

HISTORY

Hudson Bay Mountain was the site of logging and mining activity during the early-and mid-20th Century. Most of the current network of Northeast Slope Trails exists on old access routes on the mountain. Mining roads and rough roads to small bush mills have now evolved into trails enjoyed by hikers.

The **Duthie Trailhead** intersects a portion of the old road to the Duthie silver mine, and is just off Hudson Bay Mountain Road. Simpson’s Gulch, accessed by the **Simpson’s Gulch Trailhead**, was named for prospector Donald Simpson, who was associated with the Empire and Victory claims on Hudson Bay Mountain.

The first ski club on Hudson Bay Mountain established a cabin southwest of the CNR track near Zobnick Road. The area featured a ski jump and lights for night skiing. This is the site of the **Bluff Trailhead** and is where the town located its water reservoir in the 1950s.

Tie-hacking crews often comprised of Wet’suwet’en women, cut timber for railway ties and fuel in the early 1900s. Later, during the 1940s and 1950s, scattered bush mills operated along the Northeast slope. In the 1970s, limited harvesting was carried out to control a pine beetle infestation.

TRAILS

The main trails are noted below and each will give hikers a substantial hike with reasonably steady grades and occasional scenic viewpoints. Many of these trail directions refer to junctions. The letters A-Z indicate trail and road junctions. The letters are posted on blue boards on trees. All time estimations are given for one-way travel, unless noted.

DUTHIE TRAILHEAD

Duthie Access Trail and Bug Block Road (10 min.)

The trail proceeds up from the trailhead until it intersects the Bug Block Road at Junction R. This gives access to the upper Bug Block Road, the Bluff Trails and Bottom Trail, and links into several points on the Goat Trail.

Bottom Trail (45 min.)

(Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is an easy hike on level ground. Proceed to Junction R and turn right. At Junction S, continue on the trail, which runs along the base of the Bluff into the open area adjacent to the CNR track and then back onto the trail to Junction T. The trail terminates at the **Bluff Trailhead**.

Upper or Lower Bluff Trail (1 hr.)

(Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a relatively easy hike, with some ups and downs and some nice scenic views. Proceed to junction R on the Bug Block Road. Turn left on to the Bug Block Road, and step off to the right in about 50 steps (25 paces). There is a small “Trail” sign in a tree here. This trail ascends steeply at first, then gradually. About 2/3rds of the way to the Bluff it passes the remains of a small log structure on the left. At the Bluff, take one of the several short trails that lead to the Bluff itself for a scenic view! Continue ahead for the Upper Bluff Trail (via Z, to W and then X). From the Bluff viewpoint, the Lower Bluff Trail ascends via Z1 to X. From X, follow the trail past the Town of Smithers Pump House down the road to the Bluff Trailhead.

Goat Trail (2 hrs.)

(Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a good hike with a fair amount of climbing. The Goat Trail is higher than the Bluff trails and it takes hikers along the top of the first hill on the Northeast slope that can be seen from Smithers. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. Continue up the Bug Block Road, past Junction Q to Junction P. Turn right at Junction P and follow the short trail until it intersects the Goat Trail. Turn left on the Goat Trail and go past Junction Y. Soon after this junction the trail descends rapidly. Go to Junction V and take a sharp right turn. (Turn left at Junction V to access a series of trails further to the Northwest at Junction I.) The trail leads to Junction U. From this point the trail descends to the Town of Smithers Pump House and the Bluff Trailhead.

Bug Block Road and Upper Bluff Trail (1 hr., 30 min.)

(Duthie Trailhead to Bluff Trailhead)

This is a hike requiring some stamina for the climb up the Bug Block Road. Proceed to Junction R; turn left and go to Junction Q. Turn right. Do no take the side trails (unofficially signed *Penetrailia* and *Smoothy*). Instead, proceed straight ahead to Junction W. Continue straight ahead, past Junction X and down to the Town of Smithers Pump House and the Bluff Trailhead.

Bluff Circle Route (1 hr., 30 min.)

This Hike can be undertaken from either the Duthie Trailhead or the Bluff Trailhead. Hikers can hike the Upper or Lower Bluff Trail and return along the Bottom Trail or vice versa.

Dahlie Creek Trail (4 hrs.)

This is a lengthy, stiff hike. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. Follow the road past Junctions Q and P to Junction O. Turn left and continue uphill to Junction M, where the trail again intersects the Bug Block Road. Turn right onto the upper part of the Bug Block Road to Junction L, then turn left and take the trail to the X-Country Ski Trails in the Community Forest.

Seymour Ridge Trail (2 hrs.)

This trail connects to the Community Forest Trails. Proceed to Junction R on the Bug Block Road. Turn Left and follow the road to Junction Q1. Follow the trail through Q2 and Q3. The trail follows an old steep cat trail part of the way. At M1 turn uphill to the bald spot at M. or go straight through to M2 and M3, where the trail crosses Dahlie Creek on a log bridge. At this point you leave the Northeast Slope Trails. Continue on to **Seymour Trail Head** at Hudson Bay Mt. Road or turn right at yellow “H” and climb to Seymour Ridge.

From M2 you can also take the Hahre Trail to connect with the Dahlie Creek Trail near L1. Turn left on the Dahlie Creek Trail to the X-Country Ski Trails in the Community Forest.

BLUFF TRAILHEAD

Bottom Trail (45 min.)

(Bluff Trailhead to Duthie Trailhead)

Turn left at the **Bluff Trailhead** and take the Bottom Trail to Junction T. Continue along the base of the bluff where the trail picks up again. Go straight past Junction S to Junction R. Turn left at Junction R to reach the **Duthie Trailhead**.

Bluff Trail Access (5 min.)

The road proceeds to the right a little distance from the parking area. It then curves left and goes up a short hill to the Town of Smithers Pump House. At the pump house, take the trail to Junction X, where the trail splits into the Upper Bluff Trail (to the right) and the Lower Bluff Trail (to the left).

Upper Bluff or Lower Bluff Trail (1 hr.)

(Bluff Trailhead to Duthie Trailhead)

At Junction X turn right for the Upper Bluff Trail, left for the Lower Bluff Trail. If you take Upper Bluff, proceed past the viewpoint to 4-way Junction W. Turn left, over the relatively open rocky area adjacent to the Bluff and pass Z as you descend to the Bluff (here the Lower Bluff Trail comes in as well). If you take Lower Bluff, proceed to Junction Z1 and the Bluff. (The Upper Bluff Trail comes in parallel to you about 50m to the left just as you reach the Bluff.)

At the Bluff (scenic view!) an old road descends to the Bottom Trail, but the main trail to R (a continuation of the Upper Bluff Trail) is in the woods just behind the Bluff. After passing the (unofficially signed) *Shining Trail*. It passes by a small, partially-built log structure on the right. As the trail descends more steeply, it splits. Bear right for an easier descent to the Bug Block Road. There turn left for 50 steps (25 paces) to Junction R. From R, take the trail down to the Duthie Trailhead.

Boyle Road Hike (1 hr., 30 min.)

(Bluff Trailhead to Boyle Trailhead)

The first part of this hike to Junction V is a very stiff climb. After that, the trail is moderately easy.

From the **Bluff Trailhead**, go to the town of Smithers Pump House. Just before reaching the Pump House, turn right up an old road. Approximately 15 metres up this road there is a trail on the left. Follow this trail to Junction U. Take the right branch and follow the trail to Junction V (some difficult sections). At 4-way Junction V, go straight ahead and proceed to Junction I where the trail meets the power line and a creek. Turn left and head up the power line, cross the creek and go to Junction H. Turn right and proceed downhill, across a creek and up to Junction G. Turn left and fifteen steps turn right where the trail splits. Proceed to Junction E where the trail meets the old Simpson’s Gulch mining road. Turn left and follow the road to Junction B and take the trail to the right. The trail terminates at the **Boyle Trailhead**.

SIMPSON’S GULCH TRAILHEAD

The Simpson’s Gulch Road offers two routes up Hudson Bay Mountain, one leading to the Ski Smithers ski runs, the other into Simpson’s Gulch and from there to the Hudson Bay Mountain “prairie” area and Hudson Bay Mountain South Peak. The road also connects to the Bluff and Dahlie Creek Trail systems (at Junctions G and D)

Bluff Trail Connection (45 min.)

Follow the Simpson’s Gulch Road to Junction F. Turn left and climb to Junction G. Continue left to Junction H. Turn left to go to Junction I and turn right to go the Junction V. (The road going downhill at Junction I is on private property). At Junction V, go straight ahead and proceed to Junction U, which is located just above the Town of Smithers Pump House. From there connect to either of the Bluff trails or to the Bottom Trail.

Dahlie Creek Connector Trail (1 hr., 30 min.)

(From Simpson’s Gulch to Dahlie Creek Trail)

Follow Simpson’s Gulch Road to Junction F. Turn left and climb to Junction G. Turn left, cross the creek and ascend to Junction H. Turn right and go to Junction J. Turn left and take the short trail to Junction K. This is the intersection with the Bug Block Road. Continue right to Junction L and the Dahlie Creek Trail, which runs to the Community Forest and the BV Nordic Centre (not included in the 1 hr., 30min. estimate). Alternatively, turn left at Junction K and travel the Bug Block Road down to the **Duthie** or **Bluff Trailheads**

Simpson’s Gulch Trail (3 hrs.)

Take Simpson’s Gulch Road to Junction F, turn left and climb to Junction G. Turn right at the junction and pace off 15 steps to a fork. Bear left for a steep uphill climb to Junction C. Alternatively, hikers can bear right for a more moderate link to Junction E, on the old Simpson’s Gulch mining road, and then ascend it to C. Turn right at Junction D. Also turn right at Junction A to continue up the south side of Simpson’s Gulch. Near treeline, climb out of the Gulch onto an alpine area called “the prairie”. From there, climb to the south peak of Hudson Bay Mountain. Estimate a further 4-5 hours to the peak. The route from **Simpson’s Gulch Trailhead** is the most direct all-hiking route to the south peak.

Chairlift Trail (30 min. from Junction A)

Two routes lead to the base of the Ski Smithers chairlift. For the first, turn off the Simpson’s Gulch Road at A. A rough trail ascends to the south and ends up at the Ski Smithers chairlift. For the second, leave the Simpson’s Gulch Road earlier by turning left at D, and about 150 m later, just before crossing Chicken Creek, turn right on the trail up to the chairlift.

BOYLE TRAILHEAD

This trailhead, at the end of Boyle Rd. (off Slack Rd.), provides a connector to the the old Simpson’s Gulch mining road and the Simpson’s Gulch Trailhead. From B it is possible to access the Goat, Duthie and Bluff trail systems as well as the Dahlie Creek Trail.

Northeast Slope Trail System



Hudson Bay Mountain Smithers, BC



