



DAY TRIP TO KORESHAN

From Fort Myers · Lee County, Florida



Photo: kitmasterbloke, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

OPEN: STATE PARK

A preserved settlement of 11 historic buildings in Koreshan State Park, open daily, per the park's page as archived on September 22, 2026. Nobody lives there; the last member died in 1982.

Koreshan is an easy half day from Fort Myers, half an hour down US 41. Walk the historic settlement first, while the buildings are open (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), then take the River Trail along the Estero River to the picnic area. A guided tour tells the colony's story best; the park says tour schedules and tickets are on the Friends of Koreshan State Park website.

A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 9:00 | Leave Fort Myers south on US 41. |
| ☐ 9:30 | Pay at the ranger station or by QR code and park at the historic settlement. |
| ☐ 9:45 | Walk the settlement: Planetary Court, the Founder's House, the Art Hall and the machine shops. |
| ☐ 11:30 | Take the River Trail along the Estero River to the picnic area. |
| ☐ 12:30 | Picnic by the river, or head back to Fort Myers for lunch. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Planetary Court.** Shoot the yellow verandas from the lawn in morning light.
- **The machine shops.** The belt-driven machines inside the Large Machine Shop reward a wide lens.
- **The bamboo trails.** The Koreshans planted the bamboo along the Estero River; the River Trail runs through it.



USGS topographic map, 1956 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	16 mi, about 30 min each way from downtown Fort Myers. From Tampa: 144 mi, about 2 h 40 min.
HOURS	Park 8 a.m. to sunset, 365 days a year; historic settlement 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; ranger station 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday (park page, archived September 22, 2026).
ADMISSION	\$5 per vehicle of two to eight people, \$4 for a single-occupant vehicle, \$2 for pedestrians, cyclists and extra passengers.
GUIDED TOURS	\$10 per person aged 12 and over, schedule varies, tickets online or by QR code in the park (fee page, archived March 2026).
RESTROOMS	Yes, listed among the park's accessible amenities, with picnic shelters and grills at the picnic area.
FOOD AND WATER	No food service is listed on the park's pages. Bring a picnic and water.
WALKING	Paths through the settlement; the River Trail is 0.44 miles end to end, and the Blue Trail loop back to the settlement 0.64 miles.
CAMPING	The campground has been closed since October 31, 2025.
CONTACT	Koreshan State Park, 239-992-0311.
WEBSITE	floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/koreshan-state-park

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 26.43333, -81.81667 • 26°26′00″N
81°49′00″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/florida/koreshan/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.