



MANHATTAN

1 INWOOD HILL PARK

Foot of W Dyckman Street
The gravel beach is a good put-in for excursions on the Harlem River or across the Hudson to the Palisades. Street parking is generally easy.
⚠️ The cove behind the pier is protected, but there are strong currents on the Hudson, with turbulence under the George Washington Bridge and at Spuyten Duyvil (the mouth of the Harlem River).

2 WEST HARLEM PIERS

130th Street & Marginal Street, Harlem
A floating dock about 75 feet offshore, a good jumping off point for excursions to upper Manhattan and the Palisades. Restrooms at Fairway across the street; street parking.
⚠️ Watch for a Water Taxi landing in the same embayment; a wastewater treatment plant just to the north sees frequent sludge-ship traffic, and blocks visibility.

3 79TH STREET BOAT BASIN

W 79th Street, Riverside Park
A dedicated kayak and canoe launch has been added to A-Dock, the public pier at Boat Basin. Limited paid parking; street parking is a quarter-mile away.
⚠️ Dock is sheltered but there are strong currents in the Hudson; small boats moorings surround the marina.

4 RIVERSIDE PARK SOUTH

W 72nd Street
The floating dock operated by Downtown Boathouse is right off the waterside esplanade at this park on the former site of the NY Central Freight Yard. Parking is on city streets, leaving a lengthy portage that involves descending a long stone staircase.
⚠️ Sunken boats and debris can be obstacles at low tide.

5 PIER 96

W 56th Street
The dock at the Clinton Cove Boathouse is operated by Downtown Boathouse, open weekends and holidays. Boats can be dropped on the service road to the West Side Highway, leaving a 200-foot carry.
⚠️ Must be 100 yards out in the river at cruise ship terminal.

6 PIER 84

W 44th Street
A wooden dock connected to the pier by a gangway and accessible when the boathouse, maintained by Floating the Apple, is open. Paid parking on Pier 83.
⚠️ Currents on the Hudson move swiftly; the security zone at the cruise ship terminal extends 100 yards out from the pierhead line.

7 PIER 66

W 26th Street
The boathouse is operated by NYRiverSports and hosts the programs of New York Kayak Polo, Manhattan Kayak Company, NY Outrigger and Hudson River Community Sailing. Launching and landing only when the boathouse is open. The nearest parking is at Chelsea Piers.
⚠️ River currents are strong.

8 PIER 40

W Houston Street
A good launch for experienced paddlers wishing to explore the Upper Harbor. The public dock, operated by the Downtown Boathouse, is about 120 yards out on the south side of the pier. NY Kayak Company and Village Community Boathouse are based here. Car drop off is easy and there is paid parking on the pier.
⚠️ Currents are strong at the pierhead line; 25-yard security zone around the Holland Tunnel ventilator shaft.

9 GOVERNORS ISLAND

Pier 101, near the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel Vent
This landing-only site is a small floating dock on the north side of Pier 101, on the northeastern corner of the island. Kayaks must be carried up a gangway with two sharp turns and left on the grass at the top. The Downtown Boathouse runs walk-up kayaking programs on weekends.
⚠️ Busy shipping channels surround the island, and Pier 101 sees multiple ferry landings every hour. Kayak visitors must be aware of traffic and currents, and should carry and be familiar with VHF radio.

10 SHERMAN CREEK

W 202nd Street
This street-end launch offers good access to the bucolic Harlem River.
⚠️ Local college crews row on the Harlem River.

- Parking
- Restrooms
- Potable Water
- Food
- Storage
- Caution

BRONX

11 BARRETTO POINT PARK

Foot of Tiffany Street, Hunts Point
Launch from a concrete ramp on a cobble beach near the parking lot or a sandy cove at the east end of the park.
⚠️ Strong tidal currents and heavy traffic in the main shipping channel; restricted access on both Brother Islands (bird sanctuaries) and prohibited at Rikers Island (city's largest jail).

12 HUNTS POINT RIVERSIDE PARK

Edgewater Road & Lafayette Avenue, Hunts Point
A gravel beach offers access to the sheltered waters of the Bronx River. Portage is about 200 ft. on an asphalt path.
⚠️ A half mile north, a boom collects debris and helps prevent motorized traffic from going north; to the south are strong currents and a working shipping channel.

13 CONCRETE PLANT PARK

Westchester Avenue or Bruckner Blvd.
This reclaimed cement manufacturing site offers a concrete launch ramp to the Bronx River. There is limited street parking and a long carry from either the entrance at Westchester Avenue (.25 mi.) or Bruckner Boulevard (.15 mi.).
⚠️ A boom spanning the river collects debris and helps prevent motorized traffic from going north; to the south are strong currents and a working shipping channel.

14 SHOELACE PARK

219th Street, Bronx Park
A small 10' by 15' foot dock (150 foot portage) offers easy access to the middle section of the Bronx River, six miles north of its confluence with the East River. Bathrooms and water in nearby playground.
⚠️ The Bronx River has several dams with portage points, a weir that can most safely be cleared at least two hours before or after low tide, and a DEP debris boom that floats just on the surface of the water but spans the river and needs to be cleared.

15 SOUNDVIEW PARK

O'Brien Avenue at Leland Avenue, Soundview
Enter the park and make a left off the main path to an asphalt ramp located near the confluence of the Bronx River and East River (about a three block portage from street parking). The area offers expansive views of the rivers, migratory birds and the distant Manhattan skyline.
⚠️ Barge traffic and other motor boats.

16 CLASON POINT PARK

Foot of Sound View Avenue, Clason Point
A concrete ramp provides access to the marshes of Pugsley Creek, the East River, the Hutchinson River drainage, and Long Island Sound. Portage is 150 feet.
⚠️ Strong currents in the East River, heavy commercial traffic, and lots of broken glass in launch area.

17 PELHAM BAY PARK

Orchard Beach Lagoon, Pelham
A ramp provides access to a protected lagoon — ideal for beginning paddlers, and a good starting point for more experienced boaters to explore the many small islands at the mouth of Long Island Sound.
⚠️ At low tide, launch off gravel and mud surface below the ramp; Orchard Beach is off limits to boaters except in an emergency; heavy motor boat traffic in season.

QUEENS NORTH

18 BAYSIDE MARINA

Cross Island Pkwy. & 28th Avenue, Bayside
A concrete ramp near the marina and fishing pier offers direct access to Little Neck Bay; the wetlands of Alley Pond Park and Udall's Cove are a short paddle away. Parking and footbridge access at 28th Avenue.
⚠️ Landing at high tide can be difficult heading south toward Alley Pond Park due to extensive riprap.

19 LITTLE BAY PARK

Totten Avenue, Bayside
A natural beach on the west side of Fort Totten peninsula is an excellent spot from which to explore Little Neck and Eastchester Bays. Portage is about 40 feet.
⚠️ Currents are strong away from the shore, especially in the main shipping lane; heavy pleasure boat traffic on weekends.

20 FRANCIS LEWIS PARK

3rd Avenue at Parsons Blvd., Whitestone
Located beneath the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, the beach is an ideal launch for exploring the easternmost reaches of the East River. Portage is about two blocks from on-street parking.
⚠️ Strong currents, passing ships and barges raise large wakes, and there is a 25-yard security perimeter around the bridge towers.

21 FLUSHING MEADOWS

Grand Central Pkwy. & Northern Blvd., Flushing
Access to Flushing Bay via a dock, submerged at high tide, at the eastern end of World's Fair Marina. If locked, the key is at Pete's Backyard on Pier 1.
⚠️ Watch footing on the steep ramp and slippery dock, mud banks at low tide, heavy motorized traffic, and 100-yard security perimeter around LaGuardia Airport.

22 HALLETS COVE

31st Avenue & Vernon Blvd., Astoria
A small beach offers access to the east channel of the East River. Portage is 10 ft. Facilities at Socrates Sculpture Park.
⚠️ Even experts can be intimidated by the swift currents of the East River and turbulent waters of Hell Gate.

BROOKLYN

23 NEWTOWN CREEK

Provost Street & Paidge Avenue, Greenpoint
Tiered steps go straight into the water at a wastewater treatment plant, operated by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, which provides access to explore the industrial banks of Newtown Creek.
⚠️ Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming.

24 MANHATTAN AVENUE

Manhattan Avenue Street-end, Greenpoint
This new pocket park has a floating dock on Newtown Creek providing access to the Creek and East River. There is a combination lock on the gate to the dock; access is available to boaters with NYC Parks launch permit.
⚠️ Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming.

25 BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

Foot of Main Street, DUMBO
The launch here, in a small city park, is a gravel beach ringed by amphitheater seating on the east side of the cove between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges. Car drop off is close—about 150 feet—but on-street parking in DUMBO is difficult.
⚠️ A powerful backeddy makes for easy paddling in the cove, but currents outside are powerful. Large, slippery rocks make launching and landing at low tide a trial, and big wakes can create surf-like conditions on the beach.

26 VALENTINO PARK & PIER

Foot of Coffey Street, Red Hook
A gravel beach provides access to Buttermilk Channel and Upper New York Bay. Weekend paddling programs are offered by Red Hook Boaters. Portage from easy street parking is about 50 yards. Restrooms at nearby Fairway Market.
⚠️ Watch for fishing lines, swift currents off the end of the pier, commercial traffic and a 100-yard security zone around the cruise ship terminal

27 GOWANUS CANAL

Foot of 2nd Street, Carroll Gardens
Dock maintained by the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club is a good starting point for exploring Brooklyn's Industrial waterfront. No facilities.
⚠️ The canal is a narrow commercial channel; water is not suitable for swimming.

28 SALT MARSH NATURE CENTER

Avenue U between Burnett & E 33rd Streets, Marine Park
A 40-foot portage leads to a rocky launch area at the head of Gerritsen Inlet. Nearby destinations include Plumb Beach, Dead Horse Bay and Rockaway Inlet.
⚠️ Heavy motor boat traffic from Gerritsen Beach; conditions in Rockaway Inlet can be challenging.

29 PLUMB BEACH

Eastbound Belt Parkway, just east of Exit 9 Knapp Street
Calm waters and strong winds make the sand beach a favorite take off for windsurfers and kite boarders. Launching is recommended at higher tide as mud flats make the walk to water several hundred yards at low tide. Permit is required.
⚠️ Do not disturb the horseshoe crabs in this prime breeding area. Challenging wind and tide conditions. Watch for glass on the beach.

30 FLOYD BENNETT FIELD

Flatbush Avenue, Barren Island
A 1933 seaplane ramp provides access to southwestern Jamaica Bay. Landing on the islands (part of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge) is permitted below the high-tide line only. Permit is required.
⚠️ Underwater obstacles on southeastern side of ramp; heavy boat traffic and strong currents in offshore channel.

31 MILL BASIN OUTLET

Flatbush Avenue, Floyd Bennett Field, Barren Island
Best launch is the trail on the left approximately 100 yards to the beach through high marsh grass and dunes. Pit toilet located 150 yards away on the runway.
⚠️ Heavy boat traffic cruising out of Mill Basin Channel. Shallow marshes and sand bars near the Mill Basin Bridge.

32 MILL BASIN MARINA

Avenue Y & East 6th Street, Bergen Beach (718) 241-5011
The marina sits on a protected arm of Jamaica Bay, whose 16,000 acres of open water, salt marshes, and beaches form the bulk of Gateway National Recreational Area.
⚠️ Jet skis are allowed in Mill Basin. Paddling in groups is recommended.

33 PAERDEGAT BASIN

1400 Paerdegat Avenue North, Canarsie (718) 988-1475
There is a 300-foot carry from easy parking to a wooden dock maintained by the Sebago Canoe Club. Launch through the club's open paddle program or membership. Non-member paddlers are allowed to land.
⚠️ Paddling in groups is recommended in Jamaica Bay.

34 CANARSIE PIER

Belt Parkway to Exit 13, Canarsie
Put in at the sand beach on the east side of the popular 600-foot fishing pier. Seasonal walk-up kayaking is offered by National Park Service Rangers. A launch permit is required.
⚠️ Entry into the salt marshes or onto any islands in Jamaica Bay is not permitted. Watch for fishing lines from the pier.



QUEENS SOUTH

35 NORTH CHANNEL BEACH

Cross Bay Blvd. south end of Adababo Bridge, Broad Channel
The sand beach launch on the eastside goes in the Grassy Bay portion of Jamaica Bay, a popular kayak fishing destination, west side launch opens to Pumpkin Patch Channel and North Channel.
⚠️ Heavy pleasure boat traffic in Jamaica Bay, stay clear of channels. This is a wildlife refuge, do not land on islands nor disturb flora or fauna.

36 IDELWILD PARK PRESERVE

Huxley and Craft Avenues, Rosedale
A narrow ramp offers access to a 160-acre nature preserve just east of JFK airport. The bird watching is excellent in terrain that ranges from freshwater wetlands to marsh islands to a large expanse of open water.
⚠️ Launching is difficult at low tide, due to extensive mud flats; and the ramp can be slippery.

37 BAYSWATER PARK

Beach 35th Street & Norton Avenue or Bay 32nd Street & Dwight Avenue, Far Rockaway
Access to Norton Basin and the eastern end of Jamaica Bay is provided by this beach launch.
⚠️ Launch perpendicular, as large, jagged rocks protrude along shoreline; extensive mud flats at low tide.

STATEN ISLAND

38 CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK

Hylan Blvd. & Satterlee Street, Tottomille
The site of a legendary display of American defiance early in the Revolutionary War, and the southernmost point in the State. A long (800 feet) but well-paved pedestrian path offers access to the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay.
⚠️ Many semi-submerged pilings north and south of launch, and a major shipping channel 400 yards offshore.

39 LEMON CREEK PARK

Hylan Blvd. & Seguin Avenue or Sharrott Avenue, Prince's Bay
Two beach launches provide access to Raritan Bay. Portage is 40 feet at Sharrott Avenue, 150 feet at Seguin Avenue.
⚠️ Watch for fishing lines from the pier at Sharrott Avenue, the remains of a pier at Seguin Avenue, a marked channel in Lemon Creek, and a buoyed channel close to shore.

40 GREAT KILLS PARK

Hylan Blvd. & Buffalo Street, Great Kills Harbor
A floating dock at the boat ramp offers access to Great Kills Harbor and a nice shoreline of beach, dunes and grasslands. A parking permit is required at the trailer lot.
⚠️ Heavy pleasure boat traffic and commercial traffic in the offshore shipping lanes.

41 MIDLAND BEACH

Father Capodanno Blvd. & Lincoln Avenue, Midland Beach
Midland Beach offers access to the Lower Harbor and Raritan Bay. The carry to the water is about 250 ft.
⚠️ Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay are open to the ocean, launching and landing can be hazardous in high surf.

42 SOUTH BEACH

Father Capodanno Blvd. & Sand Lane, South Beach
Short (80-100 foot) portages from parking areas to beach launching opposite Hoffman Island, just south of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.
⚠️ Hazardous in high surf. Watch for designated swimming areas, breakwaters and exposed pilings.

43 ALICE AUSTEN PARK/BUONO BEACH

Hylan Blvd. & Edgewater Street, Rosebank
The park, historic house and sandy beach are an appealing destination and offer an excellent departure point to explore the Lower Harbor. A portage of about 400 feet from on-street parking.
⚠️ Watch for a gas pipeline to the west, jagged rocks at low tide, and significant currents and commercial shipping traffic in the Narrows.

NEW JERSEY

44 16TH STREET PARK

West Shore Drive and West 16th Street, Bayonne
A concrete ramp and floating dock on Newark Bay providing access to the Arthur Kill and the Hackensack River. Season pass required from Bayonne municipality.
⚠️ Heavy commercial traffic near the containerport.

45 LIBERTY STATE PARK

200 Morris Pesin Drive, Jersey City
This small beach next to the boat ramp on the south side of the 1100-acre park offers a good spot from which to explore the west side of the Upper Harbor. It's a half-mile paddle to nearby salt marshes and about a mile to the Statue of Liberty. Portage is 100 feet from the parking lot.
⚠️ Mudflats at low tide off Caven Point Beach to the south, heavy power boat use, and security zones and steady ferry traffic all year at Liberty and Ellis Islands.

46 MAXWELL PLACE PARK

Maxwell Place & Sinatra Drive, Hoboken
A broad, sandy beach at the southern end of a new waterfront park offers excellent launching and landing in all tidal conditions. Just above the beach is the Hoboken Cove Community Boathouse. Car drop off is about 200 feet and on-street parking available.
⚠️ An active barge repair facility is immediately to the south; watch for heavy traffic and powerful currents on the Hudson River.

47 HAZARDS BOAT RAMP

River Road, Palisades Interstate Park, Fort Lee
A concrete ramp just south of the George Washington Bridge offers a convenient put-in for those wishing to explore the Palisades and Upper Manhattan. A \$10 fee is charged for car-top boats. The Port Authority maintains a security booth on the road to Hazards—bring photo ID.
⚠️ Obstructions, mud flats and rocks at various locations along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow; considerable power boat traffic.

48 ROSS DOCK

River Road, Palisades Interstate Park, Fort Lee
This former summer camp, north of George Washington Bridge, features a small beach landing backed by a rock seawall to the east of the large playground.
⚠️ Obstructions, mud flats and rocks at various locations along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow.

49 ENGLEWOOD PICNIC AREA

Palisades Interstate Park, Englewood Cliffs
Launch is from Bloomer's Beach at the northern end of a scenic picnic area opposite Spuyten Duyvil.
⚠️ Obstructions, mud flats and rocks at various locations along riverfront; currents can be swift at peak tidal flow; considerable boat traffic.

PADDLE SAFETY

- ✓ Wear a USCG-approved lifejacket at all times.
- ✓ Do not exceed your skill level.
- ✓ Travel with experienced guides and in groups.
- ✓ Dress in weather appropriate clothes, avoid cotton.
- ✓ Dress for the water temperature, not air temperature.
- ✓ Wear a wet suit if water temperature is below 65° F.
- ✓ Wear sunblock, hat and sunglasses.
- ✓ Wear protective footwear.
- ✓ Know and obey navigation "rules of the road."
- ✓ Be visible—carry a whistle, air horn, flares, lights.
- ✓ Carry a VHF marine radio & cell phone.
- ✓ Bring plenty of drinking water and food.
- ✓ File a float plan.
- ✓ Consult tides, currents and navigation charts.
- ✓ BE AWARE! From a kayak's low vantage point, vessels appear further away.

PERMITS & POLICIES

Bayonne Parks Department Season permit required at 16th Street launch, open daily 7am to 9pm. 201-858-6070

Gateway National Recreation Area Hand Launch Vessel Permit (the former cartop permit) is required at Jamaica Bay sites, obtainable at Floyd Bennett Field NPS Ranger Station for annual fee. nps.gov/gate 718-338-5094

Governors Island The dock is open for landing only during public access hours from June 5 to October 10, 10am to 5pm on Fridays, 10am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays. governorsisland.com 212-440-2202

Hudson River Park Launching and landing is permitted only in designated areas during operators open hours. hudsonriverpark.org 212-617-2020

Liberty State Park Public launch open 6am to 10pm. libertystatepark.org 201-915-3405

NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation Launch permit required for \$15 annual fee. Launches open April 1 to December 1, dawn to dusk. nycgovparks.org 212-360-8133

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation nys.state.ny.us 212-866-3100

Palisades Interstate Park Launches open from May 1 to October 31, dawn to dusk. Fees apply. njpalisades.org 201-768-1360

Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse Contact New York Restoration Project for permission to land at this Harlem River Boathouse. nyrp.org 212-333-2552

RESOURCES

- Going Coastal, Inc. goingcoastal.org
- Hudson River Watertrail Association hrwa.org
- NYC Department of Parks & Recreation nycgovparks.org
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection nyc.gov/dep
- NYC Water Trail Association nycwatertrail.org
- NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program harborestuary.org
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection state.nj.us/dep
- Tides and Currents tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- Weather forecastweather.gov
- Local Emergency: 911
- NYPD Harbor Unit: VHF Channel 17 or 718-765-4100
- NJ Marine Police, Newark Bay: 973-578-8189
- US Coast Guard: VHF Channel 16 or 718-354-4120
- USCG Traffic Monitor (24/7): VHF Channel 11 & 13

The New York City Water Trail is a network of safe, legal launches and landings originally established by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. This project supports a growing water trail system to assist the public with accessing and traveling the waters of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary by human-powered boat to promote appreciation, conservation and protection of the estuary's unique and outstanding natural resources. We are aware of additional water trail efforts in the estuary and will work to incorporate those into future editions. This publication is a joint project of

