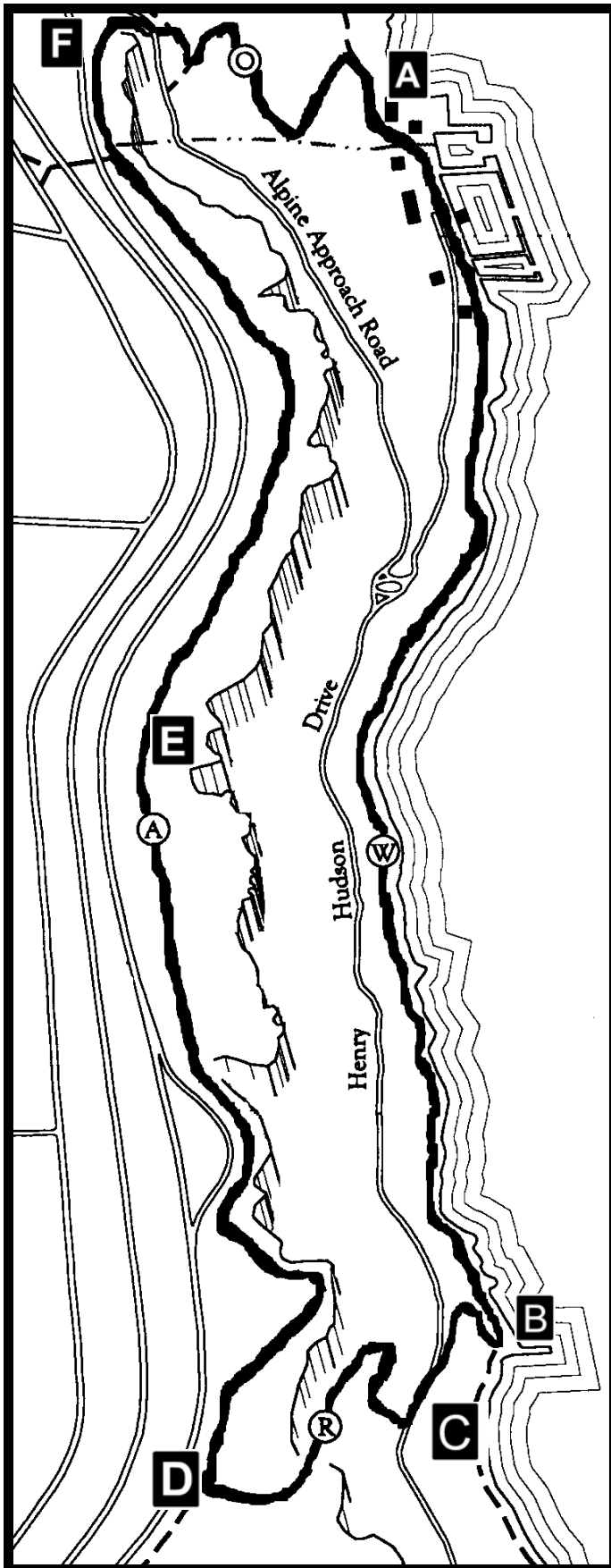


CLOSTER LANDING

Palisades Interstate Park ♦ NJ Section



Area: Alpine

Length: 5 mi. (round-trip distance)

Time: 3.5 hrs.

Parking: Alpine Boat Basin & Picnic Area

Alternative access: Park Headquarters

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...

CLOSTER LANDING HIKE DESCRIPTION

This five-mile hike is sometimes called “Millionaires’ Row” because of the old estate foundations you will pass along the cliff top.

Begin at the south end of the Alpine Picnic Area, and take the white-blazed Shore Trail south along the river [A]. For the first mile or so, this trail goes up and down a number of small rises on stone steps built decades ago. Along the way, keep an eye out for the “Jordan Plaque,” bolted to a rock on your right, marking the spot where the park's first superintendent died (he slipped on ice and fell from the cliffs near here).

The trail will eventually level off along the shore, and in about 1.5 mi. from the start, you will come to an old jetty in the river [B]. This is “Huyler’s Landing,” once an important port of call 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.

Take the Huyler’s Landing Trail uphill until you get to Henry Hudson Drive. Here use caution, as you'll have to walk for about 50 yd. on the active roadway. Turn left (south) on the Drive and look for the continuation of the Huyler’s Landing Trail up the hillside [C]. Take this trail up to the top, where it will intersect with the aqua-blazed Long Path. Turn right (north) on the Long Path and follow it [D].

In about 0.25 mi. you'll get to an old overlook with a wrought-iron fence. This was part of Manuel Rionda’s “Rio Vista” estate, the largest on the Palisades (Rionda was the owner of sugar plantations in Cuba in the first half of the twentieth century. His actual manor house was located just south of this overlook, where the Alpine Lookout is today—the Long Path passes through the Lookout area as you head north.)

Continuing north on the Long Path, you will pass a number of old foundation remains (these are best viewed during times of year with less leaf coverage), until you come upon the largest foundation in the park, that of George Zabriskie’s “Cliff Dale” estate [E]. The ruin you see is only the garage portion of the house. Looking through the woods, you may find some old stone pillars and other odds and ends from Cliff Dale. *Explore the foundation ruins at your own risk!* (The estates on top of the Palisades were knocked down during the construction of the Palisades Interstate Parkway.)

Continuing north, you will pass a number of other foundations and old driveways, until you eventually come to a small tunnel that passes underneath Alpine Approach Road [F]. This brings you to the top of the orange-blazed Closter Dock Trail. Take this trail downhill until it meets the Shore Trail again. Turn right here (south), and you will come back to the Alpine Picnic Area in less than 0.25 mi.

Phone: 201 768-1360

In case of emergency call Park Police:

201 768-6001



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