



Covered Bridges of New England Experience Guide

Discover the Timeless Charm of America's Historic Covered Bridges



Long before modern highways and steel bridges, covered bridges connected towns, farms, and villages throughout New England. Today, these beautifully preserved wooden structures have become some of the region's most beloved landmarks, offering visitors a glimpse into America's early history while providing unforgettable scenery.

For travelers extending a **New England & Canada cruise**, exploring covered bridges is one of the most rewarding day trips you can experience. Nestled among colorful forests, winding rivers, and charming small towns, these historic bridges are especially spectacular during the fall foliage season but offer beauty year-round.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, photographer, or simply enjoy scenic drives, covered bridges are one of New England's true hidden treasures.



Why Were Bridges Covered?



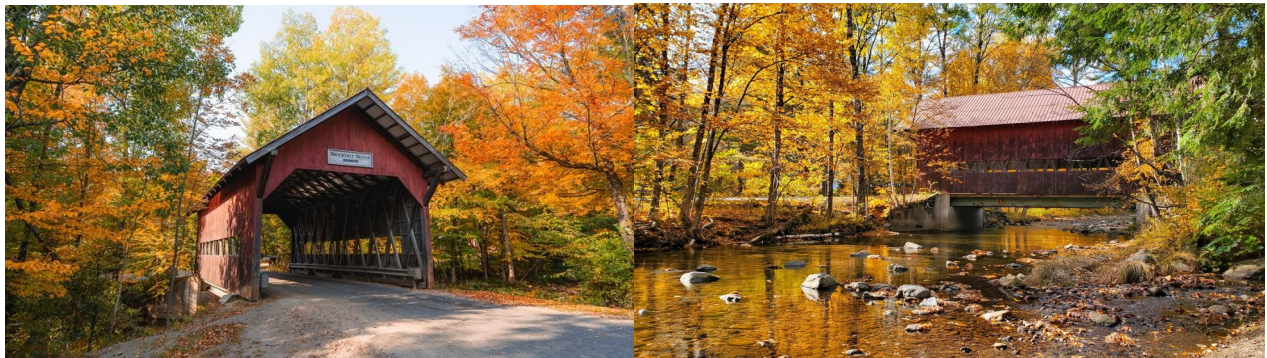
The wooden roofs and walls weren't built for travelers—they were built to protect the bridge itself.

Covering the bridge helped:

- Shield wooden beams from rain and snow
- Prevent rot and weather damage
- Extend the bridge's lifespan
- Reduce maintenance costs

Many uncovered wooden bridges lasted only a few decades, while covered bridges have survived well over 100 years.

Why They're So Special



Covered bridges offer the perfect blend of:

- American history
- Small-town charm
- Scenic countryside
- Beautiful rivers
- Classic New England architecture
- Incredible photography



Must-See Covered Bridges



Some of the region's most famous include:



Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge

New Hampshire & Vermont

- Longest wooden covered bridge in the United States
- Crosses the Connecticut River
- Built in 1866
- Nearly 450 feet long



Middle Covered Bridge

Woodstock, Vermont

- One of Vermont's most photographed bridges
- Located in a charming village
- Surrounded by shops and restaurants



Flume Covered Bridge

Lincoln, New Hampshire

- Located near Franconia Notch State Park
- Beautiful mountain scenery
- Excellent stop during a White Mountains drive



Artist's Covered Bridge

Newry, Maine

- One of Maine's most picturesque bridges
- Popular with photographers
- Beautiful during peak fall foliage

🍁 Best States for Covered Bridges



🍁 Vermont

Often called the **Covered Bridge Capital of New England**, Vermont is home to more than **100 historic covered bridges**.

🍁 New Hampshire

Features dozens of beautifully preserved bridges surrounded by mountain scenery.

🍁 Maine

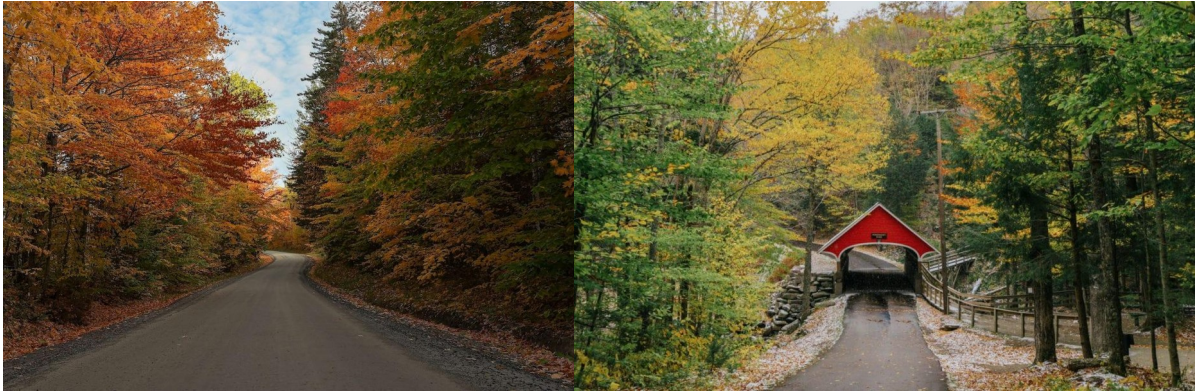
Offers a smaller collection of historic bridges tucked away in scenic countryside settings.

🍁 Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts is home to several beautiful examples, especially in the Berkshires.



Perfect Road Trip Adventure



Covered bridges are best experienced on a leisurely drive.

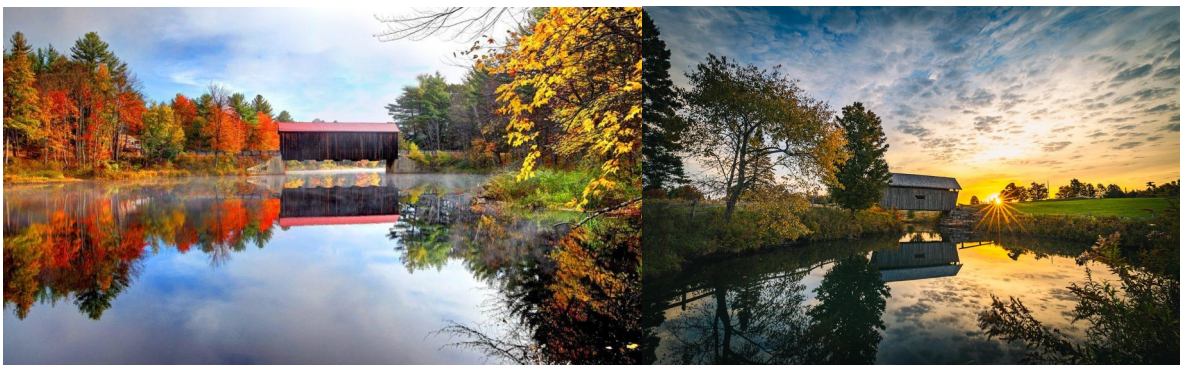
Many visitors combine them with:

- Scenic byways
- Mountain overlooks
- Small-town shopping
- Apple orchards
- Maple sugar houses
- Historic villages
- Local cafés

It's the perfect way to slow down and enjoy New England.



Photography Tips



For memorable photos:

- Visit during early morning or late afternoon.
- Capture reflections in rivers.
- Photograph the bridge from both inside and outside.
- Include fall foliage whenever possible.
- Look for nearby churches, barns, and rolling hills.

Best Time to Visit



Every season offers something different:



Fall

Brilliant foliage and crisp weather.



Spring

Wildflowers and rushing rivers.



Summer

Lush green landscapes.



Winter

Snow-covered scenes that look like Christmas cards.

Autumn remains the most popular season.



Visiting Before or After Your Cruise



Covered bridges are ideal for travelers who:

- Arrive in Boston a few days before their cruise
- Stay after disembarking
- Rent a car to explore inland New England

Unlike coastal attractions, these experiences reward travelers who venture beyond the shoreline.



Travel Tips

- Rent a car for the best experience.
 - Allow plenty of time for photo stops.
 - Respect posted weight limits on historic bridges.
 - Drive slowly through small towns.
 - Bring comfortable walking shoes and a camera.
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Premium Travel Group Tip

Don't try to visit dozens of bridges in one day. Instead, choose a scenic region like Vermont's Woodstock area or New Hampshire's White Mountains and enjoy the journey. The winding roads, charming villages, and unexpected discoveries between the bridges are just as memorable as the bridges themselves.



Continue Exploring New England

Continue your adventure with our related guides:

- USA Fall Foliage Guide
 - Lighthouses of New England Guide
 - Freedom Trail Guide
 - Salem Experience Guide
 - Acadia National Park Guide
 - Maple Sugar House Experience Guide (*future guide*)
 - White Mountains Scenic Drive Guide (*future guide*)
 - New England & Canada Cruise Planning Guide
 - Boston Cruise Port Guide
 - Bar Harbor Cruise Port Guide
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Fun Facts

- Vermont is home to **more than 100 covered bridges**, more than any other New England state.

- The **Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge** is the **longest wooden covered bridge in the United States** still carrying traffic.
- Most covered bridges were built between **1820 and 1900**, using ingenious wooden truss designs that have stood the test of time.
- Some historic covered bridges are still open to vehicles today, while others are reserved for pedestrians.
- Covered bridges are sometimes affectionately called "**kissing bridges**" because, according to local legend, couples would steal a kiss while crossing through the privacy of the covered structure.

Why You'll Love Covered Bridges

Covered bridges capture the heart of New England like few other landmarks. They combine craftsmanship, history, and natural beauty into experiences that invite you to slow down and appreciate a simpler time. Whether framed by fiery autumn leaves, reflected in a quiet river, or dusted with fresh snow, these historic structures are reminders of a region that proudly preserves its heritage while welcoming new generations of travelers.

Joe's Logbook

Growing up in the Northeast, covered bridges were just part of the landscape. As a kid, I didn't think much about them—they were simply another road to drive across.

It wasn't until I got older and started traveling that I realized how unique they really are. Today, when I drive through New England and spot one tucked between rolling hills or spanning a quiet river, I can't help but slow down. They remind me that sometimes the best travel experiences aren't the biggest attractions—they're the places that make you pause, take a picture, and simply enjoy where you are.

If you're taking a New England cruise, I encourage you to think beyond the coastline. Arrive a couple of days early or stay after your cruise, rent a car, and explore the back roads of Vermont or New Hampshire. You'll discover picturesque villages, mountain scenery, local cafés, and these remarkable bridges that have quietly stood for generations.

For me, covered bridges represent the timeless charm of New England. They're not just crossings over rivers—they're bridges to the region's history, traditions, and unforgettable beauty. 