

BRIDGE TOUR OF JENNINGS COUNTY

Brush Creek Bridge

(650 N. CR 750E, Columbia Township)

This is a brilliantly designed short, little two-hump bridge. It is constructed entirely out of stone and the driving surface is only one big hump. The Brush Creek Bridge was originally built in 1895 and after rehabilitation in 2000 it is as good today as it ever was.

It's kind of a fun little bridge on a back country road. See for yourself.

Big Graham Creek Bridge

(50 W. CR 800S, Montgomery Township)

In the south of Jennings County flows a lovely little stream known as Big Graham Creek.

This is a three-span concrete arch-check bridge. Built in 1920, it has withstood the ravages of time and nature. Still standing proud across Big Graham Creek, it has a tranquil elegance - timeless and solid.

Pleasant Run Bridge

(420 N. CR 480E, Campbell Township)

This notable little bridge spans the run-off stream known as Pleasant Run Creek.

With a length of 55 feet, it provides a valuable alternative to local traffic going around the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

Built in 1905, it has provided over a century of service to the residents of this area.

The bridge's design, features and craftsmanship are more obvious from the stream bed. So if you can, check it out.

Scipio Covered Bridge

(680 N. CR 580W, Geneva Township)

This remarkable covered bridge has served the needs of area residents since 1887. Easily seen by motorists as they pass through the north side of Scipio on SR 7, it has become a landmark for locals and travelers alike.

A single-span wooden-truss covered bridge some 156 feet in length, it is a valuable passageway across Sand Creek for local traffic.

Last reconditioned in 1984, this wonderful structure could serve light local traffic for many years to come. (A significant restoration project is currently being planned for the historic span.)

Crosley Bridge

(Vernon Township)

This span (also known as the Green Bridge) is among the longest of the Jennings County bridges at 212 feet. It spans the Muscatatuck River in the heart of the Crosley State Fish and Wildlife Area.

This steel-truss structure was originally constructed in 1910 and reconditioned in 2006.

This bridge has the distinction of serving our needs in one of the most peaceful, serene settings that this area has to offer. A slow ride across the Crosley Bridge really is a trip back through time.

Flatrock Creek Bridge

(880 W. CR 1220N, Columbia Township)

There used to be hundred of these steel pony truss-style bridges. This 1895 era offering can be found in far northeastern Jennings County.

With a length of 62 feet, this one-lane structure still easily meets the needs of local traffic.

Bear Creek Bridge

(175 E. CR 800S, Montgomery Township)

Another achievement of the early 20th century bridge building boom is found on CR 800S. The concrete-arch single-span bridge is 70 feet long and 16 feet wide.

It sits in a lovely area surrounded by wooded hills and fertile farm land. With peaceful Bear Creek flowing beneath, it is a scene from Americana.

James Covered Bridge

(20 W. CR 265S, Lovett Township)

A peaceful country setting with a well kept home nearby, this is what you will see as you approach this bridge from SR 3.

One lane wide and 140 feet in length, this bridge truly is a page from the past. It was built by Barron & Hole in 1887. A Howe thru truss style structure, it has withstood the rigors of time and nature. Try driving through it very slowly. It's fun.

(This bridge is scheduled to undergo a major rehabilitation starting this spring.)

Tea Creek Bridge

(670 S. CR 650W, Marion Township)

This stout little bridge is a monument and a tribute to our forefathers. Opened to traffic in 1905, about the only service it saw then would have been of an equestrian nature. Automobiles would have been scarce at the time.

A length of 46 feet makes this single-span bridge a mighty midget. But even after more than 100 years of service, it is still sturdy and capable - well into the 21st century.

Madison Railroad Bridge

(Pike Street, Town of Vernon)

Although it wears a few battle scars and has needed a little tender loving care over the years, the Madison Railroad Bridge (also known as the Vernon Arch and Vernon Overpass) still stands ready.

This rugged bridge has the distinction of not only being the oldest bridge in Jennings County, but the oldest bridge of any kind in the state of Indiana. Built in 1837, it is constructed from limestone, brick and earth. It is a valuable link to the city of North Vernon for the Madison Railroad and a well known landmark in this area.

Base Road Bridge

(400 W. Base Road, Spencer Township)

Allowing vehicular traffic to safely cross the CSX railroad line, this clever little bridge (also known as the Haines Corner Bridge) is built entirely from wood.

Originally constructed around 1920 and completely reconditioned in 1970, it is 119 feet in length.

Having large planks as a driving surface makes the ride across this bridge a bit noisy, but it really is something you need to try.

(You had better hurry, too, because this bridge will soon be demolished as part of the U.S. 50 bypass project. Two new bridges, one for the highway and the other for CR 400W, are scheduled to be constructed across the railroad line.)

