

Waterfalls

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



There are a number of waterfalls in the park. Some are easily viewable via short walks, some by longer hikes, and others only by boat.

Why so many waterfalls? Most of the waterfalls in this area are the result of water running over a shelf or cliff of limey sandstone called the Munising Formation. This formation of rock extends from Tahquamenon Falls, 75 miles east of the park, to Laughing Whitefish Falls, about 30 miles west of the park.

Waterfalls by Foot

Munising Falls - Length: 800 ft one way

Walk this paved trail up the cool, shaded sandstone canyon along Munising Creek to the central viewing platform to view the 50 foot waterfall. Two sets of stairs lead to elevated platforms offering different views of the water as it drops over a sandstone cliff. Look for ferns, wildflowers, and an occasional mink. Please stay on the paved trail. Going into or behind the falls is prohibited. Ice climbing is prohibited. Pets on a 6 ft. leash are allowed on this trail.



Miners Falls Trail - Length: 1.2 miles round trip

The trail takes you through the forest to view where the Miners River cascades 50 feet over a sandstone outcrop. Take another 77 steps down to a lower platform for another view.

Mosquito Falls - Length: 2 miles round trip

This waterfall is accessible from the Chapel parking lot. Consult a map before walking in this area. Walking toward Mosquito Beach, a side trail leads 0.6 miles through the forest to the falls. The Mosquito River cascades over three rock shelves, the highest being 8 ft.

Chapel Falls - Length: 3 miles round trip

The trail from the Chapel parking lot to Chapel Falls runs along an old roadbed and is an easy hike. Chapel Falls cascades some 60 feet down the sandstone cliffs on its way to Chapel Lake. Chapel Falls is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the park.

Sable Falls - Length: 0.6 mile round trip

This scenic cascading waterfall tumbles 75 feet over several cliffs on its way to Lake Superior. The first viewing platform to the falls is down a staircase with some 170 steps. Trail begins at the Sable Falls parking lot and continues past the falls to a rocky beach on Lake Superior.

Pets are prohibited on all park waterfall trails except Munising Falls.



No Drones

Waterfalls by Boat

Bridalveil Falls

This waterfall is only viewable by water or from a distance at Miners Castle. The falls are not viewable from any trails. Bridalveil is a seasonal waterfall which slows to a trickle in summer and fall. .



Spray Falls

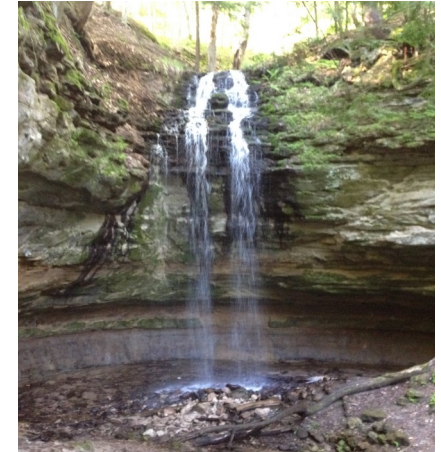
This remote waterfall can be is best viewed by boat from Lake Superior as it is not accessible from the North Country Trail. Spray Falls is 1.75 miles northeast of Chapel Rock. The 1856 shipwreck “Superior” lies at the base of the falls in 20 feet of water.



Other Area Waterfalls (not in the park)

Memorial & Tannery Falls

These small waterfalls are hidden in a cove near the junction of H-58 and Washington Street in Munising. The falls drops over 40 foot sheer cliffs on private lands donated to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. A rustic 0.5 mile trail provides public access. Please park on Washington Street near the brick municipal pump house building. Parking is not permitted on H-58. Or enter the trail near the top of the falls by turning right on Nestor (off H-58) and follow the signs.



Horseshoe Falls

Privately managed waterfall located at 602 Bell Avenue in Munising. located off M-28 South. Turn on to Prospect St. and then turn left on Bell Ave. Fee.

Alger Falls

Located next to M-28 a mile south of Munising, Alger Falls is viewable from the side of the road. As you park to see the falls, please use caution due to the heavy traffic.

Wagner Falls

This Department of Natural Resources State Scenic Site is located 0.5 miles west of M-28 on M-94. A short walk of 0.1 mile leads to a boardwalk viewing platform of the falls that cascade down the sandstone rock.

Scott Falls

This small waterfall is located on the south side of M-28 near the Rathfoot DOT Wayside Park one mile east of Au Train on M-28. Due to heavy traffic, park at the wayside and cross M-28 with caution. The 10 foot high waterfall drops through a hole in the sandstone bedrock.

Laughing Whitefish Falls

A State of Michigan Scenic Site, Laughing Whitefish Falls is located 28 miles from Munising at the Dorsey Road and M-67 junction in Sundell. The falls cascade through a picturesque gorge with old growth white pine and hemlock towering above. The falls can be reached by a moderate (.6 mile) hike through beech-maple forest.