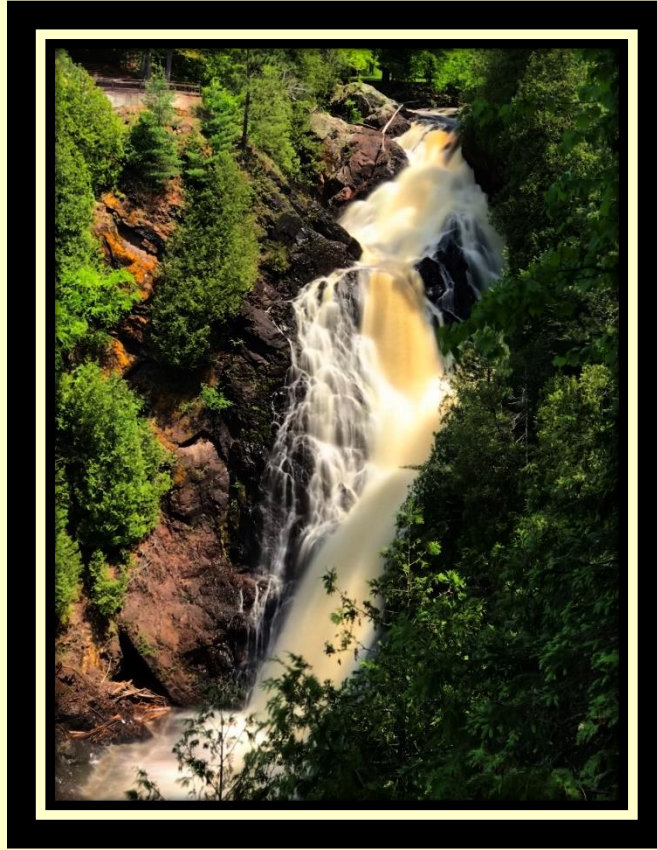


## 2. Big Manitou, Little Manitou Route



View from Big Manitou overlook 1, Photo spot #1

**Highlights:** Big Manitou Falls at 165 ft. is the highest waterfall in Wisconsin. The Big Manitou gorge is truly a spectacular sight in all seasons. The hike along the Black River to Little Manitou Falls is full of wild flowers and surprises. The beach and picnic areas are a favorite all summer.



### **Parking and Directions:**

From I35 take the highway 2/53 exit and cross over the Bong Bridge to Wisconsin. Follow the road taking the second exit on the traffic circle to Belnap Street. When you get to Tower Ave. turn right and follow the signs for highway 35. In about thirteen miles at the top of a hill on your left is the entry to Pattison State Park. You will need a day pass for the park.

**Distance: Full loop    4 miles**

**Difficulty: moderate**

**Recommended for: most hikers**



## The Route:

**Mile 1:** You start your trip by heading down to the trail by the beach and entering the tunnel under the highway. Once out of the tunnel, cross over the small pedestrian bridge to the left. The trail leads you to the two overlooks of the Big Manitou Falls and canyon. These are photo spots #1 and #2. This is the most impressive waterfall in the area so spend some time taking photos. Once done head back to the highway tunnel and look for the signs for the Beaver Trail. The Trail is at the other side of the beach and picnic area. The trail winds through the woods along the Black River. Look for wild flowers in summer and smaller waterfalls.

**Mile 2:** Continue up the trail till you get to a bridge which gets to the other side of the Black River. Follow this trail through the pine forest until you reach the overlook of Little Manitou Falls. There is another picnic area up above and you can walk a trail to the top of the falls.

**Mile 3:** Head back down the trail through the pine forest until you get to the bridge. Instead of crossing, take the trail to the left. This trail will lead back to the over side of the lake.

**Mile 4:** The trail leads to Interfalls Lake and gives you great views looking across the lake to the beach and tree covered hillside. This view is especially great in the fall.



**View from second overlook in early spring, photo spot #2**



**Close up view of the top of Big Manitou Falls in fall**



**View of Little Manitou Falls in fall, photo spot#3**

**Extended Route:** There are several options for extended hiking but the best one is the **hike down the hill from the Big Manitou Falls overlooks to the Black River**. Plenty of things to explore at the river. Or you can do part of the **Lumberjack trail** that connects with the Little Falls Loop. This is an extensive trail so don't get too far out.

**Family Friendly Route: Pattison Park** is a great place for families, especially in summer when the swimming beach is open. Also, there is a **concession stand and indoor picnic tables in the historic stone building**. Hiking over to the Big Manitou Falls and then down to the river is an exciting experience for the whole family. Also, there is a **Dairy Queen along the way back to Superior**.

## After the hike:

This is a great hike on a nice day for just about anyone. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the view from the three overlooks. Then hike up to Little Manitou Falls and enjoy a great hike along a beautiful river. In summer bring your swimming trunks and cool off after the hike. If you are in a mind to have a cool craft beer after hiking head to **Earth Rider Brewery** [Earth Rider Brewery | Independent Brewery on the Duluth Superior Harbor of Lake Superior](#) or **Thirsty Pagan Restaurant and Brewery** [Thirsty Pagan Brewing | Restaurant and Brewery | Superior WI](#)

For Trail maps and current conditions head to the Pattison State Park website. [Pattison State Park | Wisconsin DNR](#)

### Strava link

[JLBig Manitou Falls to Little Manitou Falls | 3.7 mi Hiking Trail on Strava](#)