

NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899



FS-2003-08-004-KSC

KSC and Area Space Attractions



Along with the imposing Saturn V rocket in the Apollo/Saturn V Center, multi-media shows and numerous hands-on displays provide an inspirational look into America's quest for the moon.

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899
(321) 449-4444
www.kennedyspacecenter.com
TDD for hearing-impaired: (321) 454-4198
Current launch information:
(800) KSC-INFO (in Florida only)

Hours/Admission:

The Visitor Complex opens daily from 9 a.m. to approximately dusk, except Christmas Day and certain launch days. Guests should plan to spend a full day for a complete experience at the Visitor Complex.

Maximum Access Admission – \$33 + tax for adults and \$23 + tax for children ages 3-11 – includes the KSC Tour, IMAX® films, the Astronaut Hall of Fame and all attractions and exhibits. Maximum Access tickets include a second day free.

Wheelchairs and strollers are available for complimentary rental inside the main entrance – all exhibits and tours are wheelchair accessible.

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is located on Florida's beautiful Space Coast. It is located on S.R. 405 (aka the NASA Causeway) inside the KSC entrance, accessible via S.R. 528, I-95 and S.R. 3. The Visitor Complex is operated for NASA by concessioner Delaware North Parks Services of Spaceport Inc.

The origins of a visitor center for KSC date to the 1960s when public curiosity mushroomed about the space program. At first, only drive-through tours were permitted, but as interest continued to mount, the need for a permanent visitors center became clear. A site was selected in the mid-1960s, and in August 1967, the first official visitors center was opened. Since then it has undergone a number of expansions and upgrades.

The Visitor Complex features a wide variety of exhibits and activities related to the space program, including guided bus tours of KSC and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

A Space Station-themed **Ticket Plaza/Entranceway** welcomes guests. An orientation center provides a multilingual guest service staff to greet guests. A display commemorating former President John F. Kennedy and his vision for America's space program plus a multi-media presentation are teasers for the exciting exhibits, described below, throughout the Complex.

Mad Mission to Mars 2025: This live-action stage show enables guests to visit Mars without leaving Earth. Using stereoscopic 3-D computer animation and spectacular theatrical effects, wacky characters Professor Pruvitt, Kelvin, and WD-4D magically transform guests into "astronaut train-



ees," then guide them on an interactive journey through the cosmos where they learn principles essential for an astronaut to live and work in space.

Astronaut Encounter: The KSC Visitor Complex is the only place on Earth where guests can come face to face with a real astronaut every day of the year. This is a half-hour, interactive Q&A-oriented program.

Kennedy Space Center Tour: A narrated, video-supplemented bus tour stops at the LC-39 Observation Gantry for a panoramic view of KSC, Space Shuttle launch pads and rocket launch pads at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, then drives by the Vehicle Assembly Building and Orbiter Processing Facility. A second stop at the Apollo/Saturn V Center provides dramatic multimedia shows and numerous hands-on displays for an inspirational look into America's quest for the moon.

Early Space Exploration: Highlighting the Mercury and Gemini space programs, this facility features artifacts from the first manned space flights and houses the original Mercury mission control consoles. The exhibit is located near the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility.

Exploration in the New Millennium: Guests transition into the future of space exploration on a journey from the Vikings' discoveries of Greenland and Iceland to the Mars Viking Lander, the first probe to land on Mars in 1976. Guests not only can touch an actual piece of Mars, but also "sign up" for future Mars missions by providing an electronic

signature that is stored on a microchip and forwarded to NASA headquarters, Washington, D.C. , for travel on a future Mars probe.

Films: Back-to-back IMAX® theaters showcase three exciting, large-format motion pictures on screens five-and-a-half stories tall!

The Dream Is Alive. Filmed by Shuttle astronauts and narrated by Walter Cronkite, this film captures the beauty and sensations of space flight, as well as the daily business of living and working in space. (37 minutes)

Space Station 3-D. Filmed by 25 astronauts and cosmonauts and narrated by actor Tom Cruise, this 3-D film takes guests on a cinematic journey of discovery from planet Earth to the newest star in the sky – the International Space Station. Via 3-D, you will sit inside the Space Shuttle during launch, take a space walk, and float through the Space Station. (45 minutes)

Quest for Life. Visitors to the Universe Theater can view this film that illustrates the need for humans to search for life in this galaxy and explore the unknown reaches of the universe.

Rocket Garden: (Below) A hallmark of the Complex, the outdoor "garden" features eight authentic rockets from the past, including a Mercury-Atlas rocket similar to the one used to launch John Glenn into space in 1962. The garden also features a climb-in Mercury, Gemini and Apollo capsule





SHUTTLE PLAZA

replicas, seating pods and informative graphic elements.

Shuttle Plaza: A full-size orbiter replica, the "Explorer" allows guests to picture more clearly what it's like to live and work in space. Full-size, genuine solid rocket boosters and an external tank are also on display, representing all three components of a Space Shuttle. Actual Space Shuttle mission hardware is displayed at the nearby Launch Status Center, and live briefings on space-related topics are presented daily.

Robot Scouts: This creative and humorous walk-through exhibit highlights NASA's unsung heroes, the unmanned planetary robot probes that pave the way for human space flight.

Astronaut Memorial Mirror: Dedicated May 9, 1991, the Astronaut Memorial honors U.S. astronauts who gave their lives for space exploration. The "Space Mirror," 42-1/2 feet high by 50-feet wide, illuminates the fallen astronauts' names cut through the monument's black granite surface: the crews of the Challenger (lost in 1986) and Columbia (lost in 2003).

"NASA Up Close" Tour: The two-hour tour,

led by a trained space expert, gives an insider's view of the space program from launch preparation to liftoff. Get up-close views of Shuttle launch pads, the VAB, Space Station Processing Facility and the Operations and Checkout building, where astronauts prepare for their flights. Also featured are the Shuttle Landing Facility and crawler-transporter. Each visitor receives a special VIP kit.

Other exhibits, features and tours include Lunch With an Astronaut, Cape Canaveral: Then and Now (tour), Nature and Technology: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (exhibit), NASA Art Gallery and Children's Play Dome.

The Center for Space Education

Built and operated by:
 The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc.
 The Center for Space Education
 Mail Code: AMF
 Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899
 Information: (321) 452-2887

Hours/Admission:
 The Center for Space Education is open 9 a.m to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Free admission.

The Center for Space Education is a “living memorial” to the honored astronauts. Located on six acres, the facility encompasses 44,000 square feet (4,088 square meters) of state-of-the-art conference, classroom and instructional technology display areas.

The center houses the foundation’s Educational Technology Institute that provides training in instructional technology for educators and serves as a demonstration platform for cutting-edge instructional technology. Educators come from all sections of the country to take courses at the Center for Space Education.

Also located in the center are NASA’s educational programs at KSC, including the Educators Resource Center and Exploration Station. The former provides scientific and aerospace videos, text materials and 35mm slides that can be copied by teachers (only) for use in the classroom. The latter provides programs for student groups and a hands-on science activities room that is open to the public.

Astronaut Hall of Fame

S.R. 405
Titusville, Fla.
Information: (407) 269-6100

Hours/Admission:

Open 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. every day except Christmas Day, with extended hours during summer and holiday periods.
Adults, \$13.95; children age 3 - 11, \$9.95.

Located six miles west of the main Visitor Complex is the Astronaut Hall of Fame, which is dedicated to telling the stories of America’s astronauts. Identified by the mockup of a full-sized



A replica of a Space Shuttle orbiter (above) is on exhibit outside the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

orbiter outside, the Hall of Fame features the world’s largest collection of personal astronaut mementos, plus historic spacecrafts, hands-on activities and astronaut training simulators. Sit at a mission control console, take a virtual moonwalk, feel the pull of 4 Gs in the G-Force Simulator, and land the Space Shuttle!

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame is the joint venture of the Mercury Seven Foundation and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation. Both are nonprofit organizations dedicated to encouraging science and technical education.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Canaveral National Seashore

Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

KSC comprises 140,000 acres, much of which are a wildlife refuge that exists alongside the launch pads, processing facilities and other sites, including the hazardous rocket propellant facilities. This other kind of “space” that comprises more than 500 different species of wildlife and 1000 species of plants bears testimony that nature and technology can peacefully coexist.

When KSC was first established, NASA bought all of northern Merritt Island to provide the needed isolation for launches, leaving huge tracts of undeveloped land in their natural condition. In 1963, in cooperation with NASA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1975 the Canaveral National Seashore was created and is managed by the National Park Service. The refuge is one of the finest in the United States, managing habitat for 21 federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, more than any other single refuge in the U.S.

Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Manager
P.O. Box 6504
Titusville, FL 32782
(321) 861-0667

Hours/Admission:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends
Closed on federal holidays and
Sundays from April-October

The Visitor Information Center is located on KSC, S.R. 402, four miles east of Titusville. It offers displays describing the wildlife and habitats of the refuge, plus educational resources are available for sale through the book store. A wildlife drive includes numbered stops that are described in a brochure from the Visitor Center. Several foot trails varying from one-half mile to five miles are also available.

Each Christmas, the Audubon Society conducts a count of the abundant bird population, many of which have migrated from points north. Fishing and duck hunting are permitted in season in certain areas; restrictions apply.



Roseate spoonbills winter in the Wildlife Refuge.

**Cape Canaveral
National Seashore**

Information Center:

7611 South Atlantic Avenue (A1A)
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
(904) 428-3384

Hours

Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except
Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Seashore Headquarters:

308 Julia Street
Titusville, FL 32796-3521
(321) 267-1110

Beach Hours/Admission:

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. winter/ 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. summer
A daily use fee is collected to enter the park.

Co-located with the wildlife refuge on KSC is the Cape Canaveral National Seashore, a pristine stretch of undeveloped beach extending from just north of Launch Pad 39B to a little south of New Smyrna Beach.

Boardwalks provide beach access across the dunes from parking areas. Walking on the dunes is prohibited. Swimming and surfing are permitted – lifeguards are stationed at two locations only, Playalinda Beach and Apollo Beach, from May 30 to Sept. 1.

Surf fishing is permitted free of charge to Florida residents. All nonresidents of the state and all those fishing from a boat must have salt-water fishing licenses. They can be purchased at any county tax collector's office or at most bait and tackle shops. Boat ramps provide access to Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River.

Four nature and historic trails can be found in the North District: Turtle Mound, Castle Windy, Eldora and Eldora Hammock.

The Information Center has exhibits, publications and information. Call 321-861-0667.

For information about programs led by Park Rangers, call or write the Information Center or Park Headquarters for a schedule or to make arrangements for your organization.

Limited backcountry camping in the Seashore is permitted on the beach Nov. 1 through April 30, and on designated islands all year, by permit only.



Brevard Community College Astronaut Memorial Planetarium

Brevard Community College
1519 Clearlake Road
Cocoa, FL 32922

Information and updates:
(321) 634-3732 or (321) 632-1111, ext. 63500

Hours/Admission:

The museum, observatory and demonstration hall are open free of charge to public schools. The public can view shows Wednesdays at 2 and 3 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time. There is a nominal charge for planetarium shows – please call the phone number above for additional information.

The Brevard Community college (BCC) Astronaut Memorial Planetarium is recognized as one of the best in the world. Located on BCC's Cocoa, Fla., campus, it incorporates ground-breaking technological advances that have yielded unparalleled images of the solar system.

Visitors to the Planetarium productions are treated to a view that is almost identical to the view of the sky as seen by astronauts orbiting the Earth hundreds of miles above its surface. The crisp, accurate and in-depth view of space is considered astonishing by international planetarium officials.

The 51,455 square-foot planetarium offers other unique ways to explore outer space. Underneath its 70-foot-high (21-meter) aluminum dome, the building houses:

- the *International Hall of Space Explorers*, honoring space explorers from around the world, such as Yuri Gagarin and John Glenn;
- an *observatory* featuring the largest public-accessible telescope in Florida, a 24-inch (61-centimeter) adapted-Cassegrain telescope to observe dim objects and deep space;
- the *Science Quest Demonstration Hall* featuring hands-on exhibits and displays, such as a Foucault pendulum and moon model, and participation in experiments illustrating scientific principles and aspects of space exploration.

U.S. Space Walk of Fame

North Indian River Avenue
Titusville, Fla.
(321) 267-1141 or (321) 784-6222

Hours/Admission:

The Space Walk is a public attraction open at all times. There is no admission charge.

The U.S. Space Walk of Fame is located at Space View Park, along north Indian River Avenue in Titusville.

A tribute to the astronauts and workers of America's human space flight programs, the Space Walk of Fame features a promenade of walkways, seating areas, outdoor displays and educational and interpretive stations that explore the specific achievements of space pioneers.

The first exhibit, Project Mercury, which was unveiled in May 1995, includes a 20-foot (six-meter) sculpture depicting the astronomical symbol of the planet Mercury, which was used as the Project Mercury emblem. The exhibit also features bronze tablets with handprints and signatures from the Mercury astronauts as well as flight data.

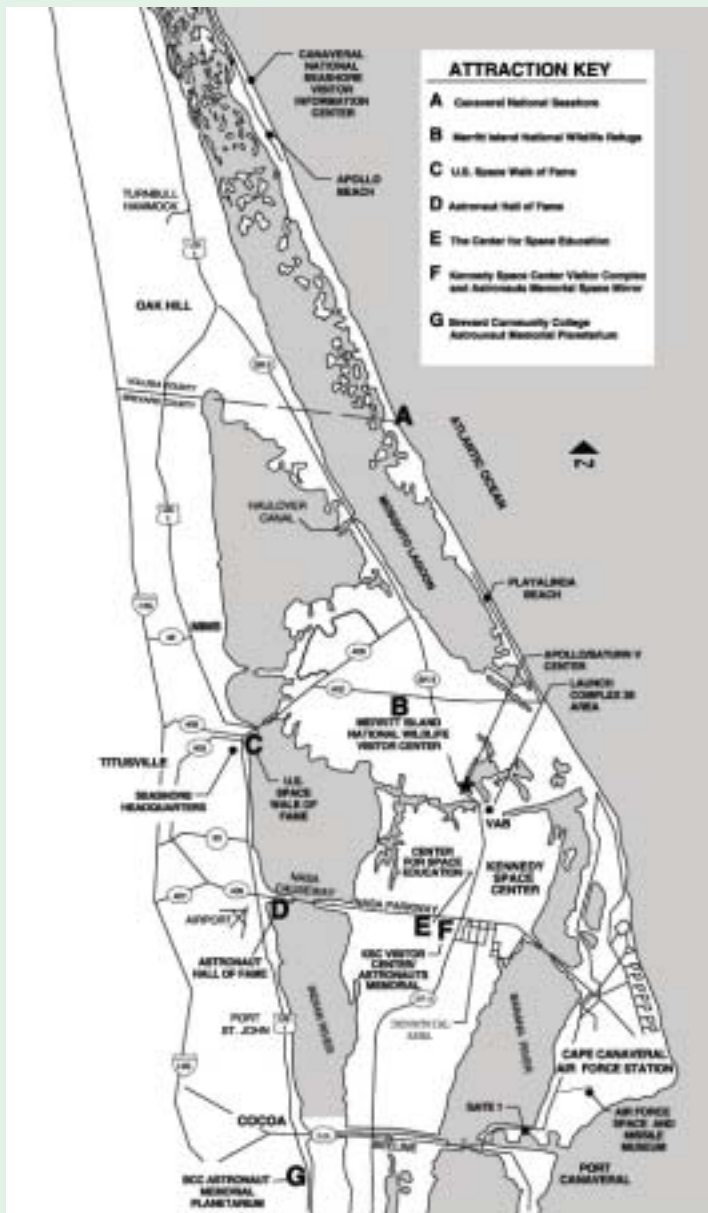
Another exhibit honoring the human space flight programs succeeding Mercury is the Gemini Monument, completed and dedicated on Nov. 7, 1997.

Others in the planning stages are Apollo, Skylab and the Space Shuttle.

The Apollo monument broke ground July 16, 1999, exactly 30 years after the liftoff of Apollo 11. The Space Shuttle Monument will be dedicated after the Apollo monument is completed.

In addition to the outdoor displays, the river-walk provides excellent public viewing areas of the Shuttle launch pads located almost directly due east of KSC.

Restaurants and antique stores are located nearby and the Space Walk also is conveniently close to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Canaveral National Seashore and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.



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