

COVERED BRIDGES-MUSEUMS-WOODSTOCK-QUECHEE GORGE

At the bottom of the Access Rd., make a left onto Rt. 2E and go 6.6 miles into Waterbury.

OPTION 1 – SMALL TOWN (FOLLOWING THE RIVER): Stay on Rt. 2E into Waterbury. At the second traffic light, turn left onto Park St. to visit the historic Waterbury Train Station. This station was recently restored and features exhibits on Waterbury history, and is also home to the Green Mountain Coffee's largest store and learning center. Stop by for a cup as you tour the station, and explore the journey of coffee from "Tree to Cup".

Get back onto Rt. 2E and follow this 8 miles into Vermont's Capitol, Montpelier. Follow the sign for Rt. 12S. Follow option 2 below to continue the tour.

OPTION 2 – HIGHWAY TO COVERED BRIDGES: Make a left onto Rt. 100 N. Get onto I-89 and go to Exit 8, Montpelier. At the 4th traffic light make a right onto Rt. 12S.

Covered Bridges – 8 miles south in Northfield Falls are 4 covered bridges. Make a right onto Cox Brook Rd. and you will find three bridges all in a row. After the 3rd bridge, turn around and get back onto Rt. 12S and look for Slaughterhouse Rd. on the right. The 4th bridge is here; do not cross the bridge because it is difficult to turn around on the other side.

Continue down Rt. 12. You will come into Northfield, a pretty college town and home to Norwich University. Stay on Rt. 12 for another 14 miles. When you come into East Braintree look for Snowsville General Store on your left. It was established in 1820 and still heats with a pot belly stove. There is a cigar store Indian in the back. If you are a hunter or love fishing, this is the place for you.

Continue until you come to the junction of Rt. 66. Make a right and follow Rt. 12 into Randolph. The entire town had to rebuild after a fire, and is done in the 19th century style. Have a coffee at the Randolph Depot, or stop in at the Ben Franklin (where you can find everything but the kitchen sink!). Also pop into the Chandler Gallery, which hosts 8 shows a year, covering a wide range of local artists, artisans, and crafters in a wide range of mediums.

HERE YOU HAVE 2 OPTIONS—HEAD EAST ON RT. 66 FOR MORE BRIDGES, SOME LUNCH, AND A DAIRY FARM, OR STAY ON RT. 12S AND HEAD STRAIGHT INTO WOODSTOCK.

OPTION 1: Turn around and head East on Rt. 66. At .7 miles you'll see a sign for the Three Stallion Inn on Stock Farm Road. This is a great place to have lunch. (Note: they are closed Thursdays). Make your way back onto Rt. 66 and you will pass the Porter Music Box Museum (open May-Oct.). This is a jewel, and a must stop. The range of boxes on display is amazing. Plan on an hour here.

Continue East on Rt. 66 and look for signs for Neighborly Farms. This is a family-owned, organic dairy farm that consistently produces award-winning cheeses. They greet all visitors with a smile, samples, and tours of their production facility. Make sure to stop in the barn and say hello to the cows...they love visitors too! They are closed Sundays.

Head back to Rt. 66 until it intersects with Rt. 14. Make a right and go south.

Covered Bridge- At .8 miles from the intersection look for Braley Covered Bridge Rd. on the right. It's right behind a white farmhouse. Then continue down the road and look for Hyde Hill Rd. on the left. There is another bridge there. Then continue on and you'll see another bridge at Kingsbury Rd. on the right. You can't miss this one; there's even a picnic area there.

Eaton's Sugar House and Restaurant is located at the Junction of Rt. 14 and Rt. 107. Stop in and have lunch (save room for pie!), or just watch them make homemade candy.

Make a right onto Rt. 107 towards Royalton and Bethel. When you get to Bethel go into town and look at the historic buildings, then stop at the Brick Store. There you'll find a turn of the century soda fountain, and upstairs is a gift shop selling handmade quilts and other crafts.

Follow the signs for Rt. 12S. Follow about 16 miles into Woodstock. Just before you get into the village you will see the Billings Farm & Museum on the left. Here you'll find a dairy farm where you can tour the 1890 Farm Manager's home, and view exhibits about early farm life. People of all ages enjoy the farm and its animals. Plan to spend about 2 hours here.

Continue into Woodstock. Park the car and shop along the streets, have lunch at the Woodstock Inn, or pick up Rt. 4E in the center of town and continue on to the town of Quechee.

The town of Quechee is famous for a gorge that is commonly referred to as Vermont's Grand Canyon. You can park and view it from the bridge spanning the gorge... or, you can take a foot trail down to the base of the gorge. Just remember that you need to make it back up. This large tri-span, spandrel-braced, deck arched bridge is 285' long, 41' wide, and sits 163' above the dramatic setting of the Ottauquechee River. No trip to Quechee would be complete without a stop at the Simon Pierce Glass Blowing Factory, where you can watch glass blowing demonstrations, shop, and enjoy fine dining in their restaurant, which overlooks a waterfall and covered bridge.

****For the return trip home, you have 2 options:** fast track it north on I-89 to exit 10 Waterbury/Stowe (turn left at end of exit, follow half mile to the stop sign and turn right onto Rt. 2W. Follow to the Access Rd.). **OR**, follow this tour that highlights more covered bridges and quaint villages.

Follow the signs to for Rt. 14N and follow this along the beautiful White River. In ~ 15 miles just past the town of Sharon look for a green sign for the Joseph Smith Birthplace. It features one of the world's tallest granite shafts (38.5' tall).

Covered Bridges: Backtrack to Rt.14N and follow into the pretty town of South Royalton. Admire the old Victorian architecture, and then turn right onto Rt. 110 N. In about 4 miles you will come into South Tunbridge. The next several miles feature many covered bridges. Look for Bel Knapp Brook Rd. on your right. The bridge is ~100' down. Follow Rt. 110 N again, and in less than a mile look for Howe Lane on the left (also see old cemetery). Covered bridge is .8 miles down. Back on Rt. 110, in .5 mile, see sign for the "Mill Bridge". This covered bridge is down this road. 2 miles further north on Rt. 110 make a right onto Larkin Hill Rd. You will see the bridge immediately.

Keep heading north on Rt. 110 towards Barre. Enjoy the scenery until Rt. 110 ends at Rt. 302W. Follow Rt. 302 W to Rt. 2W. This will get you back to I-89. Take I-89 back to exit 10 Waterbury/Stowe (turn left at end of exit, follow half mile to the stop sign and turn right onto Rt. 2 West. Follow to the Access Rd.). **OR**, if you would like to see one last covered bridge, take Rt. 2E instead into East Montpelier. Follow about 7 miles to Coburn Bridge Rd. on the left. Bridge is down this road. Then to get home, backtrack to Rt. 2W, to I-89 N. Take I-89 back to exit 10 Waterbury/Stowe (turn left at end of exit, follow half mile to the stop sign and turn right onto Rt. 2W. Follow to the Access Rd).

We hope that you enjoyed this tour! Please let us know of anything that we missed, so that we may add it to the tour.