

New Hampshire's Grand *Waterfall Watching*

When winter wanes, along comes spring to melt it all away, sending torrents of icy water cascading down from the mountains above, into waiting rivers that carry it to the sea.

When the temperatures warm up under gorgeous blue skies as April gets underway, the sun goes to work on the snowpack at the higher elevations. These are the days that are perfect to go Waterfall Watching in the Grand North.

There are literally hundreds of them scattered throughout the region. Some are hidden, only to be seen by back country hikers and sportsmen, while others were conveniently crafted in the last Ice Age next to, or a few steps from, the road.

Waterfalls are beautiful any time of the year, but in the spring, they cascade at their mightiest, so it's a good time to watch the power of nature and just be mesmerized by the sight and the sound of the rush.

A few of our favorite falls follow:

GARFIELD FALLS: This is a waterfall for the true adventurer, for it requires setting out along one of the well-maintained logging roads in Pittsburg.

For this trip, you will want to be sure the gas tank is full, for it is woods and wilderness out here. When you get to a fork in the road, continue straight - you don't want to go over the bridge - and continue for another mile.

There is a parking area at the head of the trail leading down to it, an easy hike that includes some stairs. Follow the sound of the surging water and there are the falls, a pretty 40-foot drop in the East Branch of the Dead Diamond River.

History says that Garfield Falls was such an obstacle during log drives that men would be lowered by ropes to open jams and that if the logs had wedged up too tight,



The journey to Garfield Falls is certainly worth the view!
Photo by Lorna Calquhoun

Traveler's Tips: Garfield Falls, Pittsburg

This is a waterfall for the true adventurer. Make sure the tank is full and grab some snacks at Young's Store on Route 3 before heading out.

they'd be blown apart by dynamite.

There is no such drama today and it is a quiet and relaxing place. Below the falls, the water continues on placidly and there are places where you can dip your toes.

BEAVER BROOK FALLS: This is a great treat any time of the year. Located about 2.5 miles north from downtown Colebrook on NH Route 145, there is a pretty little wayside with tables, so on a nice day, be sure to grab some picnic fixings.

The falls drop broadly over the rocks for about 100 feet.

BABY FLUME: On the downside of NH Route 26, a stone's throw east from The Balsams Grand Resort in Dixville Notch, Flume Brook pours through Baby Flume, creating its own gorge. There is a parking area for visitors, as well as picnic tables and the gorge itself is just a few steps from your car.

HUNTINGTON CASCADES: Right across the road from Baby Flume is another Dixville Notch waterfall, Huntington Cascades. There's a few minutes' level walk to get to them, but worth it to see the pretty, 2-tiered fan on water close to 100 feet high.

SILVER CASCADE AND FLUME CASCADE: These twin falls are located side by side a few miles east of the Omni Mount Washington Hotel, at the top of Crawford Notch. They are located right alongside U.S. Route 302 and there is a parking lot across the street from both of them. Both have been delighting visitors for more than a century, inspiring Thomas Starr King to write in his 1887 book, *The White Hills*:

"The Flume and Silver Cascade pouring down from Mount Webster have gladdened the eyes of almost all visitors, for they are visible from the road."

GLEN ELLIS FALLS AND CRYSTAL CASCADE: These falls are located relatively close to one another in Pinkham Notch, a few miles south of the Mount Washington Auto Road on NH Route 16. Both are well-marked and accessible by an easy walk along trails.

Children will love the quarter-mile trek to Glen Ellis Falls because the trail goes through a tunnel under the roadway. The two-tiered falls are one of the loveliest, dropping about 65 feet.

Park at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Pinkham Notch base camp and take the three-tenths of a mile walk up the Tuckerman Ravine Trail to see Crystal Cascade. It is especially impressive as Mount Washington shrugs off winter and the water drops down 60 feet to another 20-foot plunge.



The Baby Flume is a great spot to enjoy a picnic.
 Photo by Lorna Colquhoun

Traveler's Tips

Be sure to wear good sturdy footwear, especially in the melting season, because the ground will be wet and the rocks will be slippery.

The warmer the day, the nicer it is for a picnic lunch! A number of waterfalls have places where you can picnic and enjoy the ambiance.

Bring along a camera and play with your aperture settings to capture the mood and flow of the waterfalls.

Use caution if tempted to climb up the rocks beside the falls - you don't want to slip and injure yourself.