



Parke County Covered Bridge Festival 70th Anniversary

Autumn Traditions in Covered Bridge Country

— OCTOBER 9-12, 2027 —

Surround yourself with the colors, flavors, and traditions of autumn on a long weekend getaway to Indiana's famous Parke County Covered Bridge Festival as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. In the "Covered Bridge Capital of the World," you'll discover charming festival towns filled with handmade crafts, seasonal treats, live music, and welcoming small-town hospitality. Travel scenic back roads lined with brilliant fall foliage, visit historic covered bridges, enjoy the sweet tradition of maple sugar making, and experience the glowing beauty of Harvest Nights at Newfields. From cozy countryside scenery to festive fall traditions, this four-day escape captures the best of autumn in the Midwest.

DAY 1: FALL FOLIAGE AT MORTON ARBORETUM

Begin your autumn getaway with a welcome breakfast in Milwaukee, where you'll meet your fellow travelers before heading to The Morton Arboretum. Board the Acorn Express Tram for a narrated ride through colorful woodlands and seasonal displays dressed in peak fall color. Later, continue into Indiana for a delicious group dinner before arriving in Terre Haute, your home for the next two nights. **B, D**

DAY 2: INDIANA'S BELOVED PARKE COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Today, experience the charm and traditions of the 70th anniversary Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, one of Indiana's most treasured fall celebrations. Start your day at historic Billie Creek Village, where pioneer-era buildings, artisan demonstrations, a classic general store, and festive autumn décor bring Indiana's past to life. Then continue to the town of Rockville, transformed during the festival into a lively gathering filled with craft vendors, antiques, homemade treats, live entertainment, and warm hospitality. Enjoy time to browse



the festival booths and purchase lunch from local food vendors. Be sure to try fresh apple cider pressed on an 1870s hand-cranked press and the famous homemade pumpkin ice cream. Later, set out on a guided tour through the “Covered Bridge Capital of the World” to learn about the area’s rich history and visit several of Parke County’s 31 historic covered bridges surrounded by brilliant autumn color. Return to Terre Haute this evening with wonderful memories of Indiana’s treasured fall festival. **B**

DAY 3: COVERED BRIDGES, MAPLE SYRUP, AND GLOWING PUMPKIN PATHS

This morning, continue your Parke County Covered Bridge Festival experience with a visit to the village of Bridgeton. Browse unique shops and festival vendors, sample local favorites, and explore the historic Bridgeton Grist Mill, producing stone-ground products since 1823. Nearby, you’ll find “Indiana’s Most Famous Covered Bridge,” a picturesque landmark that perfectly captures the spirit of the season. This afternoon, continue to Harris Sugar Bush for a sweet look at the maple syrup-making process. Tonight, experience the magic of Harvest Nights at Newfields, where glowing pumpkins, illuminated pathways, seasonal displays, and twinkling lights create a festive autumn evening. **B, D**

DAY 4: FALL AT THE FARM

Before returning home, enjoy one last taste of Indiana’s hospitality with a visit to Fair Oaks Farms, one of the Midwest’s premier agricultural destinations. During the Dairy Adventure tour, you’ll get a behind-the-scenes look at life on a working dairy farm. Enjoy free time to explore the grounds, browse the shop, sample farm-fresh cheese, learn more about modern farming or even grab a scoop of Fair Oaks’ famous homemade ice cream. After a delicious lunch, begin your journey home with memories of covered bridges, countryside landscapes, and cherished autumn traditions. **B, L** 

HISTORY OF THE PARKE COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL:

Founded in 1957, the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival was established to celebrate the county’s remarkable collection of historic covered bridges while showcasing the beauty of rural Indiana during the height of the autumn season. What began as a local effort to promote preservation and tourism has grown into one of the nation’s largest and most beloved fall festivals, welcoming visitors from across the country each year.



While Parke County’s 31 historic covered bridges remain the heart of the festival, the celebration has grown into a vibrant showcase of the region’s heritage. Traditional arts and crafts, local foods, live music, and heritage demonstrations fill the county’s charming communities, offering visitors an authentic glimpse into the traditions, craftsmanship, and small-town hospitality that define the area.

More than six decades later, the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival continues to preserve the county’s unique character while inviting new generations to experience one of the Midwest’s most treasured autumn traditions.

TOUR DETAILS

4 Days • 7 Meals
Oct 9-12, 2027

Price Per Person:

Double: \$1,497; Single: \$1,745
Pre/Post Hotel: \$158/night

Depart/Return:

Milwaukee, WI

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the Acorn Express Tram at Morton Arboretum during peak fall foliage
- Celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival
- Enjoy a guided covered bridge tour through the “Covered Bridge Capital of the World”
- Learn about the maple syrup-making process at Harris Sugar Bush
- Experience Harvest Nights at Newfields
- Take a Dairy Adventure tour at Fair Oaks Farms

ACCOMMODATIONS

Nights 1-2: Drury Inn and Suites, Terre Haute, IN

Night 3: Courtyard by Marriott at the Capitol, Indianapolis, IN

