

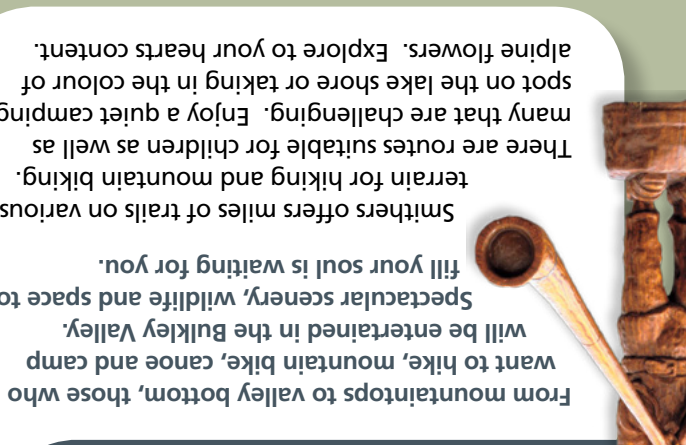
A Guide to Recreation & Trails in the Smithers Area



Smithers offers miles of trails on various terrain for hiking and mountain biking. There are routes suitable for children as well as many that are challenging. Enjoy a quiet camp spot on the lake shore or taking in the colour of alpine flowers. Explore to your hearts content.



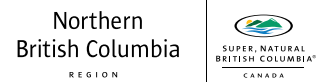
From mountaintops to valley bottom, those who want to hike, mountain bike, canoe and camp will be entertained in the Bulkley Valley. Spectacular scenery, wildlife and space to fill your soul is waiting for you.



A Guide to Recreation & Trails in the Smithers Area



A cooperative project of:



Map credits:



Photo credits

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Tourism Smithers

Produced in the Bulkley Valley



www.designworksBC.com



www.bvprinters.com

1 Dennis Lake Recreation Site



Easy

Access At 12 km on the Hudson Bay Mountain Road turn onto McDonnell Lake Forest Service Road. Turn off to Dennis Lake Recreation Site, left at 13 km.

Description This compact forested site offers 4 tenting sites and good access to the lake, a boat launch & dock. Great views of Hudson Bay Mountain. A trail along the lakeshore leaves from the campsite.

Nearby is the Silvern Lakes Recreation Trail (at ~9km on the McDonnell FSR), which traverses up to the south side of Hudson Bay Mountain, ending at Silvern Lakes.



2 Crater Lake – The Prairie



Easy to Moderate

Access From Highway 16 east of Smithers, take Tatlow Road, and turn right on Pacific Street. Then follow the signs to the Hudson Bay Mountain Resort. Drive to the end of the road. Summer parking is available at the base of the Prairie T-bar. Driving distance is about @22 km.

Description Walk uphill past the T-bar and follow the old road up to the "Prairie" (trail leaves road on the left). Stay on the trail until you arrive at Crater Lake. Walk down to the lake, or explore the Prairie. You may glimpse mountain goats on the ridge above. Alpine flowers make great photos from late June – early August. Allow 3 hours for this hike. For experienced hikers, the ridgeline trail to the south peak of Hudson Bay Mountain is accessed from the Crater Lake trail (moderate to difficult rating).



3 Piper Down Mountain Recreation Site: Mountain Bike Trails



Moderate to Difficult

Access Hudson Bay Mountain Resort

- Piper Down/Piper-Cross Trails– near the Prairie T-bar. Hike your bike up to the left toward the large ski cabin at the top of the hill. The trail leaves from the top of the knoll and is marked.
 - Machine-built double-track – from upper (2nd) parking area. Start your decent on this 3+km track, loaded with table-tops and burms.
- All trails end in a cutblock parking lot (1st road on left after McDonnell FSR going up to HBMR).

Description Piper Down is probably the best-named trail in the valley, as it is best known for its gap jump over the crash site of a "Piper" airplane.

Piper Cross diverges to the left from Piper Down once you reach the rock slab in the clearing. This includes fast single track, steep rock slabs and technical gullies. The 2nd rock slab has a ride around - look for it on the right. This trail has some exposure so ride within your limits. These trails are managed by the Smithers Mountain Biking Association www.smithersmountainbike.ca



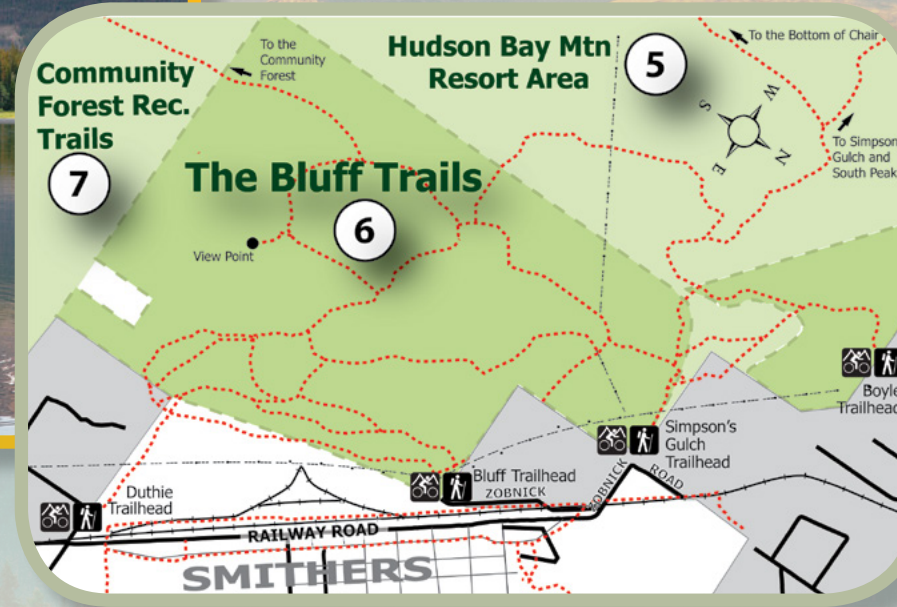
4 Twin Falls/Glacier Gulch



Easy

Access Take Lake Kathlyn Road, just north/west of Smithers, to the Glacier Gulch Road. This Recreation Site is at the end of the road. From Smithers, it is approximately 15 min. by vehicle. Note that this 2-wheel drive access road is unpaved and in some spots is narrow with low visibility.

Description An easy walk to spectacular views of the twin waterfalls plummeting from Kathlyn Glacier above. The falls come together to form Glacier Gulch creek, which flows through the Site. Trails lead to the creek and to a viewing platform. This is mainly a day use area, but there is limited camping available. RV accessible (no water or sani-dumps).



7 Smithers Community Forest Recreation Trails



Easy

Access At 9 km on Hudson Bay Mountain Road turn right into the BV Nordic Centre and continue to the second parking lot, near the day lodge.

Alternate access is at 7km on the Hudson Bay Mountain Road, entering at the Seymour Ridge Trail.

Description These recreation trails (50km+ network) are multi-purpose serving as walking and biking trails in the summer and cross-country ski trails in the winter. Maps are posted throughout the trail system and in the day lodge. The Nature Trail (no bikes please) leaves from the BV Nordic Centre and loops around Goldeneye Lake, providing abundant interpretive features and wildlife opportunities.

8 Smithers Perimeter Trail



Easy

Access The Perimeter Trail has several access points, including from near Canadian Tire on Hwy 16 East; or from Riverside Park at the east end of Main St; or at the statues on Hwy 16 West, as you leave Smithers.

Description This is a 13 km loop around Smithers, suitable for walking, jogging and cycling. It blends gravel and paved sections, connecting parks, riverside and neighbourhoods.



5 Trail to Town



Easy

Access Take Railway Avenue west to Zobnick Road, cross the CN Rail line and follow the road straight to the end. Parking is provided. [Simpsons Gulch Bluff Trailhead]

Description Distance 4.2 km one-way.

Walk or cycle as far up the mountain as you wish. This trail through the forest leads to the Hudson Bay Mountain Ski Resort. Distance from town to the base of the chairlift is 4.2 km. Once you are at the ski area, you can return to town or continue to the alpine.

6 The Bluff Recreation Site: Trail Network



Easy to Difficult

Access

- Duthie Trailhead: Railway Avenue/Pacific Street to Dahlie Road, turn right from Hudson Bay Mountain Road (0km).

- Bluff Trailhead: from south end of Zobnick Road (turn left after tracks).

- Simpsons Gulch Trailhead: from north end of Zobnick Rd. at bottom of Trail To Town.

Description The Bluff Trails is a network of trails of varied difficulty. The lower trails can be walked or jogged, and have extensive boardwalks. Upper trails are suitable for experienced mountain bikers and hikers. These trails are managed by the Smithers Mountain Biking Association www.smithersmountainbike.ca

General information

The following recreation sites, trails and Parks are within easy driving distance of Smithers. They are 2WD accessible. All distances noted are one way.

Tips for safe recreating in bear country

Bears feel threatened if surprised - hike in a group and make loud noises. Whistle, talk, sing, or carry noise makers such as bells or a can containing stones. In dense bush and near rushing water, don't depend on your noisemaker being heard. Use extra caution and watch for evidence of bears. Most bears will leave if they are aware of your presence. Stay in the open as much as possible. Keep children close at hand on trails. Be especially alert when traveling into the wind, a bear may not get your scent and be warned of your presence.

When camping, keep a clean camp. Bears usually avoid people, but can be attracted to human food and garbage. Store all food and garbage properly and take all your garbage with you when you leave.

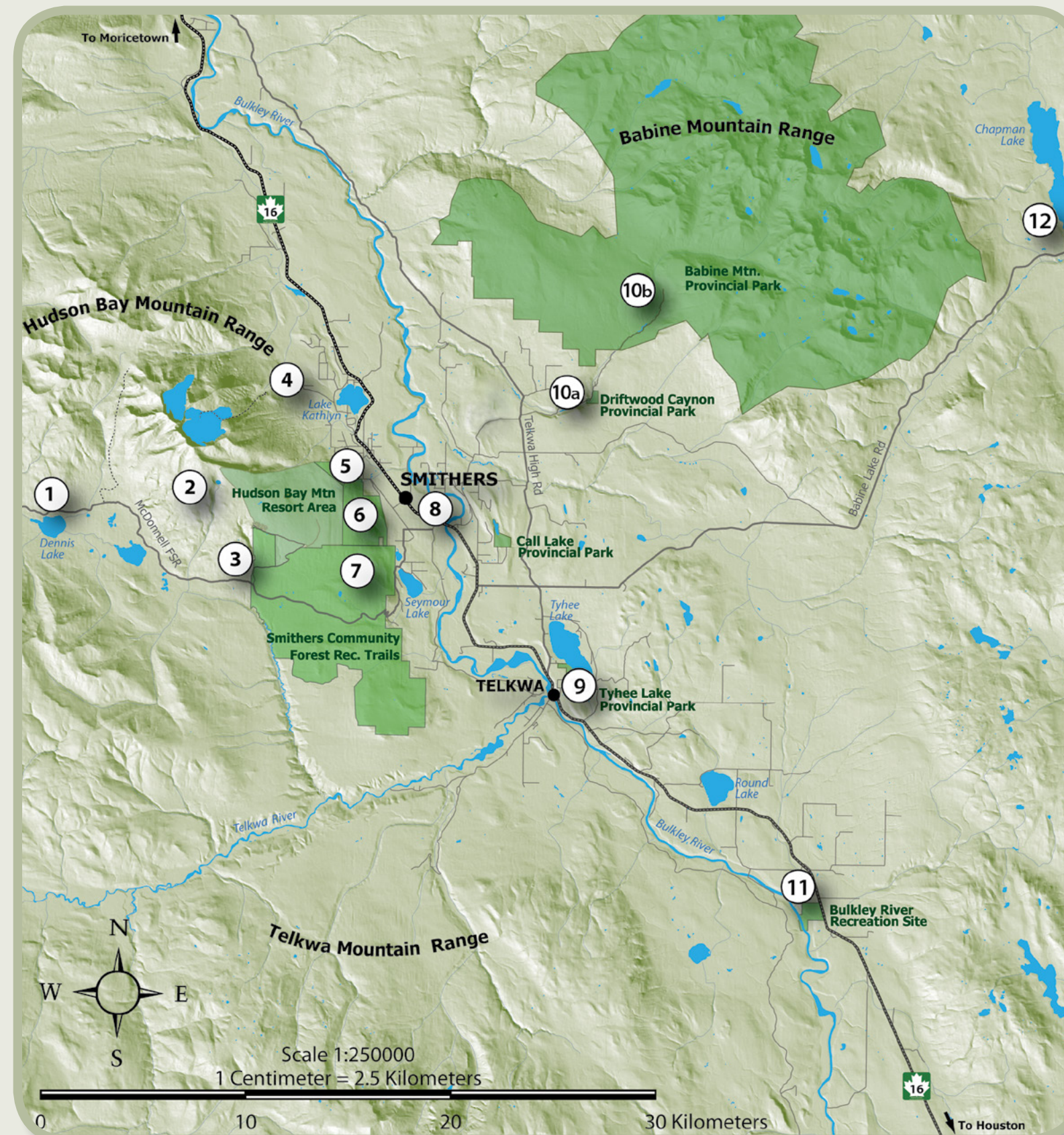
Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Safety tips

- Never hike alone.
- Before leaving on a hike, let a responsible individual know where you are going and when you will be returning. Always contact that individual when you return.
- Always take a map, compass, food, emergency gear and a GPS Unit.
- Assume you will be staying overnight.
- Drive with caution on all logging roads.
- In case of an emergency contact the **R.C.M.P. Smithers detachment: 250-847-3233**

Forest fires:

- **Should you spot a forest fire phone 1-800-663-5555.** This is a free province wide, forest fire emergency phone number.



Difficulty Level

Easy Moderate Difficult

Smithers Area Recreation & Trails

- 1 Dennis Lake Recreation Site
- 2 Crater Lake
- 3 Piper Down Recreation Site Mountain Bike Trails
- 4 Twin Falls/Glacier Gulch
- 5 Trail to Town
- 6 The Bluff Recreation Site Trail Network
- 7 Smithers Community Forest Recreation Trails
- 8 Smithers Perimeter Trail
- 9 Tyhee Lake Provincial Park & Aldermere Trails
- 10a Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park
- 10b Babine Mountains Provincial Park
 - Silver King Basin Trail
 - McCabe Trail
- 11 Bulkley River Recreation Site and Trails
- 12 Chapman Lake Recreation Site

Recreational Features



9 Tyhee Lake Provincial Park & Aldermere Trails



Easy

Access Telkwa High Road from Telkwa, to Tyhee Road to the Park.

Description From the beach, you will find signs to the trail network. A bird-viewing platform extends into the lake in the Park. You can circle the Park or connect to the Aldermere Trails, taking you to nearby Telkwa.



10a Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park

10b Babine Mountains Provincial Park



Moderate

Access Take Hwy 16 east from Smithers; turn left onto Old Babine Lake Road immediately after the Bulkley River Bridge. Follow the signs to **Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park (10a)**.

To access the **Babine Mountains Provincial Park (10b)**, continue driving past Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park for 5 km (heading north) until you reach the parking lot and information map for the Babine Mountains Provincial Park. From there, the road is blocked and not passable to vehicle traffic.

Description Two of many trails in the Babines are highlighted here. For more information contact BC Parks.

Silver King Basin Trail: 9 km one way

The trail departs Driftwood Creek Road at Sunny Point, following an easy grade through trees most of the way. Hikers will enjoy the sub-alpine meadows of the Silver King Basin. Peak bloom occurs in mid-July. The trail continues past the Joe L'Orsa Cabin to the headwaters of Driftwood Creek and Hyland Pass. Overnight stays are permitted in the cabin. Check with BC Parks for current fee.

McCabe Trail: 8 km one way

Recommended for family and novice hikers, the McCabe Trail offers relatively easy access to the alpine. The trail departs the Driftwood Creek Road just before the Sunny Point Bridge. After ascending a steep mining road for 500 m, the route narrows to an excellent trail on an easy grade. At the 3 km mark, the trail winds through a series of rockslides. Hikers should use caution for the next kilometre as the vegetation obscures the trail and can be slippery. The trail travels along the north slopes of Harvey and Pyramid mountains, and passes two small lakes at 6.5 km. It continues upward and eastward until reaching "The Summit".

11 Bulkley River Recreation Site and Trails



Easy

Access Between Smithers and Houston on Highway 16 (18 km south of Telkwa, in the community of Quick)

Description This is a 100-hectare Recreation Site (with 10 km trail network) featuring low elevation spruce and aspen/cottonwood forest and easy access to the Bulkley River. Trails and campsites are within walking distance of parking and there is a wide portage/access path that provides access to and from the river for canoeists or anglers. This Site has 11 rustic campsites, including 2 large day use areas and boat launches, and a small chalet.



12 Chapman Lake Recreation Site



Easy

Access From the junction of Hwy 16 and the Babine Lake Road just south of Smithers, travel 38 km north (km markers on road), turn left for another 2 km north on the Upper Fulton Forest Service Road.

Description This is a medium-sized open grassy site on the southwest shores of Chapman Lake. There is a boat launch; dock and several campsites with overflow space. RV and trailer accessible. Good site for angling and boating.

Other nearby Recreation Sites:

- Morin Lake, 12km past Chapman Lake Site on Upper Fulton FSR.
- Tanglechain Lake, at 48km on the Babine Lake Road (10km past the Chapman Lake turn).
- Doris Lake, at 50km on Babine Lake Road.

For more information regarding recreational opportunities in the Smithers area contact:

Tourism Smithers / Smithers Visitor Centre
1411 Court Street
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
1-800-542-6673
www.TourismSmithers.com
info@tourismsmithers.com

District Recreation Officer Recreation Sites & Trails BC
Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts
250-847-6300
www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca

BC Parks
3726 Alfred Ave.,
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
250-847-7320
www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/

Smithers Mountain Bike Association
Box 4968, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
www.smithersmountainbike.ca
information@smithersmountainbike.ca

Other resources:

- **BV Nordic Centre** www.bvnordic.ca
- **MTB Trails: BV Backpackers** www.bvbackpackers.ca/Trail-Maps/
- **Trails and general recreation, including fishing: McBike & Sport** www.mcbike.bc.ca