



PADDLE THROUGH THE INLETS & AISLES OF LAKE HOPATCONG'S WESTERN SHORELINE

The Inlets and Aisles Trail follows a scenic and historically rich stretch of Lake Hopatcong's western shoreline in the Borough of Hopatcong. Launching from the public ramp at Roland May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary, a quiet wetland where Mountain Brook enters the lake, paddlers begin in sheltered waters ideal for wildlife observation. The trail continues into Henderson Bay and then south along the shoreline, weaving through a series of narrow inlets and aisles best explored by small, non-motorized craft. While better suited for experienced paddlers, this route offers a unique perspective on both the natural beauty and human history of the lake, especially on weekdays, when boat traffic is low.



PUBLIC LAUNCH SITE

Roland-May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary - Lakeside Ave in Hopatcong. No entrance or launch fees, limited on-site parking, no restrooms. Public launching is available along the vegetated shoreline next to the Lake Hopatcong Trail parking sign posted in the parking lot.

DOCK & DINE RESTAURANT

Lola's Waterfront Tex-Mex Restaurant - 300 Lakeside Ave, Hopatcong, NJ 07821, eatlolasnow.com, 973-264-4231

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Roland-May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary - The Borough of Hopatcong established the Roland-May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary in 1993. The Sanctuary was named in honor of two noted ecologists who lived in Hopatcong, Roland and May Eves. It was created to promote the ideals of wildlife preservation and to facilitate environmental education by providing an undisturbed habitat for wetlands species, as well as a hiking trail for nature observers.

2. Little Venice - The inlets here are fascinating and were largely hand-dug by Reverend Vincent Pisek and his brother, Dr. Godfrey Pisek, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. At the time, no permits were required, allowing them to shape the landscape into what they called "Little Venice." Take note of the many narrow channels and small bridges, as well as how homes have been added in over the years.

3. Indian Island - This is one of five islands on the lake that hosts a single residence and has no bridge to the mainland. Originally settled in the late 19th century and once known as "Camp Bigenuf," the current house was built in 1950, while the boathouse dates back to 1909.

4. Cow Tongue Point - Once the site of a small fishing hotel, the building was transformed in 1914 into the clubhouse of the Maxim Park Yacht Club. It became a private residence in the 1920s and has remained largely unchanged ever since. A small bridge connects the house—featuring a two-level wraparound porch—to the mainland, where the former chauffeur's house and garage still stand.

5. Pine Tree Point - Pine Tree Point was once a popular camping spot in the 1930s. While the days of camping at

Pine Tree Point are long gone, a reduced number of pine trees still mark the point, which today overlooks one of the lake's busiest weekend boating areas.

6. Statue of Liberty - Floating proudly in Byram Cove, this 8 foot replica of the Statue of Liberty has been a Lake Hopatcong landmark since 1986. First launched for a Fourth of July party, it quickly became a summer icon. Successive homeowners have served as its caretakers, maintaining and restoring it—most recently after it capsized during the winter of 2023–24. Fully restored, it continues its tradition as the lake's own "Lady Liberty."

7. Camp Alhtaha - During Lake Hopatcong's early years, several summer camps were built. In 1929, the Paterson Council of Boy Scouts opened Camp Alhtaha in Byram Cove. Its main building, which housed the mess hall, stood on a rock ledge overlooking the lake. The camp operated for about ten years. After World War II, the land was sold to a group of New York City public works engineers, who subdivided it among themselves. Today, the rebuilt main building (around 2000) and two other original camp structures survive as private residences.

8. Sister Islands - Sister Islands is the name given to three small islands in Byram Cove. In 1905, a cottage, boathouse, and icehouse were built across two of the islands. In 1912, the summer cottage was sold to Thomas Henderson, owner of Angler's Retreat, who converted the property into the Sister Islands Hotel. The hotel operated during the 1910s before being converted back into a private residence. In the 1940s, Carl Sherman, a former Attorney General of New York, purchased Sister Islands and transformed the old icehouse into a second home. Today, both houses remain on the islands.

POINTS OF INTEREST (cont.)

9. Byram Bay Community Club - Founded in 1938 and still active today, this community club serves families living just off the lake, providing a beach and gathering place for summer fun. Like many early lake communities, it offers access to the water for those without lakefront property.

10. Raccoon Island Ferry - The Raccoon Island Ferry has connected the island to the mainland since 1932 and remains one of Lake Hopatcong's most distinctive landmarks. The two-car ferry, guided by a cable across the channel, follows the route of the old Chincopee Bridge, a wooden span built in 1891 to bring building materials to the island. After the bridge collapsed in 1899 and was never rebuilt, residents formed the Raccoon Island Transportation Company and launched the ferry, which is still operating more than 80 years later.

11. Rex Beach Cottage - During its resort era, Lake Hopatcong attracted many celebrities. While many well-known figures from the New York stage, vaudeville, and burlesque circuits spent summers in Northwood, the lake also hosted one of America's most popular authors of the day—Rex Beach. Author of 33 novels, hundreds of articles, and two successful plays, Beach captivated generations with adventure stories set in places like Alaska and Central America. He spent about seven summers at Lake Hopatcong, writing several of his books here. His cottage, along with tennis courts, stables, and landscaped grounds, once stood behind the modern home now located closer to the shoreline.

12. Glasser's Pavilion - In 1921, William Glasser opened a general store, pavilion, and icehouse at this location. The Northwood Pavilion, as it was known, often hosted dances and other fundraising events. As a courtesy, Glasser ferried mail across the lake to and from Nolan's Point while picking up supplies. In 1933, he applied for and was granted a Post Office, though the postal service rejected "Northwood" (already used in five other U.S. locations) and "Henderson." Since most mail arrived "c/o Glasser," postal authorities suggested that name instead. After Glasser sold the store in 1958, it became the Northwood Inn, and the Glasser Post Office moved next door, where it remains today. The Northwood Inn operated until the mid-1990s, hosting various restaurants before Lola's Tex-Mex opened.

13. Northwood Boat - In 1923, Charlie Thompson established Northwood Boat and Engine Works at this site. A Hopatcong councilman and fire commissioner, Thompson also outfitted a fireboat for the borough, which was stationed here for many years. In the 1970s, the property became a hub for reviving and restoring wooden boats on the lake. It was later sold and is now part of the Bridge Marina group.

NEARBY ON THE MAP

Lake Hopatcong Trail - Access to the Mountain Inlet Spur of the Lake Hopatcong Trail is located across the street from the Roland-May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary. Get more information including a trail map at lakehopatcongfoundation.org/what-we-do/community/trail

Protect Our Waters, CLEAN DRAIN DRY - Recreational activities on our waterways can unintentionally spread aquatic invasive species, non-native plants and animals that harm our waters. These invaders can limit recreational activities, diminish fishing opportunities, and degrade water quality. Protect waterways by cleaning, draining, and drying your kayak, boat, and gear after each use, in every waterbody, every time.

Paddling Safety and Regulations - Paddlers are considered boaters under New Jersey law and must follow state boating regulations, including carrying or wearing a life jacket and obeying navigation rules. Simple steps like wearing your life jacket, staying visible, checking the weather, and filing a float plan can help ensure a safe experience on the water.

Respect Private Property - Much of Lake Hopatcong's shoreline is developed with residential homes, which is private property. Homeowner association beaches can look as though they are public beaches, but no public launching or landing is allowed. Please be respectful of residential privacy, and land only at the public sites shown on this map.