

DeSoto Scout Trail



Want a more challenging hiking experience? Check out the DeSoto Scout Trail!

This historic trail starts at Comer Scout Reservation, continues through DeSoto State Park, and into Little River Canyon National Preserve. It follows the beautiful West Fork of Little River and continues downstream to highway 35.

Historically the Trail is about 16 miles long, but due to flooding and overgrowth; only certain sections are clear. Currently, the DST can be accessed from DSP's north border downstream to the backcountry trailhead on road 5 in the Little River Wildlife Management Area.

Rated Moderate to Strenuous

Gillam Loop Trailhead
Access to CCC Bridge & DST



LEGEND

- ROADS
- ◇ Mountain Bike Trails
- - - Hiking Trails
- Gate

To CCC 'Unfinished Bridge'-1.75 miles one-way
Gillam Loop Trail-3.5 miles total

This trail is marked with yellow blazes in DSP and changes to brown & a white metal signs as it passes over the border between DSP & the Little River Canyon Management Area. Check out DeSoto Scout Trail Project on Facebook for maps/info.

THIS MAP IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Ways to access the DST in DeSoto State Park:

Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trailhead & the Gilliam Loop Trailhead
The DeSoto State Park Lodge & the DeSoto State Park Pool parking lot

To Road 5
(Little River Wildlife Management Area)



Welcome to DeSoto State Park!
Head out for an enjoyable day exploring "The Home of Mother Nature".

Located on Lookout Mountain, DeSoto State Park has over 30 miles of hiking trails, including 11 + miles of mountain bike trails. Most interconnect with each other, while others take you into more remote areas. DSP's trail system boasts interesting rock formations, small seasonal waterfalls, plentiful animal life, large varieties of diverse plant communities, and beautiful views of the West Fork of Little River, which flows downstream into interconnecting Little River Canyon.



Basic day-hiking tips:

Whether you are a day-hiker or a more adventurous one, being informed is the best way to stay safe on the trail.

- Wear appropriate clothes for the season, AND footwear. Tennis shoes & hiking boots are recommended no matter what terrain. Open-toed shoes are not appropriate for DeSoto State Park's mountainous terrain.
- Take plenty of water and snacks, depending on length of hike. Hiking takes up a lot of energy, so even if you are not going out for long it is better to be prepared.
- Be informed. Whether it is just taking a trail map from DSP's Lodge or Country Store, or asking for directions, it is important to 'know before you go'. It is also important to consider your limits when it comes to the physical aspect of the trails.
- Stay on the trail. DeSoto's trails are marked with a blaze along the way denoting where the path goes.
- Be sure to give yourself plenty of time before sundown to finish your hike. The trails close at dusk.
- Watch your step-watch out for obstructions in the path and be careful of where you place your feet & hands.

Have fun & be safe!

Enjoy the beauty of nature and the gifts that it offers on the lovely trails of DeSoto State Park. Please remember that we preserve land for the benefit of present and future generations. You can participate in this preservation effort by remembering that all plants and animals are protected in each Alabama State Park. Please leave all plants and animal life undisturbed for others to enjoy.



DeSoto State Park Map

Fort Payne, Alabama
www.Alapark.com

Camping, Day Use, General Information

DeSoto State Park
7104 DeSoto Parkway NE
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-5075
1-800-760-4089

Cabins, Chalets, Motel, Restaurant, Special Functions

DeSoto State Park Lodge
1299 Blalock Drive NE
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-5380
1-800-568-8840

Alabama State Parks Central Reservations

1-800-ALA-PARK

Park Business Office or EMERGENCY

256-845-0051

Size: Over 3,500 acres
Altitude: 1835 feet at the highest point

Location: Northeast Alabama atop Lookout Mountain in DeKalb County

DeSoto Falls is 7 miles northeast of the Country Store/Lodge and 3 miles South of Mentone, AL

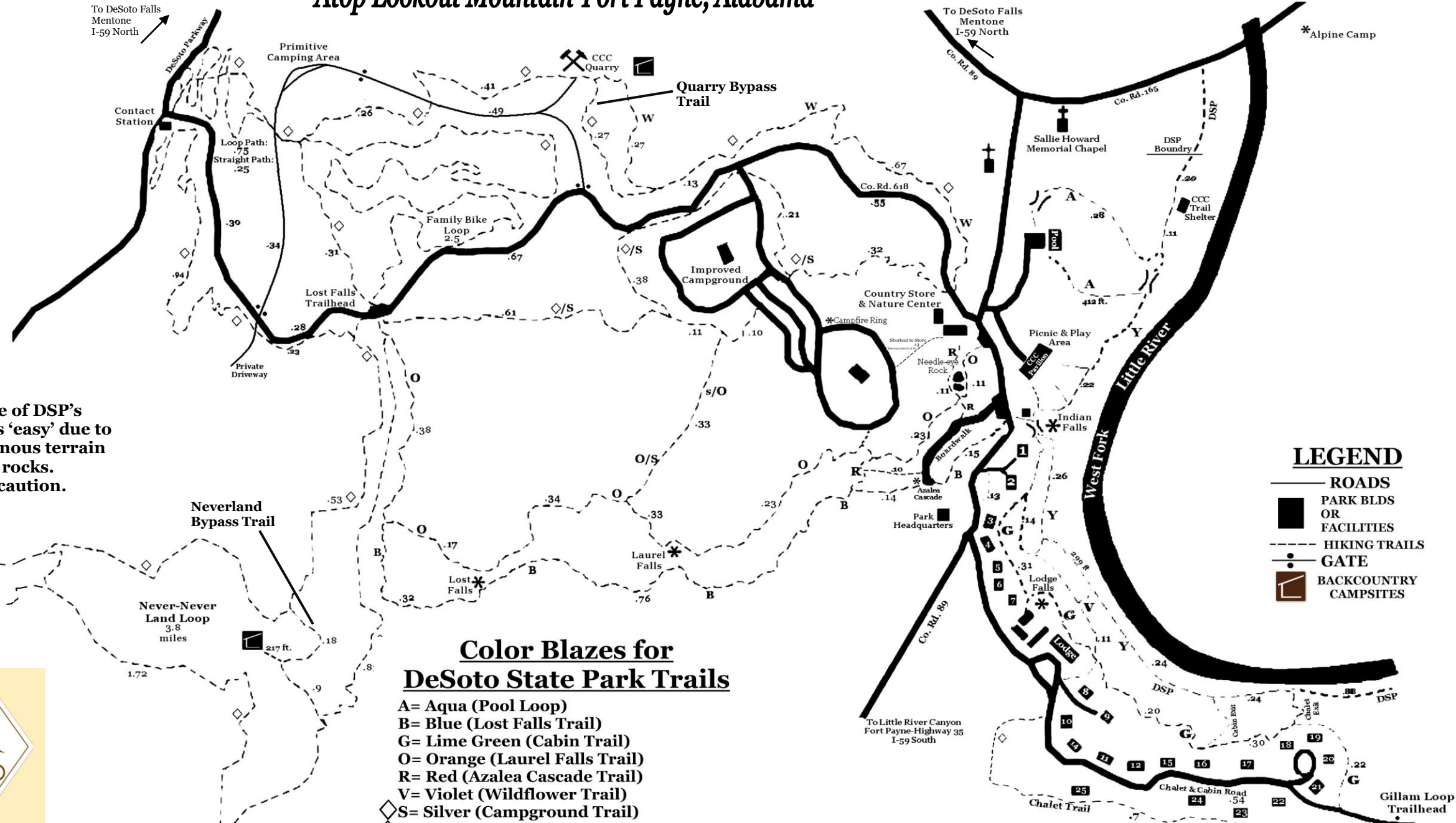
Little River Canyon begins 10 miles south of the Country Store/Lodge

Access to Alabama State Parks is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.



DeSoto State Park

Atop Lookout Mountain-Fort Payne, Alabama

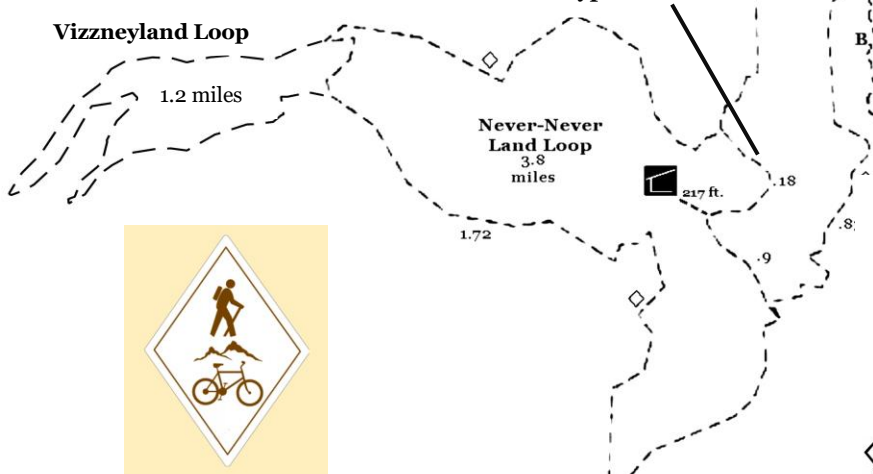


To DeSoto Falls
Mentone
I-59 North

To DeSoto Falls
Mentone
I-59 North

*Alpine Camp

Please note: None of DSP's trails are rated as 'easy' due to uneven, mountainous terrain with tree roots & rocks. Please use caution.



LEGEND

- ROADS
- PARK BLDGS OR FACILITIES
- - - HIKING TRAILS
- GATE
- BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES

Color Blazes for DeSoto State Park Trails

- A= Aqua (Pool Loop)
- B= Blue (Lost Falls Trail)
- G= Lime Green (Cabin Trail)
- O= Orange (Laurel Falls Trail)
- R= Red (Azalea Cascade Trail)
- V= Violet (Wildflower Trail)
- S= Silver (Campground Trail)
- W= White (CCC Quarry Trail)
- Y= Yellow (DeSoto Scout Trail-for a complete map, see www.DeSotoScoutTrail.com)



Bikes are allowed on roadways & diamond-blazed trails only.

Gillam Loop Trailhead
• Access to CCC Bridge, Gillam Loop, & DST