

Exploring Tahquamenon Falls State Park



① Lone Pine Access Site

From the end of the access road, overlooking Tahquamenon Bay, you can see Emerson Island. The island was the site of a large sawmill from 1882 to 1912. This is a great place to play in the warm, shallow waters of inner Whitefish Bay. Early mornings and late evenings are the best times to look for moose in this area.

② Emerson Foot Trail

This trail passes through black spruce and shrub swamp following the road that leads to the abandoned sawmill town of Emerson. It is one mile to the lake.

③ Mouth of the Tahquamenon River

From the boat launch site, the access site on the north side of the bridge and the picnic site on Whitefish Bay, you can spot waterfowl, bald eagles, osprey, river otter and other wildlife. The sandy shoreline is a great place to hike and play in the water. Yellow perch fishing can be outstanding from the boat launch.

④ Northern Peatlands

Sphagnum moss dominates the wetlands in this part of the park, creating what is termed a “northern peatland.” Moose often are seen here. Sandhill cranes, spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, pine martens and black bears also are seen in this part of the park.

⑤ Timberlost Road

This sandy forest road offers some of the park's best blueberry picking. When the berries are ripe, black bears, red foxes, coyotes and other animals can be seen. This road has loose sand, encroaching brush and two-way traffic. Drive this road at your own risk.

⑥ Water Tank Lakes

This group of lakes offers outstanding early morning and evening landscape views, which can include a variety of wildlife. These lakes fill in the spring from the melting snow pack and typically lose their water through the summer.

⑦ Lower Tahquamenon Falls

The Lower Falls area offers a variety of wildlife viewing, hiking and fishing opportunities. The pool below the falls provides exciting fishing opportunities for walleye, northern pike and musky. Upstream from the falls, for about a mile, the rapids hold brown trout that are easily fished while wading. Bald eagles often fish the rapids around the falls in the early morning. Come evening the common nighthawk joins the belted kingfisher and river otter in making a living off the river.

⑧ Clark Lake

The one-mile “two-track” road to Clark Lake is the only road access into the Tahquamenon Natural Area. This road has loose sand and two-way traffic. Drive at your own risk. From the end of the road, follow the foot trail for about one-half mile to Clark Lake. Waterfowl, sandhill cranes, osprey, black bear and an occasional moose also might be seen from this vantage point. Betsy Lake can be accessed by canoeing across Clark Lake to the northwest shore, then portaging about one-half mile to the east shore of Betsy Lake.

⑨ Upper Tahquamenon Falls

The Upper Falls area offers a glimpse of Michigan's pre-settlement forests. In this 1,500-acre old growth forest, you can hear the songs of warblers and thrushes as their sweet sounds filter down through centuries of woodland growth as you walk the trail to the Upper Falls.