Welcome to the Palisades parklands—a collection of enchanting scenic and historic parks along the west side of the Hudson River. From beaches and boat basins to woodlands and mountain tops, Bear Mountain, Harriman, Rockland Lake, Sterling Forest, Minnewaska Preserve, New Jersey’s Palisades Park, and other parks and recreation areas offer a variety of outdoor activities and adventures to residents of the New York metropolitan area. Swimming, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, and other possibilities are available to all.


Booked and detailed trail maps about Bear Mountain and Harriman parks and related subjects are available at the Commission’s Visitor Center bookstore near exit 18 of the Palisades Interstate Parkway.

There are hiking trails for residents of the New York metropolitan area. Swimming, camping, hiking, biking, and other possibilities are available to all.
outdoor educational and recreational opportunities on the
protecting natural and cultural resources and providing
directions and hours of operation, use the telephone numbers provided
Some historic sites are closed Mondays or Tuesdays. For details about
Most of the natural scenic areas are open year round dawn to dusk.

Historic Sites

includes a museum and reconstructed
mile east of the site of Fort Lee,

north of Fort Lee. When Gen. George
the Hudson River at Lower Closter,

November 20, 1776, about 5,000

Keaney House, Alpine, N.J., 287-704-1383—This modest structure, the
oldest surviving building in New
Jersey’s Palisades Park, dates to about the 1760s. This small, wood-frame
addition was probably built in the
1820s, and the large porch was added by the Park Commission in 1889.

Fort Montgomery, U.S. R.R. Bear Mountain State Park, N.Y., 845-666-2164—Fort Montgomery fort is over-
whelming British troops on October 6, 1777. The battle, however, disrupted
the plan. Gen. John Burgoyne’s army that
was trapped at Saratoga. Visit the
newly constructed visitor center and then walk the self-guiding trail
through the remains of the fort.

Kearny House, Alpine, N.J., 287-704-1383—This modest structure, the
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Sutton Courthouse and The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.
Temple Hill Road (N.Y. 300), Vails Gate, N.Y., 845-666-1585—The Continental Army made its final encampment at
Sutton Courthouse on July 1777. Gen. George Washington delivered his emotional speech in the Temple of
Victory convincing officers not to retreat over the mountains. The meeting hall and a soldier’s hut have been reconstituted.
Artifacts, documents, and replicas of the Revolutionary War era are on display. The museum contains exhibits that
tell the stories of American con-
bat wounded veterans.

King’s Ferry on May 31, 1779, and
built fortifications at Stony Point to prepare for a possible battle in the Hudson Highlands. But the Americans
led by Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne, took the fort in a surprise-morning attack in the Battle of Stony Point, N.Y., May 11, 1779.

Stonewall Jackson’s Headquarters, Ewing Hill Road, York Gate, N.Y., 845-561-5486—Maj.
Gen. Henry Knox occupied John and Catherine Gibson’s Federalist house four different times during
Revolutionary War. Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates stayed here when he served as Commander-in-Chief at Sackets Harbor
Cantonment. With its 18th-century furnishings, Knox’s Headquarters retains much of the Revolutionary War
appearance. The New Golden Native Plant Sanctuary honoring America’s
indigenous botany is also located on the grounds.

Stockade Area, this house served as the meeting place for the first Senate of
New York State in 1777. The stone
structure was built in 1684 as the Revolutionary period home and con-

Senate House, 296 Fair St., Kingston, N.Y., 845-330-238—In Kingston’s

Washington Headquarters, 84 Liberty St., Peekskill, N.Y., 845-762-
1700—George Washington and his
wife, Martha, stayed in the Jonathan Hubbard House for 16 months after the surrender ceremony at Yorktown.
Here, while awaiting the conclusion of the war, he planned the retreat of the American troops from the
contested British troops around Manhattan, revised a proposal to establish an American monarchy,
launched a potential mutiny among his officers, and
received the first $1 million British Military Loan, announced the abolition of slavery, and outlined principles that became incorporated in
the U.S. Constitution. Washington’s Headquarters, the first public legis-
latively protected historic house museum in the country, is preserved by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The
Building was originally built as a hotel.

The Palisades Interstate Park System consists of the parks, recreation areas, and historic sites shown in bold on this map.
Most of the natural scenic areas are open year round dawn to dusk.
Some historic sites are closed Mondays or Tuesdays. For details about
directions and hours of operation, use the telephone numbers provided
with the site descriptions or visit these websites:
www.palisadesparkscouncil.org
www.njpalisades.org
www.nysparks.com

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission is dedicated to protecting
natural and cultural resources and providing
outdoor educational and recreational opportunities on the
west side of the Hudson River in New York and New Jersey.

Contributions for Commission projects may be sent to
The Palisades Parks Conservancy, Administration Building,
Bear Mountain, NY 10911. For information about this charitable
organization, visit www.palisadesparkscouncil.org
or call 845-783-2701.

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission
New York, New Jersey

Palisades Interstate Park Commission
New York, New Jersey

Historic Sites

Fort Lee Historic Park, Hudson Terrace,
Fort Lee, N.J., 201-461-1770—On
November 20, 1776, about 5,000
British and German troops under Lt.
Gen. Charles Lord Cornwallis crossed
north of Fort Lee. When Gen. George
Washington received word of the
crossing, he hurriedly evacuated his
Troops and left most of the American
supply and artillery behind before the
British could take the New
Bridge. This battle was one of the few
remained to thwart the British plans to
advance to New York City. Without the
King’s Ferry, New York City would
have fallen and would have provided
a ready-made landing place for
British troops.

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