

Morning: Cocoa Beach Pier

Begin your Space Coast getaway at the Westgate Cocoa Beach Pier, an iconic landmark extending approximately 800 feet over the Atlantic Ocean.

Walk along the pier, watch the surfers and fishermen, browse the shops or enjoy a drink overlooking the water.

Late Morning: Ron Jon Surf Shop

Visit the world-famous Ron Jon Surf Shop and browse two floors of surfboards, beachwear, souvenirs and Florida-inspired gifts.

Lunch: Cocoa Beach

Restaurant ideas:

- **Sandbar Sports Grill** 📍4301 Ocean Beach Blvd
- **Long Doggers** 📍 350 W Cocoa Beach Causeway
- **Florida's Fresh Grill** 📍2039 N Atlantic Ave
- **Coconuts on the Beach** 📍 2 Minutemen Causeway

Afternoon: Downtown Cocoa Beach

Explore downtown Cocoa Beach near Minutemen Causeway. Browse locally owned shops, surf stores and casual restaurants before returning to the beach.

Evening: Beach Sunset

Although the sun sets on the opposite side of the barrier island, the evening sky can still create beautiful colors above Cocoa Beach.

Then have dinner with an ocean view.



Morning: Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

Arrive when the visitor complex opens and begin with Heroes & Legends, the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and the Rocket Garden.

Continue to Gateway: The Deep Space Launch Complex to see modern spacecraft, learn about NASA's current missions and experience an immersive journey through space.

Insider Tip: Kennedy Space Center requires a full day. Arrive before opening and review the daily schedule so you do not miss astronaut presentations, films or limited-time experiences.

Afternoon: Choose Your Own Adventure

Use your afternoon to experience the attractions that interest you most.

- Space Shuttle fans: See the orbiter Atlantis displayed with its payload doors open.
- Thrill seekers: Experience liftoff on the Shuttle Launch Experience.
- Families: Explore Planet Play, an interactive indoor play.
- Future astronauts: Discover spacecraft and commercial spaceflight inside Gateway.
- History lovers: Visit the memorial honoring the crews of Challenger and Columbia.

Evening: Port Canaveral

After leaving Kennedy Space Center, head to Port Canaveral for dinner beside the water. Watch cruise ships, fishing boats and recreational vessels travel through the port.

Dinner ideas:

- **Grills Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar** 📍505 Glen Cheek Dr
- **Fishlips Waterfront Bar & Grill** 📍 610 Glen Cheek Dr
- **Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar** 📍628 Glen Cheek Dr
- **Rising Tide Tap & Table** 📍523 Glen Cheek Dr



Day 3: *Wildlife, Waterways & Coastal Sunsets*

Morning: Thousand Islands

Begin your final day with a guided kayak or paddleboard tour through the Thousand Islands Conservation Area.

Paddle through mangrove tunnels and peaceful waterways while searching for dolphins, manatees, coastal birds and other Florida wildlife..

Lunch: Cocoa Beach

Restaurant ideas:

- **The Tiny Turtle** 📍249 Minutemen Causeway
- **The Fat Snook**📍 2464 S Atlantic Ave
- **4th Street Fillin Station** 📍382 N Orlando Ave
- **Jazzy's Mainely Lobster** 📍210 N Orlando Ave

Afternoon & Sunset: Space Coast Recommendations

Choose the perfect way to finish your Cocoa Beach and Kennedy Space Center getaway.

- Jetty Park: Watch cruise ships and fishing boats enter and leave Port Canaveral.
- Cocoa Beach: Swim, sunbathe, surf or take one final walk along the Atlantic.
- Wildlife lovers: Visit the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- Water lovers: Take a dolphin cruise, fishing charter or airboat ride.
- Historic Cocoa Village: Browse boutiques, galleries and restaurants in a charming historic district on the mainland.

Finish your trip with dinner at Port Canaveral or watch the sunset over the Banana River.



Insider Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes—you'll walk more than you think, especially at Kennedy Space Center.
- Dedicate a full day to Kennedy Space Center rather than trying to combine it with a beach day.
- Purchase Kennedy Space Center admission ahead of time and arrive before opening.
- Take the Kennedy Space Center Bus Tour early so you have enough time for the Apollo/Saturn V Center.
- Check the official launch schedule before your trip, but remember that launches can be delayed or canceled with little notice.
- Do not build your entire itinerary around a launch unless you have extra flexibility in your travel schedule.
- Cocoa Beach parking fees vary by location. Follow posted signs and use the city's approved payment options.
- Lori Wilson Park offers free parking, but spaces are available on a first-come basis.
- Book kayak tours, surfing lessons, boat excursions and popular dinner reservations ahead of time.
- Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, insect repellent and a refillable water bottle.
- Check beach warning flags and swim near a lifeguard whenever possible.
- Keep a safe distance from dolphins, manatees, sea turtles and nesting shorebirds.