

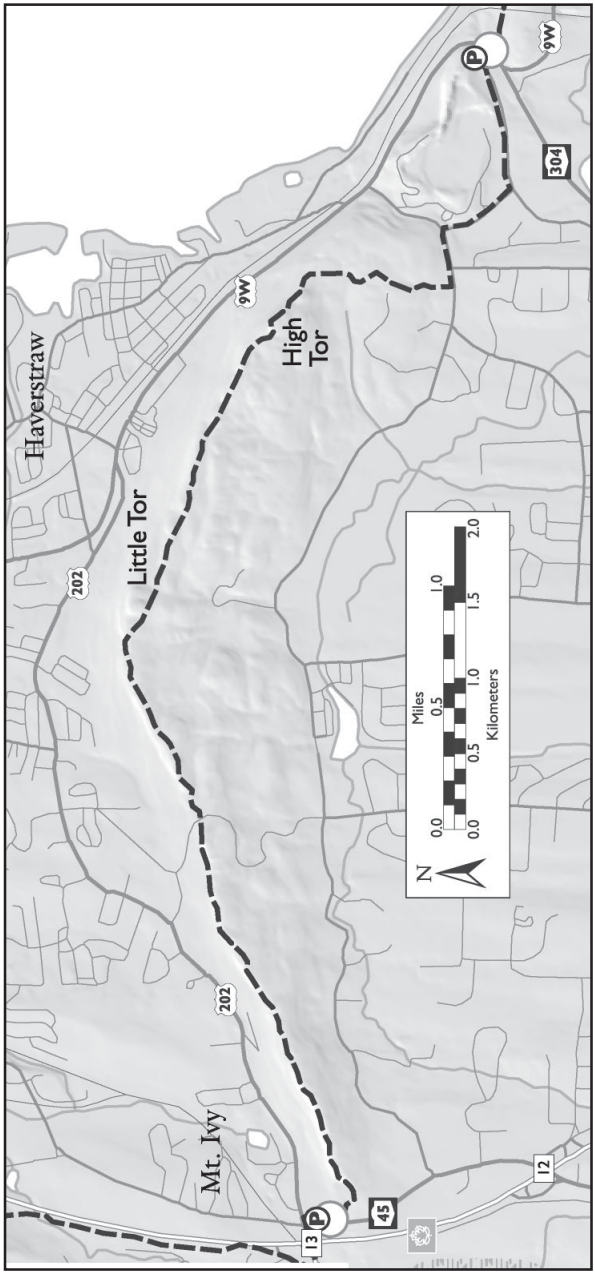
## The Hudson Highlands

The Long Path makes its first foray into genuine mountains as it passes through the Hudson Highlands. It is the first time that the trail reaches higher than 1000 feet elevation above sea level. As part of its journey north through this region, it traverses the length of two major New York State Parks, Harriman, one of the oldest, and Schunemunk Mountain, one of the newest. It also enters a part of New York State that is steeped in Trail Conference history. Many of the trails created by the Trail Conference in its infancy are contained in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks. The very first section of the Appalachian Trail lies in Harriman and that first section crosses the Long Path near Island Pond Mountain in Section 6. There are many, many trails throughout the Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks, making endless loop possibilities incorporating portions of the Long Path.

*Lake Kanawauke from Pine Swamp Mountain*



HERE CHONG



## 4. Long Clove to Mt. Ivy

**Features:** High Tor

**Distance:** 7.00 miles

**USGS Map Quads:** Thiells

**Trail Conference Maps:** Map 4B, Hudson Palisades Trails, New York Section

### General Description

In this section, the Long Path travels along little used roads for a mile, passes dramatic quarried cliffs of the Palisades, and then enters the woods and ascends High Tor. The ascent is often steep, with several good viewpoints. The open summit affords a 360-degree view up and down the Hudson Valley. The trail then descends from High Tor, ultimately passing Little Tor while following the ridge. After crossing Central Highway, the trail enters Rockland County's South Mountain Park. The section ends by descending off the western curving edge of the Palisades just before that feature plunges below the ground.

### Access

This section begins on US Route 9W about 100 yards east of its junction with NY Route 304. The trail crosses Route 9W in the center of an "S" curve on the highway.

**By public transportation:** The Red and Tan Lines 11A bus stops at the intersection of Ridge Road and Old Route 304 (Rockland County Route 90, and erroneously shown as South Mountain Road on some maps), which the trail crosses.

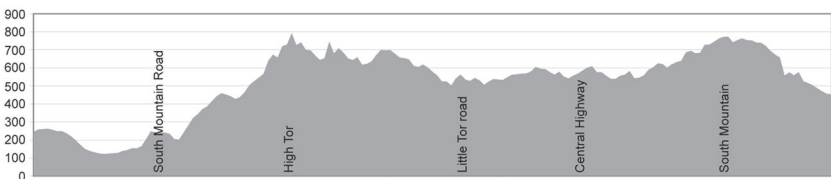
### Parking

**0.00** Long Clove Road and Route 9W (limited parking). (18T 588510E 4558666N)

**1.10** Along Old Route 304 west of Scratchup Road (limited to 4-5 cars). (18T 587000E 4558935N)

**4.75** Central Highway (limited parking). (18T 583470E 4560575N)

**7.00** Mt. Ivy commuter parking lot, open to those with Trail Conference or member club affiliation on non-business days; phone Haverstraw Police at 845-



354-1500 on morning of hike. (18T 580796E 4559834N)

## Trail Description

**0.00** The section begins at the intersection of Long Clove Road and US Route 9W. The trail proceeds northward on Long Clove Road and follows the road uphill around a sharp left hook. The name of the street changes to Scratchup Road after a short while.

**0.60** Follow the road along a sharp right turn. The trail passes the gates for the Tilcon New York quarry.

**1.00** The trail swings left and uphill to reach Old Route 304. Turn left here onto the road. This is a twisting road with narrow shoulders. Remember to walk single file facing traffic.

**1.10** Reach a small parking area (4-5 cars) on the right. Then pass Ridge Road on the left.

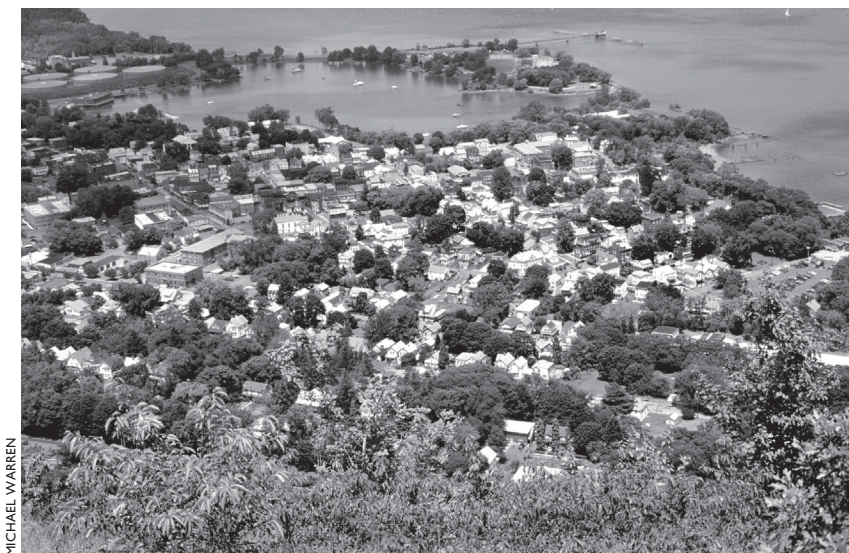
**1.20** The trail turns right into the woods and crosses a wet area. It continues uphill, meandering beside and sometimes over stone walls.

**1.70** The trail levels off and passes by a stand of mountain laurel. After a brief descent, the trail resumes uphill climbing to reach the ridge top near another stone wall. Halfway along the descent is an unmarked trail to the right and a sign saying: “Spur Path (High Tor State Park) - 2/10 mile to the site of the historic Youmans-Van Orden House and High Tor Vineyards”.

**1.95** Turn left at the top of the ridge and follow a well-trodden route near the cliff edge. The trail turns away from the cliff face to begin the first of four short, extremely steep climbs that often require hand pulls.

**2.30** After the fourth steep rise, reach the summit of High Tor. High Tor is

### *Haverstraw*



MICHAEL WARREN





*Deer by the trailside*

the highest peak on the Palisades and its open, rocky summit affords spectacular views in all directions. The Hudson River vanishes to the north behind Dunderberg Mountain. Directly below, along the Hudson, is the Town of Haverstraw. Entergy's Indian Point nuclear plant is visible across from Tomkins Cove. To the west, the rolling hills of the Ramapos and Harriman State Park may be seen. The polygonal pattern visible on the summit's rocks is a natural result of the cooling of the diabase that forms the Palisades. Colonists used the summit as a signal point during the Revolution, and it later was the site of an airplane beacon; the remains of the tower are still visible. The peak was the subject of Maxwell Anderson's play *High Tor*. The Long Path leaves High Tor and drops steeply into the woods.

**2.45** The trail reaches the end of a fire road that it will follow gently downhill all the way to Central Highway. On the way, it runs through deciduous woods on or near the top of the ridge of the Palisades. The slope is steep to the right of the trail and gentle to the left.

**3.05** The Long Path meets an unmarked trail to the right. This trail leads to a summit over the cliff edge.

**3.70** The trail crosses a dirt road. To the right, the road heads briefly uphill and swings to the front of the open summit of Little Tor. To the left is a small artificial pond. It was the water source for the Kaatz mansion, a building demolished in the early 1970's during the construction of High Tor State Park. There is a fine view to the north, with Haverstraw directly below. As the Long Path continues to gradually descend along the ridge, it is crossed by many unmarked side trails and dirt roads.

**4.45** Cross beneath a power line.



*Tilcon quarry*

**4.75** Cross Central Highway and enter Rockland County's South Mountain Park. The trail enters the woods on a gravel road, but just after passing the car barrier, it leaves the road and turns right onto a steep path. The trail is generally close to and parallel with the gravel road and crosses it once.

**5.20** Join the gravel road briefly as it curves left. Follow the road for about 50 feet and then leave it to descend gently to the right. The Long Path is now a wide, well-cleared path through the woods following the cliff edge of the Palisades. There are extensive views to the south.

**6.55** A precipice affords a view of Cheesecote Mountain and Limekiln, Cata-mount and Horse Stable Mountains. An old quarry and the edge of the Palisades can be seen looking down along the direction of the trail.

**6.65** A view over an old quarry shows the end of the Palisades. Beyond, the Palisades ridge dips into the ground. The trail follows this last curving ridge downhill.

**6.85** Reach NY Route 45, cross it and turn right. (For reverse direction, the trail enters the woods just south of a dirt road and a county park sign). The trail passes the entrance to the Mt. Ivy commuter parking lot.

**7.00** Reach the intersection of NY Route 45 and US Route 202. To continue, turn left onto Route 202.