




A GUIDE TO INWOOD / FORT TRYON PARK

Where Is Inwood?

Inwood is the most northern part of Manhattan, bounded by the Harlem River to the east, the Hudson River to the west, and Dyckman Street to the south. Fort Tryon Park is directly south of Inwood, along the Hudson River.

It's Easy to Get to Inwood

 To go directly to the Cloisters, take the A train to 190th Street, then walk across Fort Tryon Park or take the M4 bus. To go to Inwood, take the A train to either Dyckman Street or 207th Street, or take the #1 train to Dyckman Street and St. Nicholas Avenue.


About Inwood

Archaeologists date human settlement in Inwood Hill Park to prehistoric times. A 13,000 year old mammoth tusk, found in the area in the late 1800's, is now displayed at the American Museum of Natural History.

For many years, Native Americans known as the Lenape inhabited the area. They relied on the Hudson and Harlem Rivers as sources for food. Indian Road, a still-existing street, was the main trail used by the Lenape when they traded furs with the European settlers during the 17th century.



Above:
The 215th Street Steps
Hop on the A train
207th Street is handicap accessible

* Wheelchair accessible 




Fort Tryon Park
Dominican Cigar shop

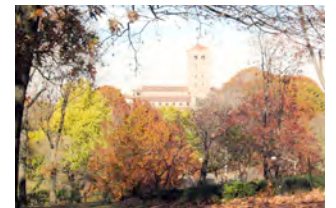
In November 1776, during a battle between the American and British armies in what is now Fort Tryon Park, John Corbin, an artilleryman from Pennsylvania, was killed by a musket ball while he was loading his cannon. His wife, Margaret, stepped into his place and continued to load and fire the cannon. She was wounded, and after the battle (which the American army lost), she became part of a prisoner exchange with the British. Margaret Corbin Drive and Circle in Fort Tryon Park are named for this Revolutionary War heroine.


During the 19th century, wealthy New Yorkers built elegant estates in the area. Inwood was sparsely inhabited until the expansion of the IRT subway in 1906 made it easy to travel downtown. There was ferry service from Dyckman Street to Englewood, New Jersey, from 1915 to 1942; during this time, the fare went from 3 cents per trip to 5 cents. For many years, the residents of Inwood were mostly of Irish descent; since the 1970s, the neighborhood has been mostly Dominican. Many new residents have been moving there recently, attracted by the relatively affordable detached houses and small apartment buildings. Most of Inwood is residential, but the area known as Sherman Creek bordering on the Harlem River has been zoned for industrial use.

Things to See and Do in Inwood

1 Fort Tryon Park — In 1917, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., bought the land and hired Frederick Olmsted Jr., designer of Central and Prospect parks, to transform the rocky topography and thin soil into a landscaped park. Rockefeller even bought the land on the New Jersey side of the Hudson, now known as the Palisades State Park, in order to preserve the views. The park was designed with promenades, terraces, wooded slopes, and eight miles of pedestrian paths. Rockefeller donated the land to New York City for use as a public park in 1931.

 **2 The Cloisters, Fort Tryon Park** — A branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the museum includes several cloisters, or courtyards, from actual French medieval monasteries. This museum is famous for the unicorn tapestries, the extensive collection of medieval art and architecture, and the wonderful view of the Hudson River. Concerts of medieval and Renaissance music are performed throughout the year. There's a small cafeteria and gift shop. Closed Mondays. Limited wheelchair accessibility.



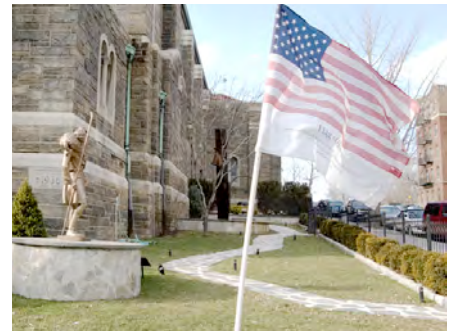
 **3 New Leaf Café, 1 Margaret Corbin Dr.** — This restaurant is housed in a renovated 1930's stone building, once the stable of a mansion, between the Cloisters and the park's southern entrance. Profits from the restaurant help to maintain the park. Open for lunch and dinner, closed Mondays. Wheelchair accessible.

4 RING garden, Riverside Drive between Seaman Ave. and Dyckman Street — Community volunteers maintain the plantings in this small, well designed neighborhood garden. Check out the goldfish pond. There are occasional arts events in the summer.

5 There are many lovely residential streets in Inwood. As you walk around, look for Indian Road, adjacent to Inwood Hill Park; the charming small brick and stone houses on Park Terrace West; the gargoyles guarding the building at 44 Seaman Ave; and little Beak Street with a gorgeous **art deco building**. The **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**, at Cumming Street and Seaman Avenue, is worth a visit. You can climb up the stairs to a small garden.



6 **Dyckman Farmhouse Museum**, 4881 Broadway at 204th Street — This is the only Revolutionary War-era farmhouse remaining in Manhattan. After British troops burned down its predecessor, William Dyckman replanted the land and built the current farmhouse in 1784 on Kingsbridge Road, now Broadway. He chose this location on a major thoroughfare in order to supplement his income by providing accommodations for travelers on their way to and from Lower Manhattan. The 450-acre Dyckman farm was for many years one of the largest in Manhattan, stretching from the Hudson River to the Harlem River. Farming ended in the 1870s when the house left family ownership and it became a hotel. Today, the farmhouse, repurchased by Dyckman family descendants in 1916, is a fully furnished period museum owned and operated by New York City’s Historic House Trust. Look for a typical Hessian (German) hut that was restored within the park adjacent to the farmhouse. Many Hessian soldiers worked for the British during the American Revolution and would have camped on the site in a hut like this. Open Wednesday through Sunday. [Not wheelchair accessible]



7 **Church of The Good Shepherd**, Broadway and Isham Street — Outside this Catholic Church you can see an iron cross recovered intact from the World Trade Center. The cross has been installed in a memorial garden dedicated to neighborhood residents who died on 9/11. Inside the church is a green marble statue of St. Patrick.



8 **Step streets** — There’s a small stepstreet, or staircase, at Seaman Ave. and W. 214th Street, going east, and a much steeper stepstreet connecting Broadway and Park Terrace East, at West 215th Street.

9 **Seaman Arch**, 5065 Broadway & W. 216th Street — This is the last remnant of the Seaman Estate. The wealthy Seaman brothers built the arch in 1855 to mark the entrance to their mansion. This 35-foot tall structure attracts more than its share of graffiti writers.



10 **Baker Field**, W. 218 St., west of Broadway — Columbia University’s uptown athletic facility features Manhattan’s only college football stadium. The first football game was played on Baker Field in September 1923; Columbia won! On days when there’s a football game, the normally quiet neighborhood gets very crowded. Columbia’s rowing teams can often be seen practicing on the Hudson and Harlem Rivers.

Greeter’s Secrets —

★ *New York City has 94 stepstreets, most of them in the west Bronx and upper Manhattan. These hidden passageways were built largely in the early 20th century as the expanding New York City street grid system ran into steep hills.*

★ *Look across Spuyten Duyvil to the Bronx for the 60’ tall, 60’ wide letter “C” (for Columbia). It was painted on the rock by rowers of the crew team in 1952, and the crews continue to touch it up periodically.*

- Art-deco style apartments
- Dyckman Farmhouse Museum
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church grounds and pews
- Seaman Arch

* Wheelchair accessible





A neighborhood shop; The Garden Café – 4961 Broadway; Inwood Hill Park; view of the Hudson River

11 Inwood Hill Park — This large and hilly park is mostly natural, rather than landscaped. A plaque near the 218th Street entrance to the park commemorates the site where Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan from the Lenape Indians in 1626 (the famous \$24 sale has also been linked to sites in lower Manhattan).

Rock formations in the park were dragged here by the Wisconsin Ice Sheet during the last ice age. Pottery fragments have been found in the park, suggesting that Native Americans lived in the caves and rock shelters. You may still see some oyster shells discarded centuries ago when oysters were plentiful in New York Harbor. Note the many tulip trees which were used by Native Americans to build their canoes because the trees grow so straight and tall.

Be sure to stop at the Urban Ecology Center, near the park entrance at 218th Street and Indian Road, to pick up a map of the park. It's easy to get turned around. The Center has educational exhibits, and the park rangers work with school children and local volunteers on restoration projects in the park. Call 212-304-2365 for events and hours.

12 The view — The view from Inwood Hill Park and adjacent streets is one of the most dramatic and complex vistas in Manhattan. To the north is Spuyten Duyvil, connecting the Harlem and Hudson Rivers. The bright red Henry Hudson Bridge connects Manhattan to the Bronx. Beyond that is the Amtrak bridge, part of the shoreline route to Albany. The sheer cliff on the far side above the Metro North tracks is Marble Hill, the only part of the borough of Manhattan located on the mainland. Straight ahead is a small salt marsh that attracts large numbers of water birds. Off to the left are soccer fields. Across the Hudson River is the New Jersey Palisades.

Greeter's Secrets — Spuyten Duyvil Creek is the channel connecting the Hudson and Harlem Rivers, separating the island of Manhattan from the Bronx. "Spuyten duyvil" can be translated from the Dutch as "devil's whirlpool," a Washington Irving story translates it as "to spite the devil."

When It's Time to Eat

- **La Nueva Espana**, 604 W 207 St. & Broadway, an inexpensive Dominican restaurant specializing in seafood.
- **Mamajuana Café**, 247 Dyckman St. Traditional Spanish tapas (appetizers) and great mojitos. Open for dinner and Sunday brunch. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Park Terrace Bistro**, 4959 Broadway between Isham and 207 St. French Moroccan cuisine. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Indian Road Café**, 600 W. 218th St., at Indian Road. Furnished with set pieces from The Sopranos, this is a new bar, café, coffee bar and market.

Shopping

- **Scavengers Antiques**, 600 W. 218 St. A small store packed with interesting collectibles, open Sat & Sun 10-5:30, Thurs 3-7:00 only.
- **International Gourmet and Gift Center** 4791 Broadway, featuring German crystal

Web Links

- A community web site for Washington Heights and Inwood www.washington-heights.us/calendar
- Dyckman Farmhouse Museum www.dyckmanfarmhouse.org
- The Cloisters www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/the_cloisters

About the Global Greeter Network

Big Apple Greeter is proud to be part of the Global Greeter Network, a voluntary association of welcoming programs around the world, all based on the Big Apple Greeter model: free and open to all visitors; offer greeter services as an individual or very small group experience (no more than 6 visitors); and are characterized by enthusiastic, local residents who love their home city, love to meet people from around the world, and volunteer to conduct these visits.



The Global Greeter Network currently spans six countries on four continents and includes the following members: Cicerones de Buenos Aires in Argentina; Adelaide Greeters and Melbourne Greeter Service in Australia; Tap in TO! (Toronto) in Canada; ShenZhen Greeter in China; Thanet Greeters in Kent, England; Paris Greeter and Les Greeters de Nantes in France; The Hague Greeter in the Netherlands; Big Apple Greeter (New York City), Chicago Greeter, Houston Greeters and Golden Heart Greeter (Fairbanks, Alaska) in the United States.

Big Apple Greeter welcomes all visitors without regard to race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

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