

FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY

Overview



Downtown Fort Lee - Photo: New York Times

Given Fort Lee's close proximity to Manhattan, it is a popular choice for many who commute into Manhattan. With many high rise buildings, Fort Lee has a more urban feel than other New Jersey towns and boroughs, but also features ample green space. Due to its location, diverse community, and strong public schools, Fort Lee is a popular choice for many families.



Aerial View of Fort Lee - Photo: Borough of Fort Lee



Kuba Cuban-Japanese Fusion Restaurant –
Photo: Kuba Restaurant

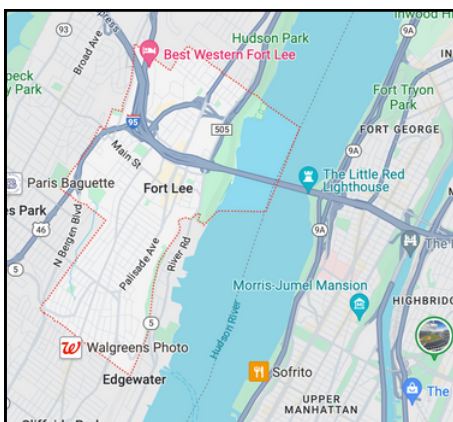


Fort Lee Town Sign – Photo: Wikipedia



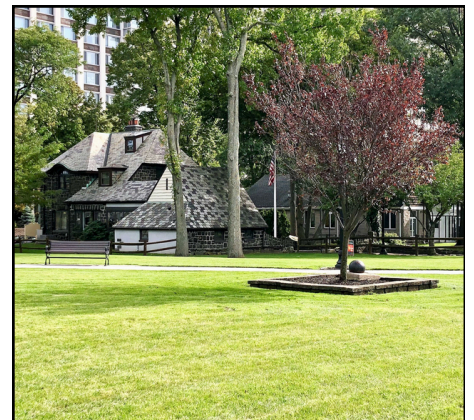
Constitution Park – Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Location



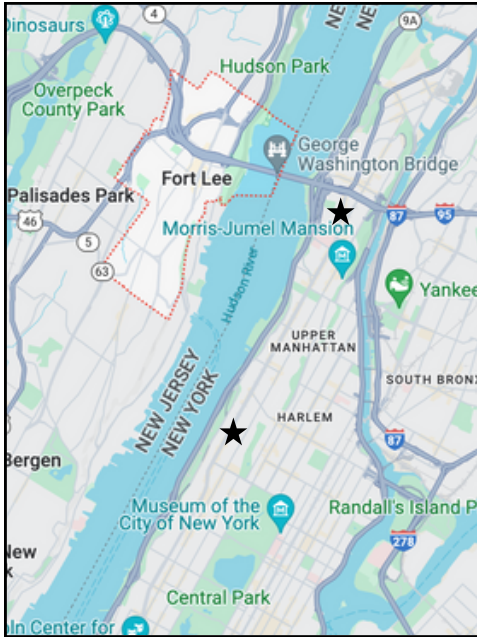
Fort Lee Map

Fort Lee is a borough in Bergen County, New Jersey. It is on the west side of the Hudson River across from Washington Heights and surrounds the George Washington Bridge on the New Jersey side of the river. It includes the bottom portion of Palisades Interstate Park, which stretches up along the Hudson in New Jersey.



Monument Park – Photo: Borough of Fort Lee

Living in Fort Lee and Working at Columbia



Fort Lee is a great community to live in and an easy commute to Columbia.

Commuting by Car:

- Traffic during rush hour can be heavy across the George Washington Bridge, but once in Manhattan it is a quick drive to Morningside, Manhattanville or CUIMC campuses.

Commuting by Public Transit:

- New Jersey Transit buses go across the GW Bridge where you can take the A subway to 168th for the CUIMC campus. For the Morningside and Manhattanville campuses, you can transfer at 168th to the 1 subway.
- After crossing the GW Bridge, another option is to take the M4 or M5 bus to Columbia (all campuses).
- Columbia provides a shuttle between Fort Lee and the CUIMC campus which can be another method to cross the GW Bridge for commuters: [George Washington Bridge/Fort Lee Shuttle](#).
- For more information refer to: njtransit.com/ and transportation.columbia.edu/

Commuting to:
Morningside Heights & Manhattanville Campuses



18-35 mins

via GW Bridge, Henry Hudson Pkwy



40-45 mins

via NJ Transit & &

Commuting to:
CUIMC Campus



14-30 mins

via GW Bridge



29 mins

via NJ Transit &

Real Estate and Housing



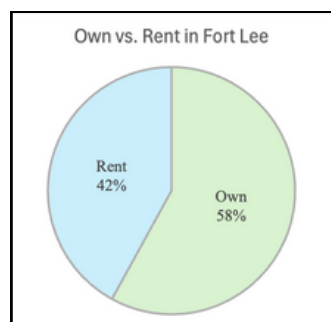
A House in Fort Lee – Photo: Zillow



A Condo Building in Fort Lee – Photo: Zillow



Interior of a Rental Apartment in Fort Lee – Photo: Zillow



Most Fort Lee residents own an apartment. Prices to purchase range from:

\$150,000 - \$2,300,000 for apartments

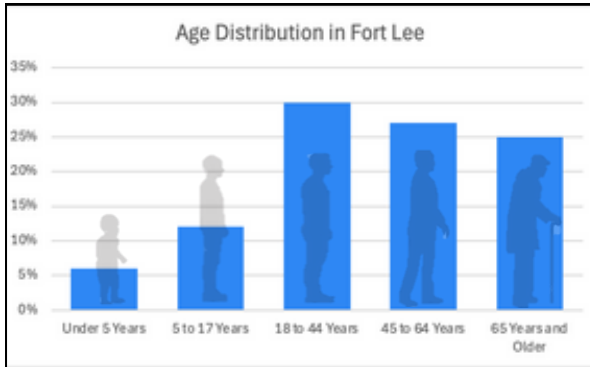
\$500,000 - \$4,000,000 for houses and townhouses

Median Home Value: \$477,000

Median List Price/square foot: \$429

Average Rent: \$3,480

Demographics



Population: 39,800

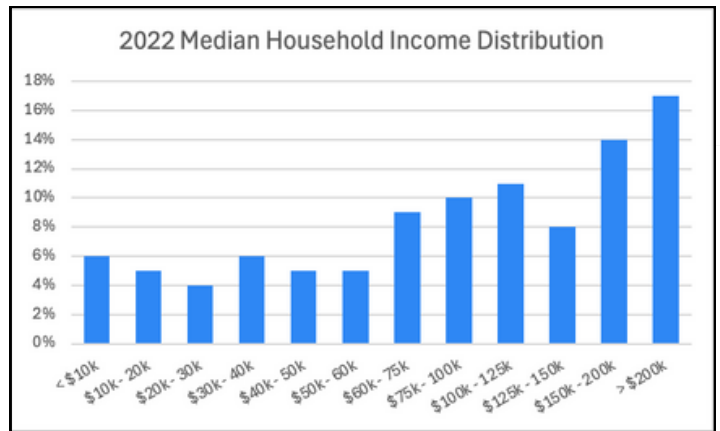
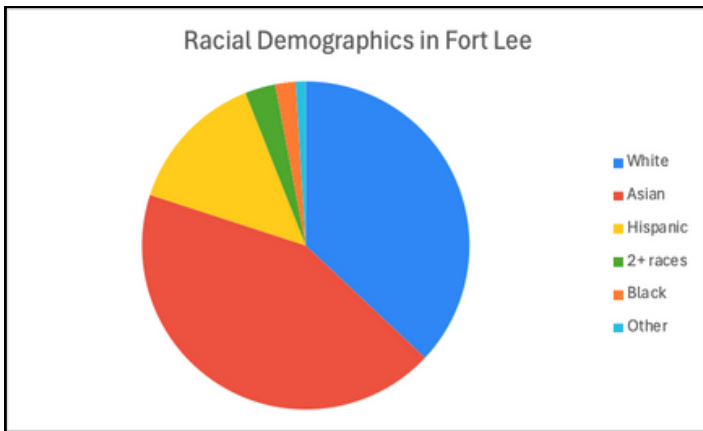
Households: 18,300

Population Density: 15,800
per sq. mile

2022 Median Household
income: \$101,600



Ross Dock Picnic Area - Photo: Palisades
Interstate Park



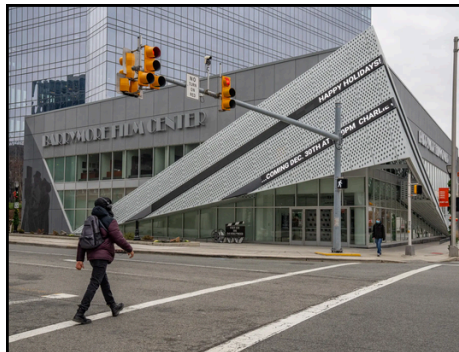
Sources: census.gov; censusreporter.org; city-data.com; niche.com

Points of Interest



Fort Lee Historic Park – Photo: Wikipedia

The Fort Lee Historic Park, part of Palisades Interstate Park, features scenic views as well as a reconstructed Revolutionary War encampment and small museum. There are also sometimes historical reenactment events here.



Barrymore Film Center – Photo: New York Times

The Barrymore Film Center is a film museum dedicated to the history of the movie industry in Fort Lee. It also contains a theater which features both modern and historical films.



Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center - Photo: Google

The Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center houses many sports organizations and classes, many of which are free to the community. The center also hosts many events such as performances and festivals.

Schools

Fort Lee boasts a highly ranked public school district, an attractive feature for many families moving to the borough. There are four public elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. There are also strong independent and parochial options in Fort Lee and neighboring towns and in cities such as Englewood. For more information about public schools see: www.flboe.com/.



Fort Lee Elementary School No. 4 - Photo: Flickr



Lewis F. Cole Middle School - Photo: Homes.com



Fort Lee High School - Photo: New York Times

History

The first people to settle the land that is now Fort Lee were the Lenni Lenape tribe. In 1609, Henry Hudson first recorded the Fort Lee area in writing. In 1664, the British took control of the area, along with much of New York and New Jersey. During the Revolutionary War, Fort Lee, originally called Fort Constitution, was named for General Charles Lee. After the loss of Fort Washington across the Hudson, George Washington and his soldiers climbed the Palisades cliffs and encamped in Fort Lee. Soon after, the army was forced to retreat by the British and Thomas Paine, who was in Fort Lee at the time, wrote the famous line, "These are the times that try men's souls." It was not until 1904 that Fort Lee was officially designated as a borough in Bergen County.



Historical Universal Studios Building - Photo: Patch

In the early 20th century, Fort Lee was the site of many early motion pictures and studios such as Universal and Fox. Many film companies and stars such as the Marx Brothers got their start here, and Fort Lee is often referred to as the "Birthplace of the Motion Picture Industry." However, by the 1930s, most filmmaking had moved to California. In more recent years, many immigrants have created a diverse community in Fort Lee, featuring distinct neighborhoods such as one of the largest Koreatowns in the United States.

Learn More About Fort Lee

[NYT: Fort Lee, N.J.: 'Like Being in the City Without Being in the City'](#)

[New Jersey Proper: Fort Lee Local Guide](#)

[NJ Lux: Fort Lee Neighborhood Guide](#)

[Borough of Fort Lee Website](#)

[Fort Lee Historic Park](#)

[Ross Dock Picnic Area](#)

[Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center](#)

[Fort Lee Public Schools](#)

[Zillow](#)