

1stFlorida.com

DeSoto County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · CENTRAL FLORIDA

The full guide: 1stflorida.com/counties/desoto · 1stFlorida.com is privately owned and is not affiliated with Florida state or county government.

REGION

Central Florida

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

Arcadia, Nocatee, Fort Ogden

PRINTED

October 6, 2026

Arcadia's historic center, ranch country and the Peace River make DeSoto a distinctly rural alternative within reach of Southwest Florida.

Lifestyle: Ranch country · Paddling · Historic town

DeSoto County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	35,386	At the last full count 2020 Census	33,976
Median age	43.5	Aged 65 and over	23.8%
Under 18	17.9%	Median household income	\$54,417
Median home value what owners estimate	\$174,100	Homeownership	72.5%
People per household	2.53	Average commute	30.5 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Arcadia

Start with Arcadia to understand the established center, nearby services and everyday rhythm within DeSoto County.

Nocatee

Use Nocatee to compare housing patterns, main-road access and the shopping or medical stops used during a normal week.

Fort Ogden

Walk or drive through Fort Ogden at different times of day to judge traffic, neighborhood character and access to outdoor space.

Places that reveal the county

Arcadia Historic District

Downtown Arcadia was rebuilt in brick after a Thanksgiving Day fire in 1905, and 293 of those buildings still stand.

Morgan Park

A 240-acre county park on the Peace River just west of downtown Arcadia, with three miles of trail and real bluffs above the water.

Brownville Park

A 75-acre county park and campground on the Peace River north of Arcadia, and the usual put-in for a day's paddle down to town.

Canoe Outpost–Peace River

A family paddling outfitter in Arcadia, in business since the 1970s, running day trips and overnight camping runs on the Peace River.

Peace River

The river runs the length of Hardee County, and its gravel beds hold shark teeth and Ice Age bone.

DeSoto County Historical Society Museum

The county museum is the John Morgan Ingraham House, a Florida Cracker home of the late 1800s brought back after Hurricane Charley.

Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo

The rodeo Arcadia has held since 1928, run every March at Mosaic Arena with a second show in October.

Peace River Charters

An Arcadia outfitter running airboat rides, swamp buggy trips, trail rides and canoe runs on and around the Peace River.

Where to check

Florida disaster preparedness maps · Official evacuation-zone, route and storm-surge planning maps.

floridadisaster.org

Florida school accountability reports · Current state school and district accountability information.

fldoe.org

Florida community health data · County-level public health indicators and community reports.

flhealthcharts.gov

Florida housing resources · State resources for homebuyers, renters and local assistance programs.

floridahousing.org