

Welcome to Verde Valley!

A Brief History of Verde Valley, Arizona

With nearly 10,000 years of human habitation by a diversity of cultural groups, the Verde Valley has a long and rich history to share. Archaeologists identify the Valley's first human inhabitants as belonging to the nomadic Clovis culture, followed by the more sedentary Hohokam from the south. The Sinagua entered the region from the north and constructed the Tuzigoot Pueblo and the cliff dwelling at Montezuma Castle around 1000 A.D., but abandoned the area in the early 1400s.

While there is continuing dispute about the chronology, archaeologists generally place the arrival of the Yavapai around 1300, though their oral tradition suggests a much earlier time. The entrance of the Apache people is considered to have occurred between 1250 and 1450. A band of Spanish soldiers traveled through the Camp Verde area in 1582-1583, twenty-five years before the founding of Jamestown. Other than the mention of the Verde Valley in several travel logs, there are few remaining artifacts from this period of brief Spanish contact.

White settlers arrived in 1865 and began farming along the Verde River and its tributaries, beginning with a 200-acre settlement at the confluence of the Verde River and West Clear Creek. Although many of the settlers came to the Valley to farm and ranch, a rich mineral strike in the Black Hills in the late 1870s attracted a wave of newcomers and resulted in the establishment of the towns of Jerome and Clarkdale.

Today Fort Verde State Historic Park, the Yavapai-Apache Cultural Department, the Camp Verde Historical Society Museum, and the Verde Valley Archaeology Center have all made it their mission to preserve and protect the legacies of these various cultures. Visitors are encouraged to visit these sites and discover what historically made Camp Verde and the Verde Valley such attractive places to live.

For more info on...

- Clarkdale: <https://www.clarkdale.az.gov/visitors/index.php>
- Cottonwood: <https://www.visitcottonwoodaz.org/>
- Jerome: <http://azjerome.com/jerome/>

→ Average weather in Clarkdale forecast in May: 92° / 55° high/low (82° / 60° in Jerome), so bring your swimsuits and sunblock!

Sights & Activities

Clarkdale: Hop aboard the [Verde Canyon Railroad](#) for the longest running nature show along the Verde River. Spot bald eagles and enjoy an array of special events onboard throughout the year. Experience the [Arizona Copper Art Museum](#) housed in the restored Clarkdale High School with its dazzling array of thousands of gorgeous copper artifacts (some of which you can touch). Float the Verde River with experienced local [river outfitters](#) and enjoy unspoiled riparian areas adjacent to the Audubon Important Birding Area in Tavaschi Marsh. Dance the night away every weekend to live music. Explore the [Tuzigoot National Monument](#) featuring the ruins of an ancient Sinagua Indian pueblo. Savor local terroir at Clarkdale's wineries, the [Chateau Tumbleweed](#) tasting room and winery or the [Southwest Wine Center](#) in the heart of Yavapai College's Verde Campus in Clarkdale.

Cottonwood:

- > <https://www.visitcottonwoodaz.org/>
- > <https://www.visitcottonwoodaz.org/old-town.html>
- > <https://www.visitcottonwoodaz.org/outdoors.html>

Jerome: <http://azjerome.com/jerome/attractions/>

Nearby Attractions: *If you have any interest in visiting Arizona's local attractions and nearby cities, please shoot us an email at desert.twisters@gmail.com for personal recommendations!*

Sedona: <https://www.sedona.net/shuttles> (this lists some info on things to do in the area)

Grand Canyon, Kingman, Williams, Wickenburg, Tonto National Forest, Kingman, Route 66, Prescott, Bisbee, Tombstone, Phoenix Valley, Lake Havasu, and more...

Our Event Venues

Saturday, May 29th at 3pm (doors open at 2pm) - Strip Mine Express Tournament at [Main Street Cafe](#) in Clarkdale, AZ

Opened in March of 2008 in a historic building in downtown Clarkdale, Arizona, their goal is to be a friendly, comfortable dining place for locals and tourists alike. They did a lot of renovation to the building, and the menu is diverse featuring both lunch and dinner items. There are daily specials, and dinner entrees featuring steak, chicken, and fish, with prices ranging from about \$13 to \$20. Burgers and hot sandwiches range from about \$9 - \$11. We also have fresh housemade pizza and feature a selection of appetizers and desserts!

You can dine in our restaurant, get your food "to-go", or enjoy it next door at the 10-12 Lounge—they'll deliver it to you there while you enjoy their music or a drink. A great stop

for a meal after taking a Verde Canyon Railroad or Clarkdale Kayak Co. trip! Also perfect before or after a "Concert in the Park" during the summer.

Sunday, May 30th at 1pm (arrive early) - Desert Twisters Meetup & Top 4 Strip Mine Express Championship at [Verde Canyon Railroad](#).

The Little Engine That Did. Verde Canyon Railroad...

Along with the State of Arizona, Verde Canyon Railroad celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2012. As the Railroad shifts into its next 100 years of rail service, it is still significant to reflect on the journey that brought them to this celebratory juncture.

It all started in the tiny town of Jerome, Arizona that clings to a steep-angled mountainside two thousand feet above the valley floor. There is nothing easy or accessible about Jerome, yet during its heyday, over 15,000 residents called this vertical burg their home. They were here for the mines, which through the decades, churned out a billion dollars worth of gaudy ore. It was the wealth of the mines that lured them but it was the railroad that brought them.

The railroads were the arteries that conquered the unforgiving landscape and fed the communities of the Verde Valley. While the mines have been closed over half a century, the Railroad continues to be an economic engine for the region.

In 1895, the first track laid directly into Jerome was the United Verde & Pacific Railway, which originated from Jerome Junction near Chino Valley. With 186 curves on the short 26-mile narrow gauge stretch, the Railroad became known as the crookedest line in the world. The builder, William Andrews Clark, also owned United Verde Copper Company and would continue to leave his indelible imprint on the area, including a town with his namesake.

The shift from underground to open pit mining led to a complete restructuring of Jerome and the surrounding area. Construction of a new smelter began on the valley floor and on an entirely new town. Clarkdale — named after William Andrews Clark — was Arizona's first company town and designed with precision planning and technological advancements far from the norm in the early 1900s. The community of sturdy brick homes included modern conveniences such as electricity, sewer and copper piping.

In 1911 Clark financed construction of the Verde Valley Railroad, a 38-mile standard gauge line from Clarkdale to Drake. It took 250 men using picks, shovels and DuPont black powder one year to complete the task. It was an astonishing feat considering that the line included a 680-foot tunnel carved through a mountain and a trestle spanning a 175-foot gorge aptly named S.O.B. Canyon.

Verde Valley Railroad proved to be a workhorse, continuing to haul passengers and freight even after the mines closed. In 1988 Dave Durbano purchased the line. On his first ride through the unspoiled wilderness, he knew that this was a treasure, both scenic and historic, that must be preserved. Verde Canyon Railroad was born.

The first excursion train of the Verde Canyon Railroad rolled out of the Clarkdale depot on November 23, 1990. It carried neither freight nor ore, only people. They were not seeking a better way of life, but the beauty of a wild river-carved canyon where eagles nest among high cliffs and wind makes music in the cottonwoods. Along the way they hoped to catch a glimmer of the ones who came before, whose perseverance, vision and hard work made it all possible. That's what a railroad is: not just lengths of iron linking one place to another, but a symbolic connection of the past to the present.

Today people travel from all over the world to ride the rails into the Verde Canyon — an average of 90,000 people per year. They come to experience the sights and to revel in the casual elegance of train travel as they discover the heritage of the landscape. It's a journey worth taking. It is the scenery that lures them but it is the Railroad that still brings them ... because it's always a good day when you're on a train.

Monday, May 31st at TBD - Brunch at the Mine Cafe in Jerome or Crema Craft Kitchen in Cottonwood (Will confirm Sunday... No reservation, just walk-in casually)

Our Favorite Bars & Restaurants

Jerome

- [The Haunted Hamburger](#)
- [Asylum Restaurant](#)
- [The Flatiron](#)
- [Bordello of Jerome](#)
- [Vaqueros Grill & Cantina](#)
- [The Clinkscale](#)
- [The Mine Cafe](#)
- [Bobby D's BBQ](#)
- [Spirit Room](#)
- [Caduceus Cellars and Merkin Vineyards](#)
- [Grapes Restaurant & Bar](#)

Cottonwood

- [Tavern Grill](#)
- [Pizzeria Bocce](#)
- [Villaggio](#)
- [Cork and Catch](#)
- [Randall's Restaurant](#)
- [Adriana's Mexican Food](#)
- [Wholesome Fast Food in Cottonwood](#)
- [Bing's Burger Station](#)
- [BombAZ Grill](#)
- [3 Kings Kasbar](#)
- [The Old Town Cafe](#)
- [Pepe's Cafe](#)
- [Crema Craft Kitchen](#)
- [Hog Wild BBQ](#)
- [Verde Lea Market Deli & Grill](#)
- [Juanita's Taqueria](#)
- [Mrs. Masaki](#)
- [Mai Tai on Main](#)
- [Thai Place Oldtown](#)
- [Fojol bros](#)

Clarkdale

- [Main Street Cafe](#)
- [Smelter Town Brewery](#)
- [Violette's Bakery](#)
- [Clarkdale Caboose](#)
- [10-12 Lounge](#)

Lodging Options (not to including Airbnb & VRBO)

As a courtesy, the Desert Twisters have reserved several rooms with the historic Park Hotel in Clarksdale at 20% off. This becomes \$140 per night (taxes not included). If you'd like to take advantage of this discount, we encourage you to reach out to that establishment to hold your room as soon as possible citing the Desert Twisters during your reservation. This ensures availability for the event.

We have also listed some of the popular accommodations in the area ranging in price. **This will be a very busy weekend, so please be sure to secure lodging as soon as you can!** Sharing rooms with friends or family is also welcome, as it helps to keep costs effective. We also suggest looking into AirBNB, VRBO and other such homestay websites.

Below is a list of Hotels & Inns which have rooms reserved under the names "Kathleen 'Kyra' Sacdalan" (sorry, that's a long one) or "Desert Twisters." Don't wait, May is a busy time of year in Verde Valley (and all over Arizona), and availability might not last long.

RESERVED LODGINGS:

Please note! The Park hotel has reserved spaces for us. You must call them to reserve and tell them you're with the Desert Twisters.

You cannot book online because they set aside all their rooms for us. Thanks!

[Park Hotel in Clarksdale](#) - \$140+ (taxes not included)



Welcome to the quaint, historic town of Clarksdale. The building that is now home to Park Hotel was originally built in 1915 and has undergone an amazing revitalization to feature five king rooms, one grand king room, and one queen suite. All seven rooms are on a second story level, have kitchenettes, and display beautiful views of Mingus Mountain and Town Park right across the street. Park Hotel is located in the heart of wine country

and also sits above Smelter Town Brewery, which operates on the first floor of the same building. Other nearby attractions within walking distance include the Verde Canyon Railroad and the Arizona Copper Art Museum. Sedona and Jerome are only a short 20-minute drive away.

Amenities:

- High-end bath products
- Desk and work area with charging station
- Wall mounted 50-inch flat screen TVs
- Soothing sound machine
- In-room coffee maker
- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Hair dryer
- Free Wi-Fi and high speed internet
- Daily housekeeping service

Details:

- All rooms are on second story, no elevator
- No smoking or vaping
- No pets allowed
- Check-in at 4pm
- Check-out at 11am
- Front door locked at 9pm, code needed to enter
- NO LATE CHECK-INS

RECOMMENDED LODGINGS:

Jerome: <http://azjerome.com/jerome/lodging/>

Cottonwood: <https://www.visitcottonwoodaz.org/lodging.html>

If you are planning to travel outside of the Verde Valley and would like recommendations for lodging, please email us - desert.twisters@gmail.com.

[Clarkdale Lodge](#) - \$99, 2 per - \$139, 6 per (taxes not included)



The Clarkdale Lodge is an historic building that was built in 1914 and originally used as a boarding house for unmarried employees of the local copper smelter. It was subsequently converted into apartments which we are now modernizing to a high standard while preserving historic details where possible.

All apartments are tastefully furnished and have HDTV's in both sitting and bedrooms. High speed Internet access is provided throughout via WiFi, and kitchens are fully equipped and ready to use.

The deck you see in the photos is a large shared area accessed from the upstairs hall. It has gorgeous views and makes a perfect place to sit and have a glass of wine in the early evenings. There is a shaded patio area underneath it on the ground floor for when the weather is too warm to sit in the sun.

GUEST ACCESS

In addition to the apartment you are staying in, all guests have access to a public sitting area upstairs stocked with books and games, and a second story view deck overlooking the Verde Valley.

Amenities:

- Large Deck
- HDTV's
- High Speed Internet, WiFi
- Kitchens are fully equipped

Details:

- No smoking
- No parties or events
- Check in is anytime after 3PM
- Check out by 11AM

[Mescal Canyon Retreat](#) in Clarkdale - \$125 (tax not included); 5 night minimum



We offer a rustic, off the grid, Arizona Bed & Breakfast Retreat in a unique setting. Our Southwest Bed & Breakfast retreat is an Arizona High Desert oasis, bordered by National Forest, secluded and yet close to Clarkdale and Sedona. Our hand built passive solar sustainable B & B is nestled in a verdant permaculture landscape with a terraced organic garden. All created by your hosts, Andrea and Rennie.

Our Southwest Bed & Breakfast retreat has a separate stone building with two bed & breakfast rooms with private baths, as well as private patios, a secluded hot tub terraced retreat with fireplace and a beautiful canyon view of Arizona High Desert. We have now completed our new Canyon Studio building, located adjacent to the BnB rooms. This is a community room with a full kitchen, eating and relaxing area. It is a hand built stone building with a fireplace and flagstone patio with a view up Mescal Canyon. This new building allows guests to prepare their own lunches and or dinners. It gives our guests the opportunity to relax and unwind without leaving the property.

The Guest House is a free standing, passive solar stone building separated from the Main House by a courtyard. It consists of 2 Guest Rooms.

The Sage Room offers a queen size bed, private bathroom and small patio with a shared native grass lawn. It has a view of Mescal Canyon and the Foothills of Mingus Mountain.

Amenities:

- Wifi available by request at an additional cost.
- Linens, organic bath & shower products
- Two Bed & Breakfast Rooms with private baths in separate stone building houses
- Private patios, secluded hot tub terrace with fireplace and canyon view
- New Canyon Studio Communal Room with Kitchen, Dining and Living Space, Outdoor Patio with Mescal Canyon View
- Delicious organic continental breakfast – Full gourmet breakfast
- Massage available in massage studio in the garden
- Quiet environment, no TV or phone in room
- Wireless Internet access
- Walk to foothills trails, Mescal Canyon Springs, and Mingus Mountain Wilderness Area
- 30 minutes to Red Rock Country & Sedona
- Central to the Verde Valley Wine Country

[Ghost City Inn](#) in Jerome - \$95 - \$145 (tax not included)



Built around 1890 as a boarding house for lodging middle mine management, this building has seen many uses. Although most of its life has been spent as a boarding house, this Jerome building served as an ashram as well as a restaurant in prior years.

The building went through a major restoration project in 1994, 2003 and again in 2014. From the Victorian elegance of the Verde View Room to the rustic feel of a north woods cabin in the Northern Exposure Room the owners have made each room special and inviting. The building still carries some of the uneven floors and original beadboard ceilings. All our rooms have private bathrooms, Direct TV, ceiling fans, and air conditioning.

ALTERNATE LODGING OPTIONS:

- [Super 8 by Wyndham Cottonwood](#) \$87.54 - \$102.99 +/- per night - two-person room; \$96.04 - \$112.99 +/- p/n - four-person
- [Jerome Grand Hotel](#) \$185 +/- p/n - two-person **(2 rooms left!)**
- [The Vinyards B&B](#), The Vineyard Villa (only available) - Note 2 night minimum to book \$425 + - 4-6 person
- [The Surgeon's House](#) \$210 \$250 +/- p/n - two-person rooms
- [The Connor Hotel](#) in Jerome \$145 - \$185 +/- p/n - two-person
- [Tavern Hotel](#) in Jerome \$189 +/- p/n - two-person
- [The Iron Horse Inn](#) in Cottonwood \$184 - \$236 +/- p/n - two & four person
- [Rio Verde RV Park](#) in Cottonwood \$44 - \$58 for Camp/RV; \$120 for Tiny House - four-person
- [Rain Spirit RV Resort](#) in Clarkdale \$46 - \$49 p/n; \$52 for pull-through
- [Little Daisy Motel](#) \$75 + p/n - two & four-person
- [The View Motel](#) in Cottonwood \$80 - \$155 p/r - 2 - 5-person rooms
- [Hillside House B&B](#) in Jerome \$155 one night, \$250 two nights, \$700 week

Travel & Transportation Options

- **Airport to fly into:** Phoenix Skyharbor Airport (PHX)
- **Suggested Airline:** Southwest Airlines offers two free checked bags, no fees to change or cancel your flights
- **Options to get from PHX to Prescott:**

To search a bit on your own:

<https://www.rome2rio.com/map/Phoenix-Airport-PHX/Cottonwood-Yavapai-County-AZ-USA>

Airport Shuttles

- [ACE XPRESS SHUTTLE SERVICE](#) provides door to door from anywhere in Phoenix to anywhere in Cottonwood
Phone (800) 336-ACEX
Local (928) 639-3357
Address: 515 Airpark Rd, Cottonwood, AZ
- SEDONA-PHOENIX SHUTTLE, Catch this service at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. It will drop you off at their Cottonwood location. Phone: (928) 282-2066

Rentals

- Try an overpriced hippie van - <https://www.boho.life/>
- The normal rentals work too - Enterprise

→ Planning to drive? Pick up the [Arizona G1](#) or [Route 66 West](#) Butler Maps for an epic road trip!

Carpool with Friends

Call your local Arizona buddies, there's a chance we have space in our vehicles and are heading north at the same time you are. It's the cheapest and most friendly option!

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES In & Around the COTTONWOOD area...

- CK's Need A Lift ~ 649 E Cottonwood St, Cottonwood - (928) 301-1982
- [RED ROCK TAXI](#) ~ Cottonwood, Arizona - (928) 634-7777
- Herri Cab Cottonwood (928) 639-3399
- AVI Transportation Services (928) 284-4222
- C.A.T.S. [Cottonwood Area Transit Service](#)