Play for the Day

The South Falls Day-use Area has spacious lawns, picnic shelters, tables, a playground, an off-leash area for dogs, a board game, and the Oregon Natural Kids Playgound. The area is all within a short walk to views of the famous 177-foot South Falls.

Shop to Support Park Programs

The South Falls Nature Store, operated by The Friends of Silver Falls, sells locally crafted gift items as well as souvenirs and memorabilia. Proceeds support park events, interpretive programs and projects. Information: friendsofsilverfalls.net

Overnight Excursion

Camping

The main campground has tent sites, RV spots and cabins. Bring your horse and stay in the Howard Creek horse campground. The park also has group tent and RV camps, drive-away bunkhouses (each Ranch sheep's 75) and the historic Youth Camp for up to 250 campers.

A Historic Lodge

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), built the South Falls Lodge in the 1930s. Once used as a restaurant, diners ate on tables and chairs built from only two myrtle trees. The tables inside the lodge today are among the originals. The lodge and surrounding area make up the South Falls Historic District, and the area is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Silver Falls Lodge and Conference Center

Relax and enjoy comfortable lodging within a remote, wooded setting. The Silver Falls Lodge and Conference Center has private cabins and six-bedroom lodges that cater to groups. Guests can enjoy meals in the dining hall. The conference center's peaceful setting makes it a popular choice for weddings, family reunions and other group events. Information: silverfallsodge.com or 866-575-8087

Natural Kids

At the Natural Play Area, located in the North Falls Day-use Area, children can climb a tree, hide in a bear den, growl like a cougar or weave a bird's nest in this playground designed to fit into the natural landscape.

Silver Falls State Park

A school group passes below Lower South Falls.

Trail of Ten Falls

Where else can you walk behind a 177-foot waterfall? The famous South Falls is the hallmark of the Trail of Ten Falls—a spectacular, nationally recognized hiking trail that passes a series of breathtaking waterfalls along a rocky canyon and descends to a wading creek at the forest floor.

The roughly 7-mile loop is considered to be moderately difficult with some muddy areas, steep sections and an overall elevation change of 800 feet. Several connecting trails with separate access points make shorter (or longer) routes. Most routes begin from the Store Circle in the South Falls Day-use Area. See the Trail of Ten Falls handout for details.

Boots, Bikes, Paws and Hooves

For the safety of both pets and hikers, pets are not permitted on the Trail of Ten Falls. But, dogs on leash are welcome on 35 miles of wooded backcountry trails. Hikers share these less-traveled trails with horseback riders, trail runners and mountain bikers. Trails wind through lush, native vegetation including salal, wood ferns and Oregon grape—all tangled beneath towering second growth stands of Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Access backcountry trails from the North Falls Trailhead, the parking area in the Howard Creek Horse Camp and the Highway 234 trailhead on the southwest end of the park.

Bike Path

This mostly paved, 4-mile loop with rolling creek at the forest floor.

Restrooms

Swimming

Campfires

For everyone's safety—

Children could become lost or injured if unsupervised.

Help Keep the Park Beautiful

Pack out all trash.

Millions of Years in the Making

This land was once part of the Oregon Coast, but volcanoes, basalt lava flows and falling ash changed the landscape to what you see today. Waterfalls tumble over thick basalt that rests on softer, older rock. The softer layers beneath the basalt eroded over time and created natural pathways behind some of the falls. Look up and see if you can spot the many tree “chimneys,” or casts, while you walk behind North Falls. Those formed when lava engulfed living trees.

For everyone’s safety—

Black bears and cougars—species of wildlife that make Silver Falls home. Although sightings are rare, you should know what to do if confronted by a bear or cougar. Awareness pamphlets are available at the Silver Falls Nature Store and at store.oregonstateparks.org. Please report sightings to a park ranger.

For everyone’s safety—

Pets are prohibited on all waterfall trails, except the Rim and Upper North Falls trails.