



## GOOSENECK CLUB CLIMBING TRIP

The Gooseneck Rocks, or “Goosenecks” are located at the north end of Gooseneck Lake, about 12.2 km by road from highway 596, northeast of Minaki. The Goosenecks offer the greatest quantity and variety of accessible climbing in Northwest Ontario. It is here that rock climbing in the area began in the early 1970s.

### LOCATION

From Winnipeg, go east on the Trans-Canada highway 1 for approximately 200 km. Take the Kenora-Keewatin bypass, highway 17A and after 9 km turn left/north onto the Kenora-Minaki road, highway 596. After approximately 40 km, turn left onto the Whitedog Falls and Wabaseemoong Independent Nations Road, highway 525. Goosenecks' Main Cliff is 12.2 km down this road, 1.7 km past the Cygnet Lake Road which turns off to the left. The trip takes about 3 hours from Winnipeg.

Gooseneck consists of three climbing areas: **Main Cliff**, **Cave Cliff**, and **South Cliff**.

The **Main Cliff** has a lakeside crag, which is accessible through a path that is 100m before the roadside parking. There are lots of bouldering and short, gymnastic routes that may not be in the local guides online and in print.

**Cave Cliff** lies on the east side of the same road Main Cliff is on. It is approximately 550m south, before the main cliff. There is a small (two or three cars) pull out on the west side of the road slightly south of the cliff for parking.

**South Cliff** can be access from Cygnet Lake Road. Travel 350 meters west along Cygnet Lake Road from highway 525. There is an old logging road that goes north from here. A very old and faded province of Ontario sign is just a few meters past the turn off. Some people park here and walk in. Some that have 4x4 vehicles or just have more ground clearance, follow the old logging road in 150 m to a parking spot. A foot path goes north from there to the top of the cliff, approximately 350 m.

Besides the climbs described in this guide, numerous opportunities exist for bouldering, and short, gymnastic routes have been put up in recent years (see guide produced by Robert Hester) – for clarity, routes under 30'/9m in length have not been included here.

## **CAMPING**

Camping right at the cliff is considered bad form, as it impinges access by other climbers. Four camping areas are frequented by climbers near the Goosenecks. We will be camping at "The Hilton," which is situated on Cygnet Lake road, 4km down the road on the right side (look for marker #4). Pull off the road onto smooth bare rock at a small opening in the brush. There are numerous mossy tent spots along the rounded rock ridge.

Help preserve the quality of this fragile environment by sticking to trails, using the outhouse (discreetly camouflaged near the road, as well as along the trail to the lakeside climbs) and packing out all trash, even stuff you may come across that's not yours.

## **CAR POOLING**

For those who would like to car pool, we typically arrange a time to meet at the Giant Tiger on Fermor Avenue, and depart from there.

## MAP LINKS

- Roadside parking at crag (50°03'16.3"N 94°47'16.1"W): <https://goo.gl/maps/gTjcn42aP2>
- Hilton (50°01'37.3"N 94°49'30.1"W): <https://goo.gl/maps/AFThFtK3Wb72>

