

SOMERSET COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE - and more! - TOUR

omerset County is one of the most scenic areas in the United States, especially in autumn. From mid-September, when the first frost touches our mountains, through mid-October, our trees brilliantly display all the colors of fall. You'll see yellows, golds, oranges, reds, browns and a few lingering summer greens, but there's more to see than leaves.

Drive along our country roads and our historic highways. Fish our clear streams and lakes. Bicycle or hike on the Great Allegheny Passage that runs 43 miles through Somerset County on its way from Cumberland, Maryland to Pittsburgh.

Canoe or kayak the challenging spring whitewater of the Casselman and Stonycreek Rivers and enjoy three-season boating on the Middle Youghiogheny River.

Hunters come to Somerset County's state game lands in late fall to hunt deer, bear and turkey.

Wintertime makes Somerset County a popular destination for cross-country and downhill skiing. State-of-the-art snowmaking equipment, high-capacity ski lifts, ample snowfall and excellent resort facilities bring winter sports enthusiasts from all over the mid-Atlantic region.

The cold nights and warmer days of late winter and early spring trigger the maple sap to flow. Sugar camps reopen all over the county to produce our world-famous maple syrup.

Summer brings campers, golfers, bicyclists, hikers and boaters and nature lovers to Somerset County. And, before you know it, it's autumn again in Somerset County "The Outdoors You Call Home."

The "Covered Bridge - And More! - Tour" guides you past historic landmarks, through scenic farmland and quaint communities. We hope you'll stop and enjoy a picnic lunch, visit our attractions, browse antique and gift shops and take home pleasant memories of (and maybe some maple syrup from) your visit to Somerset County. The approximately 175-mile tour begins and ends in Somerset, our county seat. We estimate it'll take you two days to comfortably

complete the tour.

1. WALTER'S MILL BRIDGE

Start on Route 601 North from Somerset. Stay straight onto Route 985 North. Follow Route 985 North for ¼ mile. Turn left into the Somerset Historical Center. The bridge is on the Historical Center's grounds.



Walter's Mill Bridge was built in 1859 with arches added in 1908. It crosses Haupt Run. Originally built to cross Coxes Creek, this is its third location.

Keystone Viaduct, built in

weighing thousands of

1911 to carry freight trains

over Flaugherty Run valley.

WHAT ELSE TO SEE Besides the covered bridge, the Center offers authentic early farm

buildings, an 1860 maple sugar camp, a cider press and two

exhibit halls that tell the story of how life was lived a century or more ago. www.somersethistoricalcenter.org

On leaving the Historical Center, turn left onto Route 985 North. About .7 mile on the left is the Quecreek Mine Rescue Memorial. In July 2002, nine coal miners trapped underground were all rescued alive, an event that was celebrated around the world. The site commemorates that historic feat.

After leaving the Quecreek site, turn left on Route 985 North. Staying on Route 985 North and across Route 30 in Jennerstown, you'll pass Green Gables and Mountain Playhouse on the right. This popular restaurant and dinner theater began life as a roadside sandwich shop in 1927.

www.mountainplayhouse.com 2. SHAFFER BRIDGE

Continuing on Route 985 north, you'll find the bridge on the right about 12 miles north of Green Gables.

3. TROSTLETOWN BRIDGE

After leaving Shaffer Bridge, turn right on Route 985 North. Turn right at the stoplight at Route 403 South. Continue on Route 403 South for about 18 miles to Route 30. Turn right on Route 30 West, then turn left on North Club Road. Trostletown Bridge is located in American Legion Park with a Vietnam War-era "Huev" helicopter and army tank on display, as well as the restored Stoystown railroad station and a one room schoolhouse.



Shaffer Bridge was built in 1877, crosses Ben's Creek and is of Burn



Trostletown Bridge was built in 1887-88, spans Stonycreek and is of queen post and king post

ON THE WAY TO GLESSNER COVERED BRIDGE

Return to Route 30 and turn right onto Route 30 East. About 3

½ miles east turn right into the the Flight 93 National Memorial, where shortly after 10 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, United Airlines Flight 93, the fourth plane hijacked by terrorists that day, crashed into an abandoned strip mine. Phase I of the new memorial was dedicated on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

www.honorflight93.org **GLESSNER COVERED BRIDGE**

Return to Route 30 and turn left onto Route 30 West. Go approximately 1 1/2 miles and make a left onto Lambertsville Road SR 2007. About 4

and was rebuilt in 1997

Glessner Bridge was built in 1881, with multiple king posts

1/2 miles south of Rt. 30 turn onto Covered Bridge Road.

5. NEW BALTIMORE BRIDGE Return to Lambertsville Road and turn right into Shanksville. Turn right onto Bridge Street, then left onto John Street, then left onto Shanksville Road at the "Y" intersection. Follow Shanksville Road about 3 miles to Route 160, the Huckleberry

Highway. Turn right on Route



160 South, then left on Route 31 East in the village of Roxbury. After about 11/2 miles, turn left on Deeter Gap Road, SR1013. In about two miles, turn left down the hill onto SR1015. At the "T," turn right on SR1017 just before the steel grate bridge. This becomes Juniata Street in New Baltimore. The covered bridge is on the left on Findley Street.

WHAT ELSE TO SEE

In New Baltimore, on Findley Street across Juniata Street on the hill, visit St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, "The Church on the Turnpike," the only place in the entire Pennsylvania Turnpike network where you can still stop, climb the steps and attend church services without exiting the Turnpike. Visitors are also welcome at the former St. John's Carmelite Monastery, which is now a retreat center for the Johnstown-Altoona Catholic Diocese. www.cochapters.com/stjohn-pa.htm

ON THE WAY TO PACK SADDLE BRIDGE

From the bridge, make a left (east) onto Juniata Street, which becomes SR3012 after you cross under the Turnpike. After about two miles, turn right onto Route 31 West, then in about four miles turn left onto Glen Savage Road, SR2019, at the top of the mountain. You'll pass the International Conservation Center, a project of the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium that houses, breeds

Pack Saddle, or Doc Miller Bridge was

built in 1870, spans Brush Creek, and features multiple king post construction. It was rebuilt in 1997.

and studies African elephants. It's not open to the public, but you might see an elephant or two in the fields.

www.internationalconservationcenter.org 6. PACK SADDLE COVERED BRIDGE

Turn right on Pine Valley Road, then left onto Pack Saddle Road. ON THE WAY TO BURKHOLDER BRIDGE

Go through Pack Saddle Bridge, stay on Pack Saddle Road, then

Festivals & Events

Fire & Ice Festival, Martin Luther King Weekend, Uptown Somerset, PA 814-443-1748 www.somersetincpa.org

Annual Pennsylvania Maple Festival, Late March/Early April, Meyersdale, PA 814-634-0213 www.pamaplefestival.com

Amtrak's National Train Day in Rockwood, Early May, Rockwood, PA 814-926-4546 www.visitrockwood.com

National Road Festival, Third weekend in May National Pike from Cumberland, MD to Wheeling, WV

Antiques at Georgian Place - Spring Show, Mid to late May, Somerset, PA www.cottaqepineantiques.com

814-395-3469 www.carvingfest.confluencelions.org Windber Miners' Memorial Day Weekend, Mid-June, Windber, PA

National Road Chainsaw Carving Festival, Mid-June, Addison, PA

Old Home Days, Late June, Confluence, PA 814-395-9380 www.visitconfluence.info

merfest, Mid-July, Somerset, PA

814-443-2433 www.laurelarts.org

814-467-4988 www.echf.windberpa.org

Quecreek Mine Rescue Anniversary, Late July, Somerset, PA 814-445-4876 www.9for9.org

Rib & Wing Festival, Late July, Seven Springs Mountain Resort 866-703-7625 www.7springs.com Annual Antique Show & Appraisal Fair, Second Saturday in August

Somerset, PA 814-445-6431 www.somersetpa.net

Laurel Hill Bluegrass Festival, Mid to late August, Laurel Hill State Park 814-445-7725 www.friendsoflhsp.org

Somerset County Fair, Third full week in August, Meyersdale, PA 814-634-5619 www.somersetcountyfairpa.com

Wine and Food Festival, Late August, Seven Springs Mountain Resort 866-703-7625 www.7springs.com

Farmers' and Threshermen's Jubilee, Wed. to Sun. after Labor Day New Centerville, PA 814-926-3142 www.ncrvfc.com

Mountain Craft Days, Weekend after Labor Day, Somerset Historical Center 814-445-6077 www.somersethistoricalcenter.org

Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair, Second full week in September Berlin, PA 814-267-3763

Annual Autumnfest, Weekends in October, Seven Springs Mountain Resort

866-703-7625 www.7springs.com Springs Folk Festival, First Friday and Saturday in October, Springs, PA

PumpkinFest, First full weekend in October, Confluence, PA 814-395-5080 www.confluencepumpkinfest.org

climb the hill and turn left onto Leister Road, SR2022. Turn right onto Glencoe Road, SR2020. Turn left on Brush Creek Road, SR2017. Bear right at the "Y" intersection onto Glencoe Road. Turn left on Route 160 South. Make the first right onto Glade City Road, SR2017. About one mile from Route 160, turn left onto Deal Road. At the bottom of the hill is Sand Patch, the crest of the Allegheny Mountains on the Baltimore and Ohio

Railroad (now CSX Transportation) and a favorite spot for railroad photographers. Return on Deal Road and turn left tons, now carries trail users onto Glade City Road, SR2006. In about a

mile, you'll pass under the 961-foot-long Keystone Viaduct, built to carry the trains of the now-abandoned Western Maryland Railway and converted for trail use by the

Great Allegheny Passage in 2004.

Turn right off Glade City Road onto Scratch Hill Road. You'll see the 1871 Bollman Bridge which was moved here for trail use in 2007. It was one of the original bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line from Baltimore to Pittsburgh. This is its third location.

Go back to and turn right on Glade The 1871 iron Bollman City Road, which becomes Cherry Bridge is now serving the Street in Meyersdale. At Main Street, Great Allegheny Passage turn right up the hill to the Western Maryland Train Station and Visitors

Center, operated by the Meyersdale Historical Society. This is a trailhead for the Great Allegheny Passage. www.gaptrail.org

In Meyersdale, you'll find a variety of services including gas, food and lodging. It's also home to the Somerset County Fair and the Pennsylvania Maple Festival. www.meyersdale.org

After leaving the station, turn right down the hill. At the bottom of Main Street, turn right onto Grant Street, Business

Route 219 West. Grant Street becomes the Mason-Dixon Highway. About 1½ miles west of Meyersdale, you'll cross under the 1,923-footlong Salisbury Viaduct, also built by the Western Maryland Railway and converted for trail use in 1999. Business Route 219 becomes US 219 at the

at its third location.



Salisbury Viaduct is another major railroad structure adapted for trail use by the Great Allegheny Passage.

"T" intersection. Turn left and continue on US 219 North past Garrett, bearing right at the service station.

7. BURKHOLDER BRIDGE About two miles north of

Garrett on US 219 North, turn left onto Burkholder Bridge Road.



was built in 1870 to cross Coxes Creek. It uses Burr Arch construction.

ON THE WAY TO LOWER HUMBERT BRIDGE

Leaving Burkholder Bridge, turn right onto US 219 South. Go two miles south back to Garrett and turn right on Jackson Street, Route 653. Make the first left onto Walker Street and cross under the railroad bridge. Make the first right onto Jefferson Street, then the second left onto Berlin Street and cross the river bridge. Again, you'll cross the Great Allegheny Passage. Berlin Street becomes Johnson Road. Take it up the hill about two miles and make a left onto Rockdale Road.

You are now entering into the Somerset County Amish community. You will see horse-drawn buggles on the road and farming done using traditional methods. The Amish religious faith prohibits photography, so mind your manners and refrain from taking their pictures. And be careful when you're passing the buggies.

You will also pass many Amish stands with all sorts of handmade products and homegrown fruits and vegetables. Be observant, because they use really small signs. Also remember that all Amish-owned

businesses are closed on Sunday.

Taking Rockdale Road two miles to the "T" intersection, turn right on Mt. Davis Road. Go through Summit Mills and climb the hill. Mt. Davis Road goes to the right, but stay straight on Rock Run Road to St. Paul.



Amish farmers in Somerset County still harvest crops using traditional methods.

This is one of the prettiest villages in the state of Pennsylvania. At the church in St. Paul, turn right on St. Paul Road. After about 11/2 miles, St. Paul Road becomes Mt. Davis Road. There's a picnic area on the left almost at the top of the mountain with restroom facilities. At the top of the hill, turn left at the sign to Mt. Davis. There's an observation tower on top of the mountain where you can see for miles and miles. Mt. Davis is 3,213 feet above sea level and the highest point in Pennsylvania. After leaving Mt. Davis, turn left on Mt. Davis Road.

This is a very scenic, but very curvy, road. You'll pass Deer Valley YMCA Camp and High Point Lake, the highest public fishing lake in Pennsylvania.

Continue on Mt. Davis Road to the "T" intersection in Listonburg. Turn right on Route 523 North. Take Route 523 North into Confluence. Go straight at the intersection with Route 281 North in Confluence. Confluence also offers gas, food and lodging and a traditional century-old gazebo in the town square. Turn right (north) on Route 281 North at the square. www.visitconfluence.org





King's Bridge was built to cross Laurel Hill Creek with arches added in 1907. It was rebuilt in

Leaving Confluence on Route 281 North, go through the town of Ursina

8. LOWER HUMBERT BRIDGE

and turn left on Humbert Road. The Lower Humbert Bridge is about a mile from the intersection. 9. KING'S BRIDGE

Stay on Humbert Road about six

miles to the village of Kingwood. Turn left on Route 281 North. Make the first left onto Whipkey (Wipkey) Dam Road, SR3009. After about three miles, turn right on Scullton Road, Route 653 East. King's Bridge is about

11/2 miles on the right. 10. BARRONVALE BRIDGE

After King's Bridge, make a right on Ream Road. About one mile later, turn right onto Covered Bridge Road. You can see Barronvale Bridge from the intersection.

RETURN TO SOMERSET

After Barronvale Bridge, return to Somerset by crossing Laurel Hill Creek and taking Covered Bridge Road about ½ mile to a right onto Barron Church Road. After about one mile, turn left onto Route 653 East. At New Lexington, go straight onto Routes 281/653. At New Centerville, continue on Route 281 North to Somerset. On the way into town, you'll pass the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. www.laurelarts.org



built in 1830 across Laurel Hill Creek using king post construction with arches added in 1906.

