



10 Fun Facts!

Once inside the museum make a right. A few feet ahead you will see the Santa Fe Depot to your left.

1

Some of the buildings in the layouts take years to complete. Expert modelers scale them from the original structures and build the models from scratch. The Santa Fe Depot located in the HO scale, San Diego Arizona layout, took a dozen people nearly 10 years to



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Continue down this corridor. About 10 feet on your right, you will find the cemetery.



2

Hidden away in the O scale Cabrillo and Southwestern layout you will find a small cemetery. Engraved on each of the headstones are the names of club members who have passed away.

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Make a left at the Santa Fe sign, then another left at the RR Crossing. The next attraction will be on your left.





3

If you pay attention, you might notice that there are a number of accidents in each layout. You might even encounter people chasing chickens after the chicken coop truck flipped over. Keep an eye out, there are more accidents than you would think there are!



Continue a couple of feet to view the buildings.



4

Make sure to take a glimpse inside some of the buildings on the HO scale San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway layout. You will be amazed at what you will find!

At the end of the corridor, take the stairs to the mezzanine.





5

The Bakersfield to Mojave layout has been under construction for 35 years. Including materials and labor, it is currently valued at nearly three million dollars.



Walk to the end of the corridor and make a left, and then another left. Follow the ramp



6

In 1962, a group of teenagers founded The La Mesa Model Railroad Club after they were barred from participating in a local club for being too young. Now, the La Mesa Railroad Club has one of the strongest reputations in the nation.

Continue about 20 ft more to find Caliente.

7

In the Bakersfield to Mojave layout, look for the region called Caliente. There you will find a tableau featuring a bull chasing a man! That man, modeler David Willoughby went to the area to do research for the layout. Little did he know that in the cow pasture he entered has a bull guarding his harem. The bull charged! David lived and memorialized in miniature his bovine close encounter.





8

Occasionally, the La Mesa Club will run an operating session on the Bakersfield to Mojave line. During this session, the club selects a specific date during the Transition Era (1940 - 1959) and replicate a 24-hour train timetable schedule.

9

Watch your head! Certain parts of the layouts are so tricky, club members have to duck and crawl to get a view of their running train.



10

Our Collections Room houses over 1,800 items, with hundreds yet to be cataloged. Aside from storing scale model trains, the collection even consists of whiskey decanters, toys and even a manicure set.