

# HIKING TRAILS

Accessible from  
Alpine Picnic Area &  
Boat Basin  
and  
Park Headquarters

PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK  
NJ SECTION  
[njpalisades.org](http://njpalisades.org)

Emergency: 201 768-6001

## TRAILS

- (A) LONG PATH (aqua blaze)
- (W) SHORE TRAIL (white blaze)
- Huyler's Landing Trail (red blaze)
- (R) Moderate: 440 ft. climb
- (C) Closter Dock Trail (orange blaze)
- (C) Moderate-steep: 460 ft. climb
- (B/W) Forest View Trail (blue-and-white blaze)
- (B/W) Steep: 520 ft. climb

## LEGEND

- Public Restrooms
- Parking Area
- Parking Fee (In-Season)
- Picnic Area
- Building or Structure
- Hiking Trail
- Cross-Country Ski Trail
- View Point
- Bus Stop
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Hiking Trail
- Stream
- Boundary
- Cliff Edge

## TIPS FOR HIKERS

Perhaps because of our proximity to New York City, many first-time Palisades hikers are surprised at how rugged our trails can be. Please be prepared! Some tips:

*Always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back. This is just good hiking sense, no matter where you go.*

*Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes that are not brand new. Ankle support is crucial, especially on the Giant Stairs. Shoes not broken in will likely cause blisters.*

*Bring plenty of water—and drink it as you go. Some basic first aid supplies are always a good idea, too, as are some snacks.*

*Dress or pack for all possible weather conditions forecasted for that day. Layers are the wisest way to dress for the outdoors—you can add or remove as you go. We also recommend long-sleeved clothing, even in warmer weather. Poison ivy thrives on the Palisades. Ticks are common. Long clothing with a spray of repellent at the cuffs is your best defense.*

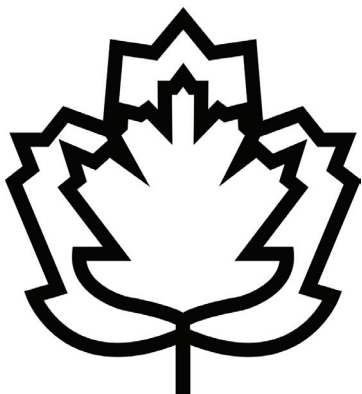
*Look out for poisonous snakes. The copperhead is relatively common here, if seldom seen. Snakes tend to be shy, so watch your step—and don't reach where you cannot see.*

*Your dog is welcome to enjoy our trails with you, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Please clean up after your pet.*

*The steepness and erodability of our trails make them unsuitable for bicycles. Violators are subject to fine.*

Accident, fire, emergency: 201 768-6001

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Revised Winter 2013

### “CAPE FLY AWAY”

*Easy+. About 3.5 mi., 2 hrs. round-trip.*

This relatively short hike makes a great introduction to Palisades hiking.

Begin at the Kearney House and head north up the white-blazed Shore Trail behind the Alpine Pavilion. This is the steepest section of your trip, but it soon levels off. Keep north on the wide Shore Trail, which was originally laid out as a road in the 1840s, called the Cape Road. You will get to a relatively cleared area with lilies and other non-native growth. This was known as Cape Fly Away, a small fisherman's hamlet in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. About 1 mi. in, the trail splits, and arrows painted on a rock will show that to the right, the Shore Trail goes downhill to the river; to the left, an unmarked but very wide and obvious trail is identified as the “Upper Trail,” which continues on the same level you are on. Take the Upper Trail, realizing it will rejoin the Shore Trail in just under 1 mi.

When back at river level, begin your return south on the Shore Trail. The trail is narrow here and in places quite rocky. The trail will eventually climb back uphill to the junction with the Upper Trail. Stay south on the Shore Trail to the Alpine Picnic Area.



### “CLOSTER LANDING LOOP”

*Moderate. About 5 mi., 3.5 hrs. round-trip.*

This hike is sometimes called “Millionaire's Row” because of the old estate foundations along the cliff top.

Begin at the south end of the Alpine Picnic Area and take the white-blazed Shore Trail south. This trail goes up and down a series of stone steps before it levels off, and about 1.5 mi. from the start, you will come to an old jetty in the river. This is “Huyler's Landing,” once an important farm landing on the Hudson, serving as an access point to much of the farmland in eastern Bergen County. Here the red-blazed Huyler's Landing Trail begins, following the route used by the British Army in November 1776 to invade New Jersey. Use caution when the trail follows Henry Hudson Drive for about 50 yards.

At the top of the mountain the trail will intersect with the aqua-blazed Long Path. Turn right (north) on the Long Path. In about 0.25 mi. is an old overlook with a wrought-iron fence. This was part of Manuel Rionda's “Rio Vista” estate, the largest on the Palisades. Rionda owned sugar plantations in Cuba. His manor house was sited just north of this overlook, where Alpine Lookout is today. After passing through Alpine Lookout, the Long Path passes a number of old foundation remains until reaching the largest of them, that of George Zabriskie's “Cliff Dale” estate. The ruin you see is only the garage portion of the house. (Cliff Dale and the other estates on top of the Palisades were knocked down during the construction of the Palisades Interstate Parkway.)

Continue north, passing other foundations and old driveways. Continuing beside the Palisades Interstate Parkway, the Long Path will intersect and overlap with the orange-blazed Closter Dock Trail, which enters through a tunnel beneath the Parkway. Stay on the two trails until they go downhill and through a smaller tunnel beneath Alpine Approach Road. Then stay on the Closter Dock Trail down the mountain until it meets the Shore Trail. Turn right (south) to return to the Kearney House in less than 0.25 mi.



### “BOMBAY HOOK”

*Moderate with some challenging slopes. About 7 mi., 4 hrs. round-trip.*

Follow the “Cape Fly Away” directions, above, but stay on the Shore Trail north after that hike's turn-around point to the blue-and-white-blazed Forest View Trail—take a break!—then climb this steep trail toward the summit. Near the top, the Forest View Trail intersects with the aqua-blazed Long Path at a wooden bridge. Stay on the Forest View Trail (do not cross the bridge), heading south, as it overlaps the aqua-blazed Long Path to the summit and the Women's Federation Monument. This makes a good lunch spot.

Stay on the Long Path south to Park Headquarters. Just beyond is the orange-blazed Closter Dock Trail. Take the Closter Dock Trail downhill to the Shore Trail (white). Turn right (south) to return to the Kearney House.