

= Palisades Interstate Parkway =

The Palisades Interstate Parkway ( PIP ) is a 38 @. @ 25 @-@ mile @-@ long ( 61 @. @ 56 km ) limited @-@ access highway in the U.S. states of New Jersey and New York . The parkway is a major commuter route into New York City from Rockland and Orange counties in New York and Bergen County in New Jersey . The southern terminus of the route is at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee , New Jersey , where it connects to Interstate 95 ( I @-@ 95 ) , U.S. Route 1 ? 9 ( US 1 ? 9 ) , US 46 and Route 4 . Its northern terminus is at a traffic circle in Fort Montgomery , New York , where the PIP meets US 9W and US 202 at the Bear Mountain Bridge . At exit 18 , the PIP forms a concurrency with US 6 for the remaining duration of its run .

The route is named for the New Jersey Palisades , a line of cliffs rising along the western side of the Hudson River . The PIP is designated , but not signed as Route 445 in New Jersey and New York State Route 987C ( NY 987C ) , an unsigned reference route , in New York . As with most parkways in the New York metropolitan area , commercial traffic is prohibited from using the PIP . The Palisades Interstate Parkway was built from 1947 ? 1958 , and fully opened to traffic on August 28 , 1958 .

= = Route description = =

The main line of the parkway is designated as Route 445 in New Jersey and NY 987C in New York . The latter is one of New York 's reference routes . A 0 @. @ 42 @-@ mile ( 0 @. @ 68 km ) spur connecting the parkway to US 9W in Fort Lee , New Jersey , is designated Route 445S . All three designations are unsigned and used only for inventory purposes . The parkway is owned and maintained by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission but occasional maintenance is performed by the New Jersey and New York state departments of transportation . Commercial vehicles are prohibited on the entire length of the Palisades Interstate Parkway .

= = = New Jersey = = =

The Palisades Interstate Parkway begins at the George Washington Bridge ( GWB ) in Fort Lee , New Jersey . Passengers from the upper level of the GWB can directly get on the PIP northbound , while passengers from the lower level of the bridge must travel through GWB Plaza on US 9W before getting on the parkway . Passengers riding northbound on the New Jersey Turnpike ( I @-@ 95 ) must be in local lanes to directly get on the PIP . Once the PIP leaves the GWB , it proceeds north along the New Jersey Palisades , past the Englewood Cliffs Service Area . Unlike service areas further north along the parkway , there are two in Englewood , one for northbound drivers and one for southbound drivers . The others are in the center median shared by drivers going in both directions . There are also three different scenic lookout points over the Palisades near the northern tip of the island of Manhattan at the Harlem River . After this , the PIP parallels US 9W and the Hudson River for its entire run in New Jersey . All four exits in New Jersey are either with US 9W , or within mere feet of the route . The PIP leaves New Jersey into New York in the borough of Rockleigh .

The entire New Jersey portion of the Palisades Interstate Parkway is within Bergen County . It is designated as a state scenic byway known as the Palisades Scenic Byway . The PIP and the New Jersey Turnpike are the only highways that use sequential exit numbering in New Jersey ; all others in the state are based on mileage , except for the Atlantic City ? Brigantine Connector in Atlantic City , which uses lettered exits ( no numerals ) .

= = = New York = = =

= = = = Rockland County = = = =

The Palisades enters Rockland County in the hamlet of Palisades . At about the border the PIP changes direction from due north along the Hudson River to a north @-@ west direction . Shortly after the Kings Ferry Service Area in the center median , the first two exits in New York are key exits for two colleges in Rockland County . Exit 5 provides a link to St. Thomas Aquinas College , and exit 6 provides a link to Dominican College . In West Nyack , the PIP has a key interchange with the New York State Thruway ( I @-@ 87 and I @-@ 287 ) . This intersection is about seven miles ( 11 km ) west of the Tappan Zee Bridge . After the PIP 's interchange with the NY Thruway , the PIP turns slightly north @-@ east and its speed limit increases to 55 miles per hour ( 89 km / h ) . From the GWB to the NY Thruway it is exclusively 50 miles per hour ( 80 km / h ) . At exit 13 , the PIP intersects US 202 as the route crosses south of Harriman State Park in Mount Ivy . This is the first of two meetings between the PIP and US 202 . At exit 15 , the PIP has its last busy intersection in Rockland County with County Route 106 ( CR 106 , formerly part of NY 210 ) in Stony Point . From here , the PIP enters Harriman State Park , and at exit 16 , the PIP intersects Lake Welch Parkway , which is one of several parkways commissioned within the park .

= = = = Orange County = = = =

The Palisades enters Orange County north of Lake Welch Parkway at exit 16 and south of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission Visitor Center , located in the center median in what was originally a parkway service area . The first interchange in Orange County is exit 17 at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area . At exit 18 , the PIP intersects US 6 and Seven Lakes Drive . US 6 west heads toward the Thruway and NY 17 five miles ( 8 km ) west in Harriman . US 6 east forms the PIP 's only concurrency for the last two miles ( 3 km ) of the PIP 's run . Seven Lakes Drive joins the two routes for one mile ( 1 @.@ 6 km ) before departing at exit 19 . The two routes then enter Bear Mountain State Park in an eastern direction . Finally , the Palisades Interstate Parkway meets its end at US 9W and US 202 at a traffic circle inches from the Hudson River and the Bear Mountain Bridge . US 6 and US 202 head east over the bridge , while US 9W heads north toward the United States Military Academy in West Point . ( Southbound US 9W , breaking off to the right , is the same road as westbound US 202 . )

= = History = =

In 1933 ? 34 , the first thoughts of a Palisades Interstate Parkway were developed by engineer and environmentalist William A. Welch , who was general manager and chief engineer of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission . The plan was to build a parkway to connect the New Jersey Palisades with the state parks along the Hudson River in Rockland and Orange counties . Welch would soon garner the support of John D. Rockefeller , who donated 700 acres ( 2 @.@ 8 km2 ) of land along the New Jersey Palisades overlooking the Hudson River in 1933 . With this favorable momentum for the new route , the proposed route was accepted as a Civil Works Administration project under Franklin D. Roosevelt 's New Deal coalition . However , the New Jersey Highway Commission did not support construction , so the idea of a parkway was put on hold .

During the 1940s , Rockefeller renewed the push for a parkway along the New Jersey Palisades , and teamed with ultimate PIP planner , Robert Moses , to establish and design the parkway . The plan originally was to have the PIP stretch from the Garden State Parkway , along the Hudson River , to the George Washington Bridge , and then north along its present @-@ day route ending at the Bear Mountain Bridge . This southern extension was never built , but construction began on the current PIP in New York on April 1 , 1947 . Construction on the New Jersey portion began about one year later . Construction was delayed twice due to material shortages , but that did not stop the PIP from being opened in stages during the 1940s and 1950s . The route was completed in New Jersey in 1957 , and on August 28 , 1958 , the final piece of the PIP was completed between exits 5 and 9 in southern Rockland County .

The PIP is known for its stone arch overpasses throughout its route and its several scenic overlooks in New Jersey . All sorts of unique trees and flowers can be seen along the route as well . In 1998 ,

because of all the natural and constructed beauty , the PIP was designated as a national landmark by the National Park Service .

= = Exit list = =