

Nature facts (types of waterfalls)

How many types of waterfalls are there?

Waterfalls are categorized depending on the height of fall, the way in which water comes down, the volume of water, and the width of the waterfall basin into [different types](#).

These are as follows

a) Cataracts waterfalls —

Cataracts waterfalls are large and powerful waterfalls. There is a very high volume of water coming down. As the water comes down, it creates noise. [Victoria Falls](#) and [Niagara Falls](#) are examples of cataract waterfalls.

b) Cascade waterfalls –

There is tumbling water flow in the cascade waterfalls. The rock present in the path of water causes a hurdle to water flow. Here, water flows very slowly and in multiple small and consecutive drops. [Roaring Fork Falls in North Carolina](#), Khon Waterfall in Thailand, and Barnafossar Falls in Iceland are some examples of cascade waterfalls.

c) Plunge pool waterfalls —

Water moves down vertically from a high point, losing contact with the rock surface. It is formed due to the impact of water, which has sand and pebbles in it. Such water causes erosion of soft rock and creates deep depressions, which are also called plunge pools or plunge basins. [Nohkalikai Falls in Meghalaya, India](#), [Caracol Falls in Brazil](#), and the [Hannoki Falls in Japan](#) are some examples of plunge pool waterfalls.

d) Horsetail waterfalls –

Water is always in contact with rock in its path. Rocks present in the path of water create a thin stream of water that looks like a horsetail. [Waterfalls on El Capitan, located in Yosemite, California](#); waterfalls in Valdez, Alaska; and [waterfalls in Queenstown, Tasmania](#), are examples of horsetail waterfalls.

e) Block waterfalls –

In this type, water falls from a broad river stream; and during falling, the waterfall looks like a rectangular shape. Niagara River Falls in the United States, is an example.

f) Chute waterfalls –

There is a very small and limited vertical passage, from where a large volume of water falls under high pressure. [Three Chutes Falls in Yosemite National Park, California](#), and the [Egan Chute on the York River in Canada](#), [Baileys Chute in British Columbia](#), and the Chutes de la Chaudière in Quebec, Canada are some examples.

g) Punch bowl waterfall —

In this type of waterfall, initially water passes from a narrow and constricted path, and then it is passed along a wide path that looks like the shape of a bowl. [Punch Bowl Waterfall, Oregon, USA](#) Located in the Columbia River Gorge, Tawhai Falls, New Zealand, located in Tongariro National Park, and Cedar Creek Falls, California, USA, are some examples of the punchbowl type of waterfalls.

i) Fan waterfalls –

Waterfalls create a fan-like shape at the time of passage of the rock. Water maintains its contact with rock during passage. [Nuggets Fall in Alaska](#), [Powerscourt Waterfalls in Ireland](#), and [Dip Falls in Australia](#) are some examples of fan waterfalls.

j.) Multistep water falls –

In this type of waterfall, water comes down from several steps of rock that look like a staircase. [Mitchell Falls in Australia in the Kimberly region](#), Ouzoud Falls in Morocco, and [Ebor Falls in New South Wales](#), Australia, are some examples of multistep waterfalls.

References

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterfall>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-types-of-waterfalls-are-there.html>