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THE NATURAL BRIDGE OF VIRGINIA
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2011 FACT SHEET

**THE NATURAL BRIDGE
OF VIRGINIA**

245-feet beneath the arch, face to face with the immense natural wonder and National Historic Landmark, guests of all ages experience Thomas Jefferson's awe-struck fascination when he first set eyes on it in 1767.

The Natural Bridge, 36,000 tons of limestone at 1,160 feet above sea level, with a 90 foot span about 245 feet above Cedar Creek and a width of 50-100 feet, carries US 11 and its traffic across the wide steep ravine carved by the creek. The 450,000 cubic feet of rock making up the Bridge is over 500 million years old.

**THE NATURAL BRIDGE
CAVERNS**

While sculpting the Bridge 3 million years ago, nature also worked on the Natural Bridge Caverns, and is still at it in the East coast's deepest, "live" Caverns. Thirty-four stories down under, visitors have the unusual experience of seeing formations still growing, including the largest independent dripstone stalagmite on the East Coast in the Colossal Dome Room.

**NEW BUTTERFLIES
AT THE BRIDGE**

Virginia's largest indoor butterfly garden allows guests walking among tropical plants & trees to experience up close hundreds of exotic and native butterflies, and to witness the butterfly lifecycle from pupa to adult. Open March-November.

A visit to The Natural Bridge & Caverns seamlessly blends fun and learning in a unique, striking, natural, unconventional setting. The historic Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center, "Butterflies At The Bridge", Wax Museum, Toy Museum, restaurants, and shops are also on site.

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS

On US 11 & 130 in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, just minutes off I-81, exits 175 & 180; 15 minutes off the Blue Ridge Parkway, MP 61.6.

HOURS

The Natural Bridge, open year-round 9am until dusk. The Caverns open March-November, 10am.

ADMISSION

The Natural Bridge & Caverns Combination Ticket includes everything: \$26, \$14/ages 5-12 (under 5, free); also "Butterflies At The Bridge", Cedar Creek Trail, Monacan Indian Village, Wax Museum, Toy Museum. Save on both the Bridge & Caverns when purchasing the Combination ticket.

The Natural Bridge only: \$18, \$10/ages 5-12, same attractions as above, excluding Caverns. Caverns only, \$14, \$9/ages 5-12.

**PACKAGES & TICKET
SPECIALS**

Special ticket offers and packages including accommodations, attractions, and breakfast at www.NaturalBridgeOffers.com.

SERVICES

Optional complimentary shuttle service down to and up from The Natural Bridge; wheelchair accessible trail.

THE NATURAL BRIDGE	Once purchased from England by Thomas Jefferson in 1774 the Natural Bridge became America's first tourist attraction. Around 1750 George Washington surveyed the area and his initials that he carved into the Bridge can still be seen today.
NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS	In addition to dripstone, draperies, stalactites and stalagmites, the cave's special features include the Colossal Dome Room and its massive flowstone, the Canyon Room and its Hanging Rock, the Well Room, Mirror Lake and its salamanders; rare cave beetles, and Emma, the cave ghost. Walking shoes and sweater suggested.
CEDAR CREEK TRAIL	The historic Cedar Creek Trail, winding beyond the Bridge to Lace Falls, is approximately 1 mile long. En route are Saltpeter Cave, Lost River, and the Monacan Indian Village.
MONACAN INDIAN VILLAGE	The Bridge remains a sacred site for the Monacans. At the replica Monacan Village, Living History Interpreters demonstrate Woodland Indian life at contact with settlers, circa 1700s; open March-November.
DRAMA OF CREATION	45-minute, colorful night illumination of the Bridge accompanied by a symphonic score, and biblical story of the Creation; presented daily at dusk March – October.
WAX MUSEUM & FACTORY TOUR	A 3-dimensional trip through American History with over 150 life-size figures incorporating sound, light and animation. Life-like human replicas are produced in the on-site factory-studio. Hours vary seasonally.
TOY MUSEUM	The large collection of toys, games and dolls represents over 250 years of childhood heritage and culture. Hours vary seasonally.
NATURAL BRIDGE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER	Located adjacent to The Natural Bridge, the historic Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center features Blue Ridge Mountain views, colonial style guest rooms, with affordable rates, and the Colonial Dining Room. Packages with breakfast, and attraction passes include discounts. Pets welcome. Accessible rooms. Free internet.
DINING & SNACKS	The Colonial Dining Room is open daily for breakfast and dinner. Friday and Saturday night specialty buffets feature live entertainment. The Red Fox Tavern serves lite fare and alcoholic beverages. Archway Grill & Summerhouse Café offer snacks and casual lunch and dinner options.
MEETINGS, EVENTS, PRIVATE BANQUETS & CATERING	Receptions, meetings, events, bus tours, retreats, reunions, and weddings of 25 to 400 people can all be accommodated on property. Flexible packages suit a variety of budgets and needs.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	SOL compliant school field trips, homeschool days, and scout days.
SHOPPING	The Natural Bridge Gift Shop carries an assortment of items, including t-shirts, baseball caps, books, cds, dvds, Virginia specialty foods and wine, jewelry, coffee mugs, and hand-dipped ice-cream. Open daily from 9am to dusk. The Caverns Gift Shop opens at 10am, March-November.
CONSUMER CONTACT INFORMATION	<p>THE NATURAL BRIDGE OF VIRGINIA 540-291-2121; 800-533-1410 www.NaturalBridgeVA.com www.Facebook.com/NaturalBridgeVA www.Twitter.com/NaturalBridgeVA</p> <p>US 11 & 130, 15 Appledore Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578 LAT+37.628200; LONG-79.544653</p>