



NATIONAL PARKS COLLECTION

DE SOTO

DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL

FLORIDA



The De Soto National Memorial commemorates Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, who with an army of 600 soldiers landed on the southwest Florida coast in 1539. With a license from the King of Spain, the party's aim was to explore, colonize, and pacify the Indians of the area known as "La Florida." The first large scale European mission into the interior of North America was marked by hardships throughout the four-year, 4000-mile journey.

SPECIAL INFORMATION

From late December to early April, Camp Ucita, a reproduction of the 16th Century Indian village that the de Soto expedition used as a base camp, is open. Park rangers, dressed in period costume, demonstrate blacksmithing, cooking, armor repair, and military weapons of the period. Upon advance request, special films or demonstrations are arranged for groups. • Superintendent, De Soto National Memorial, P. O. Box 15390, Bradenton, FL 34280, (941) 792-0458.