Lehigh Valley’s covered bridges are only part of the beauty the area has to offer. Within a compact radius, you will discover spectacular scenery, rich history, specialty shops, factory tours, unique museums and exhibits, historic celebrations, re-enactments and so much more. Visit DiscoverLehighValley.com or call 1-800-MEET HERE for your free Lehigh Valley Official Visitors Guide, as well as more information on other Lehigh Valley driving tours and travel packages.

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF SEVEN LEHIGH VALLEY COVERED BRIDGES

DIRECTIONS

1. Begin this tour atany covered bridge. Signs on the covered bridge will show the direction you must proceed to follow the tour route. Turn onto Covered Bridge Rd. which will lead you to Kreidersville. The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written directions will guide you along the route. The weight of trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when planning your visit. It is important to be aware that the covered bridges cannot accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches.

WHERE TO START

= tour starts here
= tour route

COVERED BRIDGE TOUR

MILES TO LEHIGH VALLEY FROM MAJOR EAST COAST CITIES

Philadelphia 56
Baltimore 135
Newark, N.J. 70
Washington, D.C. 175
New York City 70

COVERED BRIDGES OF LEHIGH VALLEY

THE ROMANCE OF COVERED BRIDGES

The history of covered bridges in Pennsylvania can be traced back to European roots. The first covered bridge is thought to have been built in the mid-1300s between Germany and Switzerland. German immigrants brought the idea and design to this country. Covered bridges usually were named after the builders, local celebrities or nearby businesses, which often were working gristmills along the waterways in the vicinity of the bridges.

Why were the bridges covered? To quote an old Pennsylvania carpenter, “To keep them dry – not the travelers, not the horses or the wagon loads of hay, nor the sweethearts halted in the shadows, but the plank roads.”

Builders in Maryland and Virginia expressed their reasoning differently. “Our bridges are covered for the same reason that our belles wear hoop skirts and crinolines – to protect the structural beauty that is seldom seen, but nevertheless appreciated.”

Some say bridges were covered to resemble barns, making horses less hesitant to enter. Covered bridges have a romantic quality that we associate with times when life moved more slowly. The shade they provided made them a natural place to pause from the summer’s heat. Pausing was for some a chance to steal a kiss – hence, their nickname “kissing bridges”!

By day, the sides of covered bridges served as the first billboards for dispensers of quack medicines, for political hopefuls, religious zealots, undertakers or anyone with an urgent message. The appeal of covered bridges for early advertisers was very different from their appeal to us today. Advertisers love the beauty and tranquility of the bridges and want them to endure for years to come. The covered bridge represents a part of our past that can never be replaced.

Why were the bridges covered? To quote an old Pennsylvania carpenter, “To keep them dry – not the travelers, not the horses or the wagon loads of hay, nor the sweethearts halted in the shadows, but the plank roads.” Builders in Maryland and Virginia expressed their reasoning differently. “Our bridges are covered for the same reason that our belles wear hoop skirts and crinolines – to protect the structural beauty that is seldom seen, but nevertheless appreciated.”

Some say bridges were covered to resemble barns, making horses less hesitant to enter. Covered bridges have a romantic quality that we associate with times when life moved more slowly. The shade they provided made them a natural place to pause from the summer’s heat. Pausing was for some a chance to steal a kiss – hence, their nickname “kissing bridges”!

By day, the sides of covered bridges served as the first billboards for dispensers of quack medicines, for political hopefuls, religious zealots, undertakers or anyone with an urgent message. The appeal of covered bridges for early advertisers was very different from their appeal to us today. Advertisers love the beauty and tranquility of the bridges and want them to endure for years to come. The covered bridge represents a part of our past that can never be replaced.

The bridges found in this rich, rolling farm country were often built in the tradition of barn raising, where neighbors joined together to build a barn for a new family or to build a bridge that would serve the common good. Some bridges were constructed by mill owners and others were built by bridge companies that raised money by selling shares and later by charging tolls.

Nineteenth-century architectural ingenuity came to the fore in the design of covered bridges. Many forms of support systems were devised, but the most popular were the large arch known as the Burr truss. In 1844, Theodore Burr patented a wooden-span trussing system. The Burr arch trusses combined great reinforced arches with multiple trussing lines. These trusses lie directly into the bridge abutments. The abutments are the stone walls at either end of the floor planing, which tie the bridge into the banks of the stream. The stone walls that are anchored in the water and support the bridge between the abutments are the piers.

Diagram of the Burr arch truss

The wing walls are the low walls extending at an angle for a distance of 20 to 40 feet, depending on the surrounding topography and the roadway leading into the bridge. Most of the stone wing walls of remaining bridges have been capped with cement and painted white, creating a sweeping entrance inviting travelers to come in.

Please note: The length of each bridge included with its description represents the span of the floor planing between the supporting stone abutments at each end. The roof and outer wooden covering can add another 12 to 20 feet to the overall length. Some covered bridge enthusiasts also include the wing walls in their measurements. It is not unusual to see several different lengths of a bridge in print, depending on the method used in measuring it.

THE BUILDING OF PENNSYLVANIA’S COVERED BRIDGES

The wing walls are the low walls extending at an angle for a distance of 20 to 40 feet, depending on the surrounding topography and the roadway leading into the bridge. Most of the stone wing walls of remaining bridges have been capped with cement and painted white, creating a sweeping entrance inviting travelers to come in.

Please note: The length of each bridge included with its description represents the span of the floor planing between the supporting stone abutments at each end. The roof and outer wooden covering can add another 12 to 20 feet to the overall length. Some covered bridge enthusiasts also include the wing walls in their measurements. It is not unusual to see several different lengths of a bridge in print, depending on the method used in measuring it.

THE ROMANCE OF COVERED BRIDGES

The history of covered bridges in Pennsylvania can be traced back to European roots. The first covered bridge is thought to have been built in the mid-1300s between Germany and Switzerland. German immigrants brought the idea and design to this country. Covered bridges usually were named after the builders, local celebrities or nearby businesses, which often were working gristmills along the waterways in the vicinity of the bridges.

Why were the bridges covered? To quote an old Pennsylvania carpenter, “To keep them dry – not the travelers, not the horses or the wagon loads of hay, nor the sweethearts halted in the shadows, but the plank roads.” Builders in Maryland and Virginia expressed their reasoning differently. “Our bridges are covered for the same reason that our belles wear hoop skirts and crinolines – to protect the structural beauty that is seldom seen, but nevertheless appreciated.”

Some say bridges were covered to resemble barns, making horses less hesitant to enter. Covered bridges have a romantic quality that we associate with times when life moved more slowly. The shade they provided made them a natural place to pause from the summer’s heat. Pausing was for some a chance to steal a kiss – hence, their nickname “kissing bridges”!

By day, the sides of covered bridges served as the first billboards for dispensers of quack medicines, for political hopefuls, religious zealots, undertakers or anyone with an urgent message. The appeal of covered bridges for early advertisers was very different from their appeal to us today. Advertisers love the beauty and tranquility of the bridges and want them to endure for years to come. The covered bridge represents a part of our past that can never be replaced.

The bridges found in this rich, rolling farm country were often built in the tradition of barn raising, where neighbors joined together to build a barn for a new family or to build a bridge that would serve the common good. Some bridges were constructed by mill owners and others were built by bridge companies that raised money by selling shares and later by charging tolls.

Nineteenth-century architectural ingenuity came to the fore in the design of covered bridges. Many forms of support systems were devised, but the most popular were the large arch known as the Burr truss. In 1844, Theodore Burr patented a wooden-span trussing system. The Burr arch trusses combined great reinforced arches with multiple trussing lines. These trusses lie directly into the bridge abutments. The abutments are the stone walls at either end of the floor planing, which tie the bridge into the banks of the stream. The stone walls that are anchored in the water and support the bridge between the abutments are the piers.

Diagram of the Burr arch truss

The wing walls are the low walls extending at an angle for a distance of 20 to 40 feet, depending on the surrounding topography and the roadway leading into the bridge. Most of the stone wing walls of remaining bridges have been capped with cement and painted white, creating a sweeping entrance inviting travelers to come in.

Please note: The length of each bridge included with its description represents the span of the floor planing between the supporting stone abutments at each end. The roof and outer wooden covering can add another 12 to 20 feet to the overall length. Some covered bridge enthusiasts also include the wing walls in their measurements. It is not unusual to see several different lengths of a bridge in print, depending on the method used in measuring it.
Lehigh Valley’s covered bridges are only part of the beauty the area has to offer. Within a compact radius, you will discover spectacular scenery, rich history, specialty shops, factory tours, unique museums and exhibits, historic celebrations, re-enactments and so much more.

Visit DiscoverLehighValley.com or call 1-800-MEET-HERE for your free Lehigh Valley Official Visitors Guide, as well as more information on other Lehigh Valley driving tours and travel packages.

The history of covered bridges in Pennsylvania can be traced back to European roots. The first covered bridge is thought to have been built in the mid-1300s between Germany and Switzerland. German immigrants brought the idea and design to this country. Covered bridges usually were named after the builders, local residents or nearby businesses, which often were working gristmills along the waterways in the vicinity of the bridges.

The building of Pennsylvania’s covered bridges

The bridges found in this rich, rolling farm country were often built in the tradition of barn-raising, where neighbors joined together to build a barn for a new family or to build a bridge that would serve the common good. Some bridges were constructed by mill owners and others were built by bridge companies that raised money by selling shares and later by charging tolls.

The covered bridges of Lehigh Valley

Positioned in the heart of the Northeast, Lehigh Valley, Pa., 60 minutes north of Philadelphia and less than 3 hours from Washington, D.C., is the perfect day trip for exploring history and scenic beauty. In the Lehigh Valley, the Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written brochure will guide you along the route. The weight limits, including cars, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when driving.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when driving.

The romance of covered bridges

The history of covered bridges in Pennsylvania can be traced back to European roots. The first covered bridge is thought to have been built in the mid-1300s between Germany and Switzerland. German immigrants brought the idea and design to this country. Covered bridges usually were named after the builders, local residents or nearby businesses, which often were working gristmills along the waterways in the vicinity of the bridges.

Why were the bridges covered? To protect the structural beauty that is seldom seen, but nevertheless appreciated.

Some say bridges were covered to look like barns, making horses less hesitant to enter.

Covered bridges have a romantic quality that we associate with times when life moved more slowly. The shade they provided made them a natural place to pause from the summer’s heat. Pausing was for some a chance to steal a kiss – hence, their nickname “kissing bridges.”

By day, the sides of covered bridges served as the first billboards for dispensers of quack medicines, for political hopefuls, religious zealots, undertakers or anyone with an urgent message. The appeal of covered bridges for early advertisers was very different from their appeal to us today. Advertisers love the beauty and tranquility of the bridges and want them to endure for years to come. The covered bridge represents a part of our past that can never be replaced.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when driving.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when driving.
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF SEVEN WA
30
30
30
WA
30
30
30
WASHINGTON, D.C.
60 minutes north of Philadelphia and less than 3 hours from New York City, is conveniently located just 90 minutes west of New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Virginia Builders in Maryland.

The tour starts at 7th and Hamilton Streets, Center Square, in Allentown. From I-78: take Exit 54 Eastbound and S-4B Westbound for Rt. 222 North/Hamilton Blvd. Continue on Hamilton Blvd. toward Allentown for four miles, staying to the right when approaching Center Square.

From I-78: take Exit 54 Eastbound and S-4B Westbound for Rt. 222 North/Hamilton Blvd. Continue on Hamilton Blvd. toward Allentown for four miles, staying to the right when approaching Center Square.

The Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge Tour is approximately 50 miles long. Please plan to spend several hours for a leisurely drive, which will allow time for taking photos and enjoying the scenic beauty surrounding the bridges. A number of inviting spots are accessible along the way for providing for and painting or sketching the bridges.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written directions will guide you along the route. The weight limit and height restrictions are marked on the entrance of each bridge and also are listed in this brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when planning your tour.

It is important to be aware that the covered bridges cannot accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches.

**Did you know...?**

America’s first covered bridge was the Schuylkill Permanant Bridge built to connect Philadelphia with the West. Originally envisioned to be a great stone arch bridge in 1800, the bridge company decided to build a wooden structure when work progressed too slowly. The best long-span wooden bridge builder, Timothy Palmer, was called in to finish the project. Upon completion of the 99-foot arch truss bridge, the company president declared it so impressive that it should be covered to protect the timbers – thence, it became the country’s first covered bridge.

The building of Pennsylvania’s covered bridges is an integral part of the nation’s history. Many people are drawn to them by their architectural details and the stories they tell. The Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge Tour is a great way to experience these stories.

The Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge Tour is approximately 50 miles long. Please plan to spend several hours for a leisurely drive, which will allow time for taking photos and enjoying the scenic beauty surrounding the bridges. A number of inviting spots are accessible along the way for providing for and painting or sketching the bridges.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written directions will guide you along the route. The weight limit and height restrictions are marked on the entrance of each bridge and also are listed in this brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when planning your tour.

It is important to be aware that the covered bridges cannot accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches.

**Did you know...?**

America’s first covered bridge was the Schuylkill Permanant Bridge built to connect Philadelphia with the West. Originally envisioned to be a great stone arch bridge in 1800, the bridge company decided to build a wooden structure when work progressed too slowly. The best long-span wooden bridge builder, Timothy Palmer, was called in to finish the project. Upon completion of the 99-foot arch truss bridge, the company president declared it so impressive that it should be covered to protect the timbers – thence, it became the country’s first covered bridge.
ABOUT THE LEHIGH VALLEY COVERED BRIDGE TOUR

The Lehigh Valley Cover Bridge Tour was the Schuylkill Permanant Bridge built in 1805, but the bridge company decided to build a wooden structure when the beam proved too expensive. The best long-span wooden bridge builder, Timothy Palmer, was called in to finish the project. Upon completion of the 90-foot arch truss bridge, the company president declared it so impressive that it should be covered to protect the timbers – hence, it became the country’s first covered bridge.

WHERE TO START

The tour starts at 7th and Hamilton Streets, Center Square, in Allentown. Take 22 take the MacArthur Rd./7th St. South exit. Continue for two miles, staying to the right when approaching Center Square.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written directions will guide you along the route. The weight and height restrictions are marked on the entrance of each bridge and also are listed in this brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when planning your tour.

It is important to be aware that the covered bridges cannot accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches.

Did you know...?

America’s first covered bridge was the Schuylkill Permanant Bridge built to connect Philadelphia with the West. Originally envisioned to be a great stone arch bridge in 1805, the bridge company decided to build a wooden structure when the beam proved too expensive. The best long-span wooden bridge builder, Timothy Palmer, was called in to finish the project. Upon completion of the 90-foot arch truss bridge, the company president declared it so impressive that it should be covered to protect the timbers – hence, it became the country’s first covered bridge.

The Covered Bridge Tour signs and the written directions will guide you along the route. The weight and height restrictions are marked on the entrance of each bridge and also are listed in this brochure. Passenger cars, vans, SUVs, small pick-up trucks, motorcycles and bicycles are suitable vehicles to cross the bridges. Please take this information into consideration when planning your tour.

It is important to be aware that the covered bridges cannot accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches.

Did you know...?

America’s first covered bridge was the Schuylkill Permanant Bridge built to connect Philadelphia with the West. Originally envisioned to be a great stone arch bridge in 1805, the bridge company decided to build a wooden structure when the beam proved too expensive. The best long-span wooden bridge builder, Timothy Palmer, was called in to finish the project. Upon completion of the 90-foot arch truss bridge, the company president declared it so impressive that it should be covered to protect the timbers – hence, it became the country’s first covered bridge.
2. MANASSES GUTH BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Leave Lehigh Parkway and proceed over Oxford Rd. at the traffic light onto Fish Hatchery Rd. Proceed for 1.2 miles to the intersection of Rt. 220 Cedar Crest Blvd. Turn right and follow Cedar Crest for 3.8 miles past I-78. Hamilton Blvd., Highpoint Rd., Rt. 220 Cedar Crest Blvd., and continuation for 0.8 miles in the Manasses Guth Bridge. Turn right to cross over the bridge onto Lipp Rd. (There is a parking lot immediately past the bridge.)

**Length:** 108 ft.
**Built:** 1858
**Height and weight limits:** 8 ft., 6 in. – 4 tons
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

This covered bridge is the first of five on your tour to cross over the meandering Jordan Creek. The original bridge that was built in 1858 was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1882. Local farmers and travelers crossed the Jordan at this site prior to 1888. The builder of the original structure is unknown. The bridge was named after Manasses Guth, who lived in the adjacent stone farmhouses and was a descendant of Lorenz Guth, the first settler in the area in 1745. The Manasses Guth Bridge, which is at the eastern edge of Covered Bridge Park, is built with the Burr arch truss design, has long-lasting planking and rests on stone and mortar abutments with long wing walls capped with concrete.

3. WEHR'S COVERED BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Continue on Lipp Rd. for a short distance to the intersection of River Rd. Turn left on River Rd. and proceed for 0.8 miles to Wehr's Covered Bridge.

**Length:** 129 ft.
**Built:** 1841
**Height and weight limits:** 8 ft. – 9 tons
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

Wehr’s Bridge is located at the western end of Covered Bridge Park, where it crosses over the Jordan Creek. In 1882, Ephraim Siegrist built a stone gristmill on the north bank of the Jordan, and the bridge became known as Siegrist’s Covered Bridge. After several owners, the mill was sold to William Wehr, and the bridge eventually was named Wehr’s Covered Bridge. The present concrete dam near the bridge that supplied power for the gristmill was built in 1904 and replaced the original wooden dam located a short distance upstream. The mill was torn down in 1951, and today locals refer to the general area surrounding the bridge as “Wehr’s Camp.” ‘Wehr’s Bridge,” which was built in the Burr arch truss design, shares its Claims to antiquity with Bridgford’s Bridge. Famously enjoy picnicking and quiet recreation in the nearby park, and the Jordan is a popular trout stream at this point. With its scenic setting, Wehr’s Bridge is a favorite with photographers and artists, often used as the background for wedding photos.

4. REX’S COVERED BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right on Wide Mill Rd. and drive a short distance to the first stop sign. Turn left on Linville Rd. and proceed for 0.8 miles to the traffic light at Rt. 209. Turn right and stay on Rt. 209 for 0.8 miles to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Kerns Mill Rd. and proceed 1 mile before turning right on Jordan Rd., which leads to the entrance of Rex’s Bridge.

**Length:** 116 ft.
**Built:** 1958
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

Records indicate that at one time seven gristmills were established along the Jordan Creek, which rises near the base of the Blue Mountains and runs into Lehigh Valley, where it empties into the Lehigh River. Rex’s Bridge is located close to Ken’s Dam and the former Ken’s Mill, where there is evidence there was a mill next to this bridge. It is believed that the bridge was named after the Rex family, who were local landowners in the vicinity. The bridge is built in the Burr arch truss design, and the high arch can be seen through the side openings. Rex’s Bridge has a floor of long-lasting planking over crosswise planking, and the original stone wing walls have been covered with cement and painted white.

5. GEIGER’S COVERED BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS:** After crossing Schlicher’s Bridge, continue on Mill Rd. for 1 mile to the intersection where Jordan Rd. bears right. Stay on Jordan Rd. for 0.3 miles to the next intersection. Turn right on Packhouse Rd. and proceed to the entrance of Geiger’s Covered Bridge. Cross through the bridge and make a U-turn to stop at the clearing on the side of the bridge. Built with Burr truss design, the structure has red vertical siding with a white interior and white horizontal siding around the low entrances. Like Lehigh Valley’s other covered bridges, Schlicher’s Bridge has a slate roof. Built in 1858, the bridge has stone abutments reinforced with concrete and long wing walls capped with concrete.

**Length:** 112 ft.
**Built:** 1890
**Height and weight limits:** 11 ft., 6 in. – 4 tons
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

Geiger’s Bridge is located on the eastern side of the Trexlertown Lehigh County Game Preserve, and its high fencing is visible along the road. The bridge’s name may have been taken from the family of Jacob Geiger, who settled in the area after immigrating from Wurttemburg, Germany in the 1700s. Upon approaching the entrance of the bridge, its unusual arched portal design that distinguishes it from other bridges is immediately noticeable. At one time, a slip, through which water was pumped from the Jordan Creek to nearby orchards and farms, ran from end to end across the bridge. Remnants of the cement foundation and pumping apparatus still remain on the side of the bridge. Built with Burr truss design with stone and mortar abutments and wing walls capped with concrete, the bridge is distinctive with its openings along the sides to light the interior. In 1858, local citizens rallied to save it from demolition to make way for a new concrete bridge, and it was taken over by the county after being ruled by the PA Highway Department. Today it is owned by Allentown Township and maintained for quiet recreation. Each year, two bridges, the Schlicher’s Covered Bridge Association holds a Covered Bridge Festival in early June in the park surrounding the entrance to the bridge.

6. KREUZERSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Return through Geiger’s Bridge and return to the intersection of Jordan Rd. and Rhuten Hill Rd. Turn right onto Rhuten Hill and continue for 0.6 miles in Game Preserve Rd. Turn right and enjoy a scenic drive for 1.4 miles past the entrance of the Game Preserve to reach Schlicher’s Covered Bridge.

**Length:** 108 ft.
**Built:** 1892
**Height and weight limits:** 8 ft., 2 in. – 3 tons
**Owned by:** State

Kreidersville Bridge, which crosses over the Hohndettaug Creek, is the oldest covered bridge in Lehigh County and one of the oldest in Pennsylvania. It is the only remaining covered bridge in Northampton County and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the Burr arch truss design with stone and mortar abutments and wing walls capped with concrete, the bridge is distinctive with its openings along the sides to light the interior. In 1858, local citizens rallied to save it from demolition to make way for a new concrete bridge, and it was taken over by the county after being ruled by the PA Highway Department. Today it is owned by Allentown Township and maintained for quiet recreation. Each two years, the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Association holds a Covered Bridge Festival in early June in the park surrounding the entrance to the bridge.

**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. – 8 tons

Kreidersville Bridge, which crosses over the Hohndettaug Creek, is the oldest covered bridge in Lehigh Valley and one of the oldest in Pennsylvania. It is the only remaining covered bridge in Northampton County and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the Burr arch truss design with stone and mortar abutments and wing walls capped with concrete, the bridge is distinctive with its openings along the sides to light the interior. In 1858, local citizens rallied to save it from demolition to make way for a new concrete bridge, and it was taken over by the county after being ruled by the PA Highway Department. Today it is owned by Allentown Township and maintained for quiet recreation. Each two years, the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Association holds a Covered Bridge Festival in early June in the park surrounding the entrance to the bridge.

The Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge Tour is approximately 50 miles long. Please plan to spend several hours for a leisurely drive, which will allow time for taking photos and enjoying the scenic beauty surrounding the bridges.
**1. Covered Bridge Tour - BOGERT'S BRIDGE**

**Directions:** From Center Square drive south on 7th St. to the second traffic light and turn left on Union St. After 1/2 block, turn right on Lehighton Luther King Jr. Blvd. and continue for 2.2 miles to the second traffic light. Turn left on 39th St. (Windle Rd.) and proceed 1.2 miles to Bogert’s Bridge. Turn left at the traffic light (Fish Hatchery Rd.) in Lehigh Township and view the bridge more closely.

The history of Bogert’s Bridge dates back to the mid-1700s when the Bogert family moved into a log cabin next to the future site of the bridge. It is one of the oldest in the region and in the nation. The original structure, which spans the Little Lehigh Creek, was made entirely of wood and did not contain one nail or iron bond to hold the massive structure together. The bridge was built with cross-planks in the Lehigh Valley covered bridge tradition, which was a favor in helping the有用词会side flooding and general disrepair resulting from traffic and age. In 1956, a truck struck the damage, but locals, who believed in the right placement of stone or concrete in its original construction, view the bridge as part of the region’s recognition and is a historic attraction in Allentown’s Lehigh Parkway. This is a return to the more luck at fishing in the Little Lehigh, one of the region’s recognized trout streams.

**Length:** 146 ft.  
**Built:** 1941  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons  
**Owned by:** City of Allentown

---

**2. Covered Bridge Tour - MANASES GUTH BRIDGE**

**Directions:** Leave Lehigh Parkway and cross over Oxford Dr. at the traffic light onto Fish Hatchery Rd. Proceed for 1.2 miles to the intersection of Rts. 33 and Cedar Crest Blvd. Turn right and follow Cedar Crest Blvd. for 3.8 miles past Rte. 7. Turn left onto Hamilton Blvd., right onto St. Rt. 22, and continue for 2.2 miles in the Manasses Guth Bridge. Turn right to cross over the bridge onto Lapp Rd. 

This covered bridge is the first of five on your tour to cross over the meandering Jordan Creek. The original bridge that was built in 1858 was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1892. Local farmers and travelers forced the Jordan at this site prior to 1898. The builder of the original structure is unknown. This bridge was named after Manasses Guth, who lived in the adjacent stone farmhouse and was a descendant of Lorenz Guth, the first settler in the area in 1745. The Manasses Guth Bridge, which is at the eastern end of Covered Bridge Park, is built with the Lehigh arch truss design, shares its claim to antiquity with Bogert’s Bridge. Families enjoy picknicking and quiet recreation in the nearby park, and the Jordan is a popular trout stream at this point. With serene setting, Wehr’s Bridge is a favorite with photographers and artists, often used as the background for wedding photos.

**Length:** 108 ft.  
**Built:** 1858  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons  
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

---

**3. Covered Bridge Tour - WEHR’S COVERED BRIDGE**

**Directions:** Continue on Lapp Rd. for a short distance to the intersection of River Rd. Turn left on River Rd. and proceed for 3 miles to Wehr’s Covered Bridge.

Wehr’s Bridge is located at the western end of Covered Bridge Park. It crosses over the Jordan Creek where it once passed the Jordan. In 1882, Ephraim Seger built a stone gristmill on the north bank of the Jordan, and the bridge became known as Seger’s Covered Bridge. After several owners, the mill was sold to William Wehr, and the bridge eventually was named Wehr’s Covered Bridge. The present concrete dam near the bridge that supplied power for the gristmill was built in 1894 and replaced the original wooden dam located a short distance upstream. The mill was torn down in 1951, and today locals refer to the general area surrounding the bridge as “Wehr’s Dam.” Wehr’s Bridge, which was built in the Bunl arch truss design, shares its claim to antiquity with Bogert’s Bridge. Families enjoy picknicking and quiet recreation in the nearby park, and the Jordan is a popular trout stream at this point. With serene setting, Wehr’s Bridge is a favorite with photographers and artists, often used as the background for wedding photos.

**Length:** 128 ft.  
**Built:** 1841  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. – 10 tons  
**Owner by:** Lehigh County

---

**4. Covered Bridge Tour - REY’S COVERED BRIDGE**

**Directions:** Turn right on Wide Mill Rd. and drive a short distance to the first stop sign. Turn left on Sockinil Rd. and proceed for 2 miles to Wehr’s Covered Bridge.

Records indicate that at one time seven gristmills were established along the Jordan Creek, which rises near the base of the Blue Mountains and turns into Lehigh Valley, where it empties into the Lehigh River. While Reyn’s Bridge is located close to Kern’s Dam and the former Kern’s Mill, there is no evidence there was a mill next to this bridge. It is believed that the bridge was named after the Reyn family, who were local landowners in the vicinity. The structure is built in the Bunl arch truss design, and the high arch can be seen through the side openings. Ren’s Bridge has a floor of lengthwise planking over crossbar planking, and the original stone wall wings have been covered with cement and painted white.

**Length:** 116 ft.  
**Built:** 1958  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons  
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

---

**5. Covered Bridge Tour - GEIGER’S COVERED BRIDGE**

**Directions:** After passing through Rex’s bridge, continue for 3 miles to the first intersection where Jordan Rd. bears right. Stay on Jordan Rd. for .3 miles to the next intersection. Turn right on Parkside Rd. and proceed to the entrance of Geiger’s Covered Bridge. Cross through the bridge and make a U-turn to stop at the clearing along the road for a better view of the bridge.

Geiger’s Bridge is located on the eastern side of the Trolley Lehigh County Game Preserve, and its high fencing is visible along the road. The bridge’s name may have been taken from the family of Jacob Geiger, who settled in the area after migrating from Wurttemberg, Germany in the 1730s. Upon approaching the entrance of the bridge, its unusual spaced postural design that distinguishes it from other bridges is immediately noticeable. At one time, a pile, through which water was pumped from the Jordan Creek to nearby orchards and farms, ran from end to end across the bridge. Remnants of the cement foundation and pumping apparatus still remain on the side of the bridge. Built with brick arches, the bridge has a floor of lengthwise and crosswise planking. The stone wing walls have been painted white, and one on the side of the bridge has been shortened due to the topography.

**Length:** 112 ft.  
**Built:** 1890  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons  
**Owned by:** Lehigh County

---

**6. Covered Bridge Tour - KREIDERSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE**

**Directions:** Return through Geiger’s Bridge and take the right to the intersection of Jordan Rd. and Reuthon Hill Rd. Turn right on Reuthon Hill and continue for 4 miles to Quarry Forge Rd. Turn right and enjoy a scenic drive for 1.4 miles past the entrance of the Game Preserve to reach Schlicher’s Covered Bridge.

Schlicher’s Covered Bridge is sometimes called the “deer pen bridge” since it is surrounded by Trexler-Lehigh County Game Preserve. The Game Preserve was established in 1896 as a reservation to raise and protect bois, elk and deer. Deer can often be seen grazing along the road near the bridge. The builder of the structure is unknown, and its name possibly came from local landowners. Schlicher’s is the shortest and narrowest bridge in Lehigh County and is the fifth and last covered bridge over the Jordan Creek. Built in the Bunl arch truss design, the structure has its red vertical siding with a white interior and horizontal siding around the low entrances. Like Lehigh Valley’s other covered bridges, Schlicher’s Bridge has a slate roof. Rebuilt in 1958, the bridge has its stone abutments reinforced with concrete and wing walls capped with cement.

**Length:** 100 ft.  
**Built:** 1899  
**Height and weight limits:** 9 ft. 6 in. – 4 tons  
**Owned by:** Allentown Township

---

**Former Lehigh Valley Covered Bridges**

There were numerous covered bridges scattered throughout Lehigh Valley that were either destroyed by nature or replaced with new construction. Of the three most prominent former bridges, two crossed the Delaware River and one spanned the Lehigh River.

**Easton-Phillipston Covered Bridge**

In 1803, a covered bridge constructed by the forestman builder, Timothy Palmer, was opened to cross the Delaware River connecting Easton, Pa., with Phillipsburg, N.J. Over 500 feet in length, this three-span bridge withstood many floods and storms but could not stand up to the heavy demands of traffic in years to come. In the 1890s, with the inception of horseless trolley, a decision was made to demolish the old bridge and replace it with a standard one made of steel. The new bridge opened in 1896, and after major repairs and renovations, the bridge is still used today and is known as the Northampton Fre Bridge.

**Portland Covered Bridge**

Another notable covered bridge linking Pennsylvania and New Jersey was completed in 1885. One of the primary uses of the bridge in the early days was the movement of livestock from New Jersey to the Pennsylvania port city. The 775-foot Burr arch truss-type bridge was a number of storms and floods for almost 100 years but was washed away in the flood of 1955. That was the end of the longest covered bridge in the United States and the last one spanning the Delaware River. Today, a pedestrian bridge is built on the original piers, making it possible to walk from Portland, Pa., to Columbus, N.J., across the Delaware River.

**Bethlehem Covered Bridge**

In 1794, the first uncovered wooden bridge crossing over the Lehigh River was opened, replacing the ferry service and improving the route for the stage line between Philadelphia and Bethlehem. This bridge remained in use until 1818 when it was replaced by a larger wooden bridge, which also was uncovered. The second bridge served the community until it was destroyed by a flood in 1847, and was replaced by the covered bridge. Built by the Bethlehem Bridge Company, the Old Bethlehem Covered Bridge was destroyed by flooding in 1882, rebuilt, and used until the current HA-411 Bridge was built at a nearby site in 1922.
The Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge Tour is approximately 50 miles long. Please plan to spend several hours for a leisurely drive, which will allow time for taking photos and enjoying the scenic beauty surrounding the bridges.

**DIRECTIONS:**

**1. Cover Bridge Tour**

- **BOGERT’S BRIDGE**
  - **Directions:** From Center Square driveway south on 7th St. to second traffic light and turn left on Union St. After 1/2 block, turn right on Lehigh St. and proceed to the first traffic light. Turn right on Monte Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and continue for 2.2 miles to the second traffic light. Turn left on 20th St. (Dexter Dr.) and proceed 1.2 miles to Bogert’s Bridge. Turn left at the traffic light (Fish Hatchery Rd.) in other Lehigh Parkway and view the bridge more closely.
  - **Length:** 145 ft.
  - **Built:** 1941
  - **Height and weight limits:** Pedestrian traffic only
  - **Owned by:** City of Allentown

2. **MANASSES GUTH BRIDGE**

- **Directions:** Leave Lehigh Parkway and proceed over Dexter Dr. at the traffic light onto Fish Hatchery Rd. Proceed for 1.2 miles to the intersection of Rte. 20 Carbon Creek Blvd. Turn right and follow Carbon Creek Blvd for 1.5 miles past Rte. 78. Hamilton Blvd., Highpoint St., Rte. 20 Carbon Creek Plaza Shopping Center to the traffic light on Washington Ave. After the traffic light, continue on Carbon Creek Blvd. for the mile past Lackavista Rd. and down the hill. At the bottom of the hill, turn left at any bridge Rd. and proceed for 6.6 miles in the Manasses Guth Bridge. Turn right to cross over the bridge onto Lepa Rd. (There is a parking lot immediately past the bridge.)
  - **Length:** 108 ft.
  - **Built:** 1858
  - **Height and weight limits:** 3-ft., 8-in., 4 tons
  - **Owned by:** Lehigh County

3. **SCHLICHER’S COVERED BRIDGE**

- **Directions:** Return through Geiger’s Bridge and cross the bridge to the intersection of Jordan Rd. and Rhine Hill Rd. Turn right on Rhine Hill and continue for 0.6 miles to Game Preserve Rd. Turn right and enjoy a scenic drive for 1.4 miles past the entrance of the Game Preserves to reach Schlischer’s Covered Bridge.
  - **Length:** 168 ft.
  - **Built:** 1982
  - **Height and weight limits:** 8-ft., 2-in., 2 tons
  - **Owned by:** State

4. **REX’S COVERED BRIDGE**

- **Directions:** Continue on Lepa Rd. for a short distance to the intersection of River Rd. Turn left on River Rd. and proceed for 3.4 miles to Rex’s Covered Bridge.
  - **Length:** 129 ft.
  - **Built:** 1891
  - **Height and weight limits:** 9-ft., 6-in., 4 tons
  - **Owned by:** Lehigh County

5. **GEIGER’S COVERED BRIDGE**

- **Directions:** After crossing Schlischer’s Bridge, continue on River Rd. for 1.5 miles to the first intersection where Jordan Rd. bears right. Stay on Jordan Rd. for 3 miles to the next intersection. Turn right on Packhouse Rd. and proceed to the entrance of Geiger’s Covered Bridge. Cross through the bridge and make a U-turn to stop at the clearing along the road for a better view of the bridge.
  - **Length:** 122 ft.
  - **Built:** 1890
  - **Height and weight limits:** 5-ft., 6-in., 4 tons
  - **Owned by:** Lehigh County

6. **KREIDERSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE**

- **Directions:** After crossing Schlischer’s Bridge, continue on Game Preserve Rd. for 1.4 miles to Rte. 309. Turn right, proceed to the first traffic light and turn left on Sand Springs Rd. Continue on Sand Springs Rd. for 2.2 miles to the Village of Bronte. Turn left on Massch Chaud Rd. (Main Street) and drive 4 miles to Rte. 320. Turn right and proceed for 2.2 miles to the traffic light in the Village of Egypt, Bear a slight left to continue on Rtes 320. Follow the road up the hill for 8 miles and cross over Rte. 140 at the traffic light. Continue on Rte. 320 for 1.2 miles through the Village of Confederate Northampton and turn left at the traffic light on Main St. Proceed for 2 miles on Main St. going straight at the next traffic light and leaving right at the curve after the light. At the intersection in the Village of Kreidersville, continue straight for 3.4 miles and turn right on Covered Bridge Rd.
  - **Length:** 100 ft.
  - **Built:** 1839
  - **Height and weight limits:** Pedestrian traffic only
  - **Owned by:** Allen Township

**FORMER LEHIGH VALLEY COVERED BRIDGES**

There were numerous covered bridges scattered across Lehigh Valley that were either destroyed by nature or replaced with new construction. Of the three most prominent former bridges, two crossed the Delaware River and one spanned the Lehigh River.

**EASTON-PHILLIPSBURG COVERED BRIDGE**

In 1803, a covered bridge constructed by the foremost builder, Timothy Palmer, was opened to cross the Delaware River connecting Easton, Pa., with Phillipsburg, N.J. Over 500 feet in length, this three-span bridge withstood many floods and storms but could not stand up to the heavy demands of traffic in years to come. In the 1890s, with the inception of horseless trolleys, a decision was made to demolish the old bridge and replace it with a substantial one made of steel. The new bridge opened in 1896, and after major repairs and renovations, the bridge is still used today and is known as the Northampton St. Free Bridge.

**PORTLAND COVERED BRIDGE**

Another notable covered bridge linking Pennsylvania and New Jersey was completed in 1830. One of the primary uses of the bridge in the early days was the movement of livestock from New Jersey to the Portland rail yards. The 775-foot Burr arch truss-type bridge withstood a number of storms and floods for almost 100 years but was washed away in the flood of 1955. That was the end of the longest covered bridge in the United States and the last one spanning the Delaware River. Today, a pedestrian bridge is built on the original piers, making it possible to walk from Portland, Pa., to Columbus, N.J., across the Delaware River.

**BETHLEHEM COVERED BRIDGE**

In 1794, the first uncovered wooden bridge crossing over the Lehigh River was opened, replacing the ferry service and improving the route for the stage line between Philadelphia and Bethlehem. This bridge remained in use until 1819 when it was replaced by a larger wooden bridge, which also was uncovered. The second bridge served the community until it was destroyed by a flood in 1847 and was replaced by the covered bridge. Built by the Bethlehem Bridge Company, the Old Bethlehem Covered Bridge was destroyed by flooding in 1832, rebuilt and used until the current H-V to AH Bridge was built at a nearby site in 1922.

**Bogert’s Bridge**

This covered bridge is the first of five on your tour to cross over the meandering Jordan Creek. The original bridge that was built in 1858 was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1862. Local farmers and travelers forced the Jordan at this site prior to 1868. **The builder of the original structure is unknown. The bridge was named after Manasses Guth, who lived in the adjacent stone farmhouses and was a descendant of Lorenzo Guth, the first settler in the area in 1745. The Manasses Guth Bridge, which is at the eastern edge of Covered Bridge Park, is built with the Burr arch truss design, has lengthwise planking and rests on stone and mortar abutments with long wing walls capped with concrete.

**Schlischer’s Bridge**

Schlischer’s Covered Bridge is sometimes called the “beaver pen bridge” since it is surrounded by Trexler Lehigh County Game Preserve. The Game Preserve was established in 1938 as a reservation to raise and protect beaver, elk, and deer. Deer can often be seen grazing along the road near the bridge. The builder of the structure is unknown, and its name possibly came from local landowners. Schlischer’s is the newest and shortest bridge in Lehigh County and is the fifth and last covered span crossing Jordan Creek. Built in the Burr truss design, the structure has red vertical siding with a white interior and white horizontal siding around the low entrance. Like Lehigh Valley’s other covered bridges, Schlischer’s Bridge has a slate roof. Rebuilt in 1959, the bridge has stone abutments reinforced with concrete and wing walls capped with cement.

The bridge’s name may have been taken from the family of Jacob Geiger, who settled in the area after immigrating from Wurttemberg, Germany in the 1700s. Upon approaching the entrance of the bridge, its unusual squared post detail design that distinguishes it from other bridges is immediately noticeable. At one time, a sign, through which water was pumped from the Jordan Creek to nearby orchards and farms, ran from end to end across the bridge. Remnants of the cement foundation and pumping apparatus still remain on the side of the bridge. Built with Burr arches, the bridge has a floor of lengthwise and crosswise planking. The stone wing walls have been painted white, and one on the south side of the bridge has been shortened due to the topography.

Records indicate that at one time seven gristmills were established along the Jordan Creek, which rises near the base of the Blue Mountain and runs into Lehigh Valley, where it empties into the Lehigh River. While Rex’s Bridge is located close to Ken’s Dam and the former Ken’s Mill, there is no evidence there was a mill next to this bridge. It is believed that the bridge was named after the Rex family, who were local landowners in the vicinity. The structure is built in the Burr arch truss design, and the high arch can be seen through the side openings. Rex’s Bridge has a floor of lengthwise planking over crosswise planking, and the original stone wing walls have been covered with cement and painted white.

**Kreidersville Bridge**

Kreidersville Bridge, which crosses over the Hickendaqua Creek, is the oldest covered bridge in Lehigh Valley and one of the oldest in Pennsylvania. It is the only remaining covered bridge in Northampton County and has been known as Hummel’s, Koch’s and Gut’s Mill Bridge. Built in the Burr arch truss design with stone and mortar abutments and wing walls capped with concrete, the bridge is distinctive with its openings along the sides to light the interior. In 1859, local citizens rallied to save it from demolition to make way for a new concrete bridge, and it was taken over by the county after being restored by the PA Highway Department. Today it is owned by Allen Township and maintained for quiet recreation. Every two years, the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Association holds a Covered Bridge Festival in early June in the park surrounding the entrance to the bridge.

To return: Reverse the route through Kreidersville and Northampton to the traffic light at Rte. 149. Turn left onto Rte. 149 South (MacArthur Rd.) and proceed approximately 7 miles, passing over Rte 22, before reaching Center Square in Allentown.
The stone wing walls have been painted white, and one on the south pumping apparatus still remain on the side of the bridge. Built with a Burr arch truss design, it has lengthwise planking and rests on stone abutments. The bridge was built in 1860, the length is 112 ft. and the height is 9 ft. 6 in. It is owned by Lehigh County.

This covered bridge is the first of five on your tour to cross over the meandering Jordan Creek. The original bridge that was built in 1858 was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1882. Local farmers and travelers forced the Jordan at this site prior to 1888. The builder of the original structure is unknown. The bridge was named after Manasses Guth, who lived in the adjacent stone farmhouse and was a descendant of Lorentz Guth, the first settler in the area in 1745. The Manasses Guth Bridge, which is at the eastern end of Covered Bridge Park, is built with a Burr arch truss design, has limestone planing and rests on stone and mortar abutments with long wing walls capped with concrete.

**BETHLEHEM COVERED BRIDGE**

This structure is sometimes called the “deer pen bridge” because it is surrounded by the Bethlehem Game Farm. The Game Farm was established in 1856 as a reservation to raise and protect deer, elk, and moose. Deer can often be seen grazing along the road near the bridge. The builder of the structure is unknown, and its name possibly came from local landowners. Schlicher’s is the newest and shortest bridge in Lehigh County and is the fifth and last covered span over Jordan Creek. The bridge in the Burr truss design, the structure has red vertical siding with a white interior and white horizontal siding around the low entrances. Like Lehigh Valley’s other covered bridges, Schlicher’s has a slate roof. Built in 1982, the bridge has stone abutments reinforced with concrete and wing walls capped with cement.