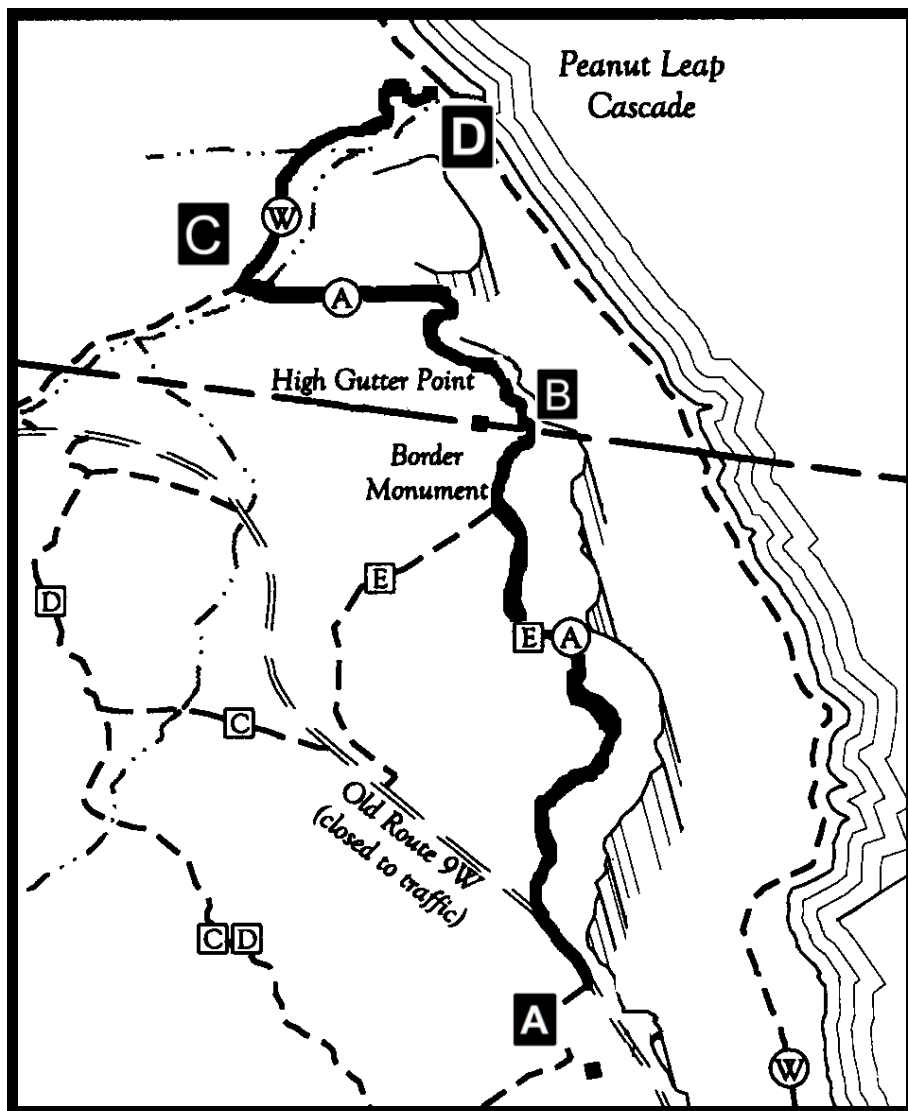


# PEANUT LEAP CASCADE

Palisades Interstate Park ♦ NJ Section



**Area:** State Line, Alpine  
**Length:** 4 mi. (round-trip distance)  
**Time:** 2 hrs.  
**Parking:** State Line Lookout

Scale: 1 in. = 0.5 mi.

## TIPS FOR HIKERS

- *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.
- *Take care of your body.* 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 predicted for that day.* Layers are the wisest way to dress for the outdoors—you can add or subtract as you go. We also strongly 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 snake is relatively common here, if seldom seen. Snakes tend to be shy, so simply watch your step—and don't reach where you cannot see...

## PEANUT LEAP CASCADE HIKE DESCRIPTION

An all-time favorite: splendid river vistas on the way down, one of the prettiest spots in the park once you get there. But be prepared for some steep parts along the way, too...

Begin at Lookout Inn, heading north along Old Route 9W [A], noting the aqua blazes of the Long Path along the way—you'll be following these markers for the first part of this hike. About 100 yd. along, the Long Path leaves the old cement road and goes into the woods, more or less following the cliff edge (and for a while overlapping Ski Trail E). About 1 mi. along, you come to the State Line Monument and a chain link fence [B]; here the trail jogs right (east) to go around the fence and begins to descend a series of stone steps, with excellent vistas north toward the Tappan Zee. At the base of the steps, the trail jogs to the left, to bear northwest for a time and so headed away from the river. In less than 0.5 mi., you'll cross a stream on wooden bridges [C]. Across this stream, turn right (east), at the start of the white-blazed Shore Trail that follows the stream toward the river. Just before the river, this trail gets quite steep and is prone to erosion—use caution.

The ruins at the base of Peanut Leap Cascade [D] (the round structure with columns was known as a "pergola") are from the beginning of the twentieth century, when the sculptress Mary Lawrence-Tonetti, whose family owned an estate at nearby Sneden's Landing, designed an "Italian Garden" here to entertain friends from the New York art world. (This makes a great lunch spot.)

Return using the same route.

### **An alternative exit route...**

Those wishing to avoid the steepest ascent on the return (that section between the northern terminus of the Shore Trail and the State Line Monument) can opt to take the Long Path northbound (approximately northwest at this point) after its junction with the Shore Trail—in other words, don't cross the stream. Within several minutes of the stream crossing, you should see an unmarked but obvious trail to your left (here you will cross the stream). This trail will take you out onto Old Route 9W (closed to traffic). Turn left (approximately east) and follow the old highway back to Lookout Inn, or continue on ski trail "D" to "C," then left at the junction to come out at the northwest corner of the parking area.

Should you miss this turnoff, the Long Path will a short distance later take you to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory entrance; from here, you can take the old roadway back as well.

*Hint: The thin soils on the Palisades mean streams tend to discharge storm water very quickly and then dry out. To see the Cascade at its most dramatic, try to time your visit for after a rainfall.*

**Phone: 201 768-1360**



**In case of emergency call Park Police:**

**201 768-6001**

**[njpalisades.org](http://njpalisades.org)**