

LASALLE FALLS

Waterfalls

Main Attractions

Waterfalls, rapids, & scenic gorge on the Pine River

Distance

2.0 miles, out-&-back

Approximate Hiking Time

40 minutes (out & back)

Trail Surface

Mostly level dirt path

Rocks & Roots

Occasional, often occurring on short, easy inclines

Exertion / Intensity

Easy

Trail Terrain

A few gentle slopes

Total Elevation Gain

119 feet

Assurance Markers

Yes

Camping

Several campgrounds in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are within an hour's drive including: Chipmunk Rapids, Lost Lake, & Morgan Lake Campgrounds.

Facilities

Parking area, information kiosk (no restrooms or water).

Trail Management / Ownership

Florence County Parks

Tel: 715.528.5377

Hours / Season

Open daily during the warm-weather seasons

Trail Access Fee \$

No

Pets

Pets are allowed on the waterfall trails but must be kept under control on a leash no longer than 8 feet long. You must clean up after your pet.

Directions

From the intersection of Hwy. 2 & County Hwy. N in Florence, drive south on County N for 9.5 miles and turn right (west) onto County Hwy C. Drive 1.8 miles on County C & turn right (north) onto LaSalle Falls Rd. Continue on LaSalle Falls Rd. for 2.3 miles to the parking area (north side of road).

Nearby Trails and Parks

Smalley Falls, Long Slide Falls, 12 Foot Falls, 18 Foot Falls, and Piers Gorge (M I). Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Trail Notes

LaSalle Falls are located in northeastern Wisconsin just south of Florence, near the border with Upper Michigan. This scenic waterfall occurs where the Pine River roars down 20 foot-long 'slide' between a pair of rocky ledges into a beautiful, small gorge surrounded by cedar, pine, and birch trees. Even though LaSalle Falls has more length than height, they are still the highest waterfall in this part of the state. The net effect is a very wild, intimate, and scenic area... well worth a visit.

By Wisconsin standards this is a wild and remote waterfall surrounded by miles of undeveloped forest. There are no viewing platforms, fences, or railings and you will literally be able to stand directly above the falls on one of the rock ledges. Exercise caution whenever you're close to the falls or rapids.

There are several other waterfalls within an hour's drive of LaSalle Falls that are also well worth visiting, including: Smalley Falls, Long Slide Falls, 12 Foot Falls, 18 Foot Falls, and Piers Gorge (MI). With the numerous campgrounds in the nearby Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, camping and visiting all six waterfalls makes for an excellent weekend trip.

Parking Area and Trailhead

The trailhead sits next to an information kiosk at the northwest end of the gravel parking area. The trailhead is marked with a sign that reads "LaSalle Falls".

The Trail

The trail to the waterfalls is easy to follow and is well-marked with signage. The trail is packed dirt and averages between 2 to 4 feet wide. Footing is generally easy with moderate rocks and roots on gentle inclines and declines.

From the trailhead, the trail begins with a steady, yet gentle climb to the top of a low wooded hill and soon levels off and passes through a forest of young birch, aspen, and white pines. Tall ferns often surround the footpath.

The trail splits after crossing a wooden footbridge with the main trail continuing straight ahead to LaSalle Falls while a spur trail leads off to the right (northeast). It is recommended that you stick to the main trail as the spur trail is not part of the designated trail system here. The spur leads to the top of the south wall of the gorge below the falls. Visibility into the gorge is limited and attempting to look into the gorge can be dangerous due to dense foliage and loose, sandy soils along the top of the rim. Several signs at the trail junction clearly indicate where to go (follow the blue waterfall signs).

Stands of balsam fir become more dense as you get closer to the Pine River and LaSalle Falls. You'll hear the roar of the river as it rushes through the lower gorge off to your right as soon as you crest the top of a small rise. As you walk along, several side trails lead off to the right (north), towards the sounds of the river.

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These side trails are deceptive and all connect with the spur trail previously mentioned. The sounds of the gorge often lure people away from the main trail but you won't be able to see anything. You should stick to the main trail until it ends at LaSalle Falls.

LaSalle Falls

The trail ends in short, steep descent onto a rocky ledge covered in balsam fir and cedar. The edge of the promontory sits directly above LaSalle Falls – where the river roars over a 20-foot, frothy 'slide' between two rocky ledges and plunges into a wide pool. The pool is surrounded by scenic rock formations beneath a canopy of cedar and birch.

A small warren of footpaths gives access to viewpoints above and directly over the waterfalls. A short but steep sloping path leads down from the main trail to the rocky shore inside the shallow gorge near the base of the falls. You can walk on rocks and boulders along the edge of the pool to get unobstructed views of the falls and the gorge downriver. Be careful though, the rock edges are often jagged and damp, and some boulders are loose. Oftentimes there is considerable debris piled up along the shoreline such as logs and branches.

Rapids continue downriver below the falls through a narrow gorge which features a steep rock wall along the north bank. Birch and mixed pines overhang the gorge from both sides.

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



LaSalle Falls Parking Area

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Trailhead	45.82120,-88.28731
Footbridge	45.82553,-88.28407
LaSalle Falls	45.83095,-88.29017

For best results, set waypoint arrival radius to minimum of 100 feet