**Historic Covered Bridges Driving Tour – Via Motorcoach**

**PLEASE NOTE: MOTORCOACHES CANNOT CROSS OVER THESE BRIDGES DUE TO HEIGHT AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS TO VIEW THE BRIDGES.**

From Downtown Frederick, the driving tour is approximately 35 miles roundtrip. It begins approximately 8 miles north of Downtown Frederick at the junction of US Hwy 15 and Old Frederick Rd.

**Driving Directions to Utica Mills Bridge:**

Weight restriction for Utica Mills Bridge is 30,000 lbs. and height restriction 9’6”

From 15 North, turn right (east side of US Hwy 15) onto Old Frederick Rd. and drive 1.5 miles.

The bridge is located on left side on Utica Road; there is no adjacent lot to this bridge.

**Driving Directions from Utica Mills Bridge to Loy’s Station Bridge:**

Weight Restriction for Loy’s Station Bridge is 30,000 lbs. and height restriction 12’6”

Continue on Old Frederick road and drive 3.9 miles to the stop sign.

Turn left onto MD550 and drive 0.4 miles.

Turn right onto Old Frederick Rd. and drive 2 miles.

Turn 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.

**Driving Directions from Loy’s Station Bridge to Roddy Road Bridge:**

Weight Restriction for Roddy Road Bridge is 30,000 lbs. and height restriction 8’6”

You cannot travel over the bridge via motorcoach, you must travel to the town of Thurmont and approach the bridge from US Hwy 15.

Leaving the parking lot of Loy’s Station Park, turn right onto Old Frederick Rd and drive 2 miles to stop sign.

Turn right on MD 550 and drive 2 miles to stop sign.

Turn right to continue on MD 550 and drive 2 miles.

Take the right exit ramp to US Hwy 15 North and travel 2 miles.

Turn right onto MD 806/Roddy Creek Rd. and travel 0.4 miles.

Bridge and park are located on right. There is ample parking for a motorcoach for passengers to disembark and walk to the bridge.

**Group Friendly Restaurants in the Area:**

* Carriage House Inn
* Mountain Gate Restaurant

**LOY'S STATION COVERED BRIDGE, THURMONT, MD**

For more information on the covered bridges or group related itineraries, attractions, lodging and meals contact Visit Frederick at 301-600-4047 or visit our website at [*www.visitfrederick.org*](http://www.visitfrederick.org)*.*

**About the Bridges**

The meandering rivers and streams of Frederick County are home to 216 bridges that each span more than twenty feet. Twenty-six of the bridges are on the National Register of Historic Places; one is a stone arch bridge, three are covered bridges, and the remaining are metal truss bridges.

The [Utica](https://www.visitfrederick.org/listing/utica-mills-covered-bridge/284/) Mills, [Loy’s Station](https://www.visitfrederick.org/listing/loys-station-covered-bridge/268/), and [Roddy Road](https://www.visitfrederick.org/listing/roddy-road-covered-bridge/272/) covered bridges all cross streams in northern Frederick County, within twelve miles of one another. In addition to their beauty, the bridges are also structurally interesting, as all three have different truss systems (which is what keeps a bridge standing).

Utica Mills Covered Bridge: The original Utica Mills Covered Bridge was built around 1850 and 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 truss bridge at its present location crossing Fishing Creek. The height restriction for this bridge is 9 feet 6 inches.

Loy’s Station Covered Bridge: The picturesque Loy’s Station Covered Bridge spans Owens Creek. The bridge’s design utilizes multiple kingpost trusses covered with clapboard. It was rebuilt after an arsonist’s fire nearly destroyed it in 1991. The bridge is 90 feet in length, making it the longest of the three covered bridges. The height restriction for this bridge is 12 feet 6 inches.

Roddy Road Covered Bridge: Built in 1856, the Roddy Road Covered Bridge is a single-span bridge over Owens Creek. The smallest of the county’s covered bridges, this structure features a kingpost design and measures 40 feet in length. The height restriction for this bridge is 8 feet 6 inches.

Stay and play! Roddy Road and Loy’s Station have adjacent recreation areas, each with a playground and picnic tables. Restroom located at Loy’s Station Park.

**Nearby Sites**

Catoctin Mountain Park (NPS)   
visitfrederick.org/parks  
National Park with beautiful scenery, wildlife, historic buildings, hiking trails, and scenic drives.

Catoctin Breeze Vineyard   
catoctinbreeze.org  
A boutique vineyard and winery producing varietal wines, as well as award-winning mead.

Cunningham Falls State Park  
visitfrederick.org/parks    
Home to Maryland’s largest   cascading waterfall, this park is popular to hike, swim, hunt, and fish.

Catoctin Iron Furnace   
catoctinfurnace.org   
This furnace has been in operation from 1776 to 1903. A self-guided trail takes you through the pre-Revolutionary industrial village.

Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo   
cwpzoo.com  
Hundreds of exotic animals and over 50 naturally wooded acres.

National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes   
nsgrotto.org  
Oldest replica of the Grotto of Lourdes in the western hemisphere. Visitor Center and walking trails open year-round.

National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton   
setonshrine.org  
Historical site that tells the story of the first American-born saint. Museum, tours, basilica, and gift shop are open year round.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park   
firehero.org  
A striking stone monument encircled by plaques listing the names of all members of the fire service who have died in the line-of-duty since 1981; and the 9/11 Memorial, entitled “To Lift a Nation”.

Springfield Manor Winery, Brewery and Distillery   
springfieldmanor.com  
Gracefully refined and dignified wines, spirits, and beer served among picturesque mountains, serene woodlands and scenic vistas.

Town of Thurmont   
thurmontmainstreet.com  
Nestled in the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains. Enjoy small town Americana on Main Street, browse specialty shops and dining options.

Town of Emmitsburg   
emmitsburgmd.gov  
This picturesque town boasts a historic Main Street lined with 18th century buildings, art and antique shopping, and a variety of restaurants.