The great density of waterfalls on the Oregon side of the Gorge is due to the steepness of the cliffs on that side. Because the entire region’s bedrock material is tilted slightly southward, landslides have modified the slope on the Washington side. When water saturated, the upper basaltic layers on the north side of the river slide into the Gorge. Thus, waterfalls on the Washington side are fewer and smaller.

Listed below are the waterfalls in the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area that shouldn’t be missed.

**Multnomah Falls**  
_Type:_ plunge  
_Height:_ 620 feet  
_Access:_ car or hike  

This is the most visited scenic site in Oregon. Multnomah Falls is the second-highest year-round waterfall in the United States.

**Latourell Falls**  
_Type:_ plunge  
_Height:_ 249 feet  
_Access:_ car or hike  

Located in Guy W. Talbot State Park, this fall of Latourell Creek is named after Joseph Latourell, a prominent Columbia River Gorge settler. It’s a short walk from the park’s picnic area to the viewpoint.

**Upper Latourell Falls**  
_Type:_ plunge  
_Height:_ 75–100 feet  
_Access:_ hike  

This fall is 0.8 miles along the trail from Latourell Falls. It is possible to walk behind the falling water.

**Sheppards Dell Falls**  
_Type:_ tiered  
_Height:_ upper falls 35–50 feet; lower falls 40–60 feet  
_Access:_ car or hike  

The two tiers of this falls can be seen from the bridge crossing at Sheppards Dell State Park, two miles west on the Historic Highway from Exit 28 off I-84. The lower falls is a horsetail formation and the upper falls is a plunge formation.

**Bridal Veil Falls**  
_Type:_ tiered  
_Height:_ upper falls: 60–100 feet; lower falls 40–60 feet  
_Access:_ car or hike  


**Wahkeena Falls**  
_Type:_ tiered  
_Height:_ 242 feet  
_Access:_ car or hike  

This fall along Wahkeena Creek can be seen from the Wahkeena picnic area across the Historic Highway. There are parking spaces at the picnic area. The Yakama Tribe word “wahkeena” means “most beautiful.”

**Wahclella Falls**  
_Type:_ tiered  
_Height:_ upper 15–25 feet; lower 50–70 feet  
_Access:_ hike  

This thunderous waterfall can be accessed from the Tanner Creek Trail parking area. Start at the trailhead and hike 0.5 mile to the trail’s end at the falls. East Fork Falls can also be seen streaming above the descent from a vantage on the west side of Tanner Creek.

**Metlako Falls**  
_Type:_ plunge  
_Height:_ 100–150 feet  
_Access:_ hike  

The viewpoint is 1.5 miles from the trailhead of Eagle Creek Trail #440 in Eagle Creek Park. The waterfall was named in 1915 after the legendary Indian goddess of salmon.

**Fairy Falls**  
_Type:_ fan  
_Height:_ 20–30 feet  
_Access:_ hike  

Punch Bowl Falls may sound short, but it is exquisite and a classic example of a punchbowl formation. Like Metlako Falls, it is also at Eagle Creek Park. Hike 2.1 miles from the trailhead of Eagle Creek Trail #440 (0.6 mile past Metlako Falls viewpoint) to a short side trail leading to the falls.
Waterfall Tour Loop

Through millennia of geologic events, waterfalls have found a home on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. A visit to the area is not complete without a visit to these breathtaking waterfalls.

Historic Columbia River Highway

Adapted from a U.S. Forest Service map.

Legend

- Waterfall
- Campground
- City / Town
- Picnic Area
- Viewpoint
- Waterfall Map
- Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30) off Interstate 84.

If you're coming from the west, exit I-84 at Dodson (Exit 35), Bridal Veil (Exit 28), or Corbett (Exit 22).

If you're coming from the east, exit I-84 at Troutdale (Exit 17), Lewis and Clark State Park (Exit 18), Corbett (Exit 22), Bridal Veil (Exit 28), or Dodson (Exit 35).

The waterfalls are accessible from a portion of the Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30) off Interstate 84.

Traveling along the Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30), you will be able to view five different waterfalls cascading over the walls of the Gorge. Along the way, there are also picnic areas and hiking trails for your enjoyment.

Adapted from the USDA Forest Service website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/forest/