Hiking at Fort Lee Historic Park

Always check at njpalisades.org for updates on trail and road closures etc!
With over 30 miles of trails in this park, there’s a lot to explore! To help you get started, this map of the southern end of the park has a suggested hike route keyed to start and end at FORT LEE HISTORIC PARK!

In case of emergency, call the Parkway Police before calling 9-1-1:

201-768-6001

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 repellent at the cuffs is your best defense.

Carpenter’s Loop

Moderate. About 5.5 mi., 2.5 hrs. round-trip.
Note: Detour for trailhead closure is in red.

1. Follow the path down the steps alongside the entrance road and exit Fort Lee Historic Park.
2. Cross at the light to the west side of Hudson Terrace and turn right (north) to take the sidewalk north about 0.5 mi. to the Carpenter’s Trail trailhead.
3. Take Carpenter’s Trail (blue markers) up the stairs and onto the walkway along the overpass over the Parkway, then down the stairs and into the woods.
4. Carpenter’s Trail intersects with the Long Path (aqua markers). Turn left to follow aqua north.
5. In about 0.75 mile, the Long Path will pass Allison Park (restrooms and great views here!) and follow along a road. Look for where the trail goes up and alongside the Sisters of St. Joseph (private property).
6. When you come out of the woods at Palisade Avenue, turn right (east) to find the start of the Dyckman Hill Trail (yellow markers) across 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.
7. Use caution to cross the road and at the bottom, turn right (south) onto the Shore Trail (white markers), taking it south through Ross Dock Picnic Area.
8. South of Ross Dock, pass the bottom of Carpenter’s Trail.

For a shorter hike, you can turn right (west) on Carpenter’s Trail (blue markers) and take this steep trail up to the summit. Stay on Carpenter’s to Linwood Park and head south to return to start.

Continue south on the Shore Trail beneath “The Great Gray Bridge” and onto the trail past Hazard’s Ramp.

9. About half a mile south of Hazard’s, the Shore Trail will turn right (west) and ascend on stone steps.
10. At the top turn right (north) and take the paved path back to the Historic Park entrance, and then take the walkway back to start. You’re done! Great job!