

The Space Coast

POP 186,510 / 321

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Titusville	337

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Dixie Crossroads (p338)
- ➔ Green Room Cafe (p330)
- ➔ Fat Snook (p330)
- ➔ Ocean 302 (p336)
- ➔ Chef Larry's (p338)
- ➔ Crush Eleven (p334)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Solrisa Inn (p334)
- ➔ Beach Place Guesthouses (p330)
- ➔ Port d'Hiver (p335)
- ➔ Crane Creek Inn (p335)
- ➔ Casa Coquina del Mar (p338)

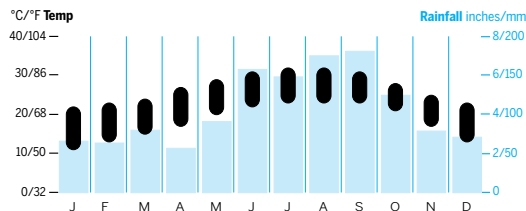
Why Go?

More than 40 miles of barrier-island Atlantic Coast stretch from Canaveral National Seashore south to Melbourne Beach, encompassing undeveloped stretches 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 just south of Cape Canaveral's launching point for massive cruise ships. But beyond the 3-D space movies, tiki-hut bars 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 miles and miles of sandy white beaches – it's easy to find a quiet spot.

When to Go

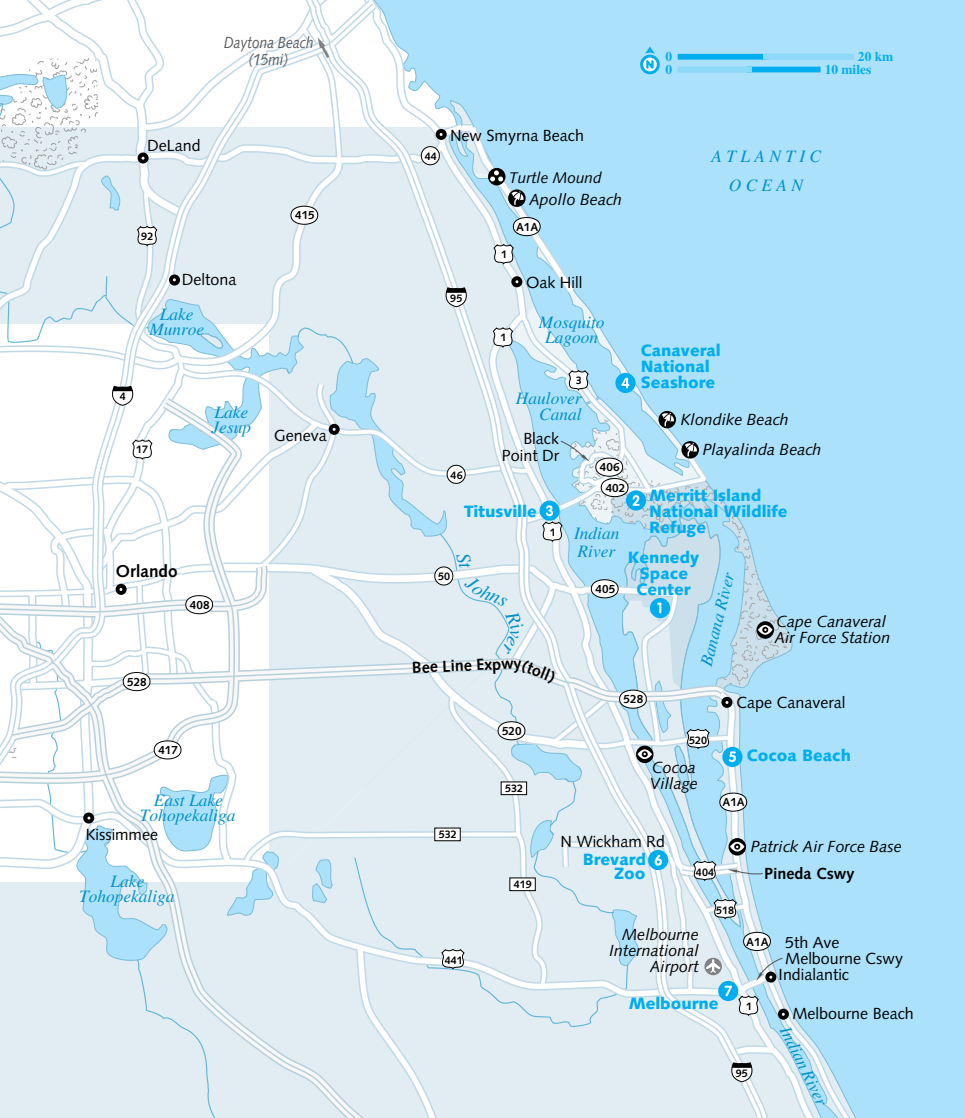
Cocoa Beach



Jul Crowds diminish; prices drop; 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 and drier weather make for prime wildlife-spotting.



The Space Coast Highlights

1 Kennedy Space Center (p324) Letting America's space program and the passion of its astronauts fill you with awe and wonder.

2 Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (p325) Kayaking with manatees and dolphins.

3 Titusville (p337) Watching a rocket launch from Space View Park or grabbing a beer in the historic downtown.

4 Canaveral National Seashore (p326) Spotting nesting turtles and diving pelicans.

5 Cocoa Beach Pier (p328) Surfing Florida's hottest

waves or simply soaking up the scene.

6 Brevard Zoo (p335) Learning about conservation while kayaking past giraffes and zip-lining over alligator pits.

7 Melbourne (p334) Catching community theater and symphony in the historic downtown.