

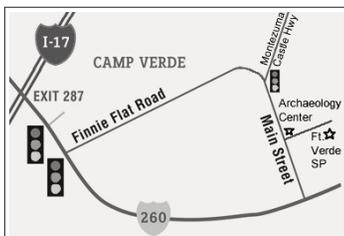
Verde Valley Archaeology Center

The Verde Valley hosts a unique and varied collection of ancient cultural sites. The presence of mega-fauna, such as mammoth, camel and giant sloth, in a savanna-like climate attracted the Paleo-Indian (11,500 to 9,000 B.C.). The end of the big-game hunting appears to have occurred very abruptly, sometime about 9,000 B.C. when most of the big game disappeared.

About A.D. 650, a group known to archaeologists as the Sinagua entered the Verde Valley. By A.D. 1125, the Sinagua expanded their occupation of the Verde Valley and for the first time constructed cliff dwellings and masonry structures near present day Sedona to Camp Verde. The Verde Valley was abandoned by the Sinagua about A.D. 1400. The ultimate fate of the Sinagua is unknown although there is substantial evidence linking the Sinagua with today's Hopi Tribe.

The **Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum** explores the ancient cultures of the Verde Valley area with exhibits and displays on:

- ▶ The Paleo-Indian big-game hunters
- ▶ The Sinagua culture of Palatki, Montezuma Castle and other sites
- ▶ The Yavapai and the Apache who still reside in the Valley
- ▶ And the tools and methods of archaeology



Verde Valley Archaeology Center
385 S. Main Street, Camp Verde
 10 am to 4 pm - Sundays 12 to 4 pm
 (closed Tuesdays) Free admission
www.vvarchcenter.org
 928-567-0066



Montezuma Well



Pictographs at Honanki



Prehistoric cultures who lived in the Verde Valley have left a priceless record of architecture and artifacts for research and education



Montezuma Castle National Monument



Montezuma Castle, located near Camp Verde, features a well-preserved cliff dwelling. It was occupied by the Sinagua from A.D. 1125-1400. The five-story stone and mortar dwellings contain 20 rooms and once housed about 50 people. **Montezuma Well** is a flooded limestone sink hole 55 feet deep formed by the collapse of a large underground cavern. Water enters a ditch that date back over 1,000 years.

Directions to the Castle: Follow I-17 to exit 289. Drive east (through two traffic circles) for approximately 1/2 mile. Turn left on Montezuma Castle Rd.

Directions to the Well: Follow I-17 to exit 293 (4 miles north of the exit for Montezuma Castle). Follow the signs for four miles to the entrance to the Well.

Hours: Daily 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Fee: \$5 or a discounted rate of \$8.00 for both Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle National Monuments. Annual and senior passes are honored. There is no fee at the Well.

Docents: Ranger programs, on various topics, are scheduled each morning at 10:30 and 11:30 at the Castle. Please note these programs are subject to staffing.

Visitor Center: A Museum has exhibits depicting the life style of the Sinagua. There is also a Western National Parks Association bookstore and restrooms.

Castle Trail: A 1/3-mile loop trail leads you past the cliff dwelling and along spring-fed Beaver Creek.

Well Trail: A short uphill trail; the trails to the bottom of the Well and ditch involve some steps.

Wheel-chair access: Yes at the Castle but difficult at the Well.

Website: Use QR Code

Phone: 928-567-3322



Tuzigoot National Monument



Tuzigoot is an ancient pueblo built by the Sinagua. The hilltop pueblo consisted of 110 rooms including second and third story structures. The first rooms were built around A.D. 1000.

Directions: Enter Cottonwood on Hwy 89A. Continue on Historic 89A through "historic Cottonwood" toward Clarkdale. Follow the signs as you leave Old Town.

Hours: Daily 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Fee: \$5 or a discounted rate of \$8.00 for both Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle National Monuments. Annual and senior passes are honored.

Docents: Ranger programs are offered daily at 10:30 am but are subject to staffing.

Visitor Center: Renovated museum with exhibits depicting the life style of the Sinagua, including interactive computer programs in addition to artifacts. There is also a Western National Parks Association bookstore and restrooms.

Trail: A self-guided, 1/3-mile loop trail leads you around and through the pueblo. The trail also offers outstanding views of the Verde River and Tavasci Marsh. Another 1/2 mile round trip trail takes you to a beautiful constructed overlook of Tavasci Marsh.

Wheel-chair access: Access is possible but difficult

Website: Use QR Code

Phone: 928-634-5564





Yavapai-Apache Nation



The modern Yavapai-Apache Nation is the combination of two distinct tribal people. The Yavapai refer to themselves as the Wipuhk'a'bah and the Apache refer to themselves as Inne' (The People) or the sub-branch, Dil'zhe'e (The Hunters). Both of these ancestral tribes lived in the Verde Valley and the surrounding country for centuries. The Dil'zhe'e lived mostly east, and the Yavapai west of the Verde River. Currently, the Yavapai-Apache Nation's reservations house nearly 50% of the enrolled members.

Directions: Follow I-17 to exit 289. Drive east for approximately 1/2 mile to the intersection of Montezuma Castle Road.

Hours: Monday - Friday; 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Fee: Free

Docents: None

Cultural Resource Center: The Yavapai-Apache Cultural Resource Center is located near Cliff Castle Casino. The Center offers both Apache and Yavapai culture preservation, as well as a digital and technology program that archives and preserves written and oral history. The Culture Resource Center provides several activities throughout the year that heightens the awareness about history, culture and tribal traditions. The Center lobby has a small exhibit area.

Wheelchair access: Yes.

Website: www.yavapai-apache.org or use the QR Code.

Phone: 928-649-6945



V Bar V Heritage Site



Operated by the Coconino National Forest, this is the largest petroglyph rock art site in the Verde Valley, as well as one of the best preserved. The Sinagua created over 1,000 images here between A.D. 900-1300. Several of the images may operate as a solar calendar to determine ceremonial and planting times.

Directions: 2.8 mi. southeast of the I-17 at Sedona Exit 298, just beyond the Beaver Creek Campgrounds.

Hours: Friday through Monday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Fee: A Red Rock Pass or equivalent is required per vehicle. Red Rock Passes are sold at the site.

Docents: On-site hosts and volunteers offer interpretive information.

Visitor Center: The Visitor Center is located about 100 yards from the parking area. Vault-type toilets are available near the rock art site, and a bathroom is available at the Visitor Center. There is also an Arizona Natural History Association gift shop.

Trail: The rock art site is reached after an easy hike of about 1/3-mile from the Visitor Center.

Wheelchair access: The trail is wheelchair accessible but not the petroglyph viewing area.

Website: Use QR Code below

Phone: 928-592-0998



Palatki Heritage Site



Operated by the Coconino National Forest, the site includes Sinagua cliff dwellings that were occupied between A.D. 1100-1300. It also has one of the area's largest panels of pictographs representing several different native cultures going back several thousand years. Rock art areas include the *Grotto*, *Bear Alcove* and, if sufficient volunteers are present, the *Roasting Pit* area.

Directions: From West Sedona take Dry Creek Road and follow the brown directional signs. The road is mostly paved but becomes a rough gravel road. From Cottonwood, take FR 525 north.

Hours: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm daily. Reservations (928-282-3854) are requested.

Fee: A Red Rock Pass or equivalent is required per vehicle. Red Rock Passes are sold at the site.

Docents: On-site hosts and volunteers offer interpretive information.

Visitor Center: The Visitor Center is located about 100 yards from the parking area in a historic ranch house built in the 1920's by homesteader Charles Willard. Vault-type toilets are available at the parking area. There is also an Arizona Natural History Association gift shop.

Trail: The trail to the first rock art site is about 1/4 mile from the Visitor Center over a moderate incline. The trail to the cliff dwelling is about 1/4 mile and includes steep rock steps.

Wheelchair access: No.

Website: Use QR Code

Phone: 928-282-3854



Honanki Heritage Site



After Montezuma Castle, Honanki is the largest cliff dwelling in the Verde Valley (A.D. 1150-1300). Honanki originally stood two stories tall in places and has about 40 ground floor rooms. One of the unique aspects of Honanki is its large collection of over 2,000 pictographs. Honanki received a "Save America's Treasures" grant that was created to fund repairs and improvements to "nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites."

Directions: From West Sedona take Dry Creek Road and follow the brown directional signs. The road is partially paved but becomes a difficult gravel road in parts for cars. From Cottonwood, take FR 525 north. As you near the red rocks there is a fork in the road. Honanki is on the left fork. This section of the road is not recommended for passenger cars.

Hours: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm daily. The site is monitored by a site steward from Pink Jeep.

Fee: A Red Rock Pass or equivalent is required per vehicle. Red Rock Passes are sold at the site.

Docents: None

Visitor Center: None. Vault-type toilets are available near the parking area. Drinking water is not available.

Trail: A 3/4-mile roundtrip loop trail goes through a pinon-juniper forest that leads to the Honanki site. Near the site you can take the Discovery Trail offshoot, but either side of the fork leads to the ruins.

Wheelchair access: Only a small portion is which does allow access to the viewing Ramada.

Website: Use QR Code

Phone: 928-282-3854

