



Tumbler Ridge - Backgrounder

The District of Tumbler Ridge is the newest municipality in British Columbia. A community of 3700 people idyllically situated in the rolling foothills on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, it is located within the Alaska Highway corridor. Gifted with a diverse topography that has earned the community the moniker, “Waterfall Capital of the North”, Tumbler Ridge sits amidst a wilderness of lakes, rivers, and numerous breathtaking falls. This four-season destination offers unlimited year-round recreational opportunities for all ages and was elevated to global recognition in 2000 by the discovery of dinosaur footprints. Today, Tumbler Ridge is home to the Peace Regional Palaeontology Research Centre and the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery offering insight and hands on experiences in dinosaur exploration in one of the world’s finest fossil areas.

Location: Tumbler Ridge is located in the heart of the Peace River Region about 125 km from mile zero of the Alaska Highway in Dawson Creek. Scheduled flight service into Fort St. John or driving via highway 97 out of Prince George.

Activities: Adventures can take on many forms and Tumbler Ridge delivers with a surprising array in a captivating landscape rich with ‘must see’ waterfalls to magical caves; an established trail Mecca to untamed backcountry journeys; globally renown dinosaur footprint discoveries to peak ‘bagging’ in this easy to access dream destination for the outdoor enthusiasts. Popular activities include: River boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, waterfall bagging, trailing running, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice climbing, and tobogganing.

Waterfall Capital of the North: Surrounded by nearly 1600 sq km of Provincial Parks and wilderness on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, Tumbler Ridge is gifted with geological formations that attract the high-energy to easy-going adventure seeker. Undeniably, spectacular waterfalls greet everyone who makes the journey. Entering the region from the north, along one of two major rivers that flow through the valley, the spectacle of cascades elevates Tumbler Ridge’s claim as the ‘Waterfall Capital of the North’. Many falls are visible from the roadside or river, but many more ‘hidden’ cascades are accessed by hiking the well-signed trails. For intrepid waterfall baggers, a visit to Tumbler Ridge will enable you to cross off some of BC’s finest. Several highlights are the breathtaking, not-to-be-missed 60m Kinuseo Falls (bigger than Niagara), the 100 m Bergeron Falls (the highest falls in Northern BC), and The Cascades in Monkman Provincial Park that are dazzling series of 10 waterfalls along one creek. “To the accepted pantheon of BC’s major waterfalls should be added a new star, the Monkman Cascades...it almost defies human imagination... If I die tomorrow, I will die happy, for I have visited the Monkman Cascades.”

- Tony Greenfield, naturalist and author of “Waterfalls of British Columbia, A Guide to BC’s 100 Best Falls”

Trail Running picks up the pace: Trail running is far from being a new sport, but for the Canadian Woman’s Hockey Team, Tumbler Ridge provided the perfect setting to do some summer training. Of course, one doesn’t have to be that fit to use the 38 established trails. A

wide choice of terrains, from short, easy hikes through verdant woodlands close to town, to rigorous multi-day backcountry treks into untamed landscapes provide many options. In fact, throughout the region there are 47 designated trails covering about 250 km of wilderness that are great for hiking, running or mountain-biking from mid-May to October. Several notable trails include: TR Point Trail: an easy, two-hour walk through a bird sanctuary; The three day Monkman Lake Trail: passes below 10 spectacular waterfalls; the more difficult six day Monkman Pass Memorial Trail: travels from lower valley views of waterfalls, river, lakes and temperate boreal forest and then climbs into alpine meadows and untouched mountain terrain suffused with inspiring tangible history; And the Emperor's Challenge, a gruelling half marathon that has runners climbing 676 m (2,218 ft) to the summit of Roman Mountain before beginning the long descent home

Dinosaurs on Track: In 2000, Tumbler Ridge also gained world attention when a discovery was made of 26 dinosaur footprints in bedrock along Flatbed riverbank. The Dinosaur track way belonged to a four-toed ankylosaur. It is the longest accessible track way in BC. Additional finds of Theropod and Ornithopod tracks, dinosaurs that lived about 75 - 99 million years ago, contribute to the largest collections of dinosaur footprints in the province - one rock alone housing 171 tracks. The most unique way to tour the footprints is with Wolverine Lantern Tour where the casted light, dinosaur sounds and the rushing water at the riverbank site brings the footprints to life and creates an otherworld, unforgettable experience. Children can also explore in free Dino camps and adults can take advantage of 'learning' excursions making the journey one for the whole family.

Events 2010:

February - Ridge Ramble Cross-Country Ski Race; **March**-Wolverine Challenge Sled Dog Race; **June**-Ridge Ramble Biathlon (Running / Cycling), Grizzly Valley Saddle Club Annual Poker Ride & Gymkhana; **August**-Grizfest Music Festival, Emperor's Challenge
Fall - Ridge Ramble Cross-Country Run; **October**-Hallowe'en Haunted Experience; **November**-Craft Fairs; **December** Holly Jolly Christmas Celebration

August- GRIZFEST delivers music from traditional to the edge of experimental. Focusing on Canadian talent, the festival is a blend of various musical styles. Entering its ninth year, it is family-oriented event with a variety of activities to enjoy. Imagine sitting in an unsurpassed beautiful mountain setting, great music playing and a community who is committed to the success of the festival. Visit www.grizfest.com

August- the Emperor's Challenge: If running is your chosen sport, this gruelling half marathon is for you. It has runners climbing 676 m (2,218 ft) to the summit of Roman Mountain before beginning the long descent home. <http://www.emperorschallenge.com>

For more information, www.VisitTumblerRidge.com