



WELCOME TO DESOTO STATE PARK

See and Enjoy the Facilities and Natural Beauty of Desoto State Park atop Lookout Mountain

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...HERE IS WHAT TO SEE AND DO

PICNIC AND PLAY AREA

Located east of the Information Center is the picnic area with a rustic CCC-constructed stone shelter, picnic tables, grills, and restrooms. This area also has a playground, volleyball court, ball field, and tennis courts. Select sports equipment is available for rent at the Country Store. Two smaller picnic pavilions are also available.

SWIMMING POOL

An Olympic-size pool with restrooms.
(Seasonal: Memorial Day to Labor Day)

RUSTIC CABINS

Our rustic CCC-built cabins are constructed of native logs and stone and are furnished for light housekeeping. They are air conditioned, electrically heated, have cable TV, and feature screened porches and fireplaces.

LOG CABINS

These beautiful cabins were opened the Spring of 2006 and have been popular ever since. Featuring hardwood floors, two (2) bedrooms, large living area, and full kitchen. Log Cabins are air conditioned, electrically heated, have cable TV, with large porch.

MOUNTAIN CHALETS

These Modified "A" frame type chalets are furnished for light housekeeping and have central air and heat. Chalets are complete with one bedroom, a sleeping loft with two (2) twin beds, cable TV, screened porch, and sun deck.

LODGE MOTEL and RESTAURANT

This restaurant-motel complex was remodeled from the original CCC-constructed stone lodge utilizing the exposed stone walls, beamed ceilings and the extra large fireplace to enhance the mountain atmosphere. The restaurant features some of Lookout Mountain's finest dining. Meeting Rooms are available. A 25-unit motel adjoins the lodge.

IMPROVED and PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUNDS

An excellent camping facility is located near the Country Store in the mountain forest away from the main road. The campground has two comfort stations and an area for interpretive programs. There are well spaced and shaded pull through and back-in sites, suited for large camping units, smaller campers, and tents. A dump station, campground pavilion and hiking trails are also available in the area. DeSoto's Primitive Camping area is located not far from the Improved Campground. Features well-spaced campsites, with two (2) pit latrines and communal water pump. Access to Showers.

COUNTRY STORE and INFORMATION CENTER

The country store/information center is centrally located within the park and contains a reception-information area, coin-operated laundry, restrooms, country store, nature center, and a craft and gift shop. The store is stocked with food and supply items necessary for camping and picnicking.

RHODODENDRON TRAILS

Our Rhododendron Trails are located along the west fork of Little River and east of the picnic and cottage areas. Along these trails are found many of the park's waterfalls. Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel historically bloom in late May and early June.

HIKING and MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

There are approximately 15 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in the park area with footbridges spanning rushing mountain streams. Many unusual rock formations and rare and endangered forms of plant life can be found along these trails. An ADA accessible Boardwalk Trail highlights DeSoto's trail system.

LITTLE RIVER

Little River is one of the few rivers in America that flows almost its entire length on top of a mountain. Little River forms in NW Georgia and NE Alabama and flows down the middle of Lookout Mountain, leaving the mountain at Little River Canyon Mouth Park and flowing into Weiss Lake. This beautiful river is classified as an Alabama Wild and Scenic River. Little River was the first river in Alabama to be awarded the status of "Outstanding National Resource Water" because of its water quality.

SEE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF LITTLE RIVER CANYON NATIONAL PRESERVE:

LITTLE RIVER CANYON NATIONAL PRESERVE

The Little River Canyon begins ten miles south of the Country Store/Lodge. Little River flows into the canyon, which is one of the deepest canyons east of the Mississippi. Little River Canyon is approximately 17 miles long and has an average depth of 400 feet, being 700 feet at its deepest point. Little River Canyon Rim Parkway, a 22 mile scenic drive, follows the west rim of the canyon, with picnic tables available at the scenic overlooks. Little River Falls and overlook begins the scenic canyon drive at AL. Hwy 35 and 176. Umbrella Rock adds an unusual feature to the canyon tour. Grace's High Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in Alabama, is located on the south side of Bear Creek Canyon. It can be seen only from the north side of Bear Creek Canyon and is very beautiful in the Spring and early Summer. Call the NPS office at 256.845.9605 or see www.nps.gov/liri for more information.

SEE THE ATTRACTIONS WITHIN 25 MILES OF DESOTO STATE PARK:

HOWARD'S CHAPEL

One of the most unusual churches in the world. Located one half mile north of the Country Store. This church is built into a large boulder. Services are held every Sunday at 10:00 am.

ALPINE CAMP

One mile northeast of the Country Store on the east side of Little River, this camp was built in 1924 by Colonel Milford Howard as a leisure resort and artist colony. Now being operated as a summer camp. See www.alpinecamp.com

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION

The Hugh M. Comer Scout Reservation located four miles north of DeSoto State Park on DeSoto Parkway is rated nationally as the finest Boy Scout camp in America. See www.1bsa.org for more information.

MENTONE AREA SHOPS

Visit the many interesting shops & restaurants where you can find antiques, crafts, quilts, souvenirs and hand made items to suit your taste. Some shops are open seasonally. See www.mentonealabama.org for more information on this historic town.

LITTLE MOLE RUN GOLF COURSE ALABAMA FAN CLUB

Public course, located just north of Mentone. Call (256) 634-4159 for information.

Located in Fort Payne on U.S. 11 and Alabama 35. Mementos and souvenirs of the country music group Alabama. Call (256) 845-1646 for hours of operation or see www.thealabamaband.com

FORT PAYNE OPERA HOUSE

Located on Gault Avenue, Alabama's oldest opera house, which is still in use. Call (256) 845-3137 for more information and hours.

DEPOT MUSEUM

In the historic old Fort Payne train depot, this museum has displays depicting area history. See www.fortpaynedepotmuseum.org or call (256)845-5714 for more information.

CLOUDMONT SKI AND GOLF RESORT, AND SHADY GROVE DUDE RANCH

This southern-most ski area is six miles north of the Country Store. Two 1,000 foot ski slopes are available. Cloudmont also has a nine hole golf course. Alabama's only Dude Ranch. Call (256) 634-4344 or see www.cloudmont.com for snow schedule.

LITTLE RIVER CANYON MOUTH PARK

Little River Canyon National Preserve Canyon Mouth area is operated as a day-use picnicking area. Located about 25 miles from DeSoto's Country Store, this area is where Little River leaves the Canyon and empties into Weiss Lake. Hiking trails thread throughout the lower canyon overlooking rapids and boulder fields.

**SEQUOYAH
CAVERNS AND
ELLIS HOMESTEAD**

Seven miles northwest of Valley Head just off U.S. Highway 11. Judged to be one of the most beautiful and interesting caves in the world. Many activities including fishing, hiking, camping, and gem mining. See www.sequoyahcaverns.com or call 256-635-0024 for information.

**SYLVANIA PUBLIC
FISHING LAKE**

DeKalb County Public Fishing Lake, located at Sylvania, eleven miles north of Rainsville off Alabama Highway 75. A 125 acre lake stocked with bass and bream, operated by the Game and Fish Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation. Fishing every day of the year. Please call (256)657-3000 or see www.outdooralabama.com for more information.

**COLLINSVILLE,
ALABAMA**

Features "Collinsville Trade Day", every Saturday, where sooner or later anything will be sold, bought or traded. See www.collinsvillealabama.net for more information about this small town.

**LITTLE RIVER
MANAGEMENT
AREA**

13,000 acres of mountain wilderness set aside for wildlife protection and management. Provides hunting as regulated by the Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division. For maps and information contact 256.845.9605 or see www.outdooralabama.com

WEISS LAKE

Twenty miles from DeSoto State Park in Cherokee County. Known as the "Crappie Capital of the World" Weiss Lake provides 36,000 acres of water on the Coosa River, with 426 miles of shoreline. Finest fishing, boating and swimming in the area. See www.cherokee-chamber.org for more information.

SEE THESE ATTRACTIONS WITHIN 50 MILES OF DESOTO STATE PARK:

NOCCALULA FALLS

Located in Gadsden, Alabama, Noccalula Falls Park features a pioneer village, petting zoo, botanical gardens, picnic areas, playground and campground. Call 256-549-4663 or see www.noccfalls.homestead.com

**GUNTERSVILLE,
ALABAMA**

69,000-acre Lake Guntersville is the main attraction of this beautiful city. It also features Lake Guntersville State Park, which offers excellent vacation and convention facilities; lodge complex, golf course, mountain top executive cottages, lakeside family cottages, modern campground on the lake, picnic areas and a seasonal fishing center with fishing, picnicking and camping supplies. Nearby Buck's Pocket State Park is an excellent facility for a peaceful, get-a-way-from-it-all vacation. See www.alapark.com for state park information. Call Guntersville Chamber of Commerce at 256-571-7560 for info on the city of Guntersville.

**RUSSELL CAVE
NATIONAL
MONUMENT**

Russell Cave National Monument is located in Bridgeport, Alabama and is considered the third longest mapped cave in Alabama. The park has a visitor's center and cave tours. Call (256) 495-2672 for operating hours or see www.nps.gov/ruca for more information.

**"UNCLAIMED
BAGGAGE"**

Visit world famous "Unclaimed Baggage" in Scottsboro, Alabama. A deal-finder's dream! Call 256-259-1525 for more info on this unique store.

**CATHEDRAL
CAVERNS STATE
PARK**

Cathedral Caverns State Park holds some of the most breathtaking cave formations in the world. A paved trail makes a round-trip of about 1.3 miles inside the cave. Guided tours every 2 hours. Located in Woodville, Alabama. See www.alapark.com or call 256-728-8193 for more information.

SEE THESE ATTRACTIONS WITHIN 75 MILES OF DESOTO STATE PARK:

**HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA**

Visit the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, take a NASA bus tour, visit Monte Sano State Park, and many other historic attractions. See www.huntsville.org or call the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce at 256.551.2230

**CHATTANOOGA,
TENNESSEE**

See Rock City, Ruby Falls, the Incline Railroad, the Tennessee Aquarium and many more in this interesting city. Many different attractions for the whole family! Contact the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce at 423-756-2121 or see www.chattanooga.com for more information.



FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON DESOTO STATE PARK:

CAMPING, HIKING, PICNICKING, NATURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS, WRITE:

DESOTO STATE PARK

13883 COUNTY ROAD 89

FT. PAYNE, AL 35967

www.alapark.com

Desoto.StatePark@dcnr.alabama.gov

PARK OFFICE: 256-845-0051

FOR CAMPING RESERVATION – CALL THE COUNTRY STORE

256-845-5075 OR 1-800-760-4089

FOR INFORMATION ON THE LODGE, RESTAURANT, CABINS, CHALETS, OR MOTEL WRITE:

DESOTO STATE PARK LODGE

265 COUNTY ROAD 951

FT. PAYNE, AL 35967

DeSoto.StateParkLodge@dcnr.alabama.gov

FOR CABIN, CHALET, MOTEL RESERVATIONS CALL

256-845-5380 OR 1-800-568-8840



ACCESS TO ALABAMA STATE PARKS AND ALABAMA STATE PARK PROGRAMS IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, OR DISABILITY.



