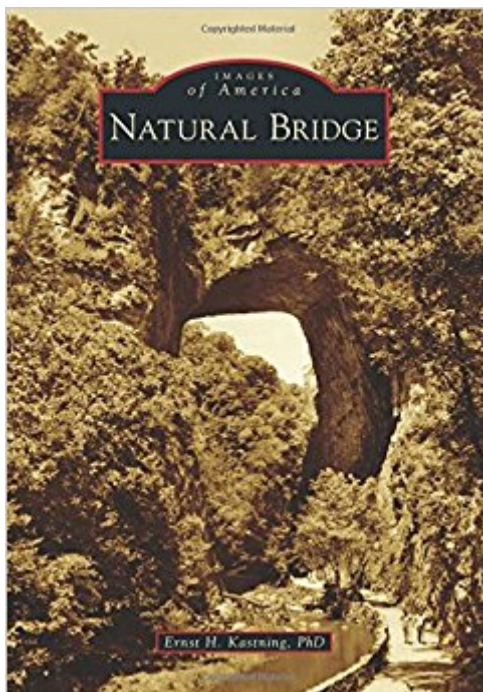


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# Natural Bridge (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

Natural Bridge, located in the historic Shenandoah Valley, is one of the most recognized and visited geologic landmarks in the country. The massive 90-foot-wide arch spans Cedar Creek, which runs 200 feet below. Legend says that George Washington, as a young land surveyor, carved his initials on its wall. In 1774, King George III granted ownership to Thomas Jefferson. Natural Bridge was often regarded as the “Eighth Natural Wonder of the World” during the 19th and 20th centuries. The site became a popular venue for events, ranging from conventions to the annual Easter Sunrise Service. Hotels, inns, and cottages were built to accommodate travelers, and on-site attractions—including a show cave, a wax museum, and a Monacan Indian village—broadened visitor appeal. Natural Bridge remained privately owned until 2014, when the title was transferred, allowing it to become a state park; the bridge will now truly belong to the people, a concept that would have made Jefferson proud.

## Book Information

Series: Images of America

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (October 13, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467122386

ISBN-13: 978-1467122382

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,876,272 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Bridges #310 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Monuments #4174 in Books > Travel > Pictorial

## Customer Reviews

Ernst H. Kastning, PhD, is a consulting geologist and historian. During his 48-year career as a hydrogeologist and engineer, he taught at universities in Kentucky, Connecticut, and Virginia. He has explored, mapped, and studied caves in over 40 states, primarily Virginia, Texas, New York, and in New England. Kastning writes and lectures extensively on geology, speleology, and history.

Great photos of the evolving hotels serving tourists to Natural Bridge. Easter Sunrise Services and after-dark theatrical productions have benefitted from the drama of this magnificent rock formation. The book is a useful read before visiting Natural Bridge.

This was a wonderful book, full of historic information and delightful pictures. It appeared to be well researched; confirmed some of what I knew, and answered some questions about which I had been wondering. I read it cover to cover in one sitting, and wished there were more.

Natural Bridge has a long and fascinating history which Kastning does an excellent job of conveying. Over the centuries countless thousands have viewed and enjoyed this scenic wonder in the Shenandoah Valley. The ingenuity of its promoters has been truly remarkable, and this book describes the many commercial and recreational uses to which Natural Bridge has been put. The photos and text in this book cover all aspects of the attraction, even down to details of the restaurant kitchens and equipment for the sound and light show. Recommended for both visitors to the site and those more generally interested in a great American attraction.

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