



The Space Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Maison Martinique (p317)
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- » Fat Snook (p313)
- » Slow and Low Barbecue (p313)
- » El Ambia Cubano (p316)

Best Places to Stay

- » Caribbean Court Boutique Hotel (p317)
- » Beach Place Guesthouses (p311)
- » Vero Beach Hotel and Spa (p317)
- » Sea View Motel (p315)
- » Windemere Inn (p315)

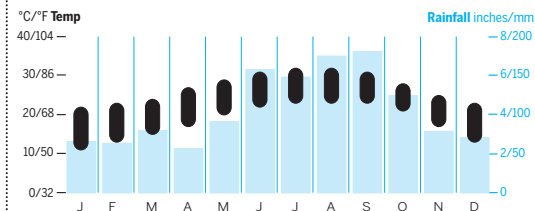
Why Go?

More than 75 miles of barrier-island Atlantic Coast stretch from Canaveral National Seashore south to Vero Beach, encompassing undeveloped beaches of endless white sand, an entrenched surf culture and pockets of Old Florida.

The Kennedy Space Center and several small museums dedicated to the history, heroes and science of the United States' space program give the Space Coast its name, and the region's tourist hub of Cocoa Beach is the launching point for massive cruise ships. But beyond the 3D space movies and tiki-hut bars, chain motels and surf shops, the Space Coast offers quintessential Florida wildlife for everyone from grandmas to toddlers. Kayak with manatees, camp on a private island or simply stroll along nature trails – it's easy to find a quiet spot.

When to Go

Cocoa Beach



Jul Crowds diminish; prices plummet; loggerhead sea turtles nest along miles of sandy coastline.

Apr More sunny days than any other month, and most Spring Breakers have come and gone.

Fall Peak migratory-bird season.

Space Coast Highlights

1 Catching a rocket launch from **Kennedy Space Center** (p307)

2 Watching the sun set over the Indian River at Melbourne Beach's **Café Coconut Cove** (p316)

3 Walking miles of beach and exploring historic sites at **Canaveral National Seashore** (p314)

4 Settling into the barefoot life in **Vero Beach** (p316), the quintessential beach escape with a small-town vibe

5 Strolling through peaceful **Pelican Island Wildlife Refuge** (p316)

6 **Kayaking** among the mangroves alongside manatees and river dolphins

7 **Surfing** Florida's hottest waves or simply spreading a beach towel and soaking in the surfing scene

