

Notable Sites Along the Verde Canyon Railroad

UNSTOPPABLE Stacey

Cheat Sheet

Just to let you know, this is just a fraction of the notable sites along the way. You'll find more in the full-color 62-page guide you can purchase onboard. The attendants will point out others not even listed in the book! But these are my favorites:

- Mile Post 38** Slightly north of the Clarkdale train depot, look for the mile post sign.
- Mile Post 37** Watch for dark, cave-like shapes on the west-northwest side of the tracks. About 1/3 of the way from the top, your eye will catch a small cliff dwelling in the light-colored limestone layers.
- Mile Post 35** The railroad trestle here was fashioned by reusing the original turntable bridge from the Prescott, AZ, seven-stall roundhouse.
- Mile Post 33.5** You're now traversing the Verde Canyon Railroad's highest and longest bridge. Step out into the open-air car, and you'll have plenty of photo ops.
- Mile Post 30** From here, at the confluence of Sycamore Creek and Verde River, we enter the gorgeous canyon.
- Mile Post 28** Sycamore Siding is the only railroad siding in the Verde Canyon.
- Mile Post 22.5** Enter the 734-foot-long tunnel cut through a sharp promontory way back in 1911. The tunnel curves under its roof of solid limestone, so you cannot see the end of the tunnel when you enter the dark.
- Mile Post 19** Here's where we encounter a through-truss steel bridge that spans a side gorge of the Verde Canyon.
- Mile Post 18.5** Perkinsville is now a ghost town but once was a whistle-stop where lime, produced from the nearby limestone quarry and kiln, was loaded for shipment to the Clarksdale smelter. It's here that the FP7 locomotives disconnect and are sidetracked to the "back" of the train. On the return to Clarkdale depot, you can follow the mile post indicators in numerical order.