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Fort DeSoto Historic Hike

Tierra Verde, FL

Distance: 5.6 mi (9.0 km)
Time: about 4 hrs (2 h 50 m walking + 1 h 10 m at stops)
Difficulty: Easy
Stops: 14
Route: Loop

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By HistoricTrails.org

A hike through the natural and historic parts of Fort DeSoto Park, beginning in the mangrove shallow water estuary behind the island, crossing the barrier island's sand dunes to the Gulf beaches, and concluding with the old military foundations and Fort DeSoto itself.

Free hike kit — generated October 25, 2026

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About This Hike

This hike takes you through the natural and historic parts of Fort DeSoto Park. The hike begins highlighting the natural side of the park. You will walk to the back of the island where you'll experience the mangrove shallow water estuary ecosystem. You'll then walk to the center of the barrier island where you'll see the plant life that survives in the challenging sand dune environment. Passing over the last dunes onto the beach will provide a beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico. Heading south, you'll enter the historic part of the hike. A small museum starts a short walk through the old foundations of the military base. You'll have an idea of what the base would have felt like over 100 years ago. The hike concludes with the highlight – Fort DeSoto.

Fort DeSoto is a county park on Barrier Island at the mouth of Tampa Bay. The park is very popular due to its beautiful beaches, fishing and views of the Gulf of Mexico. Not familiar to many visitors, is the historic 1890's fort that is on the island. The island was used by the Army to protect the entrance to Tampa Bay. Later, it was used as a quarantine station.

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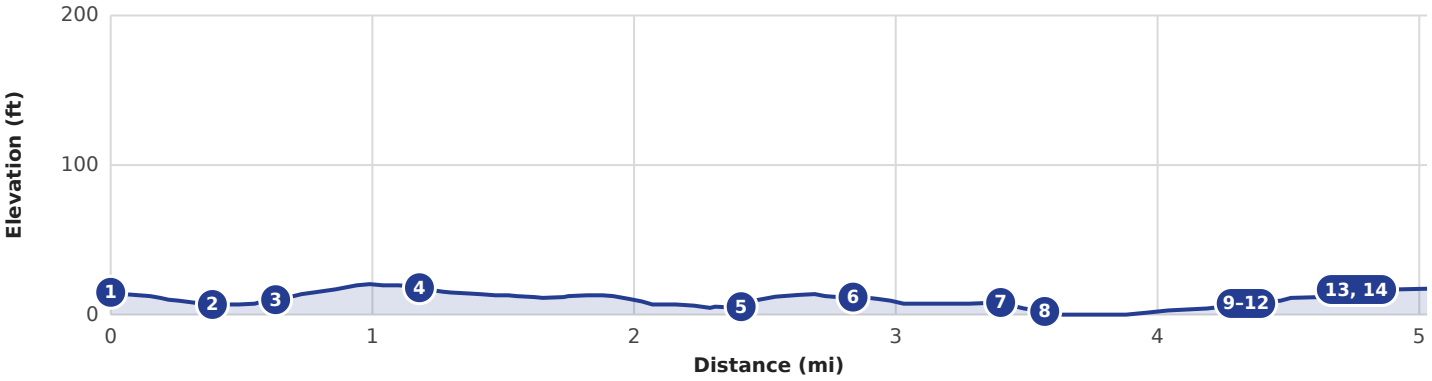
Hike Map

Satellite imagery © Esri — route and numbered waypoints as drawn by the hike author.

Elevation Profile

↑ 58 ft (18 m) gain · ↓ 58 ft (18 m) loss · 0–20 ft (0–6 m) elevation



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The Trail, Stop by Stop

1 Beginning the Hike (27.61459, -82.73511) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Park at the Fort parking area. As soon as you drive in, on the right of the parking lot you'll see a 1960's looking space ship inspired round building. It's the last rest room you'll see for a while. You'll then see a concrete path between a pavilion and the rest room. The beginning of that path is point 1.

Challenge – Double Palms: After the road begins to turn outside the parking lot you'll see tall palm trees lining the road. On the left hand side of the road count the number of double palms. Only count the tall palms in line, not the natural cabbage palms. Take out your compass and measure the bearings to the below objects: the road you're on, the osprey nest on a post to the north, and the old white building to your west.

Directions to next waypoint: Head south along the road you drove in on. Heading is 155° until you see the road begin to turn. Follow the road until it meets up with a paved walking trail just before the primary road.

2 Dog Park & Kayak Base (27.61617, -82.72967) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Not much to see here as you walk to the mangroves. However, you will see a kayak/canoe outpost. For more info on the kayaking check the main info page for this hike on the website under optional hike activities.

Directions to next waypoint: From the beginning of the paved bike walking trail, head east. You'll walk by the dog park. Near the end of the dog park you'll see a dirt road on the other side of the main road. Cross the road and head to the corner where you'll see a placard for a trail.

3 Soldier's Hole Trail (Part One) (27.61768, -82.72873) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

This 2 mile trail is through a small peninsula surrounded by a tidal lagoon behind Mullet Key. This lagoon is an estuary that acts as a nursery for many animals. You may see manatees or dolphins if the tide and time of year is right. However, no matter when you go you should see many birds and get a glimpse of the life in the mangroves. Along the trail there are many short 10-20 foot spurs that let you look out into the water. This is where you'll see all the coolest stuff! Beware of poison ivy though, as there is a lot of it here in the dryer areas. *Note: Station 7 is a great location to catch a glimpse of a manatee or a dolphin.*

Soldier's Hole legend: Back when the Fort was being constructed, the entire island was infested with mosquitoes and soldiers had to wear wool uniforms – even in the summer. Miserable conditions like this led many soldiers to desert the Fort. Legend has it that they would hide in this area until dark and wait for low tide to make their way to the mainland. *Note: This trail was created as an Eagle Project by Glen Parker of BSA Troop 334.*

Challenge – DeSoto's 'Pieces of 8' Lost Treasure (two parts): 1. To find DeSoto's treasure, you must first learn from the animals that guard it, in and amongst the mangroves. Identify or show evidence of wild animals that live in the mangrove estuary. Each ID needs a photo of an animal, foot prints or some other evidence to count. Get a picture of a mammal's tracks, a snake, a spider, a shellfish, a crab and 4 types of birds. For Scouts, this is a great place to ID 10 animals for 2nd class Rank (verify off the requirement list). 2. The treasure is in the mangroves: Get a Picture ID of the three types of mangroves – Red, White and Black. *Note: They all live together and overlap.*

Directions to next waypoint: From the trail start sign, this part of the trail is well maintained and marked. Follow the signs that say "TRAIL." The first section will continue until you see a shortcut sign. Beware, sometimes this trail has mosquitoes. I have never encountered them, but you may want to have your bug repellent ready. Continue to marker 12 – the midway point when the trail splits right and left.

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4 Soldier’s Hole Trail (Part Two) (27.61906, -82.73232) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

You’re about half way through the trail at this point. Head to the right for the north loop of the trail. Then, as the trail forks continue to head right.

Challenge – Find DeSoto’s Lost Pieces of 8: Someone’s trash is another person’s treasure! Here’s where your grocery bag can come in handy. Between the trails start at the snack bar. It’s your challenge to pick up 8 different pieces of trash. Each piece of trash is a part of DeSoto’s Lost Pieces of 8. Once you have collected the 8 parts, you have unlocked the secret! What do you think the secret is? Continue looking for wildlife to complete your list. When you get to the other side of the snack bar, there are trash cans – aka treasure chests, to hide your new Pieces of 8! Also, there are bathrooms nearby to clean up in case some of that treasure was less than pleasant.

Directions to next waypoint: Head to the right and follow the signs. You’ll go through a loop and then leave Soldier’s Hole Trail at the same place you started by the trail head sign. Then, head towards the kayak station and continue along the dirt road. At the corner you’ll see two 3 foot poles marking a short trail. You can go down this short trail – it’s approximately 100 feet and has a nice look out to the small bay besides Solider’s Hole. It’s a good spot to see Mullet jumping and local birds. On the way back, at the half way mark, the trail does lead out to the right. However, it’s overgrown. It’s your choice to bushwhack a bit or come out the way you came.

5 Walking Along a Road (27.61676, -82.73052) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

This next waypoint is just to get you to the next sight.

Challenge – Continue the challenges from waypoint three and four: Continue with the challenges from waypoint 3 and 4 – wildlife ID and Pieces of 8.

Directions to next waypoint: Now is great time to fit in the kayaking if you wish. Leave the trail sign and head to the main road. Once on the main road, head west (right) until the road turns and you see a refreshments sign. Head west from this sign through a parking lot to the snack bar building at the southwest corner. Bathrooms are available here. Just west of the bathrooms, towards the beach, is a concrete pathway with a sign about the beach. When you cross the road to go to the snack bar, look behind you – there’s a pretty awesome osprey nest.

6 Windswept (27.61677, -82.73599) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

This part of the hike will take you through the back part of the barrier island dunes. You’ll get to see the effects of wind on the plants. The dunes and plants that grow behind them protect the rest of the island. Protected from onshore winds and waves, life can flourish in the mangrove estuary. Well behind the dunes there would normally be many live oaks affected by the constant winds coming from the gulf to the land. These have been lost over time, since it’s hard for them to get established when the area is mowed. An invasive species, the Australian pine is the other reason most wind swept oaks are no longer there. If you look to the north, you’ll see a large stand of Australian pine. The park destroys them south of this area otherwise they would take over.

Challenge – Bend to the Will of Zephyrus: The greek goddess Zephyrus controls the west wind. Count the number of oak trees north of the starting point that have been affected by her.

Directions to next waypoint: Head north from the snack bar along the concrete pathway. Follow this path north until you reach a sandy path that leads to the beach. Which sandy path you ask? Look to the right side of the road for clues. You’ll see some places where fisherman try their luck by Soldier’s Hole. Once the land starts to pull away, there is one last fishing spot. Waypoint 7 is the NEXT sandy path on the left of the concrete path. It has a short palm tree fifty feet from the concrete path, 10 feet south of the sandy path. If you cannot tell, just pick one of the paths. At waypoint 7 the last fishing hole is a bearing of 135°. You may pick the cross over that has a post with the number one on it to cut down on distance. This makes the overall hike 5.2 miles.

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7 Dunes (27.62469, -82.73527) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

As you walk from the middle of the island towards the beach you'll see the progression of sand dunes. This part of the beach has been extending out to sea a little bit more every year. A chart in 1938 shows a small pass that cut through the island just north of Soldier's Hole peninsula. Your point of crossing is roughly where that pass used to be. All the sand was deposited after that time. Look at the top of each side and you'll see perpendicular lines in the sand – these are the remains of old dune crests. When you come out of the last dunes, you'll see a change. The sand rises a bit at the current dune crest and tall grassy-like plants called sea oats, dominate.

Challenge – The Unexpected Tourist: Tourists come all around the world to Florida's beaches – particularly this one. Some of the oddest beach goers are the natives! Fill in the blanks below by choosing one of the following plants for each question. Don't forget to show a picture ID of these plants: Sea Oats, Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory, Sea Grapes, Sea Rocket, Prickly Pear Cactus.

Directions to next waypoint: Follow the sandy path towards the beach.

8 Life's a Beach (27.62440, -82.73791) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Welcome to one of the most beautiful beaches in Florida! This area is renown for the number and quality of shells that wash up on the beach. Take some time to appreciate the wonderful views. If you're not careful, you can spend the entire walk looking down and miss the occasional Cownose ray feeding at the waters edge or a Snook cruising by. Dolphins, tarpon and schools of small fish sometimes can be seen just off the beach.

Challenge – Shell Game for Dollars: As you walk down the beach, see who can take pictures of the most species of shells. Partial shells count too as it's often hard to find a completely intact one. As a bonus, try to find an orange scallop shell or sea urchin fragment. You'll see many sand dollar fragments on the beach. Try to find the most complete one you can. Leave No Trace – we recommend you take pictures.

Directions to next waypoint: Head south along the beach until you see some concrete ruins about 50 feet from the waters edge.

9 Battery Bigelow (27.61439, -82.73741) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

You have arrived at the outer defenses of Fort DeSoto! The concrete ruins are of Battery Bigelow. Originally, it had two 3" 15 pound rapid fire guns put in service in 1904. The Battery was decommissioned during the 1920 disarmament following World War I. The Battery collapsed in October 1935 during a hurricane. When I was a kid in the 1980's the front of the Battery was in the water. Since then, the beach has grown significantly. Note the dark granite like rocks in the concrete of the Battery. Those rocks came all the way from New York and New Jersey to build the Fort. Look inland towards the northeast – you will see a hill. This is Fort DeSoto! When it was built, the engineers added sand in front of the Fort to absorb the impact of incoming shells and to camouflage the position. *Fun fact: A scene from the movie, The Punisher (2004) was filmed here.*

Challenge – The Punisher Washes Up: If The Punisher swam from the radio tower (just off the beach) to the shoreline, how far of a swim do you think that is? 200 ft, 500 ft, 1000 ft or 2000 ft? What direction is the tower from the Battery? Take a measurement with your compass.

Directions to next waypoint: After the challenge, head to the wooden boardwalk south of the Battery near the pier. Once you come out at the parking lot, head right and go to the Pier information board.

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10 Fishing Pier (27.61302, -82.73668) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

The sign board shows how the pier was built and where the artificial reefs are. If you plan to fish during your trip, this is the best place to go. This is also a great place to see dolphins! Walk out as far as you'd like and take in the sights. The island to your southwest with the lighthouse (built in 1858) is Egmont Key. The park has a ferry to the island where you can see the ruins of the artillery base built there at the same time as Fort DeSoto. Egmont Key was originally named Castor Key after a local pirate. It was renamed Egmont Key in 1763 by the British when they took possession of Florida from the Spanish. During the Civil War, Union troops occupied Egmont Key and used it to blockade Tampa Bay.

Challenge – Fish Love Reefs: What do they make artificial reefs out of?

Directions to next waypoint: Once you're done walking the pier, head east along the south side of the parking lot until you see an old white building on your right.

11 At the Museum (27.61364, -82.73497) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Go inside and see the museum! For such a small location, it's got a lot of cool info packed inside!

Challenge – Quartermaster's Challenge: Answer the following questions: What were the nicknames of the two units left in Tampa for the Cuba campaign during the Spanish American War? What colors make up the ribbon on the Marine Corps Spanish American medal? During what war were bombs dropped on Mullet Key and why?

Directions to next waypoint: Right outside the museum, you'll see a path – follow it to the right. Waypoint 12 starts just outside the museum.

12 Foundations (27.61349, -82.73479) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

This part of the trail takes you through the location of the buildings that housed the Fort's soldiers. Many markers along the way will tell you what buildings are which. The foundations get a bit monotonous, so check out the challenge to make it bit more interesting. All the concrete and brick paths are original. From many points along this part of the trail you can see Egmont channel – this is what the Fort was built to defend. You will probably see some large ships using the channel. The deepest part of the channel is just in front of the Lighthouse – it's over 90 feet deep! The foundations were mapped in 1994 by a park volunteer named Waldo Rowell.

Challenge – A Good Foundation Will Stand the Test of Time: To complete this challenge you must use all your observational skills to answer the following questions. But if you use a stack of bricks you get nothing!

Directions to next waypoint: Follow the marked trail until you pass the museum and see the bathrooms that you started the hike from.

13 Fort DeSoto (27.61482, -82.73528) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Head north to the Fort itself. Be on the lookout for signs telling you about the history of the Fort and check out its rooms. Look to the east to see some of the rapid fire rifled guns that used to be on Egmont Key. *Fun fact: In 1849, Robert E. Lee (the famous guy from the Civil War) surveyed and recommended a fort here to guard Tampa Bay. The construction, started in 1898, was based on his survey.*

Challenge – Lobbing Shells: How many mortars were originally installed at the Fort? What was the weight of the heaviest mortar round? What purpose does the small rectangular building behind the Fort serve?

Directions to next waypoint: Walk north along the back of the Fort. Remember to look in the rooms and check out the guns and mortars. Then, head to the north of the Fort.

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14 Top of the Fort (27.61624, -82.73603) Google Maps Apple Maps

Suggested stop: 5 min

Climb the stairs and go to the top of Fort DeSoto. The mortars behind you and the sand covered battery in front of you, were designed to protect Tampa Bay. The Rifled Rapid Fire guns were aimed with sights like you aim a hand held rifle and were designed to engage close targets. Max range was 4.5 miles. With these guns you could fire at any target line-of-sight within two miles off Egmont Key. If you pull out your compass and look 265° you'll see a 30ft tower that's 1.75 miles away. Same distance as the lighthouse. Beyond that, notice a green and a red buoy – even further, another set. They are 4 miles away! The mortars could only fire on ships that were between 1.25 miles and 6.8 miles away – it's six miles to Anna Maria Island to the south. If you can see a 4th green or red buoy, that's the range of the mortars. You may see some stationary container ships on the horizon – they're about 13 miles away.

Challenge – We're Done, What now?: Pat yourself on the back — you're done! Check your answers against the answer key at the back of this hike kit. When you're done, simply head back to the parking lot.

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Planning Your Hike

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.

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. Nearby Boy Scout camps: Camp Soule, 45 minutes to the north (West Central Florida Council), and Camp Flying Eagle, 1 hour to the southwest (Southwest Florida Council).

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. Good spots include day or night fishing on the pier, near the youth group area, and on the northeast corner of Mullet Key.

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.

Optional hike activities: On the other side of the road from the dog park, is a kayak and canoe outpost. The site for the company is UnitedParkServices.com. You pay by the hour, but they usually have discounts for large groups. Best to make reservations if you have a large group to ensure you have a spot. We recommend doing the canoeing or kayaking after you come out of the Soldier's Hole Trail.

Hike leader guide: For this hike, I would suggest printing out some of the plant and shell ID sheets as internet coverage can be spotty at best on this hike.

Things you'll need: Sunscreen • Bug repellent • Lots of water • Compass (real or on smartphone) • Camera • Bag for trash

Waypoint hours & fees

Waypoint	Hours	Fees	Restrooms	Notes
1. Beginning the Hike	—	.50¢ toll + .35¢ toll + $5 per car at the three pay stations into the park.	—	The round building at the parking area is the last rest room you'll see for a while.
2. Dog Park & Kayak Base	—	Kayak/canoe rentals (UnitedParkServices.com) are paid by the hour; discounts are usually available for large groups.	—	Make reservations if you have a large group. Kayaking is best done after you come out of the Soldier's Hole Trail.

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Waypoint	Hours	Fees	Restrooms	Notes
3. Soldier’s Hole Trail (Part One)	—	—	—	Beware of poison ivy in the dryer areas, and have bug repellent ready as the trail sometimes has mosquitoes.
4. Soldier’s Hole Trail (Part Two)	—	—	—	Bring a grocery bag for the trash-collecting challenge; trash cans and bathrooms are on the other side of the snack bar.
5. Walking Along a Road	—	—	—	Bathrooms and a snack bar are available where the route reaches the southwest corner of the parking lot.
8. Life’s a Beach	—	—	—	Leave No Trace – take pictures of shells rather than collecting them.
10. Fishing Pier	—	—	—	The pier is the best place in the park to fish, day or night, and a great spot to see dolphins. A park ferry runs to Egmont Key.
11. At the Museum	—	—	—	The museum is small but packed with information; the challenge answers are found inside.
13. Fort DeSoto	—	—	—	Guided tours of the Fort are offered and worth taking, but call ahead – a consistent schedule is unavailable.
14. Top of the Fort	—	—	—	The hike ends here – head back to the parking lot when you’re done.

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Challenge Quiz

Answer as you hike — check your score with the answer key on the last page.

1 Beginning the Hike

1. Double Palms challenge: with your compass at the double palms, what is the bearing of the road you're on?

A. 63°
B. 155°
C. 212°
D. 318°

2. What is the bearing to the osprey nest on a post to the north?

A. 295°
B. 12°
C. 342°
D. 38°

3. What is the bearing to the old white building to your west?

A. 270°
B. 256°
C. 231°
D. 288°

3 Soldier's Hole Trail (Part One)

4. In the 'Pieces of 8' Lost Treasure wildlife challenge, how many types of birds must you photograph along with a mammal's tracks, a snake, a spider, a shellfish and a crab?

A. 2
B. 4
C. 6
D. 10

5. Which three types of mangroves must you get a picture ID of in the estuary?

A. Red, White and Black
B. Red, Green and Brown
C. White, Yellow and Gray
D. Black, Silver and Green

4 Soldier's Hole Trail (Part Two)

6. Once you have collected all 8 pieces of trash – DeSoto's Lost Pieces of 8 – what secret have you unlocked?

A. You've done a good turn daily and helped clean the park – you did good!
B. The location of a buried Spanish treasure chest
C. A free pass to the Fort DeSoto museum
D. A hidden geocache near the snack bar

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6 Windswept

7. How many oak trees north of the starting point have been bent by Zephyrus, the west wind?

A. 3
B. 5
C. 8
D. 12

7 Dunes

8. There is a Florida native that was once called the Indian Fig. It's eaten by many animals and thrives in dry conditions. Its fruit is quite delicious if you're willing to get around its defenses. What is it?

A. Prickly Pear Cactus
B. Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory
C. Sea Oats
D. Sea Rocket
E. Sea Grapes

9. It's a plant that knows exactly where it wants to go and is willing to go a long distance to get there. Can only be seen if you take the far crossing. What is it?

A. Prickly Pear Cactus
B. Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory
C. Sea Oats
D. Sea Rocket
E. Sea Grapes

10. If you pick this iconic plant the ranger will ticket or arrest you! What is it?

A. Prickly Pear Cactus
B. Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory
C. Sea Oats
D. Sea Rocket
E. Sea Grapes

11. I live my life covered in a mound of sand close to the beach, with leaves that look like seaweed. What am I?

A. Prickly Pear Cactus
B. Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory
C. Sea Oats
D. Sea Rocket
E. Sea Grapes

12. My leaves are broad, rusty red and green. My fruit is sweet and a rare treat. What am I?

A. Prickly Pear Cactus
B. Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory
C. Sea Oats
D. Sea Rocket
E. Sea Grapes

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8 Life’s a Beach

13. In the Shell Game for Dollars, how many different types of shells should you collect pictures of at minimum?

A. 3

B. 6

C. 10

D. 15

9 Battery Bigelow

14. If The Punisher swam from the radio tower just off the beach to the shoreline, how far of a swim is that?

A. 200 ft

B. 500 ft

C. 1000 ft

D. 2000 ft

15. What direction is the radio tower from the Battery?

A. 265°

B. 311°

C. 335°

D. 288°

10 Fishing Pier

16. What do they make the artificial reefs out of?

A. Concrete reef balls

B. Sunken ships

C. Old tires

D. Steel pilings

11 At the Museum

17. What were the nicknames of the two units left in Tampa for the Cuba campaign during the Spanish American War?

A. Rough Riders and Buffalo Soldiers

B. Devil Dogs and Leathernecks

C. Screaming Eagles and Old Ironsides

D. Minutemen and Green Mountain Boys

18. What colors make up the ribbon on the Marine Corps Spanish American medal?

A. Red and white

B. Royal blue and gold

C. Scarlet and gray

D. Green and silver

19. During what war were bombs dropped on Mullet Key, and why?

A. World War I, to test coastal defenses

B. The Spanish American War, during the blockade of Tampa Bay

C. World War II, as target practice

D. The Civil War, by Union gunboats

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12 Foundations

20. Which foundation is the only one to stand over two feet tall?

A. The hospital
B. The bakery
C. The barracks
D. The guardhouse

21. What has a hold on many of the palm trees?

A. Spanish moss
B. Poison ivy
C. Strangler Fig
D. Kudzu

22. At the septic tank structure, you'll see a tall tower in the distance. How tall is the hexagonal tower?

A. 25 feet
B. 40 feet
C. 60 feet
D. 85 feet

23. From Marker 25, head out to the water's edge where the old wharf used to be. What bridge do you see towards the east?

A. Gandy Bridge
B. Howard Frankland Bridge
C. Courtney Campbell Causeway
D. Sunshine Skyway

24. What one building had a complete concrete foundation that served as a basement?

A. The bakery
B. The administration building
C. The hospital
D. The mess hall

13 Fort DeSoto

25. How many mortars were originally installed at the Fort?

A. 4 10" mortars
B. 8 12" mortars
C. 6 8" mortars
D. 12 6" mortars

26. What was the weight of the heaviest mortar round?

A. 512 pounds
B. 746 pounds
C. 1046 pounds
D. 2020 pounds

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27. What purpose does the small rectangular building behind the Fort serve?

A. An ammunition magazine

B. The data booth where the math calculations were done to aim the mortars

C. A guard house for sentries

D. A pump house for the Fort's water supply

14 Top of the Fort

28. How many green vents are on the center spur at the top of the fort?

A. 6 or 17

B. 3

C. 12

D. 25

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Challenge Answers — Leaders Only!

1. A — 63°

2. C — 342°

3. B — 256°

4. B — 4

5. A — Red, White and Black

6. A — You've done a good turn daily and helped clean the park – you did good!

7. B — 5

8. A — Prickly Pear Cactus

9. B — Railroad Vine/Beach Morning Glory

10. C — Sea Oats

11. D — Sea Rocket

12. E — Sea Grapes

13. B — 6

14. C — 1000 ft

15. B — 311°

16. A — Concrete reef balls

17. A — Rough Riders and Buffalo Soldiers

18. B — Royal blue and gold

19. C — World War II, as target practice

20. B — The bakery

21. C — Strangler Fig

22. B — 40 feet

23. D — Sunshine Skyway

24. C — The hospital

25. B — 8 12" mortars

26. C — 1046 pounds

27. B — The data booth where the math calculations were done to aim the mortars

28. A — 6 or 17

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