

Grant's Getaways-Winter Hiking

by Grant McOmie

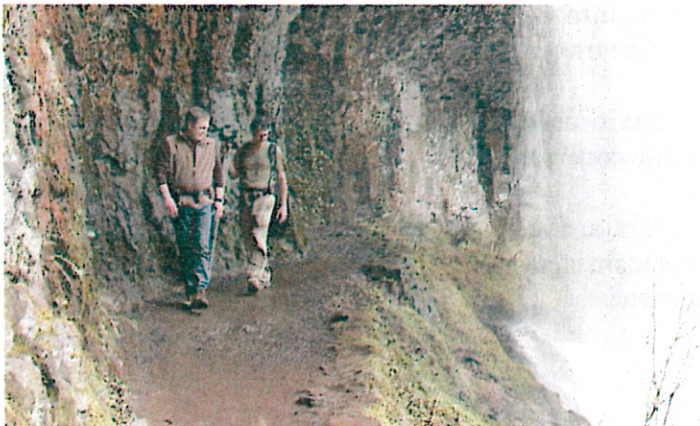
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At [Silver Falls State Park](#), fourteen foamy white curtains whirl and ripple and tumble and shimmer at one of the most delightful parklands in Oregon.



Adam Bacher, an Oregon resident and noted landscape photographer, said he's lucky enough to capture the falls from every angle. "To me, Silver Falls State Park is like a miniature Columbia River Gorge," noted Bacher.



The two of us paused just yards away from the full force of the majestic and loud South Falls. "In one afternoon, on foot, you can see three major waterfalls and several smaller ones in less than a mile and a half of easy hiking."

We held tight to the steel guardrail alongside the ten-foot-wide trail and were just about to duck behind the famous whopper waterfall that's on the Trail of Ten Falls at Silver Falls State Park.

Bacher finds trail hiking is pure pleasure inside Oregon's largest state parkland. In fact, across more than 9,000 acres, you will find many waterfalls that boom and seem to shout for your attention.



Thundering and roaring from recent downpours, the many cascading falls inside the park are immense spectacles to behold. Nestled in the lower elevation of Oregon's Cascade Mountains, Silver Falls State Park is blessed to be located in a temperate rain forest.

"They come in all shapes and sizes, Grant-- we have a little over seven miles of canyon trail in this park, with three different access points and several different hiking loops, said Bacher." "You can choose how far you want to go and which falls to visit, so if you're looking for waterfalls, you can get the whole package right here--and we owe it all to prehistoric volcanoes."

The geologic history behind so many falls in one location is impressive! It seems millions of years ago, successive and destructive lava flows covered the entire western region of Oregon.

But over time within this parkland, the wind, rain, and ice eroded or cut through the lava to create tributary creeks and their falls--plus the main stem Silver Creek. So much beauty from long-ago devastation is worth a pause to consider!



Bacher offered a photo tip: let each waterfall guide you to their larger scenes: “Each item in nature is in it’s own unique context and so the more of that kind of foreground that I can show, I think the more it enhances the photo...I mean those cracks are literally layers of lava and who knows, a million years apart, a couple hundred thousand years apart...the geology here is just fascinating.”

Waterfall watching is certainly easy to come by at Silver Falls State Park and provides a good reason to stay active throughout the winter months. If you take the right precautions with the right equipment it really is a pleasure to be outdoors all winter long as we recently learned when we headed indoors to chat with an expert in winter hiking gadgets and gear.