



DAY TRIP TO HILLSIDE

From Prescott · Yavapai County, Arizona



RAILROAD AND
ROAD

RURAL HAMLET

A few households and a K–8 school district on private land. No services confirmed. Checked October 19, 2026.

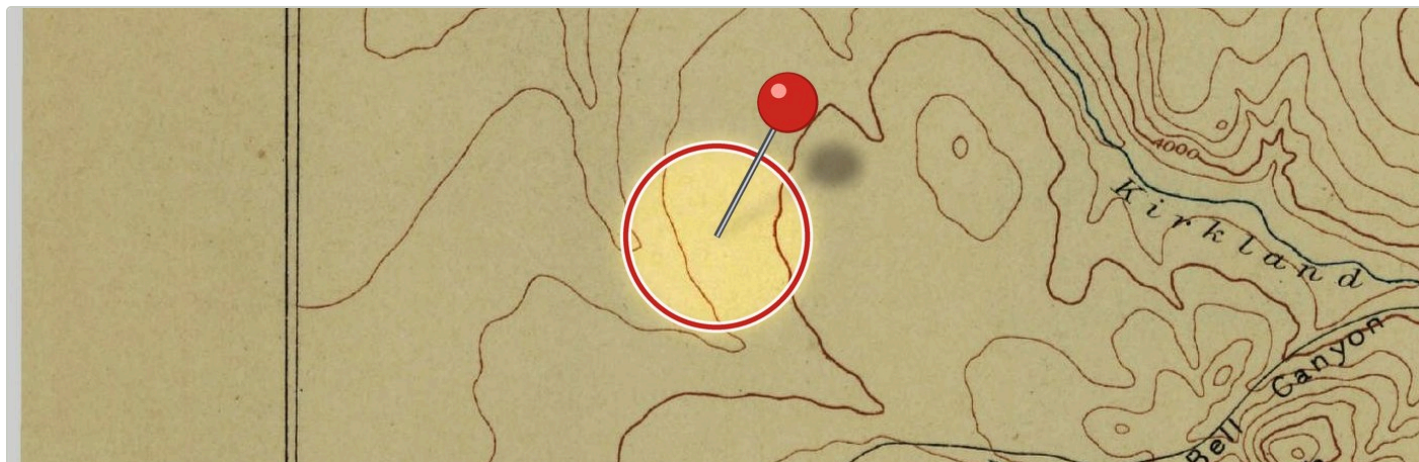
Hillside is a lived-in hamlet, and its depot is gone, so the trip is a drive through the ranch country west of Prescott and a short look from the public road. Make it a morning and spend the afternoon back in Prescott.

A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 9 a.m. | Leave downtown Prescott on Miller Valley Road and Iron Springs Road, which becomes Skull Valley–Kirkland Road, through Skull Valley and Kirkland. It's about 1 h 10 min to Hillside. |
| ☐ 10:10 a.m. | Drive slowly through Hillside on the county road. Look for the rail line and siding where the depot stood, the school north of the old station grounds and Hillside Peak to the west. |
| ☐ 10:45 a.m. | Head back the way you came. |
| ☐ About noon | Back in Prescott for lunch. |
| ☐ Afternoon | The Sharlot Hall Museum at 415 West Gurley Street is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday from October to April. It's closed Mondays. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$9 for ages 10 to 17 and free for children 9 and under. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The main line.** Trains still run on the BNSF line through town. Shoot from the public road, never from the tracks.
- **Hillside Peak.** The low peak just west of the tracks makes a backdrop for the town and the curving rail line.
- **The school.** Hillside's K–8 school still runs. Photograph it from the road, not the grounds.
- **Drones.** We found no published rule. Hillside is private homes beside an active railroad, so ask before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1892 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	43 mi, about 1 h 11 min each way from downtown Prescott. From Phoenix: 91 mi, about 2 h 45 min.
OPEN	A small community on public county roads. Homes, yards and the old store building are private, and the BNSF main line is active.
FEES	None listed.
SERVICES	We couldn't confirm any store, food or fuel in Hillside. Fill up and eat in Prescott, and carry water in summer.
RESTROOMS	None listed.
ROAD	Main county roads from Prescott through Skull Valley and Kirkland. OpenStreetMap doesn't record the surface on most of the Kirkland–Hillside stretch. Date Creek Road, south toward AZ 89, is dirt, and a 2002 account calls its creek crossings dangerous in flood season.
ON FOOT	Stay on public roads, off private land and off the tracks.
PERMITS	None listed.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 34.41840, -112.91710 · 34°25′06″N
112°55′02″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/hillside/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.