

Cross Country Skiing in the Tumbler Ridge Area

There are numerous locations that are great for cross country skiing in the area surrounding Tumbler Ridge. Some are on trails that have hiking brochures explaining 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 brochures. Brochures can also be downloaded from the WNMS website at www.wnms.ca or picked up at the Community Centre or the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery.



Wolverine Ski Trails (#7) – Driving Time – 3 min. Driving Distance – 1 km Trail Length – variable (1.5 km – 9 km)

The main access to the trails is from the golf course. Follow Monkman Way, which turns into Golf Course Road, leading to the clubhouse and parking lot. Park on the far side of the clubhouse. From the parking lot, walk down to the bottom of the hill onto the fairway.

These groomed ski trails are described in detail in the “Wolverine Ski Trails and the Lost Haven Cabin” brochure. Volunteers groom the trails for both classic and skate skiing, conditions permitting. The fairways have two loops, 1.5 km (flat) and 2.5 km (moderately hilly).



Golf Course Ski Trails

The ski trails continue into the woods and have loops of 4 km, 5.5 km, 6.5 km and 9 km (Escher's Loop). All of these trails are moderately challenging, with some hilly sections. The Lost Haven ski cabin, with great views of the Murray River valley, is about half way around the 6.5 km loop. Sections of the trails in the woods are part of the "TR Trail", a hiking trail that encircles over half of the town of Tumbler Ridge without crossing a paved road. These sections are signed every 0.5 km for distance.



Lost Haven Ski Cabin



Groomed trails in the forest

Flatbed Creek (#1, #2) – There are several sections of Flatbed Creek that are wonderful for cross country skiing. The season is usually mid-December until mid-March, but this varies by year depending on the weather. Always use caution when skiing on frozen creek beds, especially after the weather warms up. There is a brochure describing the geological features of skiing along the various sections of Flatbed Creek, “Flatbed Creek Winter Geological Tour”.

Flatbed Creek Upstream: Lions Campground to Flatbed Falls (#2) –
Driving Time - 5 min. Driving Distance - 3 km Trail length - 7 km
return

Drive south on Monkman Way or Mackenzie Way to Hwy 29. Turn right (west, towards Chetwynd), and drive for 2 km to the bottom of the hill. Turn right into the Lions Campground, and park at the bridge straight ahead. Walk under the bridge and onto the creek.

Head upstream (left), and follow the skier set track. The route avoids areas that have open water when the weather warms up. This section of the creek has some narrower canyons, waterfalls and seeps. You will reach the Mini Falls after 1 km, the seeps after 2.5 km, and Flatbed Falls is 3.5 km from the start. Some years there are more open water sections than others, but it is always best to stay on the ski track. This is an out and back route, so you can turn around at any point for a shorter trip.



The seeps on Flatbed Creek



Flatbed Falls



Flatbed Creek – heading back to the Lions Campground

Flatbed Creek Downstream, Lions Campground to the Murray River

(#1) –Driving Time – 5 min. Driving Distance – 3 km Trail length
- 4 km return

Drive south on Monkman Way or Mackenzie Way to Hwy 29. Turn right (west, towards Chetwynd), and drive for 2 km to the bottom of the hill. Turn right into the Lions Campground, and park at the bridge straight ahead. Walk under the bridge and onto the creek.

Head downstream (right), and follow the skier set track. This section of the creek is more wide open. The first section is straight and goes past the Lions campground on your right. The creek then continues below the “Point” of the Tumbler Point Trail, and winds back and forth the rest of the way to the Murray River. It is not recommended to ski on the Murray River, since it does not freeze as solidly as the creek and the consequences of breaking through this deep river are serious.



Flatbed Creek – Downstream

Flatbed Bridge to Bridge (#1) – Driving Time – 20 min. Driving Distance – 18 km Trail length – 9.5 km one way

This trip requires two vehicles. Drive south on Monkman Way or Mackenzie Way to Hwy 29. Turn right (west, towards Chetwynd), and drive for 2 km to the bottom of the hill. Turn right into the Lions Campground, park at the bridge straight ahead, and leave one vehicle here. Then head back onto Hwy 29, turn left (east), and drive 7 km to the bridge at the bottom of the hill. If the pullout just before the bridge is plowed, this is the best place to park. If not, park just on the far side of the bridge on the right side of the highway. Walk down onto the creek.

Head downstream (right if you parked before the bridge, left if you parked after it) and follow the skier set track. The creek winds through sections that are open with wide views, and others that have tall canyon walls. At the first main left bend, after about 1 km, there is a section of the creek that does not freeze well and care needs to be taken. After 3.5 km you will ski past the Top Pool, followed by the Overhanging Rock and then the Cabin Pool. Flatbed Falls are reached after 6 km. You can either ski or walk around the falls on the trail to the right, and drop back down onto the creek just below the falls after about 20 m. The last 3.5 km of the trail usually has much more ski traffic on it and the ski trail should be well defined. After 9.5 km you will see the bridge over Hwy 29. Exit the creek by heading up the right bank before the bridge.



Skiing under the Overhanging Rock on Flatbed Creek

Lower Babcock Creek – Driving Time – 15 min. Driving Distance – 21 km Trail length - 7 km return

Drive south on Monkman Way or Mackenzie Way to Hwy 29. Turn left (east) on Hwy 52 E. At 19.5 km you will pass the turnoff to the Core Lodge Road which leads to Boulder Gardens, Shipyard-Titanic and other hiking trails. Continue on Hwy 52 for 1 km, and park just before the bridge on the right side of the highway, or in the pullout if it is plowed. Walk down to the right onto the creek. This is where the Game of Thrones “Throne of Ice” was found in March 2019, part of an HBO contest where 6 Iron Thrones were hidden around the world leading up to the 8th and final season of the hit TV series Game of Thrones.

Head upstream (right) and follow the creek. It meanders through open sections, and some sections that have higher banks. After 3 km you will see a long section of beautiful frozen seeps on the right, where the Throne of Ice was originally placed. The waterfall is a few hundred metres beyond this. This is an out and back trip, so it is possible to shorten the distance.



The seeps on Lower Babcock Creek



The Throne of Ice

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Tumbler Ridge
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