Tips for Palisades Hikers

Many first-time Palisades hikers are surprised at how rugged our trails can get. Please be prepared!

• 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.

• 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.

• Wear sturdy shoes that are designed for hiking.

• Dress or pack for all possible weather conditions forecast for the 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 repellant at the cuffs is your best defense.

Carpenter’s Loop

Moderate. About 5.5 mi., 2.5 hrs. round-trip.

1. Start at the south end of Englewood Picnic Area and head south on the Shore Trail (white markers) as it heads toward Ross Dock Picnic Area.

2. Cross Ross Dock Picnic Area and stay south on the Shore Trail as it follows the road to Hazard’s Dock.

3. Pass the bottom of Carpenter’s Trail and continue south on the Shore Trail beneath “The Great Gray Bridge” and past Hazard’s Ramp.

For a shorter hike, you can turn right (west) on Carpenter’s Trail (blue markers) and take this steep trail up to the summit. At the top, turn right (north) on the Long Path (aqua markers) and follow the route to 9.

4. About half a mile south of Hazard’s, the Shore Trail will turn right (west) and ascend on stone steps.

5. At Hudson Terrace turn right and take the paved pathway north.

6. At the entrance to Fort Lee Historic Park, cross to the west side of Hudson Terrace at the light and turn right (north) to take the sidewalk north about 0.5 mi. to the Carpenter’s Trail trailhead.

7. Take Carpenter’s Trail (blue markers) up the stairs and on the walkway along the overpass over the Parkway, then down the stairs and into the woods.

8. Carpenter’s Trail intersects with the Long Path (aqua markers). Turn left to follow aqua north.

9. In about 0.75 mile, the Long Path will pass Allison Park (restrooms and great views here) and follow along a road. Just past the overpass look for where the trail goes up and alongside the Sisters of St. Joseph (private property).

10. When you come out of the woods at Palisade Avenue, turn right (east) to find the start of the Dyckman Hill Trail (yellow markers). Cross the road at the Englewood Cliffs park entrance and follow yellow as it zigzags down the mountain alongside a stream to Englewood Picnic Area & Boat Basin.

11. Use caution to cross the road as you get to the bottom. You’re done! Great job!