

# PLANNING FOR YOUR HIKE

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### *Camping at Fort DeSoto*

If you can, it's highly recommended to stay at Fort DeSoto itself as there are no other campgrounds nearby. For on-site primitive camping for youth groups call **(727) 552-1862**. Reservations required. Sites usually fill up as soon as reservations can be booked – 3 months in advance. There are fire pits for at least three groups. On-site family camping is available but restricted to 6 people per site. No group camping is allowed. Bathrooms and showers are in the camping area. Bring your bikes along and bike to the Fort! Not only is it great exercise but you can avoid the \$5 parking fee per vehicle.

For more information about camping at Fort DeSoto visit: [Camping Info](#)

### *Nearby Boy Scout® Camps*

**Camp Soule:** 45 minutes to the north. Operated by West Central Florida Council

**Camp Flying Eagle:** 1 hour to the southwest. Operated by Southwest Florida Council – Camps & Camping

## WHERE TO EAT

There are a few snack bars in the park – you'll pass two during the hike. They have pretty basic items available such as ice cream, hamburgers and fries. By the Fort there are pavilions and picnic tables, so you can bring your own food. Charcoal grills are available. If you're hiking during the summer, be sure to snag a grill early as they tend to get occupied quickly.

## FISHING INFO

Mullet Key has many great places to fish. The fishing pier is great for day or night fishing. If you prefer to wade fish, almost any place is good, but those with sea grass and moving water will be the best.

## FORT TOURS

There is a tour at the Fort and it's definitely worth it, but you might want to call ahead to make sure it's available as a consistent schedule is unavailable.

## BOATING & CANOE INFO

Fort DeSoto has one of the best boat ramps you've ever seen! It's a dream to put in a boat there. If you bring a canoe or kayak, the mangroves and flats are amazing and you can launch from many places on the island. Often you can see manatees, dolphins and other wildlife. If you have canoes and like to fish, wow, there are some terrific places to go.

## COST

There are 3 pay stations to get into the park – **.50¢ toll + .35¢ toll + \$5 per car**. Costs for camping will depend on where you stay.

## THINGS YOU'LL NEED

**Sunscreen • Bug repellent • Lots of water**

**Compass (real or on smartphone) • Camera • Bag for trash**

# FORT DESOTO HIKE