

We're Outta Here has always been about escape. Taking opportunities when they rise for you and yours to simply pack up the bike and head to a romantic little hide-away.

Although these are written for you, the *Backroads* reader, we follow that credo too. So, when the first weekend of 2007 rolled around with temperatures in the 60s we took advantage and headed out with our friends Rob and Joyce to a most excellent treat in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania. Give us a few minutes and we'll tell you all about it 'cause *We're Outta Here!*

Although the Stone Bridge Inn has an old European flavor to it the buildings are irily new, built back in 1979. In those days the place was called Sol Hemma; as the years went by the Inn went by a few different names until 1993 when it was purchased by Kim and Elliot Ross and it was renamed the Stone Bridge, after a small one bridge on a dirt road that crosses the East Branch Tunkhannock Creek about 1/2 mile from the Inn.



Sitting on 200 acres and overlooking Elk Mountain the Stone Bridge truly is a hidden getaway. Our ride up there took us across the small private bridge at Dingmans Ferry and then a quick stop at Child's Park. It had rained hard the previous night and the waterfalls were as strong and powerful as we had ever seen them.

We swung up around Hawley and then along some small backroads I knew of to the Delaware river where we rode along the twisty serpent called River Road. From there it was west on 37 and 374 towards Union Dale.

All too soon we rolled up the hill and into the small circular driveway to settle into our room for the night.

All the rooms are tastefully appointed and ours had a small fireplace as well, which added to the cozy feel. Our room ran \$150 for that weekend stay.

After we relaxed for a while we strolled over to

the heated indoor pool and spent an hour or so bouncing between it and the small hot tub.

If you feel like Tiger Woods there is a small miniature golf course and horse-rides as well. Nothing like a little healthy competition off the bikes every now and again.

The real battle came the next morning when we discovered a number of board games in the comfortable common area and after a fierce game of checkers I finally sunk my battle-ship. Damn!

When dinner comes around you will be astounded by what the Stone Bridge Inn has to offer.

First off they have a multi-level pub, with numerous fireplaces and a pool table for more competition. Their beer selection is wide and the wine list superb (very important to us), but nothing compared to the meals they serve at their gourmet restaurant.

We sampled a few excellent choices; Clams steamed open in a Guinness and garlic broth - yum - my veal chop was superb, Joyce's salmon most excellent, and the duck was the best we have ever had....ever!

Desserts were also scrumptious and were the perfect way to end such a magnificent dinner.

By the time we were done the pub was hoppin' to some local musicians who were really talented and all in all it was a great evening made better by the fact that it was the first weekend of the new year and we were already on a road trip. It couldn't get much better.

The Stone Bridge Inn is truly an excellent escape and not all that far of a ride from the tri-State region.

As usual we'll give you a great ride there and promise that you will have a wonderful evening at the Stone Bridge Inn.



Rip & Ride®
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- START: DINGMANS BRIDGE AT NJ/PA BORDER**
- STRAIGHT AT RTE. 739**
- LEFT AT SILVER LAKE ROAD**
- RIGHT AT RTE. 402**
- LEFT AT US 6**
- RIGHT AT RTE. 590 (HAWLEY)**
- FOLLOW RTE. 590 TOWARDS LACKAWAXEN**
- LEFT AT WELCOME LAKE RD - SR 4003**
- LOOK FOR WOODLOCK RESORT SIGN**
- RIGHT AT PEGGY'S RUNWAY**
- RIGHT AT RTE. 652**
- LEFT BEFORE BRIDGE - RIVER ROAD**
- BEAR RIGHT AT SPLIT TO STAY ON RIVER ROAD**
- LEFT AT RTE. 371**
- STRAIGHT AT RTE. 374**
- LEFT ON RTE. 374**
- WHEN 374 BEARS TO RIGHT**
- GO STRAIGHT ON SR 2027**