

DeSoto State Park

Although the Spaniard Hernando De Soto found no gold when he explored this region in 1540, modern seekers of nature's treasures will find prizes aplenty: 20 miles of trails lined with uncountable riches. Famed for its springtime display of flowering shrubs, this wooded preserve is equally stunning in autumn, when hardwoods put on a show of foliage as colorful as a painter's palette. Be sure to catch each season in all its glory from the overlook at nearby 120-foot DeSoto Falls, the highest cascade in the area. The reservoir above the falls makes for a lovely picnic spot -- and a tempting find for anglers.

In the pioneer spirit of the explorer Hernando DeSoto, DeSoto State Park encompasses some 5,000 acres along Little River. Accented by waterfalls, scenic vistas and sheer rock cliffs, fragrant wildflowers and hiking trails, the pioneer spirit is enhanced with a unique restaurant, resort, camping and cabin rentals. Among the many waterfalls found throughout the park is the DeSoto Falls, a 104-ft drop into the rugged canyon carved by the Little River.

Visit Website

DeSoto State Park is located at

13903 County Road 89, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

Park Headquarters (256) 845-0051

Lodge 1-800-568-8840.