

Covered Bridge Tour

(5 hours)



The Covered Bridges of the White Mountains are one of our best loved attractions and a tour of them makes for a very pleasant day out. On this tour you'll get to see eight of them, seven just across the state line in New Hampshire and one, possibly the most authentic and undisturbed, right here in Maine.

Starting from the Inn, turn left out of the drive. At the top of the road, turn right onto Main St (Rt 302). Follow for about 5½ miles to the crossroads with Hemlock Bridge Road and turn left. Follow Hemlock Bridge Road for approximately 1½ miles to where the pavement ends. Continue for a further mile and a half down the unpaved track until you reach **Hemlock Bridge**, Maine's oldest remaining covered bridge and one of the few still in its original remote location. Stop to take photos and enjoy the lovely views of the old Saco River meandering slowly along.



Hemlock Bridge – Maine

Retrace your steps back to Route 302 and turn right. Continue through Fryeburg, across the state line and into Conway. Go straight at the first set of lights in Conway village (Irving gas station on the corner) then take an immediate right at the second set at Washington Street to enjoy two bridges within sight of one another. The **Saco River Bridge** is the newer, built in 1890 by Frank and Charles Broughton and was reconstructed by New Hampshire Department of Transportation in 1987-89. The **Swift River Bridge** was originally built in 1850 but destroyed by floods in 1869. It was restored in 1991 and now only carries foot traffic. Parking and picnic tables are available near the Saco River Bridge and for the adventuresome, a climb to the riverbank on the upstream side will offer good views of both bridges looking down this narrow, babbling river.

For our next bridge, return back along Washington Street and turn right onto Route 16. Just about 1½ miles further, turn left onto Route 113 to take a winding lane through the backcountry on "a road less traveled." At Silver Lake turn left onto Route 41 and continue to rejoin Route 16 at West Ossipee. Turn left and then right at the light onto Route 25 and look for signs on the right to the **Whittier Bridge**. This bridge which was named after the popular 19th century poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, has been caught up in progress as it now sadly lies hemmed in between two modern highways, Routes 25 and 16. At one time, the well used span was the main thoroughfare in a busy neighborhood. After it fell into disrepair, a summer resident paid for its restoration in memory of his wife.



Whittier Bridge

Covered Bridge Tour - continued

The most remote of these historic bridges, the **Durgin Bridge** is well worth the trip. The third one to be built at the Cold River, this 1869 structure was believed to part of the "underground railroad" for slaves fleeing from the south and heading to Canada. To visit this wonderful structure, turn right onto Route 25 and follow for approximately 6 miles, then turn right onto Route 113 north towards Sandwich (note: do not take the previous turning on Route 113 to Tamworth!). After about 1.7 miles, turn right onto Foss Flat road for 1½ miles to the bridge. This is a very pleasant journey, especially during foliage season.

Continue north through the Durgin Bridge approximately half a mile and turn right onto Stevenson Hill Road. Follow for about a mile then take a right and a left onto Cleveland Road which returns you to the village of Tamworth where you can stop for refreshments at the village store. From here, take Route 113 north to Chocorua, then turn left onto Route 16. Just before you get to Conway, turn left onto the world-famous Kancamagus Highway (Route 112) which winds through the White Mountains and has been named one of the top ten scenic highways in the U. S.. On the right hand side, approximately 6 miles in, lies the 1858 **Albany Bridge** which spans the Swift River near the Covered Bridge Campground. Originally started in 1857 it blew down even before it was finished! For a quiet rest by the river, a paddle and a perfect picnic, make sure you cross the bridge and visit the other side, where the Forest Service has also placed some interesting information on the bridge's construction.



Albany Bridge

Leaving the Albany Bridge parking lot, turn right onto the Kancamagus Highway and continue for about 5½ miles before turning right on Bear Notch Road. This shortcut across the mountains affords some wonderful views and great photo opportunities. When you reach Bartlett, turn south onto Route 302 and look for the privately owned **Bartlett Bridge** which is unique among all the bridges of New Hampshire because it houses a gift shop. This bridge was constructed in 1851.



the village (and also built the Saco River Bridge in Conway), it was completely renovated in 2004 with the inclusion of a sprinkler system!

Continue along Route 302 to the traffic lights and turn north (left) onto Route 16. The last bridge on the tour is just a couple of miles further up on Route 16A. This "barn red" painted bridge crosses the Ellis River and is a well cared for and celebrated entryway into Jackson village. The **Honeymoon** or "kissing bridge" received its nickname from a local innkeeper who saw it as a way to draw attention to it - and to the village. He certainly succeeded and the bridge has been Jackson's endearing symbol for over a century. Originally constructed in 1876 by Charles Broughton who lived on a dairy farm in