

DeSoto State Park Backcountry Camping Sites

Please read all information carefully



Backpackers can take multiple routes, utilizing a variety of trails, to make the journey to your backcountry site as long or short as you wish.

Never Never Land site – BC01

GPS Coordinates: N34.49313 W-085.63768

Trailhead: Directional signs begin at Never Never Land Mountain Bike Trail at the Lost Falls Trailhead.

Distance: From Lost Falls Trailhead - .75 mile

**** 8X10 covered shelter available on site ****

CCC Quarry Site – BC02

GPS Coordinates: N34.50678 W-085.62658

Trailhead: Directional signs begin at the white trail across CR 618 from the Country Store.

Distance: From the beginning of white trail across from Country Store – 1.1 miles

**** 8X10 open 4-pole shelter available on site ****

Welcome overnight backpackers. The way campers care for these sites will determine the continuation of this activity. Please observe these rules and regulations for your safety and to help protect the natural beauty of DeSoto State Park. **Pack it in, Pack it out**

Overnight backpackers are entitled to camp at a designated backcountry campsite only. Backpackers are not entitled to use the improved campground facilities.

REGISTRATION

- Backpacking fees are **\$16.50 for up 4 persons** plus lodgings tax. Extra \$2 per person over 4, maximum of 6 persons and 2 tents per backcountry site.
- Backcountry Sites are limited to a maximum of **6 people** and **2 tents**.
- Reservations may be made by phone, online, or in person, otherwise, backcountry sites are registered on a first come first serve basis.
Online reservations: <http://www.alapark.com/DeSotoResort/>
- All backpackers must register and pay backpacking fees at least one hour before sunset. No one will be allowed to register or start on the trail system any later. Sunset times change with the seasons so plan your arrival accordingly.
- Vehicles must be parked at designated trailheads or parking areas with a vehicle pass displayed in the windshield.
- Please make sure all doors are locked before leaving vehicle. Valuables left in vehicles should be placed out of sight. DeSoto State Park is not responsible for stolen or damaged property.
- 2:00 PM Checkout. Notify park staff upon safe exit.

DESIGNATED SITES

- **Backpackers *must* camp at their designated campsite only.**
- Maximum 6 people and 2 tents allowed per site.
- All minors must be accompanied by a legal adult.

Covered Shelter at CCC Quarry Backcountry site (BC2)
Constructed by the Fort Payne High School Ag Class in winter of 2013



This land comprises a fragile ecosystem, which can be easily harmed despite its rugged appearance. Fortunately, most visitors bring along a respect for natural forest areas. The beauty and richness of DeSoto State Park will be insured if you follow these simple minimum impact techniques.

HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL & SANITATION

- Drinking water must be packed in, on site water sources are unreliable.
- Use the "Cat Hole" method for human waste disposal. Dig a hole at least 6" deep, 200 feet from water. Fill hole with loose topsoil after use.
- Carry out all cans, bottles, aluminum foil, or other trash. **THE BURNING OR BURYING OF TRASH IS PROHIBITED.**
- Use biodegradable soap for washing.
- Dishes should not be washed in the stream itself, but 10 yards away from the stream.
- Pack out all left over food and trash. **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT**

FIRES & STOVES

- **FIRES ARE ALLOWED IN DESIGNATED FIRE PITS ONLY, UNLESS UNDER NO BURN RESTRICTIONS.**
- Clean around fire pits to ensure no accidental wildfires. You are responsible for any wildfires.
- Only **dead** and down wood may be gathered for firewood.
- Thoroughly extinguish campfires leaving no smoke or embers before leaving backcountry sites.
- Backing type stoves are recommended for cooking.

EROSION & VEGETATION

- The trees, grass, plants and shrubs are an important part of the wilderness community. They provide food and shelter for wild, protection for slopes, and beauty to visitors.
- Destruction, defacement, or carving of trees or any other natural feature is prohibited.
- Collection of live plant material, wildlife or artifacts is forbidden except by written permission the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Stay on marked trails. "Shortcuts" cause erosion problems and trail degradation.



**Covered Shelter at
Never Land
Backcountry site (BC1)**

Partnership between Alabama State Parks,
National Park Service and NASA

PETS

- Pets are allowed under the Alabama State Park Regulations
- **Pets and Animals (220-5-.05)**
- Bringing a dog, cat or other animal into a State Park unless it is crated, caged or **upon a leash** not longer than 6 feet or **otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times** shall be unlawful.
- No person shall keep a noisy, vicious, or dangerous dog or animal or one which is disturbing other persons, in a State Park and remain therein after he has been asked by a Park officer to leave.



Practice Leave No Trace Guidelines

1. Know before you go
2. Stick to trails and camp overnight right
3. Trash your trash and pick up poop
4. Leave it as you find it
5. Be careful with fire
6. Keep wildlife wild
7. Share our trails and manage your pet

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