

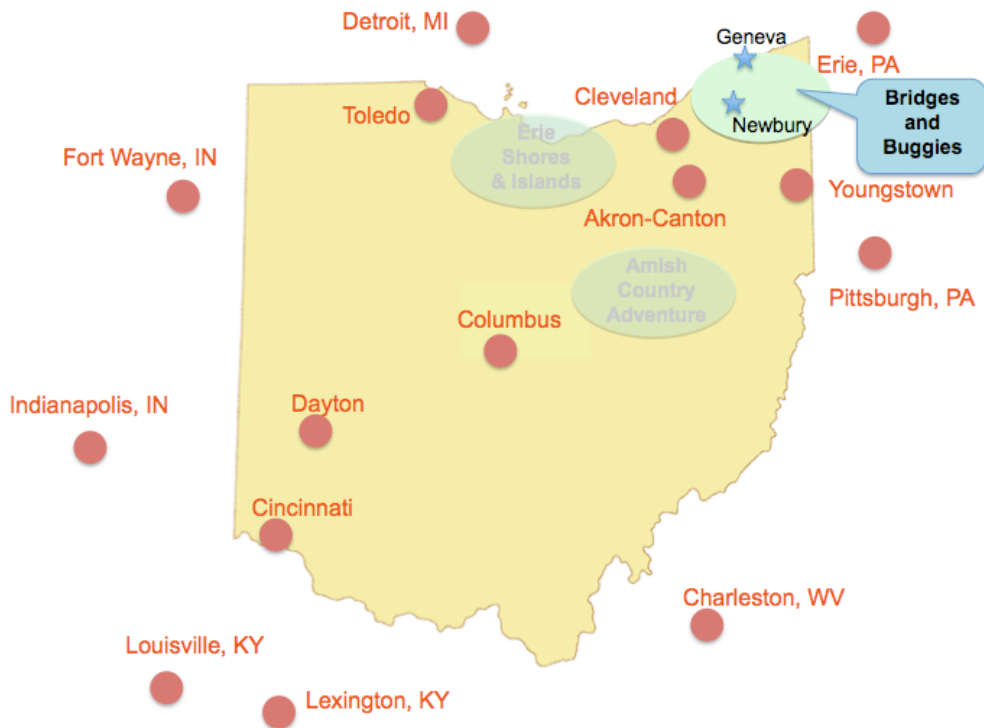
BRIDGES AND BUGGIES TOURS

September 18-20 (Bridges portion), 2014

September 20-22 (Buggies portion), 2014



Our Bridges and Buggies tours are the perfect solution for those with fewer days to dedicate to a bike tour. You have the opportunity to cycle 2 diverse areas of Northeast Ohio, 2 days apiece, with high quality accommodations at 2 beautiful Ohio State Park lodges. You can choose either of the 2 tours, both featuring easy to moderate terrain, or combine them into a single 4-day extended weekend adventure with just a one hour drive between the 2 lodges on the transition day (Saturday).



Bridges Tour Day 0 (Thur. afternoon arrival)



Arrive Thursday afternoon at the lovely [Lodge at Geneva on the Lake](#), sprawling along the shore of Lake Erie at the northeast corner of Geneva State Park. If you have the time, take a stroll across the grounds and out to the lake. Meet your fellow riders as you enjoy a signature Buckeye Country Roads wine and cheese reception followed by a luscious dinner at the Lodge.

Bridges Tour Day 1 (Fri.): (46 or 65 miles)

Following the buffet breakfast in the Lodge dining room, you will warm up your legs with a leisurely jaunt through the woods of Geneva State Park, working your way through the town of Madison and toward the lush wineries region along the Grand River Valley. Should you be inclined to taste a bit of what these wineries have to offer, and perhaps grab lunch as well you will have your choice of several great Ohio wineries including Ferrante Winery, Laurello Vineyards, Chalet Debonne, and others. On this day you will also get a sampling of the covered bridges of Ashtabula County which will be explored at much greater length the following day. Back at the Lodge you will have the opportunity to enjoy a dip in either the indoor or outdoor (weather permitting) pool, walk the shore of Lake Erie, or contemplate your free evening out in Geneva-on-the-Lake or at one of the nearby wineries for dinner on your own.

Bridges Tour Day 2 (Sat.): (53 or 67 miles)



Today we conclude this 2-day experience with a full exploration of the covered bridges of Ashtabula County, starting with the buffet breakfast at the Lodge. Heading initially toward the town of Jefferson, you'll visit the first of the 3 to 9 (depending on the distance chosen and your willingness to bike or walk a couple of short stretches of dirt/gravel) interesting covered bridges that will color our day. You will then have a chance to stop at the Victorian Perambulator Museum in the town of Jefferson, the only museum of its kind in the world where over 250 antique baby carriages are on display. Although you are not really on our Buggies Tour at this point, these baby "buggies" should amaze you. After completing the loop through Jefferson you will

continue to enjoy the serenity of the countryside, visiting additional bridges as we work our way toward the city of Ashtabula. In the heart of Ashtabula you will have opportunity to visit the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum, Ashtabula Maritime and Surface Transportation Museum, and possibly look for a nice lunch or snack along historic Bridge Street punctuated by fine chocolates, fudge and/or ice cream. Before tackling a short hill climb toward the Lake Erie waterfront you might wish to let your food settle, park your bike for a while at the river's edge and watch the historic Fifth Avenue Lift Bridge raise and lower (it happens every 30 minutes we are told).

Heading back to the Lodge to wrap up the tour, you will be able to swing through Geneva-on-the-Lake a final time, perhaps to take a later lunch at one of the funky little places along the lake or taste wines at the Old Firehouse Winery or the Lake House Inn and Winery.

We'll all bid a sad farewell to the Lodge at Geneva on the Lake, but if you are continuing on to the Buggies Tour, you will simply load up your car and relocate to Punderson Manor Lodge where your next 2 days of cycling adventures await.

Buggies Tour Day 0 (Sat. afternoon arrival)



Arrive Saturday afternoon at the very charming [Punderson Manor Lodge](#) nestled deep within Punderson Lake State Park overlooking the lovely wooded Punderson Lake. After settling into our rooms at the Lodge we'll take a short drive down the highway in our personal vehicles to have an opening night wine and cheese reception at the Sharon James Winery, followed by an Italian dinner.

Buggies Tour Day 1 (Sun.): (38 or 59 miles)

After our buffet breakfast at Punderson Manor, our cycling Sunday morning will take us north toward the villages of Chardon (the maple syrup capital of Ohio) and Hambden. We'll cycle through a number of lush parklands, enjoying the great natural beauty of this area. The [Maple Highlands Trail](#) allows us to pedal along several miles of paved greenway, away from the sparse but ever present car traffic. Once we reach Chardon you may wish to pick up some Ohio maple syrup or otherwise satisfy your sweet tooth at [Richards Maple Products](#). Just south of Chardon find a spot on the patio of the [Bass Lake Taverne](#) for a sandwich or their sumptuous Sunday brunch.

Sunday evening we'll regroup to swap stories from our cycling day over wine and cheese, then relax with dinner at the Lodge overlooking scenic Punderson Lake.

Buggies Tour Day 2 (Mon.): (38 or 58 miles)



Today we wrap up our all too brief tour of Geauga County, home to the second largest Amish population in Ohio and the 4th largest in the world. We'll visit the Amish communities of Burton, Middlefield and Mesopotamia, then head south and east for additional glimpses of the Amish lifestyle in this unspoiled rural area. As you ride the back roads in this area, frequented by the horse-drawn buggies, you'll learn that these roads are not exactly paved with gold but rather with a different "material."

While in Burton the [Century Village Museum](#) offers historical insight into the area. Both Burton and Middlefield offers many local shops to explore, whether its antiques, leather goods, wood crafts, Amish baked treats, chocolates or cheeses you may be looking for. If you choose the longer route on this day you'll also be visiting Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park where you might want to catch a glimpse of its very interesting sandstone cliffs, and you'll pass through the towns of Garrettsville and Hiram.

Once you have experienced Ohio Amish life on the flat to rolling roads of this tour, perhaps you'll want to get ready for the more challenging week-long Amish Country Adventure next time around?

What is included with the registration fee?

Your registration fee covers 2 or 4 nights' room accommodations in luxurious state park lodges with beautiful woods and lovely lake views in abundance. (Leave your tents and sleeping bags at home). Awake each morning to an included hot buffet breakfast, and enjoy dinner on us for three of the four evenings (one night on the Bridges Tour is on your own to explore the town of Geneva and the Geneva-on-the-Lake entertainment district along the Lake Erie waterfront), or just hunker down in the gorgeous dining room at the lodge for a meal of your choosing while gazing out at Lake Erie. Also included are daily snack stops offering a wide variety of fruit, cookies, candy bars and Gatorade/water. Naturally each day's ride is rewarded with a wine and cheese reception before dinner, at which time we will sample local products from area wineries and cheese shops. Also included are showers at the lodge upon your return at the end of the tour. We provide creative route design, detailed maps and cue-sheets for each day's route, full SAG support and service, and meticulously marked routes for you to follow.

What is not included?

Not included in the registration fee, besides the one dinner on your own on the Bridges tour, are costs of admission to museums and other attractions along the way, since we have no way of controlling who would be interested in visiting which one. Also you will need money for any miscellaneous purchases at restaurants, wineries and shops you may wish to visit. Alcoholic beverages with our included dinners are at your own expense.

Can I buy wine along the route?

Yes, we will designate certain wineries along the Bridges Tour routes for you to sample and purchase wine and we will pick up your purchase(s) for you and hold them as long as you'd like. At the end of the tour you can simply pick up your stash and take it home to enjoy as a souvenir of the trip. On the Buggies Tour the first night's winery reception will be your only chance to buy local wine, and of course you can load it right into your vehicle that evening to bring home or back to your room. Any cheese, chocolate and pastries you purchase you will have to eat on the spot or carry with you on your bike or person.

Buckeye Country Roads Bicycle Tours, Ltd.

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