Geopark too easy. Wilderness is one of our distinguishing features, and is a priceless commodity. Some of these remote destinations are among our most splendid, set in pristine canyon and mountain environments. There are some visitors who don't need manicured trails, who would like to rise to the challenge of bushwhacking through thick forest, fording swollen rivers, scaling tall bluffs and bumping into our wildlife in order to view our wild waterfalls

In this guide we suggest ten such destinations, and provide you with coordinates for each waterfall, as well as a suggested start point. Coordinates are given in both latitude/longitude, and UTM (Zone 10, WGS84). We give you the approximate distance, and mention specific hazards that you might encounter. We expect you to plan your own adventure by consulting topographic maps and Google Earth, and to carry a compass, GPS and emergency beacon in case you require help. We strongly recommend that you let Visitor Centre staff or other responsible adults know where you are headed, and your latest possible return time. If you are interested in this kind of experience, but feel you lack the necessary skills and confidence, we suggest you ask at the Visitor Centre if guided trips are available. If you would like more detail or advice on any of these wilderness hikes, or further geological information on these destinations, please ask at the Visitor Centre to be put in touch with someone knowledgeable.

Of the ten waterfall sites

- five are north of Tumbler Ridge, accessed from the Murray River or off Hwy 52
- two are west of Tumbler Ridge, accessed via the Wolverine Forest Service Road or Windfall Forest Service Road
- three are south of Tumbler Ridge, accessed from the Bulley Creek Forest Service Road or the Red Deer Creek Forest Service Road.

These trips are recommended for those experienced in back-country travel. They are not recommended for beginners unless accompanied by a guide. The Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society (WNMS), the District of Tumbler Ridge and the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark (TRUGG) have taken every effort to ensure that the information presented is accurate. These organizations take no responsibility for loss, inconvenience or injury sustained by any person using this brochure.

North of Tumbler Ridge

Salt Falls



Falls: 55° 22' 42" N, 120° 55' 09" W

6138863 631842

Start: 55° 23' 11" N, 120° 54' 07" W

6139793 632906

(The start may vary depending on industrial activity and new road construction.)

8 km return

To drive to the start, drive north on Hwy 52, then take the South Puggins Road and turn left onto the spur road after 1.1 km. Follow this road to the starting point. Use seismic lines to work your way into the creek above the falls, then descend beside the creek. When you reach the lip of the falls, climb up and over ridge on the left to descend to the pool at the bottom (a great place for a swim). When creek levels are low consider descending further through the slot of Salt Canyon.

Skunk Falls



Falls: 55° 23' 23" N, 120° 56' 33" W

6140087 630327

Start: 55° 23' 11" N, 120° 54' 07" W

6139793 632906

6 km return

Riverboat Access: The easier way to this spectacular waterfall and canyon is to be dropped off by boat at the mouth of Salt Creek, head upstream and then north up Skunk Creek to the falls. Be very careful of falling rocks and debris in the steep canyon below the falls.

Hiking Access: Starting point is 55 23' 48" N, 120 53 38" W (start point may vary depending on industrial activity and new road construction)
11 km return

To drive to the start, drive north on Hwy 52, then take the South Puggins Road and turn left onto the spur road after 1.1 km. Follow this road to the starting point. Head west along old and new industrial roads and seismic lines to near the upper falls, then down the steep ridge on the eastern flank of the falls into the creek (the ridge on the western flank of the falls is much trickier), then up the creek to the falls. Be very careful of falling rocks and debris in the steep canyon below the falls.

Quantum Falls



Riverboat Access:

Falls: 55° 13' 01" N,
120° 55' 55" W
6120883 631566
Start: 55° 13' 08" N,
120° 56' 24" W
6121085 631047
1 km return

Hiking Access:

Start: 55° 12' 06" N,
120° 55' 35" W
6119195 631970
6 km return

The easy way is to get dropped off at the mouth of the creek by riverboat, where it is a short jaunt up the creek to the falls and canyon. The flow diminishes when

conditions are dry, so the falls are best in the spring or after rain.

Drive as far as you can up the Quality Forest Service Road, then hike, run, ATV or mountain bike to the end of the last clearcut, which brings you close to the lip of the top falls. Head down steep ridges through the forest to get into the canyon below the lower falls, and walk up the creek to the base of the falls. Flow diminishes when conditions are dry, so the falls are best in spring or after rain.

Quillon Falls



Falls: 55° 14' 58" N, 120° 54' 57" W

6124530 632483

Start: 55° 14' 58" N, 120° 55' 06" W

6124525 632324

1 km return

These falls are definitely best accessed from a boat trip on the river. Squeeze between enormous boulders to reach the lower falls and gaze up at the upper falls.

Quest Falls



Riverboat Access:

Falls: 55° 14' 34" N, 120° 54' 53" W

6123795 632575

Start: 55° 14' 42" N, 120° 55' 21" W

6124032 632068

2 km return

Hiking Access:

Falls: 55° 14' 35" N, 120° 54' 51" W

6123822 632618

Start: 55° 14' 16" N, 120° 52' 44" W

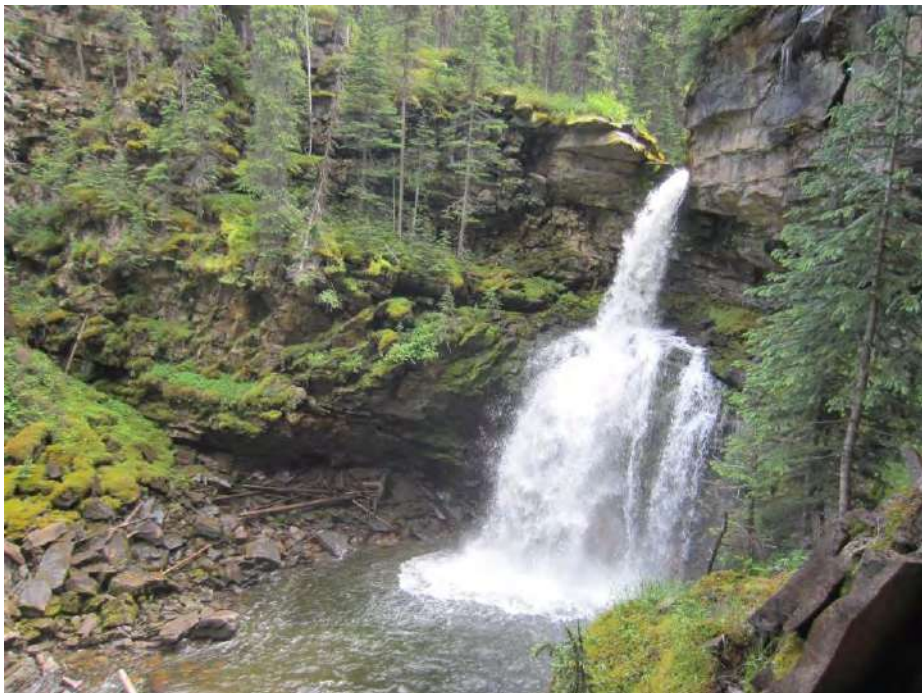
6123313 634866

5 km return

The easy way is to get dropped off at the mouth of the creek by boat. From here it is a short walk up the creek to the falls and canyon. To hike to the falls, drive north from Tumbler Ridge on Hwy 52 for about 22 km. Turn left onto C Road of the Quality windfarm, following the low road all the way to bottom, and park on the access road at the last turbine in the string. Walk angling down and left through bush and cutblock roads and then bush again, to the viewpoint above a rock cliff.

West of Tumbler Ridge

Perry Falls



Falls: 55° 06' 04" N, 121° 17' 48" W

6107368 608680

Start: 56° 06' 02" N, 121° 17' 42" W

6218582 606055

1 km return

From the Wolverine Forest Service Road, drive up the Perry Creek Road. Look for occasional flagging to guide you from the roadside down ridges and between steep cliffs to the base of the falls. There is only one safe way down through the cliffs.

Infinity Falls



Falls: 55° 00' 59" N, 121° 38' 01" W

6097464 587368

Start: 55° 00' 55" N, 121° 37' 26" W

6097348 587982

4 km return

Follow the Windfall Forest Service Road to the trailhead for the Windfall Lake hike. Walk up the Windfall Lake trail for about 1 km to the start, then through the forest to the base of this series of five waterfalls. The pool at the bottom of the lowest falls is perfect for a cold shower. The falls are best in mid-summer, since the flow shrinks later in the year.

South of Tumbler Ridge

Sync Falls



Falls: 54° 33' 37" N, 120° 23' 10" W

6049003 669011

Start: 54° 34' 09" N, 120° 22' 01" W

6050039 670213

3 km return

Drive up the Ojay Main Road and continue on the Red Deer Forest Service Road. Turn onto the cut block road at 54° 33' 47.5" N, 120° 14' 56.2" W. Navigate the cutblocks to the start point. Pay attention to the turn-offs on the logging roads, as it is easy to get lost here. Start walking, and leave the rough road at 54° 33' 52" N, 120° 23' 29.5" W. Bushwack upstream to the base of the falls, which is not hard.

Slate Falls



Falls: 54° 42' 25" N, 121° 08' 45" W

6063759 619465

Start: 54° 42' 34" N, 121° 07' 38" W

6064069 620656

3 km return

Drive up the Bulley Creek Forest Service Road to the start. Head through an old cutblock, then through forest to the east bank of the Murray River. This bank is lined by steep cliffs – exercise caution. It is possible to descend with care beside the falls if water levels are low, definitely not when levels are high.

Bulley Glacier Falls



Falls: 54° 27' 56" N, 120° 55' 28" W

6037305 634520

Start: 54° 33' 57" N, 120° 56' 55" W

6048414 632628

30 km return

Drive as far as you can up the Bulley Creek Forest Service Road, then mountain bike or run as far as you can on old logging roads to the furthest cutblock. Bushwack through forest and swampy terrain. Be prepared for creek crossings that may be impassable in flood. You will end up at a turquoise lake filled by the creek from these falls, which come off the Bulley Glacier. The mountain above the falls is the highest in the region and is the source of the Murray River.

© 2019 Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society

