

Explore covered bridges in Buckeye State

Ashtabula County blessed with a host of beautiful spans

Covered bridges are synonymous with rustic locations. The barn-like structures speak of peace and simpler times. Horse-drawn carriages, the sound of a restless stream and lush trees quickly come to mind.

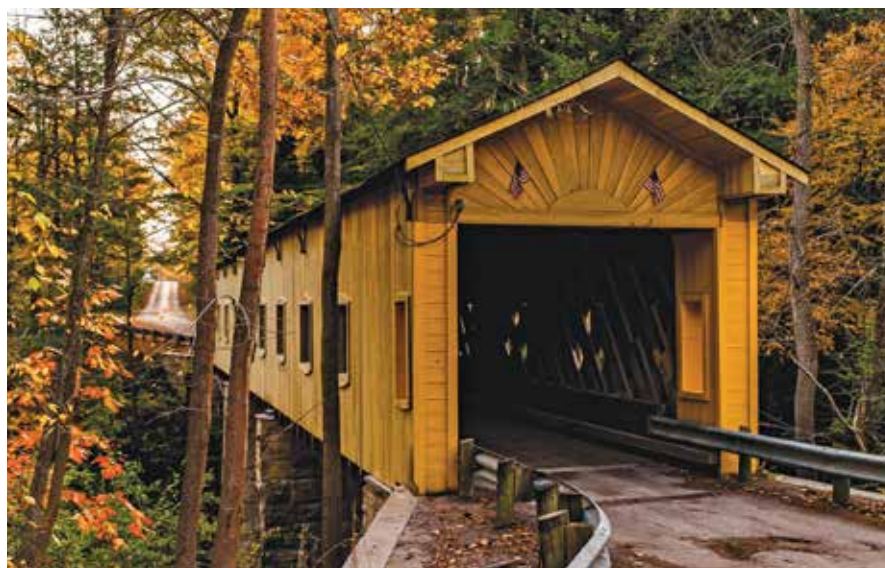
The wood under your vehicle's wheels creaks. A blanket of appreciation sets in, knowing a farmer built this structure from wood to cross a waterway in an area of God's country that is lucky to have a zip code.

Covered bridges can be found throughout the U.S., particularly in Ohio. It has more than 100 covered spans – 19 of which can be found in Ashtabula County, a sliver of charm on the state's northeast corner.

Some are dated to the mid-19th century. Others are newer; inspired by historic designs, including the longest and shortest covered bridges.

The vision of a county engineer sparked Ashtabula's idea to promote its structures. The rehab project bolstered the beauty of its historic bridges, making them coveted attractions to sightseers and photographers.

Smolen-Gulf Covered Bridge spans over the Ashtabula River and is the county's crowning glory. It's the longest covered bridge in the U.S., measuring 613 feet. Just beneath it – in Indian Trails Park – the 150-foot pedestrian-only Riverview Covered Bridge leads to hiking trails and fishing spots.



TAKE COVER – The Windsor Mills Covered Bridge lights up during autumn in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Image: Sherman Cahal. Adobe Stock.

Plymouth Township is home to the Olin Covered Bridge. Built in 1873, the 115-foot-long expanse has a Town lattice truss, based on a design by Connecticut-born architect Ithiel Town.

The Middle Road Covered Bridge highlights the small lakeside town of Conneaut. Built in 1868, it is one of the county's oldest. Root Road Covered Bridge sits fewer than 10 miles away. It

has pleasingly worn whitewashing that makes it ideal for photographing.

The area's prettiest covered bridge spans Mill Creek. The neo-Victorian Netcher Road Covered Bridge opened in 1999. It's painted red with cream trim with copulas on each end. Nearby, South Denmark Road Covered Bridge, built in 1890, crosses the same creek. The 81-foot-long span is decorated with

a colorful barn-quilt panel and is one of the county's shortest.

South of the tiny town of Geneva, which is near Geneva-on-the-Lake and more than 20 wineries, is the county's most famous bridge. The 228-foot-long Harpersfield Covered Bridge dates to 1868 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Visit the nearby Mechanicsville Road Covered Bridge. It's 156 feet in length and is the county's longest single-laned covered bridge.

The Windsor Mills Covered Bridge was built in 1867 and is listed on the NRHP. It's located off a quiet gravel road in the county's southwest corner and crosses over Phelps Creek.

Ashtabula County has the highest concentration of covered bridges in Ohio, but it doesn't have the oldest ones. Eaton sits fewer than 25 miles east of Dayton and is home to one of the longest surviving covered bridges in the U.S.

The Roberts Bridge – built in 1829 – is one of a dwindling number of “double-barreled” covered bridges (two-lane bridges with individual frames for each lane) remaining in the U.S. The 1831 Newton Falls Bridge is located 24 miles west of Youngstown. The 117-foot-long span crosses the Mahoning River.

Covered bridges are more than infrastructure. They're colorful works of art sure to awaken your senses.

Princess to unveil Park19 on upcoming vessel

Sun Princess to feature family fun, youth and teen centers

The hype surrounding the maiden voyage of *Sun Princess* keeps getting brighter. The vessel, set to sail in February, will include an engaging family activity zone named Park19. The zone will feature nine activities for a family to enjoy in a newly envisioned space ideal for all generations.

Park19 will be located on decks 19, 20 and 21 and is envisioned for active guests and multigenerational families to explore and connect inclusive activities, including:

Sea Breeze – Inspired by the dream of hang gliding but in a safe environment, the Sea Breeze is the first Rollglider on a cruise ship and takes guests high above to enjoy panoramic views of the ocean and breathtaking ports of call. Using an overhead track, guests are seated and harnessed to this electric ride, which reaches speeds of up to 11 mph during the 60- to 90-second experience that is also ADA accessible.

Coastal Climb – This engaging climbing structure has guests ascending from decks 19 to 20 through a series of obstacles. Once at the top, guests can take in the gorgeous views before sliding back down to the bottom.

The Lookout – At the top of the climbing structure, adventurers make their way to The Lookout open-air observation deck to take in stunning 360-degree views from the highest point available to guests onboard *Sun Princess*.

The Net – Harnessed above deck 19,



ADVENTURE AWAITS – Park19 is expected to provide a more family-friendly environment on *Sun Princess*, the cruise line's newest ship scheduled to debut in February. Image: Princess.

guests are challenged to trek across unstable bridges, a z-shaped balance beam and climb cargo nets.

Infinite Horizon – For those who love heights, leaning tilt walls cantilevered over the side of the ship allow guests to peer out from deck 19 and look down to deck nine and beyond.

Hammock Area – Another first for Princess, relaxing hammocks allow Park19 visitors to take a break from exploring to

hang out with family and friends.

Splash Zone – A whimsical splash area with pop jets and a beautiful water sculpture offer a refreshing and relaxing area to chill.

Recreational Court – From pingpong, shuffleboard, Xponential Fitness classes and morning meditation, a rotation of sports and wellness options will be offered to guests on this multifunction sports court.

Jogging Track – A refreshing open-air track allows guests to walk, jog or run at their own leisure and pace, with 6.7 times around the track equaling a mile.

Additional family-centric offerings onboard *Sun Princess* are found in the Youth & Teen Centers located on decks six and seven. Activities and age-appropriate areas abound for younger guests, ages six months to 17. These complimentary areas include:

Firefly Park – This family center is a place to play together or drop off kids for a program of art projects, theme parties and group games. Firefly Park also invites families with babies and toddlers, ages six months to three, to crawl and engage their senses with a dedicated play area.

Neon Grove (twins) and The Underground (teens) – Located on deck seven, two separate areas offer an inviting space for twins and teens to hang out, socialize and just have fun. Both spaces feature colorful, comfortable sofas and chairs for lounging, PlayStation 5 and Nintendo Switch gaming consoles, plus air hockey, foosball and skeeball. Program activities for these age groups include ship scavenger hunts, movie nights, friendly competitions and dance parties.

“These expanded offerings give younger cruisers plenty to explore and enjoy aboard *Sun Princess*, creating an even more family-friendly experience with something for everyone regardless of age,” said John Padgett, Princess Cruises president.