

HISTORIC COVERED BRIDGES DRIVING TOUR



- VIA MOTORCOACH

DRIVING NOTES:

Northern Frederick County is home to three historic covered bridges. All three bridges are listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The Utica Mills, Loy's Station, and Roddy Road covered bridges all cross streams in northern Frederick County, within twelve miles of one another. Besides their beauty, the bridges are also structurally interesting, as all three have a different truss system (which is what keeps a bridge standing).

Driving Tour Directions – PLEASE NOTE MOTORCOACHES CANNOT CROSS OVER THESE BRIDGES DUE TO HEIGHT AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS TO VIEW THE BRIDGES.

These three bridges have a weight restriction of 30,000 lbs. Roddy Road covered bridge is posted for 8 foot 6 inch height restriction and Utica Mills is posted for 9 foot 6 inches height restriction. Loy's Station is not posted for height. ***Use caution when viewing these bridges, these are narrow roadways and motorists may have difficulty seeing you.***

Utica Mills Covered Bridge - This tour is approximately 33 miles, roundtrip via car and longer via motorcoach. Start the tour north of Frederick at the junction of Route 15 North and Route 26. From this point, drive 4.3 miles north on Route 15 and turn right onto Old Frederick Road. Drive 1.5 miles. The bridge is located on left side on Utica Road; there is no adjacent lot to the bridge.

Travel to Loy's Station Covered Bridge from Utica Mills Covered Bridge - Continue straight on Old Frederick Road. Drive 4.1 miles to a stop sign. (Right before the stop sign you will see a sign indicating that you are now in Creagerstown.) At the stop sign continue straight onto Route 550. Drive .4 miles and make a right on to Old Frederick Road. Travel 2.1 miles and make a left into the parking lot of Loy's Station Park. There is ample parking for a motorcoach and participants can walk to bridge and through the park area.

Travel to Roddy Road Covered Bridge – *You cannot travel over the bridge via motorcoach you must travel to the town of Thurmont and take US 15 North.*

From the parking lot of Loy's Station Park, make a right back on to Old Frederick Road, follow back to stop sign at Route 550 and turn right. Continue straight for approximately 2 miles until you come to a stop sign at MD-806 (Frederick Road). Turn left onto Frederick Road, pass the former Cozy Restaurant on the right and turn right at light on to Thurmont Blvd. Take the next right exit ramp to Route 15 North. Travel 2 miles and turn right onto (MD-806) Roddy Creek Rd. Travel .4 miles and bridge is located on the right side. There is a pull off area large enough for a motorcoach for passengers to disembark and walk to the bridge.

OTHER GROUP FRIENDLY ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA:

- National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes
- Catoctin Iron Furnace
- National Fallen Firefighters Memorial
- Catoctin Mountain Orchard

GROUP FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS IN THE AREA:

- Carriage House Inn
- Mountain Gate Restaurant

BRIDGES

The Roddy Road, Loys Station, and Utica Mills bridges are three of only eight remaining covered bridges in the state of Maryland. At least 52 such structures once graced the landscape of the state, but storms, fires, progress, and neglect have claimed almost all of them. The three bridges provide a good comparative study of wood bridge truss techniques, as each displays a different truss design. Weather permitting; be sure to bring a picnic as each of the three bridge sites features an adjacent recreation area.

LOY'S STATION COVERED BRIDGE

First constructed circa 1880, the Loy's Station covered bridge is on Old Frederick Road, just south of Rt. 77. Although it has been structurally modified and rebuilt, the bridge's original timbers remain throughout the 90-foot long structure crossing Owens Creek. It features a multiple Kingpost design. An adjoining park provides picnic tables and a play area.

RODDY ROAD COVERED BRIDGE

The Roddy Road covered bridge, built in 1856, rests just north of Thurmont off of US 15, where Roddy Creek Road meets Roddy Road at Owens Creek. The smallest of the county's covered bridges, Roddy Road is a single-span Kingpost design bridge measuring 40 feet long.

UTICA MILLS COVERED BRIDGE

The Utica Mills Covered Bridge, circa 1850, is located on Utica Road off of Old Frederick Road. The bridge originally spanned the nearby Monocacy River but was washed away during a severe storm in 1889. Local citizens gathered the remains and reconstructed the 101-foot long Burr Arch design bridge at its present location crossing Fishing Creek.

For more information on the covered bridges or group related itineraries, attractions, lodging and meals contact the Frederick Visitor Center at (301) 600-4047 or visit our website at www.visitfrederick.org.

