Measure all bones from the center of the joints on either side of them.

*Lumbo-sacral junction* - You can often just look for the highest point of the horse's croup. If you can't see that, or are not sure that it is the correct location, pinch or press with your fingers on either side of the horse's spine, over the loin area. He should flex downward from the pressure, and the area of his croup at which he flexes (the "hinge") lies directly over the lumbo sacral junction.

*Top of the shoulder blade* - first find the point of the shoulder, which is a large knob, about the size of a baseball, below and to the side of the place where your horse's neck attaches to his chest. Feel that knob, then run your hand up along the bone that connects to it, feeling a sort of groove as you go. Follow that groove up until you feel a flat, fan shaped bone forming a rounded bump under your hand. Find the center of that fan, the highest point of the bone, and you have the top of the shoulder blade.

*Top of the femur/hip socket* - feel along your horse's pelvis about halfway between the "hip bone" and the point of the pelvis at the back. You may be able to feel a slightly harder place along this line, under the thick muscle. If you can't find it, lead the horse, and feel for the joint again. It will move under your hand and you should be able to locate it, or at least be close enough to it for a general idea of how to measure it.

*Front of the lumbar span* - feel along the underside of your horse's belly, to find his ribs. Follow up along the last rib, until you get close to the spine. (You will not be able to follow that rib all the way up to the backbone, but you should be able to get close). Remember that the ribs curve as they come out of the spine, so that the top of that last rib will be closer to the horse's withers than the bottom of it. The back of the lumbar span is at the lumbo sacral junction.