

Waterfalls

GLEN ELLIS FALLS: This waterfall can be found 0.7 miles south of Pinkham Notch on the west side of Route 16 . It is an easy 0.2 miles from the parking area to the falls and is one of the most popular in the area. Until 1852 it was called Pitcher Falls for the appearance it gives of being poured from a giant pitcher as the river plunges 64 feet into a deep basin. There is a set of stone steps that follows the fall down to allow for viewing in different spots.

THE BASIN: The Basin is located in Franconia Notch State Parkway. Southbound traffic exits .5 miles below Lafayette Campground. Northbound traffic exits 1.5 miles from the Flume Visitor Center and takes an underground footpath across 1-93. The Basin is handicapped accessible. Follow the footpath 0.1 mile to see the Pemigewasset River as it funnels down a narrow chute to a granite pothole 20 feet deep. It's force has created a whirlpool that has undercut a granite shelf forming a small cave. Below the Basin is a water-eroded rock formation called the Old Man's Foot giving the Basin the title of the 'Old Man's Foot Basin'.

THE BASIN-CASCADES: From the Basin, follow the footpath for about 50 yards to reach the beginning of the Basin-Cascades Trail and continue for an easy 0.2 mile. Near the base of the ledge formation, the stream is confined to a narrow channel along the left. The rocks are smooth and it is a good place for playing.

KINSMAN FALLS: Continue up the Basin Cascades Trail an easy .5 miles to the falls. A side path from the main trail slopes steeply into a cool ravine. At the head, 20 foot high rapids flow through a narrow chute bordered by dark cliffs that rise nearly 3 stories above an oval pool. Smooth boulders at the foot of the pool provide a place to sit and view the scenery. Kinsman Mountain and Falls were named for Asa Kinsman and his wife who settled in the Town of Easton in the 1780's. Asa Kinsman is buried in a little cemetery in Easton.

ROCKY GLEN: This is a 1.1 mile moderate hike from Kinsman Falls. Rocky Glen is the last of the falls along the trail and has been described as the prettiest of all. The best view is from the flat boulders and ledges skirting the brook just above the falls where the stream cascades into the glen forming a large pool at the center. The mouth of the glen can be approached at the bottom of the falls but cliffs make it difficult to get very far.

FALLING WATERS TRAIL: Beginning at Lafayette Place in Franconia Notch State Park, this is a moderate hike up the Falling Waters Trail to view three waterfalls. At 0.8 mile is Stairs Falls, the smallest but prettiest of the three 'main' falls along the trail. Continue on 0.2 miles for the Swiftwater Falls which gush down 60 feet of rock chutes to a pool directly across the path. And, last Cloudland Falls (0.4 miles) which cascades 80 feet over a cliff. An easy trip down the bank to the riverbed offers a good view from the bottom.

AGASSIZ BASIN: Find this roadside waterfall beside Route 112 just east (towards North Woodstock) of the junctions of Route 112 and Route 118. This is a small, exquisite gorge of granite bedrock with surging 10 foot falls at the head of the formation. Over the years, the water has undercut a rock platform just below the falls forming a bridge.

SWIFTWATER FALLS: These can be found just below the long covered bridge in Swiftwater on Route 112 south of its Junction with Route 302 near Bath. These falls are not as scenic as some but they are great for play on a hot day.

BRIDAL VEIL FALLS: Off Route 116, south of Franconia Village, these falls are at the end of the Coppermine Trail, a 2.5 miles easy to-moderate climb. Flowing down the north slope of Mt. Kinsman these falls can be viewed from both the bottom and top of the falls. As seen from the base, they flow over a sloping granite ledge into a pool at the foot of the falls. The moving water takes on the appearance of a thin, rippling veil, thus giving the falls its name. Viewed from the top, there is a wide terrace with a second larger and lovelier pool. A 50 foot wall with an overhanging ridge dominates the view. At the back corner of the wall, Coppermine Brook sweeps across the mouth of a large dark cave beneath the ledge and cascades down into the pool.