



MON  
MAY 6

TUE  
MAY 7

WED  
MAY 8

THU  
MAY 9

FRI  
MAY 10

SAT  
MAY 11

SUN  
MAY 12

FULL  
WEEK  
SCHEDULE

# A Trip on the Verde Canyon Railroad



★★★★★ 0 RATINGS //

4 May 2013



Travel in style and take in spectacular scenery aboard one of the great train rides of the U.S.



STORY BY:  
**JAN ROSS**  
FOLLOW: [@janross53](#)

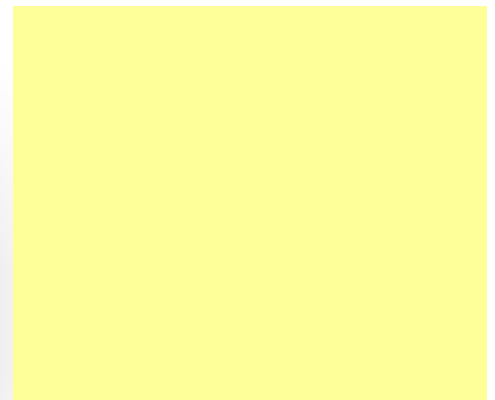
## TAGS

[Family Travel](#) [Modes of Transport](#) [Train Travel](#)

Lounging back on the comfortable love seat, I popped a chocolate brownie in my mouth. There was a sumptuous spread of food on the table before me and someone was strolling around taking drink orders. I could not be more comfortable. This was the way to travel. *On a train.* No tiny airline seats, no elbows poking your head as people pass, no seats reclining into your lap, no dry peanuts. No matter that this was technically a joy train ride, not a trip from point A to point B. For one luxurious afternoon, I could experience how the “other half” travel.

Taking a trip on the Verde Canyon Railroad in Clarkdale, Arizona, is a very popular outing. The parking lot was full and people were streaming into the quaint depot to buy tickets. Luckily, we had tickets waiting for us. Because they had been arranged for us, I had no idea if they were coach or first class. Lucky for us, they turned out to be first class. The only option better than first class may just be the caboose, which you can rent for private groups of six or less.

We stepped into our train car and were instantly amazed by its luxury. Our two seating choices were soft and comfortable love seats with a coffee table or a pair of cushioned chairs with a high table between them. We made an immediate beeline for the loveseats and settled in. Bowls of potato chips and bottled water were already set neatly on our table, along with



## T+E TOP 5



### ESCAPES

1 [Costa Rica](#)

2 [Morocco](#)

3 [Spain](#)

4 [Mexico](#)

5 [New Zealand](#)

### ARTICLES

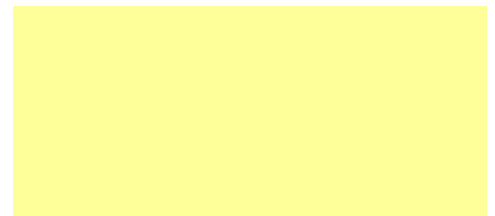
1 [Top Tourist Scams](#)

2 [Top Cottage Getaways](#)

3 [Top Road Trips](#)

4 [Hot Travel News](#)

5 [Web Original Series](#)



napkins and silverware.

After we had boarded, an announcement informed us that there would be a food spread once we were underway. We had already eaten lunch but still managed to pack away fresh veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, chicken drumsticks and brownies. Drinks were available for purchase. Many passengers enjoyed bottles of local wine as we tooted along, taking home what they didn't finish.

First class on the Verde Canyon Railroad includes access to a private viewing car—a great place to get great photos. The area we travelled through was mostly untouched by human occupants—we saw a few dwellings, but the ruins of the tiny settlement of Perkinsville were a stark reminder of how difficult life can be in this region. Of course, this means that the windswept desert and towering mountains are clean, unspoiled and stunning. We saw beautiful mountain streams and rivers meandering through deserted landscapes, and the only sound was the quiet noise of the train as it passed through.



Credit: Jan Ross

The Verde Canyon train runs from Clarkdale to Perkinsville, Arizona, on a trip that lasts about four hours total. A trip on the railroad is a wonderful family activity, especially for young train enthusiasts. The train runs year round and the scenery is different during each season. Schedules and ticket prices vary widely, so check the [website](#).

## You might also like...

- [PHOTOS: 5 Mind-Blowing Canyons in Arizona](#)
- [9 Tips for Surviving Long Train Rides](#)
- [The Mystical Vortexes of Sedona](#)



## JAN ROSS



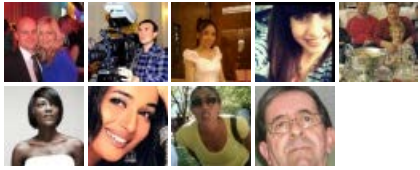
After a lifetime of travel, Jan Ross can pack a bag and hit the road with very little notice, although she will always have a little black dress and some snazzy shoes in there. She loves to travel with her husband of more than 35 years as he is a great photographer and she is often way too busy having fun to think about taking pictures. Active travel or relaxing, she is up for it all!


FOLLOW: [@janross53](#)



**Travel and Escape**  


46,671 people like [Travel and Escape](#).



 Facebook social plugin