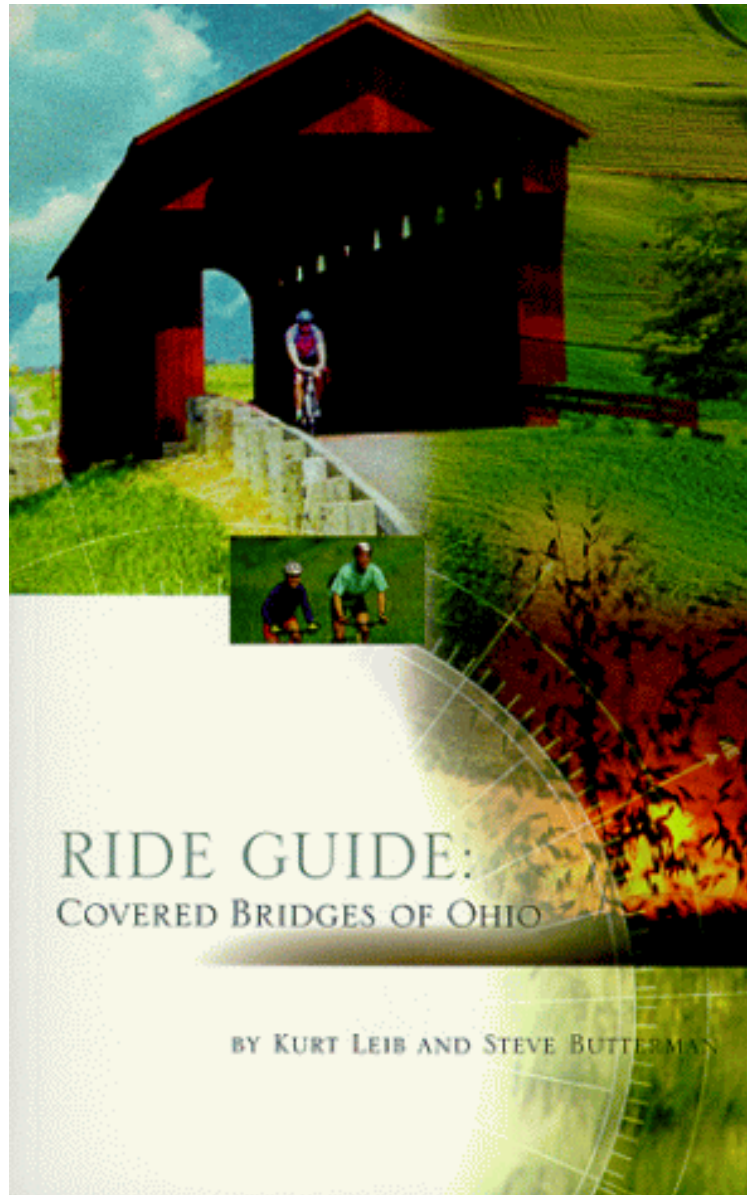


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Ride Guide : Covered Bridges of Ohio

Kurt Leib, Steve Butterman

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Kurt Leib, Steve Butterman : Ride Guide : Covered Bridges of Ohio before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ride Guide : Covered Bridges of Ohio:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ohio Covered Bridges. By Anne C. Lara The book --Ride guide to Ohio's covered bridges is a very well done book regarding covered bridges in Ohio. I bought this as a future Christmas gift for a relative in Ohio who studies covered bridges--a senior citizen--who loves old Ohio history--this will be a

good book to read through for my Aunt. Glad I found it listed in internet. Thanks. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Bridger's Dream By Jim Joyce, Bikexchange.com Authors Kurt Leib and Steve Butterman are "Bridgers," that is, "bridge-hunting fanatics." Taking it one step further, they could be termed, "Covered Bridgers." And how can one blame them? They live in a state where there are still 37 remaining covered bridges, structures of beauty and interest to even the most humbug of travelers. You match that presence with an already seasoned, cycling-friendly state known for its small towns with neat, tidy squares, and you have great fodder for a terrific ride guide. Leib and Butterman have done us a long due favor. And they are well-groomed to pen this guide. Leib is a journalist and a frequent contributor to the regional cycling tabloid, Bike Midwest. Butterman is a historian. Both love cycling. And covered bridges. The meat of the book is the very thorough description of 11 suggested tours that are charted within seven Ohio counties. The tours vary in length (24 miles is shortest, 60 miles is longest) and in degree of difficulty, so even a beginner teen or adult cyclist with a handful of 20-mile rides under the belt could find one to enjoy. On the flipside, there are some longer, more hilly, and downright tougher rides, many of which include gravel roads, a better fit for a mountain bike. Some include all paved roads but most have at least some stretches of dirt road, making a "hybrid," mountain bike, or road bike with wider tires the best fit. At the beginning of each tour chapter, to the right of the book crease, the authors give a quick description of the terrain, road conditions, traffic level, and points of interest. Printed to the left of the crease is a simple map of the route, leaving out just enough details to keep the "lightweight" map readers from getting confused. This gives a quick synopsis of and look at the tour. What I thought was missing from this quick snapshot was a little, square map with a dot pinpointing the tour's location in the state. Instead, I had to flip back to the beginning of the book to find the one larger version of the Ohio map, which has the location of every tour in the book marked with numbered dots. This missing, small map, however, was my only complaint. Following the one-sentence descriptions of terrain, traffic, etc., the authors provide an interesting, several-page read on each tour, covering the history of the area and of the specific covered bridges in the route. This was the most interesting part for this reviewer--HistoryChannel fanatic. Immediately following this text in each chapter is the all important route cue sheet. The sheets are very thorough and include: point to next point mileage, cumulative mileage, street (and route) name and important landmarks. Each route is well-covered and quite detailed, but where the book really delivers for the connoisseur is in the Glossary and the Preface. The glossary provides simple diagrams and definitions of at least a dozen types of bridge designs, so amateur carpenters and would be engineers get a special treat. In the "Basic Data on Bridges" section of the glossary, the list includes each bridge in the book, its date of completion, its length and its "truss type" (explained earlier in the glossary). The preface gives the rationale for touring these bridges via bicycle and provides a short, interesting history of the emergence of the covered bridge, her rise to prominence, her gradual, nearly wholesale replacement by new structures, and her preservation and great admiration in recent decades. The book is slim (107 pages), easy to pack, and specific information can be easily found within despite the absence of an index. I have always lived within an hour of Ohio and I have been waiting for such a book for a long time. I love the subject and I love riding in Ohio. I've already picked out my first personal tour--Ashtabula County, Eastern Leg. This small book will "loom large" on my shelf of regional touring guides. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Scenery! By Swiss Family Robinson I have ridden one of these rides, and found it to be a very pleasant ride. Nice scenery, little traffic, and great flat straightways mixed with some hills (which my riding partner had trouble with). It was by far the best ride I have been on this season. Cyclists who have been waiting for a book of Ohio/Midwest rides should definately put this book on their list.

Tucked out of the way along the scenic back roads of Ohio are about 100 historic covered bridges. Many of these quiet back roads are also ideal for cycling. What better way to visit these vintage structures than on two wheels? **RIDE GUIDE: Covered Bridges of Ohio** provides all the information you need to visit 37 of Ohio's remaining covered bridges. There are maps and cue sheets for 11 rides throughout the state, with directions to the starting point, notes about traffic and road conditions, and plenty of information on the bridges themselves. There are loops for cyclists of all skill levels, from relatively flat, 24-mile tours to rides of up to 60 miles. And an illustrated glossary will make you an expert on covered bridge design in no time!

About the Author Steve Butterman, the primary researcher and writer of this book and veteran of thirty years of bike-touring, is also the author of the bike-touring classic, "Bicycle Touring: How to Prepare for Long Rides." He has also authored two children's books, "Rootbeer Beard" and "The Honeybee Rebel," and two humorous story collections: "Tales as Tall as a Sunflower" (gardening-related) and "That's so Funny, My Hair Fell Out!" (about his successful battle with cancer).