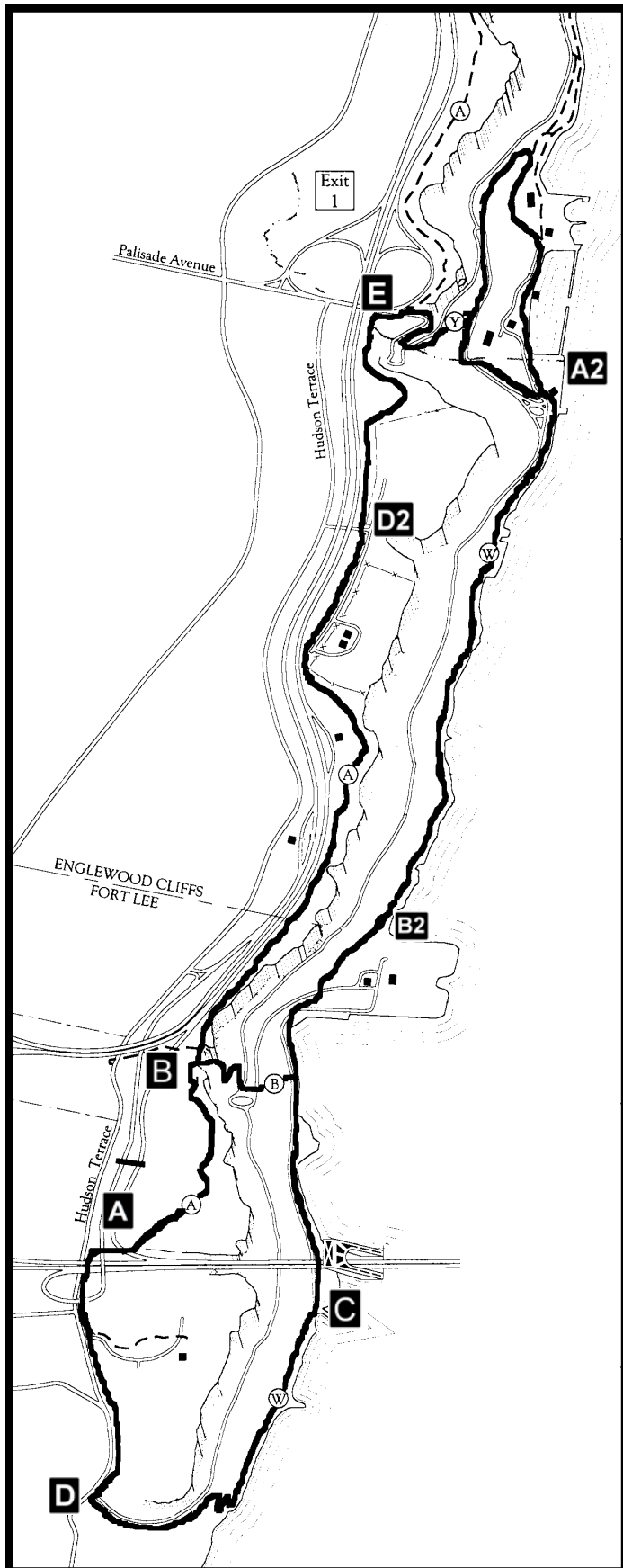


# CARPENTER'S LOOPS I & II

Palisades Interstate Park ♦ NJ Section



**Area:** Fort Lee

**Length:** 2 – 6 mi. (round-trip distance)

**Time:** 1.5 – 3 hrs.

**Parking:** Fort Lee Historic Park, Allison Park, Englewood Boat Basin

**Alternative access:** Southern Park Entrance, Ross Dock, Linwood Park Overpass, George Washington Bridge North Walkway, Allison Park

## 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...

Scale: 1 in. ≈ 0.25 mi.

## CARPENTER'S LOOPS I & II HIKE DESCRIPTION

### CARPENTER LOOP I

**Description:** This hike begins at Fort Lee Historic Park and covers about 2 mi. over relatively easy terrain but with a steep and somewhat challenging descent in the middle.

From Fort Lee Historic Park, hike north on the sidewalk along Hudson Terrace to the start of the Long Path [A].

Follow the Long Path north, exploring some of the unmarked but well-defined side trails overlooking the Bridge if you wish. About 0.5 mi. along the Long Path, look for the top of the blue-blazed Carpenter's Trail [B], and take this down to the Shore Trail, just south of Ross Dock.

Take the white-blazed Shore Trail south beneath the Bridge, passing Hazard's Launching Ramp [C], for another 0.5 mi., where it will turn uphill to take you to the southern park entrance [D].

Back on Hudson Terrace, turn north to return to start.

### CARPENTER LOOP II

**Description:** This loop can start at either Carpenter's Trail or Dyckman Hill, following the Shore Trail and the Long Path in between. The ascents up the cliffs are by far the most difficult parts of this hike, though the cliffs are not as high in the southern section of the park as in the northern section. The Shore Trail here is very flat and wide. The Long Path is also flat, though it is narrow at points. Pick up the Shore Trail immediately south of the entrance booth and refreshment stand at Englewood Boat Basin [A2] and follow it about a mile to Ross Dock [B2]. Just south of Ross Dock you will find the blue-blazed Carpenter's Trail [C], which you can take up to the Long Path. Before Dyckman Hill, the Long Path skirts the edge of Allison Park [D2] and St. Peter's College. Follow the aqua blazes to the top of Dyckman Hill Road [E], and then take the yellow-blazed Dyckman Hill Trail back to start.

#### *Things to notice:*

- The George Washington Bridge is considered one of the world's busiest bridges. It opened in October, 1931; the lower level was completed in the early 1960s.
- Carpenter's Trail is named for Carpenter Brothers' Quarry, the largest and most destructive of the Palisades quarries of the late nineteenth century. Objections to the quarries led to the creation of the Palisades Interstate Park in 1900 (signs of the quarry's blasting can be seen in the relative smoothness of the cliff face here).
- The "Riviera," one of the premier nightclubs of the mid-twentieth century, was sited just north of the Bridge.

**Phone: 201 768-1360**

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

**201 768-6001**



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