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Snoqualmie Falls

Another oft-photographed Seattle-area attraction is Snoqualmie Falls, a 268-foot natural wonder 30 miles east of down-

town. For centuries, this has been a sacred site for indigenous Salish peoples, and the upper Snoqualmie Valley has been an important rendezvous spot and trading place for the Snoqualmie branch of the Coast Salish tribes. The falls, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are nearly 100 feet taller than Niagara Falls.

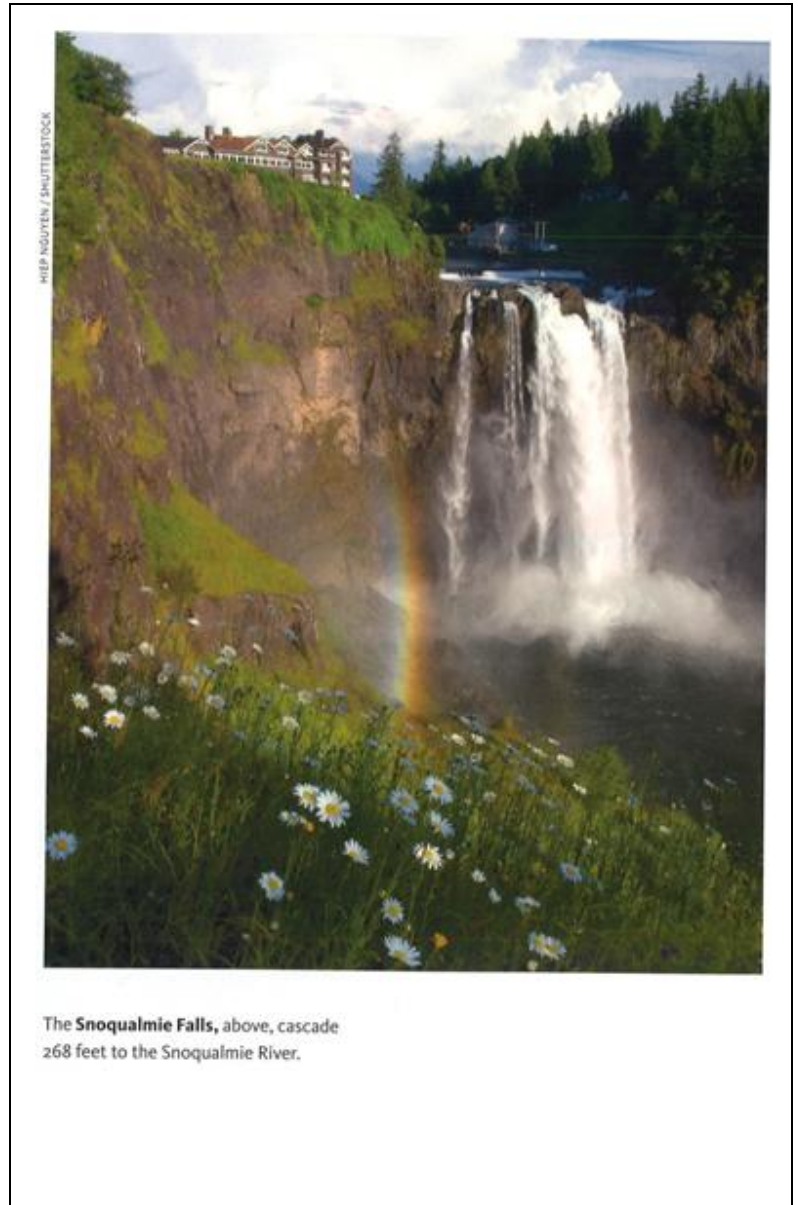
The Salish Lodge & Spa, perched on a cliff above Snoqualmie Falls, opened as a small inn in 1919 and became a famous spot for romantic dinners and farm-style weekend breakfasts.

Purchased in 2007 by the Muckleshoot tribe—which is part of the widespread Coast Salish culture—the lodge continues to attract visitors drawn to its dramatic setting, Northwest architecture and reputation for outstanding fine dining.

My husband and I recently enjoyed dinner in one of the private dining booths that directly overlook the falls. As we savored ribs sublimely braised in Cabernet oil, with potato, truffle, celeriac and

salsify, my spouse shared the Salish legend that says the First Man and First Woman were created here at the falls by Moon the Transformer.

After our meal we took the short walk to the overlook, with its sensational view of the thundering waters, and were veiled with the mist rising from the basin. According to a Snoqualmie tribal legend, the mist connects heaven and earth.



The **Snoqualmie Falls**, above, cascade 268 feet to the Snoqualmie River.