## There's so much more!

Turn your leisurely drive through the scenic Brandywine Valley into a day or weekend to remember by adding some of these area favorites to your itinerary:

### Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is the world's premier horticultural display garden boasting renowned seasonal displays, a breathtaking conservatory, and acres of outdoor gardens to roam. Longwood is home to the most significant fountain collection in the United States.



### Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts with over 90,000 objects displayed in a 175-room mansion. The museum's 60-acre naturalistic garden is one of the nation's best.



### Brandywine Museum of Art

Brandywine Museum of Art is known for its unparalleled collection of works by three generations of the famed Wyeth family and an outstanding collection of American illustration, still life, and landscape paintings.



### Chester County Cheers

Sip and savor creations of the award-winning brewers, winemakers, and distillers of the Brandywine Valley. Visit CountyCheers.com to browse locations.



### Towns and Villages

Chester County's countryside includes an array of charming downtowns and villages. These tree-lined main streets are the perfect spots for exploration, delectable dining, unique shopping and local history. Seasonal entertainment and events are showcased throughout the year.
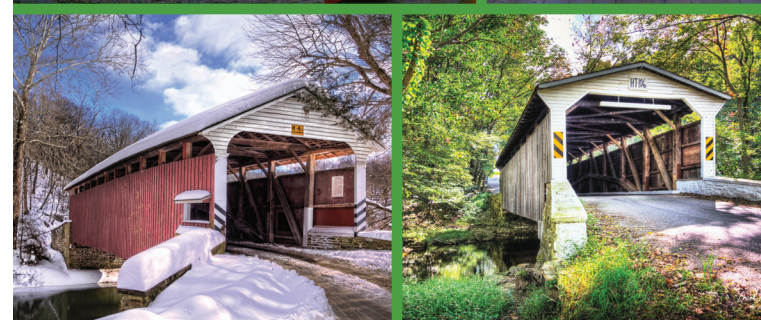


Learn more and plan your stay at
### BrandywineValley.com
or visit us at
300 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

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## A Quick History...

### So, what exactly is a covered bridge?

By definition, it's a bridge in which the trusses, sides, and roofs are all wood, creating an almost-complete enclosure across the water. While keeping you dry is a benefit, covered bridges were built that way to protect the structural integrity of the bridge — left exposed, a wood bridge may only last 10-15 years. Covered bridges were built all around the world throughout the 19th century. Philadelphia lays claim to the first in the United States — a bridge built in the early 1800s that once spanned the Schuylkill River by 30th Street. At their peak, as many as 12,000 covered bridges existed in the U.S., but once more affordable and durable materials came into fashion, the number dropped, and quickly; there were less than 1,500 by the 1950s. Here in Pennsylvania just over 200 remain, the most of any state.

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# CHESTER COUNTY'S
# COVERED BRIDGES



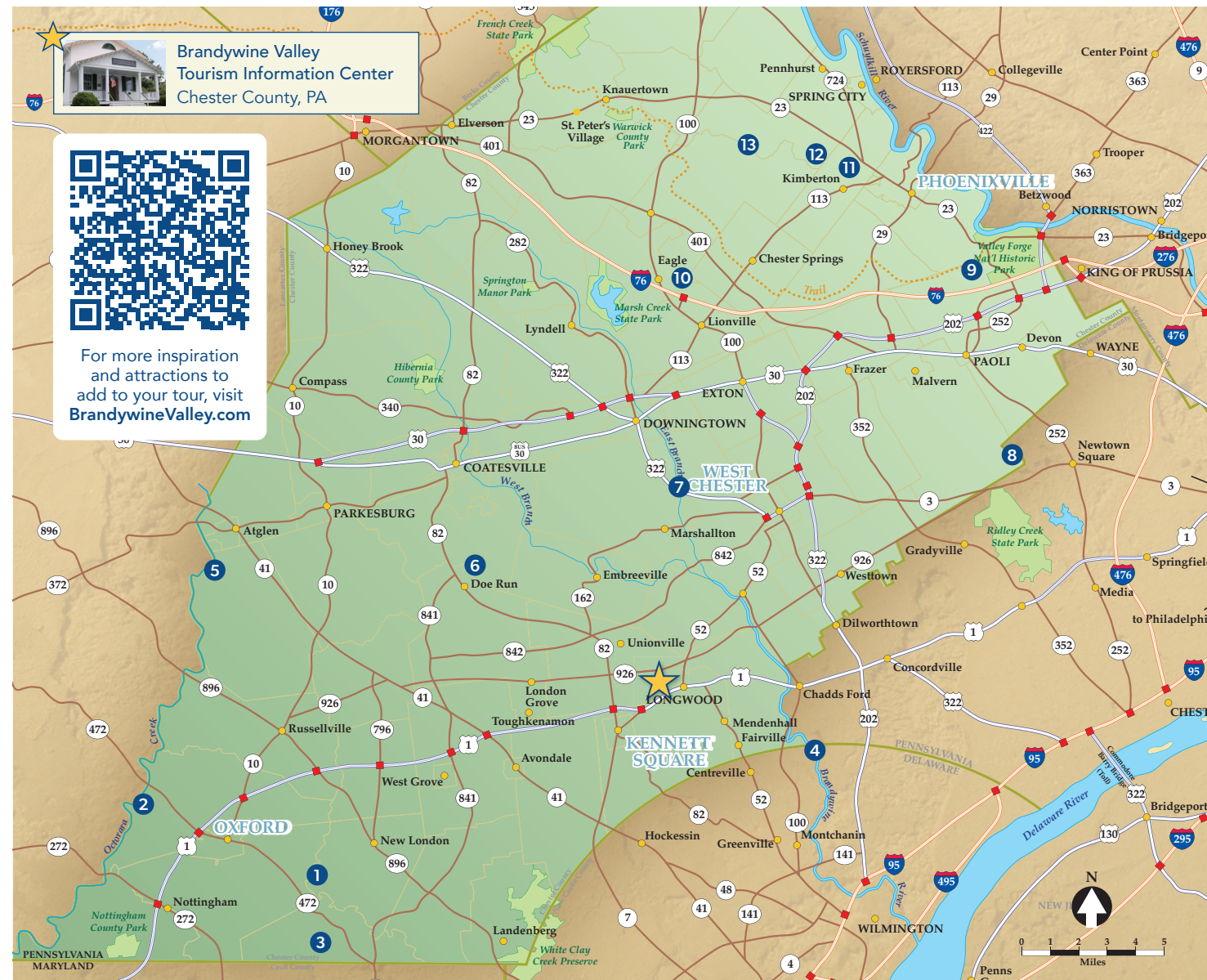HISTORY • BEAUTY • ARCHITECTURE • CHARM

### bv CHESTER COUNTY'S Brandywine Valley

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## Capture the essence of Chester County's Brandywine Valley.

Celebrate and enjoy the history, beauty, architecture, and charm of the region's many covered bridges — an intrinsic part of Chester County's landscape and heritage. With structures standing from as early as 1850 to those rebuilt with love and attention to details as recently as 2002, these unique architectural landmarks stand for our past and will be preserved for the future. For a picturesque tour of the region, hop in the car and input the bridge name into your navigation; then put the windows down, and follow this trail of bridges through every corner of Chester County. Discover the varied characteristics of Brandywine Valley's covered bridges, such as the "Burr" truss, step portals, and how bridges were named. Search for Chester County's white covered bridges, the "two-span" bridge, the oldest, and the most photographed. Revel in the magic that unfolds throughout Chester County's beautiful countryside.

1. **Linton Stephens Bridge** | New London, PA
The Linton Stephens Bridge was built in 1886 by J. Denithorn & Son as a small footbridge. The bridge is named in honor of Linton Stephens, the then postmaster of the town of Hickory Hill.

2. **Pine Grove Bridge** | Oxford, PA
After two earlier bridges were destroyed by weather, the bridge standing today was built in 1884 by Elias McMellen and was a primary route between New York and Washington in the late 19th century. This bridge is the longest in Chester County and is named after a nearby grove of pine trees.

3. **Glen Hope Bridge** | Oxford, PA
The structure was built in 1889 by Menander Wood and George E. Jones and spans Little Elk Creek. In 1987 the structure was destroyed by a fire but has since been reconstructed.

4. **Smith Bridge** | Winterthur, DE
Arsoned in 1961 and replaced with an open span, Smith was a "lost treasure" for 40 years. The new Smith Bridge was rebuilt in 2002. When searching for Smith Bridge, be sure to use the nearby First State National Historical Park as an indicator that you're getting close.

5. **Mercer's Mill Bridge** | Christiana, PA
The Mercer's Mill Bridge was built in 1880 and spans Chester and Lancaster counties. It was named after Captain John Mercer, a farmer and mill owner on the Lancaster side of the bridge.

6. **Speakman Bridge #1** | Coatesville, PA
Originally constructed in 1881, the bridge at one time served the Johnathan Speakman gristmill, thus the name. It is 75 feet long and has a Burr arch truss design. Speakman Bridge #1 is open to vehicle traffic.

7. **Gibson-Harmony Hill Bridge** | West Chester, PA
Built in 1872 by Edward Hall and Thomas Schull, Gibson-Harmony Hill Bridge is a 78-foot long Burr truss bridge, crossing over the east branch of the Brandywine Creek.

8. **Bartram Bridge** | Newtown Square, PA
The bridge spans the county line between Delaware and Chester Counties over Crum Creek. Built in 1860 and restored in 1970, Bartram Bridge has unique slanted plank portals, the only bridge in Pennsylvania with this unusual design.
*Limited accessibility.

9. **Knox Covered Bridge** | Malvern, PA
Built in 1851, this bridge is named after Philander C. Knox (1855-1921), U.S. Senator from PA, and General Henry Knox (1750-1806), an officer quartered at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778. It is 65 feet long and crosses Valley Creek.

10. **Larkin Bridge (Thomas Bridge)** | Eagle, PA
The original structure was built in 1854 by Menander and Ferdinand Wood and was later rebuilt in 1881. The bridge was named after Jesse Larkin, owner of a gristmill not far from the bridge. The bridge was relocated in April of 2006 and is now a pedestrian-only bridge accessible only via a walking path.

11. **Rapps Dam Bridge** | Phoenixville, PA
This bridge was named after George A. Rapp and his sons, who operated a sawmill and a gristmill just south of the bridge. The structure was built in 1866 by Benjamin F. Hartman and spans French Creek.

12. **Kennedy Bridge** | Kimberton, PA
The original bridge was built in 1856 by Alex and Jesse King. However, a plaque inside the bridge reads "Built in 1856 by Len Kennedy and Jesse King…Refurbished in 1979…Destroyed by fire on May 10, 1986…Refurbished in 1987." When rebuilding, the constructors used bongossi, a non-flammable wood from Africa.

13. **Sheeder Hall Bridge** | Chester Springs, PA
The bridge was built in 1850 by Robert Russell and Jacob Fox and is the oldest covered bridge in Chester County. It was named for the well-known families that lived nearby. The bridge is easily recognizable as it runs across French Creek and has distinctive "step" portals.