



Linn County Covered Bridges Tour  
With  
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC

Summer is in full swing now and it's time to get out and about to see some of the local heritage and historic locales so today we departed for a tour of several of the Oregon historic covered bridges located in Linn County.

This Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, all-inclusive tour included 8 historic covered wood bridges and 2 covered foot bridges. The tour included transportation from Bend and Sunriver and a picnic lunch along side one of the historic bridges. Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at [www.gadaboutadventures.com](http://www.gadaboutadventures.com) to receive a Calendar of Tours.

Our first stop was at "Short Bridge", named after a local resident, near the city of Cascadia, OR. The Short Bridge is the sole survivor of the covered bridges which spanned the South Fork of the Santiam River. Quite often visitors to this idyllic location see deer and other wildlife nearby.

Next stop is the Weddle Bridge in Sweet Home, OR, which is currently under renovation efforts and construction to ensure it is preserved for many years to come. The Weddle Bridge was moved from its original location on Thomas Creek in 1980 and finally found

its current resting place in 1989 in Sweet Home's Sankey Park. The location is often used for family and community gatherings and is also the site of one of the two covered foot bridges we visited.

Also in Sweet Home was our second historic covered foot bridge located in a small community park several miles from the Weddle Bridge. This foot bridge spans Ames Creek and is very quaint.

Our third stop found us in Crawfordville, OR for a picnic lunch under a 300 to 400 year old Sitka tree (see photo) along side the Crawfordville Bridge.



Once handling daily crossing on a state secondary highway, the Crawfordville Bridge now lives in a wayside park that is the site of the annual Crawfordville Days community celebration.

Following lunch we head off to visit the only standing reminder of what was once the town of Gilkey, OR, the Gilkey Bridge. This heirloom exhibits open sides and curved portal openings. It is also the site of a popular swimming hole that did not disappoint us. Some of the locals even thrilled us with some diving exhibitions from the train bridge situated parallel to the Gilkey Bridge. Note the diver and his reflection in the water. Quite the leap, eh?



After departing the Gilkey we drove a few miles to the city of Crabtree, OR, to see the Hoffman Bridge, which was of special interest to one of our guests because Hoffman is her maiden name. Upon arriving at the Hoffman Bridge we were delighted to find wild Blackberries ripe for the picking along side the bridge.

Built primarily with hand tools, the upper timbers of the Hoffman show Adze marks where the workers shaped them by hand. Single timbers were used for the entire span and hand hewn into the square support beams. This bridge is painted white and has two Gothic windows on each side that offer a view down into the creek below.

Following our visit to the Hoffman Bridge was the Shimanek Bridge, the only red covered bridge in Linn County. This is the fifth covered span at this location, dating back to 1861. The bridge boasts louvered windows on each side, with a cedar shake roof. And, much to our surprise, more wild Blackberries along both sides of the bridge. Several of the guests took the time to “harvest” a personal bounty of the sweet ripe berries.

A few miles down the road and we arrive at the Larwood Bridge, built near the confluence of Roaming River and Crabtree Creek. Due to this location at the confluence this is a popular site for picnics and fishing with the locals and schools of Brook and Rainbow Trout could be seen from the bridge. Larwood park also has an uncovered historic wooden foot bridge across Crabtree Creek that must be used to access the park swimming and picnic area.

The final bridge for the day is Hannah Bridge, located along highway 226, on Camp Morrison Road. Built on land from an original Donation Land Grant from 1846, Hannah Bridge handles daily crossing over Thomas Creek. It too is popular with those who like to swim and fish and is of particular interest to Fly Fishermen because it allows access down to water level from the highway side and is home to spawning salmon.

Our final stop was a quaint little diner at the junction of highway 226 and highway 22 for an afternoon treat.... hand scooped home made ice cream and a chance to sit and relax in the patio area and enjoy the cool afternoon air before the final leg of the trip home. Most everybody couldn't pass up the ice cream and even the few who chose other refreshments enjoyed the park-like setting of the patio area.

The drive home took us through the Black Butte Ranch area and the city of Sisters with expansive views of the snow capped Cascade Mountain range, finishing the day back in Bend by early evening. All in all an enjoyable day was had by everybody!!

Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, located in Sunriver, OR, thanks you for joining us in a fun and educational day to visit these treasured historic sites.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators  
Gadabout Serene Adventure, LLC  
541-593-6200  
[www.gadaboutadventures.com](http://www.gadaboutadventures.com)