

Do It Yourself Trip Through Hot Springs Village

This is one of five reference docs for HSV residents/guests. The other four are:

Quick Reference Guide to HSV Area Dining
Medical Providers - Hot Springs Village Area
Clubs, Groups & Organizations - Hot Springs Village Area
POA General Rules & Regulations - 2020

We recently added a Virtual Tour of HSV on YouTube

"Tour Hot Springs Village with Brenda and George Langley"

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Please Enjoy!

Should you find an error or omission or addition, please email/text us with the update. We will update our HSV documents on a quarterly basis as they are available on-line @ www.HotSpringsVillage.Life

The new on-line tour and this DIY driving tour combine to produce a great introduction to the Village.

New Web Site!!

www.HotSpringsVillage.Life

Your source for information about Hot Springs Village with "Connections" to Hot Springs and the surrounding area:

Lifestyle, Outdoor Recreation, Arts, Entertainment, Dining, Medical & Real Estate

2022 DIY Trip

A Do It Yourself Trip Through Hot Springs Village

The purpose of this DIY guide is to create interest for Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. I suggest that you follow the tour on the available Map of the Village. This map is very informative. The narrative includes those trails and lakes you will pass. Not all of the lakes and trails are mentioned. The tour will cover all of the golf courses as they will provide a place to eat, great scenery, and a good rest stop for all.

Quick Facts: HSV is the largest gated community in North America at 26K acres. 2020 is the year of our 50th anniversary. HSV was built out from west to east. I like to call the west side of the Village, "The Historic District." We are surrounded by a National Forest and hilly terrain. It's not as hilly on the South side or East end (where the newer homes are located). Mountain views are many and are not limited to a single area. 25 percent of our surface area is Green Belt and not for development. Within our gates, we have 9 award-winning golf courses, 11 lakes, 30+ miles of trails, and some of the nicest people you will ever meet.

This tour will start at the West Gate (Hwy 7), it will take you almost to the East Gate, (Hwy 5) and then return to the West Gate on a different route. (If you will be leaving by the East Gate, directions are provided for an East Gate exit). I do suggest that you stop by the golf courses, get out of your car and be amazed at the natural beauty and overall quality of these facilities. I would also suggest that you take a short walk on at least one of our many trails noted in this guide. Many of our trails include a natural water setting which can be very enjoyable and peaceful. Our trails are marked and start with a greeting board that provides trail information and map, trees are documented along the way. The Village Audubon Society provides information on the birds you may encounter on your journey, and there are many benches on our trails for catching your breath or simply taking your time to enjoy nature or visit with a friend. I recommend a walking stick, comfortable shoes, and lavish use of bug repellent prior to walking the more "native" trails. There are three biking/cart trails not mentioned in this text.

This Do It Yourself tour begins from the **HSV Chamber of Commerce Office/Visitor Center** located in the Cordoba Center at the Highway 7 & Desoto Blvd intersection. You will need a Visitor's Pass for the West Gate attendant (pass is available when you check into the Visitor's Center, this gate is manned 24/7). **DeSoto Blvd** is the main road in the Village, it runs West and East for approximately 15 miles and connects Highway 7 (west) and Highway 5 (east). The East Gate is manned from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and provides magnetic card entry from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Got your pass on your dash? Let's get started. Heading eastbound on DeSoto Blvd following the double yellow center stripes.

DeSoto Golf Course, clubhouse and restaurant (Xplore! DeSoto) will be on your left in about a mile. **The DeSoto GC** is the original HSV course and play from the tips is 6733 yards. The greens are Champion Ultra Dwarf and the fairways are 419 Bermuda. The course is complete with driving range and a large practice green. Dining is available indoors or on the spacious and scenic clubhouse patio. There is food service for breakfast and lunch. Dinner hours, menus and supporting website are not currently available.

Driving past the GC you will see the new out-door swimming pool, the pickle ball complex (14 courts-7 lighted), basketball court, and playground area and then the miniature golf course on the left. The Village has a large Pickle Ball Club and hosts regional sanctioned tournaments. Some of our Churches have indoor pickle ball courts.

The only 4-way stop on DeSoto Blvd is around the 2-mile marker. The intersecting street is **Calella Rd** to the left and Valencia to the right. Along Calella Rd is the HSV Police Station, a fire station (1 of 4 in the Village), **EMS** station (1 of 3), a Shell gas station/auto repair center, **KVRE - 92.9 FM** radio station, **El Jimador Mexican Restaurant** (authentic Tex/Mex and a price performer, **501-915-8191**), **Village Loan Closet** (loans mobility equipment to Village residents during rehab), and various other businesses. Just past the **Fire Station** begins Lake DeSoto, (a 200-acre lake with 6.5 miles of shoreline), and there is an area for parking and bank fishing (an Arkansas tradition). This parking area also provides access to the **DeSoto** and the **Waypoint trails**. The **Desoto Trail** is mostly paved allowing bikes and golf carts, it's 3.4 miles long, relatively flat and circular as it will return you to this starting point. Via the Desoto Trail you may access the Desoto Club, swimming pool, and pickleball area.

Continuing East on DeSoto Blvd, you will quickly see on your left a shared entrance to: (a) **Los Lagos** which is a time-share vacation complex that sometimes offers nightly rentals, and to (b) **The Waypoint** – a **Grill** offering indoor and outdoor dining with lake views, (**501-922-5511**), and (c) the **Marina for Lake DeSoto**. **Waypoint Marina** offers fishing baits and boat, kayak, paddle board rentals that include a party barge. There is a public boat ramp as well. The easy **Waypoint walking trail (0.7 miles)** connects to the **Calella Rd** parking area for bank fishing and connection to the **Desoto walking/biking trail**. The Waypoint dining menu is on-line at explorethevillage.com, under the Community tab.

Back to **DeSoto Blvd**... turn left on DeSoto, still heading east. Next on your tour is an exit for the **DeSoto Dam and Beach** and in about a quarter mile (also on your left), an exit for the **Dog Park** – two parks (large dog and small dog), **Lawn Bowling, Bocce Ball and Croquet**. You might take the Dog Park exit just to look around. There are **three walking trails** that connect the **DeSoto Dam/Beach** and the **Dog Park/Bocce Ball/ Lawn Bowling/Croquet** areas. On a warm summer's day, you might enjoy taking your shoes off and walking in the cool running water beside the trail. The **lawn bowling** and **bocce ball** courts are first rate and supported by active clubs. Please note that the trail up to the dam is a native trail and is the only one that begins on the bocce ball side of the road. I would strongly suggest a walking staff as this trail gets steep, and again, is native.

The **dog park area** is also the western terminus of the 8.6 long mile **Hernando Trail** (biking/walking trail) that follows DeSoto Blvd eastward to the area of DeSoto Blvd / Ponce de Leon Blvd (mile marker 12). If you walk the whole thing, Hernando is the longest trail in the Village. (Several streets intersect with DeSoto where you may park in order to walk a shorter portion of the trail). There are a number of benches for resting along the way. At this point you have come about 4 miles in your tour of the Village and the Village has offered a high-quality golf course and dining, boating, kayaking, fishing, pickle ball, miniature golf, swimming, wading, hiking, bocce ball, lawn bowling, dog parks, Mexican cuisine, fire, police and EMS, and auto repair.

Back to **DeSoto Blvd** heading east, in about a quarter mile **Carmona Rd**, intersects DeSoto. Here we have the **Carmona Business Center** on your right, where you will find various businesses that include banking, medical/dental, day care, hair care, personal finance, etc. On your left are other businesses to include **Debra's Good Eats** (great for breakfast, lunch, dinner and take-out, **501-984-6677**). Also, to your left **Carmona Rd** takes you to the public boat ramp, parking, and covered Pavilion for **Lake Cortez** events. Lake Cortez is 245 acres with 10.5 miles of shoreline, a clear water lake as are all HVS Lakes.

Continuing on DeSoto Blvd between the 6 & 7 mile markers is **Balearic Rd**. Just prior to Balearic is a road sign for Saline County. Hot Springs Village is located in Garland and Saline Counties. You will turn right on **Balearic**, but please note that to your left is the **Property Owners Association (POA)** complex. Our **POA** is where business is conducted pertaining to the Village, i.e. owner ID's, vehicle stickers, permitting, utility departments, accounting, streets and roads, etc. We won't be going into the POA office this trip. Maybe the next time you're here. Right now, we are on our way to the **Coronado Fitness and Community Center**.

Turning right on Balearic, drive about two miles south (single yellow stripe). Just past the **Catholic Church**, you will turn left on **Ponderosa Lane**. On the way to the **Coronado Fitness and Community Center**, you will pass **Dolce Vita Italian Ristorante** on your left (real Italian food in the Village, **501-226-3377**). Continue on Ponderosa to the **Coronado Center complex**. There are tennis courts everywhere (actually 13). **The Coronado Fitness Center** is located on Lake Coronado (380 acres and 9.92 miles of shoreline) and includes an indoor pool, hot tub, basketball court, physical fitness facilities, indoor walking track, fitness classes, steam room (**Silver Sneakers** accepted here). The **Coronado Community Center** includes a large auditorium, POA offices, rooms for meetings and entertainment events, and the **Coronado Library**. There is a 1-mile easy walking trail that connects the **Coronado Fitness Center** and the **RV Park**. Located on **Lake Coronado**, there are benches for enjoying the views and a number of geese that glide around the lake. Although most large HSV parking areas (church parking lots), have been qualified for care-flight landings, Coronado Center does have a heli-pad close to the Coronado Library.

Driving out of the Coronado Center on Ponderosa, turn left on Balearic Rd. **The RV Park** is about a mile further south on your left. The RV park is for travelers and not for permanent residents. That is a good thing because one of our most active clubs is the **HSV Road Runners RV Club**. Our RV Club travels from coast to coast and border to border. The RV park provides facilities/spaces for 21 RV's (7 drive thru). Guests at the RV park can use the **Coronado Center** for showers at no cost. There is a trail, so you don't have to drive. Nightly rental is \$40. If an RV is in your future, why not pull into our RV Park and look around.

Continuing your **DIY tour** on Balearic Rd, the spillway from **Lake Pineda** is on your right and after a rain shower offers a great visual. **Lake Pineda** is one of our smaller lakes offering excellent fishing (62 acres, 3 miles of shoreline). As you continue on Balearic Rd the terrain on your right is not as hilly and this area is called the **Foothills**. Balearic Rd now features the longest stretch of straight paved road in the Village, enjoy. On your left is a **fire station** and **Lakes Management office**. Off of **Murillo Circle** is the Lake Coronado public boat ramp and a short, flat (0.3 mile) walking trail. The **Horseshoe Pitching Club** has their court here. There are a number of benches along the shoreline where one might catch a nap or two on a cool, peaceful afternoon.

Continuing east on **Balearic** you will come to **Minorca Rd** in about a mile or so on your left. About a mile down Minorca is the **Cedar Creek Trail** on the right and **The Beehive Neighborhood Hangout** on the left. The **Cedar Creek Trail** goes to the **Coronado Baptist Church** on Minorca where there is also parking. The trail is relatively flat and has many branches that return to the main trail, trail length will/may be over 3 miles depending on the shorter branch trails you take. Many benches are available for resting and observing the wildlife and flowers in season. The **Beehive Neighborhood Hangout** has become a local favorite, open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday and until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Live music on the weekends, (**501-777-8176**).

Continuing from Minorca Rd eastward on Balearic Rd, you will pass the **Coronado** and then the **Balboa Golf Courses**, both on the right. **Coronado GC** is an executive course playing 3895 yards with Bent Grass greens and Bermuda fairways. There is a small (cash only) grill that cooks up a good breakfast and lunch, (**501-922-0007**). The golf course has a practice putting green.

Balboa GC is a par-72 course playing 6725-yards with 419 Bermuda fairways and blended Bent Grass greens. **Balboa GC** has a driving range, putting green, and short game area. Balboa also has a Grill and Sports Bar with indoor/outdoor seating that is open 7 days. Music and Karaoke nights are first Wednesdays of the month and weekly on Tuesday and Friday, 6:30-9:30 and 7-11 respectively, otherwise the grill is open from Noon to 6 p.m. Casual dining menu, chicken salad, Bar B-Q, hamburger, etc., (**501-299-2909**).

There is a four way stop at the **Balboa Rd** intersection. Continue on **Balearic** to **Ponce de Leon Drive**. You may turn right on Ponce de Leon Dr and exit one of our carded gates (no HSV gate personnel) to Hwy 5 (this is the **Balboa Gate**). **However**, turn left on **Ponce de Leon** and you will see the entrance to the **Animal Welfare League Shelter and Adoption Center** on your right. The animal shelter is a place where domesticated pets that are lost, forgotten, or run-away get a

new lease on life. The HSV Shelter provides pets a place to live until adoption. I adopted my cat "BoBo" from the shelter, he is special. I know the remaining chipmunks around my house hold him in the highest regard. This shelter entrance road is also the portal to the **Magellan Beaver Dam Trail**. This is a one-way flat trail and follows **Cedar Creek** for about .6 miles and returns. This trail has a **geo-cache**. I am not going to tell you where it is. Okay back to **Ponce DeLeon Dr** and to the right.

After passing the animal shelter entrance, you will quickly see **Lake Balboa** (900+ acres, 20.6 miles of shoreline) as you cross the **Balboa Dam**. Upon crossing the dam, the **Xplore! Lakeside Bar and Grill**, and the newly remodeled **Balboa Marina** are on your left. **Xplore! Lakeside** offers casual indoor and patio dining, but, go upstairs for upscale dining with unobstructed views of Lake Balboa (**501-204-5037**). The remodeled **Marina** includes a complete convenience store, provides slips for a large number of resident boats, and supports lake fishing with petrol, live baits, rentals, boats, kayaks, paddle boards, and water safety equipment. The **Marina** is open 7 days a week and will cook breakfast items and grill items until late afternoon (**501-922-3435**). The upper level is for two separate **Airbnb rentals** and otherwise not a part of the Marina function.

The next structure is the **Balboa Pavilion** which houses many large HSV outdoor events including the "**Cancer Walk for A Cure**." HSV facilities such as the Pavilion can be rented by property owners for large family get-togethers or special interest events. The **Balboa Beach** is located beyond the Pavilion (on the water). You might want to drive down the parking lot and take a look. The **Balboa Trail** starts at the north end of the parking lot, it crosses the spillway, and then meanders past Promesa Way to the DeSoto Blvd and Ponce de Leon intersection. The flat walking, biking, golf cart trail is 2.1 miles long, Balboa Beach to DeSoto Blvd. At DeSoto, you may connect with the **Hernando trail** for even more fun.

Upon leaving the **Lake Balboa** complex continue left on Ponce de Leon Dr. The **Magellan Golf Course** and **Grill** is on your right. **Magellan GC** began as a teaching facility and is now an outstanding 6,494-yard, par-72 course with multi-level short game practice areas including multiple putting greens, a lot of sand, and a large driving range. The greens are Champion Ultra Dwarf and the fairways are 419 Bermuda. The grill is open (with great price performing sandwich specials and free popcorn) until mid-afternoon Tuesday to Saturday (**501-922-5040**).

Driving past **Magellan GC** will take you past a **Fire/EMS Station** on your left and on your right is the **Balboa Outreach Center** that offers indoor pickleball and space for meetings, parties and events. Further on your left is a business center that includes **RE/MAX of Hot Springs Village**, doctor's office, dentist's office, lawyer's office, beauty salon, and **Artfully Baked & Brewed**, a casual bake shop and diner (**501-777-8176**). You are now back to our old friend, DeSoto Blvd.

Please continue across **DeSoto** for about a mile and a half. On your left is **Ponce de Leon GC and Clubhouse and Mulligan's Grill**. **Ponce GC** is the #8 rated course in the state. Ponce plays 6,946 yards. The greens are Bent grass blends and the fairways are Tifway II Bermuda grass. Mulligan's Grill is highly rated also, open Mon - Sat, casual food, great pizza, closes around 7 p.m., later on Saturday, dine indoors or on the patio (**501-922-1623**). Please return to DeSoto Blvd via Ponce de Leon.

Now return to DeSoto Blvd and turn left. In a mile or so turn left on **Maderas Dr**. In less than a mile and on your left is **Country Club Drive** and the entry to **Diamante Golf Club**. More than just a Golf Club, Diamante is a private County Club within the Hot Springs Village Community.

At **Diamante Country Club**, you'll enjoy dining at its finest in an atmosphere that is second to none. The culinary team's magnificent entrees will keep you coming back. Casual and fine dining experiences in the club's restaurant and bar feature local recipes and members' favorites on a varying menu. Relax in luxury in the indoor dining room or the outdoor patio with a waterfall overlooking the Ouachita Mountains and the golf course.

Diamante Golf Course is the only private membership golf club in Hot Springs Village. The course offers challenging and flexible play that is like six courses in one. Covering over 7,560 yards from the back tees, Diamante has been ranked the

38th most-difficult course in the nation by *Golf Digest*. In addition to the 18-hole course is the driving range, putting green, and short game area.

Available memberships include resident golf, non-resident golf, clubhouse, and tennis.

If you are ready to visit Hot Springs Village in person, book a **Diamante Discovery Package** for only \$449. It Includes:

- On-site lodging at a private home in Diamante for two nights;
- One round of golf on Diamante Golf Course;
- Two meals for two in the Clubhouse and use of the Diamante Country Club amenities during your stay;
- A Community tour by Brenda and George Langley with RE/MAX.

When in Hot Springs Village, make sure to stop into Diamante for a private tour.

For more information please visit: **DiamanteMemberships.com**.

As you return to Maderas Dr, turn left and shortly top the hill and here is the **Granada Golf Course** (7115 yards). The greens are a blend of L93 and Crenshaw Bent grasses, while the fairways are Tif Sport Bermuda. Grenada is a *Golf Digest* Top 10 course for Arkansas. The **Grill (501-922-1372)** has had a recent management and name change (**Explore! Granada**). Open 7 days for breakfast and lunch - dinner hours, menus and website are being refined. Turn right into the parking lot and enjoy the amazing views. The course is complete with putting green, a short game area, and a large driving range. Return to DeSoto via Maderas Dr.

Turn left on DeSoto Blvd and travel about a mile to the entrance of **Isabella GC on Inciador Way**. Isabella GC has a pro shop, driving range, putting green, and short game area. This course has three, nine-hole tracks—Nina (3,486 yards), Pinta (3,575 yards), and Santa Maria (3,630 yards). Greens are a blend of L93 and Crenshaw Bent grasses and the Fairways are 419 Bermuda. Isabella is a *Golf Digest* favorite. The Isabella restaurant (**Explore! Isabella**) is under new management and similar to DeSoto and Grenada, food service is available for breakfast and lunch but does not include dinner. (**501-226-3334**). Circle behind the pro shop and return to DeSoto Blvd via Inciador Way

Turn right (west) on **DeSoto Blvd**. As you pass Ponce DeLeon Dr. the parking for the **Hernando Trail** is on your right. Hernando goes from this point along DeSoto Blvd to the Dog Park at the DeSoto Dam, 8.6 miles. Several roads intersect with DeSoto Blvd going west, all these roads have parking spaces for the Hernando Trail, so if you don't want to walk the whole thing then start in the middle somewhere. Hernando is also a biking trail, it is dog friendly, and the rating is difficult /moderate. It's alongside DeSoto Blvd, so wildlife and nature views are limited with benches placed strategically.

Continue on DeSoto and in about two miles you will see Village Storage on your right. In this area are a number of large metal buildings and businesses providing various services to the Village.

At about mile marker 9, you will see **Grove Park, The Veterans Memorial, the Woodlands Auditorium, and the Ponce de Leon Center** on your right. The Woodlands Auditorium and the Ponce de Leon Center share the same roof but are separated by a drive-thru to back side parking. The **Ponce Center** is on the **left side** and has rooms for meeting and large gatherings. The **HSV Card Club** meets here daily (the **HSV Duplicate Bridge Club** hosts regional events here). The Woodlands has stadium seating for over 600 folks for musicals and plays. Entertainers come here from all over, and on some nights there is dancing in the aisles. Adjacent to the impressive **Veterans Memorial** (HSV is very military friendly) is **Grove Park**, it is home to a "local farmer's" farmer's market on Thursday mornings from May to October, and also provides an outdoor venue for monthly Saturday night musical entertainment, free. Bring your lawn chairs and cooler and a gratuity for the entertainers, come early. Moving west on DeSoto.

There is a rather sudden hill around mile marker 8. At the bottom of this hill is **Minorca Rd**. The **BeeHive Neighborhood Hangout** and the **Cedar Creek Trail** is to your left on Minorca. We looked at these two spots earlier when we were touring off of **Balearic** on the south side.

Traveling on westward, at the intersection of Cortez Rd (between mile markers 6 and 7), is **Good Samaritan's** senior living facility and rehab center. Called **Good Sam** for short. Good Sam is primarily a Senior Center, providing independent living, assisted living, nursing care, and a rehab center. Turn right (north) on **Cortez Rd**. You will pass a **Fire/EMS station** on your right. The entry to Good Sam is on your left. Good Sam is an attractive and impressive facility you might want to drive in and look around. Many folks move to Good Sam in their later years to maintain an active lifestyle and to stay among their friends in the Village.

Continue on Cortez Rd to the north. You are going to the northmost side of the Village. You will have a scenic look at **Lake Cortez**, and I hope you enjoy changes in altitude along the way. The drive is about 3 miles from DeSoto Rd to **Cortez GC**. Cortez Rd will actually be going west when you turn left into Cortez GC at the sign.

Cortez GC is a 72-par, 6,672-yard beauty. The fairways are Hybrid Bermuda and greens are SRT 1020 Bent Grass. Cortez is complete with driving range and putting green. **Raffaella Rose** is the restaurant at Cortez. The food here is really good. The wait staff is friendly and professional. You have been on this tour for a while, and it's almost over. I did not plan this but, if you are hungry, this will be a really great place to have a bite to eat. Sit outside and enjoy the views, hopefully a soft breeze. I usually see several deer here, (501-226-3334).

This tour was composed for a first look at Hot Springs Village. I really hope you liked what you saw and experienced. There is so much more to appreciate here. I think our best asset is "the people" that live here. Hot Springs Village is a forgiving place. The woes of the world are outside the gate. Now, let me get you home.

If you are traveling by way of the East Gate and Highway 5, you will drive out of the Cortez GC parking lot and make a right on Cortez Rd. Drive to DeSoto Blvd. Make a left on DeSoto and drive out the East Gate (about 9 miles).

If you are going to Highway 7 on the west side, make a left out of the parking lot on Cortez Rd. Travel on Cortez, it will dead end at Barcelona Rd. At Barcelona you will make a right turn and then a quick left turn on Carmona Rd. Travel on Carmona to DeSoto Blvd and make a right on DeSoto. You will exit the Village on the west side (Hwy 7), in approximately 4 miles.

"Y'all Come Back Now, You'll Love It Here"

Brenda and George Langley - RE/MAX Realtors – 501-226-8781 or 501-538-0570 call or text - BGLangleyhsv@gmail.com

Virtual Tour of HSV on YouTube -

"Tour Hot Springs Village with Brenda and George Langley"

The new virtual tour and this DIY driving tour combine to produce a great introduction to the Village.

New Website !!: www.HotSpringsVillage.Life

Review the Website and Tell your Friends!

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