

Bedford County Covered Bridge Driving Tour

9 Bridges, 90 Minutes, 40 Miles

Start your driving tour at Old Bedford Village, on Bus. Rt. 220, just 1.5 miles north of downtown Bedford. (If coming off the PA Turnpike, turn right after exiting and drive .5 mile south to Old Bedford Village.) Here, you'll see the **Claycomb Covered Bridge** (#13). It was moved from Reynoldsdale to this location in 1975.

Upon leaving this bridge, turn left onto Bus. Rt. 220 and travel north for 1 mile to I-99 N (toward Altoona). Take I-99 N for about 6.5 miles to Exit 7 (St. Clairsville/Osterburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and travel to the stop sign then turn right onto 869 W. Travel 1.5 miles and turn left (following 869 W). Continue .6 mile, snaking through the town of Osterburg. and bear left at the "Y" still following 869 W. Travel an additional 1 mile to **Bowser's Covered Bridge** (#12) on your left. Built in 1890, it functioned until 1973 when a modern bridge was built beside it.

From here, turn onto Covered Bridge Rd. crossing the modern bridge adjacent to Bowser's Covered Bridge, and travel 2 miles to stop sign. Turn right onto Gordon Hall Rd. and drive .6 mile to Fish Hatchery Rd. Turn left onto Fish Hatchery Rd. and drive .3 mile to the site of the 1882 **Snook's Covered Bridge** (#11).

After driving through Snook's Bridge, turn right onto Ridge Market Rd. and travel .6 miles to the stop sign. Cross Rt. 56 (Quaker Valley Rd.) and continue straight onto Dunnings Creek Rd. After .1 mile you will see the 1880's **Kniseley Covered Bridge** (#10) on your right.

From here continue in the same direction (away from Rt. 56). After 2.5 miles, you will come to the **Ryot Covered Bridge** (#9). Lost to fire in 2002, Bedford County Commissioners committed to rebuild this structure. The bridge was rebuilt and reopened to traffic in 2004. Turn right onto Bowser Rd. to drive across this beautiful span and travel .5 mile to the intersection at Cortland Rd. (Rt. 96).

Turn left (south) onto Rt. 96. After driving 2 miles, you'll come upon the 1882 **Cuppett Covered Bridge** (#8) on your left. Continue your tour in the same direction on Rt. 96 S for 1.4 miles further, through the town of New Paris.

*As you pass through the town of New Paris, you can decide if you want to visit the often talked about, but seldom found, **Gravity Hill**. If you are in an RV or perhaps hauling a trailer, you may want to skip Gravity Hill because turning back around may be a problem. **If you don't want to do Gravity Hill, skip the next paragraph.***

*To visit **Gravity Hill**, turn right onto Bethel Hollow Rd. about a mile past New Paris. After turning, drive .6 mile. Bear left at the “Y” in the road to stay on Bethel Hollow Rd. After another 1.5 miles, you’ll come to an intersection that has a stop sign (for oncoming traffic only). Here, bear right onto Gravity Hill Rd. Drive about .2 miles and you will see a “**GH End**” spray painted on the road. You will drive past this mark for about .1 mile and stop on the spray painted “**GH Start**” marker. This is it. As you strain your ears to hear the laws of physics breaking, put your car in neutral (after checking behind you for oncoming traffic, of course) and take your foot off the brake. Your car will roll uphill. There is a second Gravity Hill, just .3 mile past the “**GH Start**” Look for the telephone pole with the No. 69. Stop beside this pole and defy gravity once again. When you and your loved ones have been sufficiently awestruck, you can head for the small turn around area just .2 mile further (it’ll be on your right). Turn around and return back the way you came to Rt. 96. Turn right onto Rt. 96 S.*

Continue on Rt. 96 S for 3.9 miles to the town of Schellsburg. You’ll come to a traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 30 & Rt. 96. Turn right onto Rt. 30 W. Drive a block and take the first left at the Colvin Covered Bridge sign (Mill Rd.) Drive .8 mile down this road. The **Colvin Covered Bridge** (#7) was built in 1866 and refurbished in 1997.

Drive through the Colvin Covered Bridge and continue on for 2.8 miles on Mill Rd., which eventually turns into Skipback Rd. The road is narrow and twisted and you’ll think you’re not on the right one, but you are. Drive to a stop sign and turn left onto Buena Rd. (S.R. 3019.) Go 1.3 miles to the stop sign and turn left onto Rt. 31 E. (Allegheny Rd.) Drive 2 miles and look in the distance to your left for the **Turner Covered Bridge** (#6) and turn left onto Faupel Rd. This is a gravel road. Continue down this road and drive through the bridge to a turn around.

Return to Rt. 31. Carefully look both ways and turn left, onto Rt. 31 E. Drive 3.8 miles to the town of Manns Choice. Turn left at the blinking light and you’ll still be on Rt. 31 E. Drive about 1 mile and turn left onto Watson Rd. Drive .5 mile down this road to the 1906 **Herline Covered Bridge** (#5). The Herline Bridge is the longest covered bridge in Bedford County. It was refurbished in 1996. Continue through the bridge and turn to the right on S.R. 4007. Drive 2.1 miles to Rt. 30.

When you reach Rt. 30 you can either turn left to return to Schellsburg or right to return to Bedford, Everett or Breezewood. We hope you’ve enjoyed this little driving tour!