



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Space Coast Offers Arts Enthusiasts a Variety of Options**

SPACE COAST, Fla. – The Space Coast has a lot to offer visitors who appreciate the arts. From visual arts to the performing arts to an array of festivals and events, the destination boasts a wide variety of options to suit every interest.

### **The Melbourne Art Festival**

Held the fourth full weekend of each April, the nationally recognized Melbourne Art Festival is held in historic downtown Melbourne. The event showcases the work of visual artists in Florida and throughout the nation. In addition to art exhibits, workshops and activities for the kids, the event also includes international musical performances, a 5k run and student competitions. The festival celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year and continues to be a nationally regarded, must-see event in the Space Coast. [www.melbournearts.org](http://www.melbournearts.org)

### **The Space Coast Art Festival**

Held every Thanksgiving in Cocoa Beach, this art festival is a lot of fun for locals and visitors alike. More like a get-together of old friends, this popular event features the works of local artists – from Tiki carvers to beachscape artists. Though its local flair abounds, the event continues to attract artists from all over to mingle and display their works, while enjoying the beach scene. [www.spacecoastartfestival.com](http://www.spacecoastartfestival.com).

### **The Art of Sand International Sand Sculpting Festival**

This inaugural festival will kick off in March 2010 and last for two months! Imagine sculptures made of sand, some gigantic and some as detailed as a mosaic! The International Sand Sculpting Festival will offer awards to master sculptors from around the world. The Art of Sand Festival kicks off with the opening weekend featuring entertainment, food and craft vendors, art shows and youth activities. The sculptures will be on exhibit through Memorial Day weekend with weekly special events taking place. Proceeds benefit the Fund for Arts in Brevard and the Brevard Cultural Alliance, serving individual artists and arts, cultural and historical organizations throughout the Space Coast. [www.artofsandus.com](http://www.artofsandus.com)

### **The Cocoa Village Playhouse**

An anchor in the historic, scenic Cocoa Village area, the Cocoa Village Playhouse is home to some of the top performances on the Space Coast. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> season, productions include four large musical productions and one professional touring performance each year. The facility is just as regarded as the feature performances. Dating back to 1924, the building was the first “talkie” movie house in Cocoa Village, originally named the Aladdin Theatre. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. [www.cocovillage.com/playhouse](http://www.cocovillage.com/playhouse)

## **Museum Row**

In the northern part of the region, take a stroll along Museum Row and enjoy a surprising variety. The American Police Hall of Fame and the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum are the perfect complement to spending a day at **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex**, where visitors can see everything from an astronaut memorial to an IMAX film.

[www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com)

The **American Police Hall of Fame** is the nation's first national police museum and memorial dedicated to American law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. It features interactive displays, simulators and nearly 11,000 artifacts which educate the public about the history and current trends of American law enforcement. Visitors can experience a state-of-the-art 24 lane indoor gun range and view a permanent etching of more than 7,000 officers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of the public. The museum provides a heartfelt reminder that every 57 hours, a police officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in America. On Police Memorial Day (May 15th), the Memorial hosts hundreds of police officers, family survivors and dignitaries. [www.aphf.org](http://www.aphf.org)

The **U.S. Space Walk of Fame Museum** is the first and only Walk in the nation which honors America's astronauts as well as the men and women behind the scenes who helped America lead the world in space exploration and accomplishments. Visitors can revisit our nation's space history, viewing everything from Shuttle consoles to launch memorabilia. [www.spacewalkoffame.com](http://www.spacewalkoffame.com)

The **Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum** in Titusville shows a range of historic airplanes and aircraft used by the U.S. from World War II to current day. Valiant Air Command is comprised of a group of volunteers who assembled the War Museum as a tribute to the valiant pilots who flew over the years. The organization is known for its excellence in the promotion of aerial shows, using military aircraft.

Each year in March, the Valiant Air Command holds the TICO Warbird Airshow and guests are treated to three days of performances by pilots guiding a range of military craft ranging from F-15, Corsairs and P-51s to FM-1 Wildcats and C-47 Skytrains. There's a museum dedicated to U.S. veterans and designed for the enjoyment of airplane aficionados. The museum is open daily, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. [www.vacwarbirds.org](http://www.vacwarbirds.org)

## **Brevard Art Museum**

Located in the Eau Gallie Arts District, the Brevard Art Museum is an anchor for all the culture in the county. Opening in 1978, the museum hosts showings of artists from world-renowned status to local followings. A center of creativity, the museum collects, displays and interprets all aspects of the visual arts. The museum features nearly 3,000 objects, spanning 20 centuries.

The Brevard Art Museum's permanent collection is comprised of five categories: Modern and Contemporary Art, The Conill Mendoza Collection of American Industrial Design, Asian Art, Cultural Education Collection and Women Artists. [www.brevardartmuseum.org](http://www.brevardartmuseum.org).

## **Brevard Cultural Alliance**

The Brevard Cultural Alliance is responsible for building and sustaining a vibrant and dynamic arts and cultural sector of Florida's Space Coast. As the official arts agency for the destination, the organization offers resources to provide insight and access to the area's vast arts and cultural programming. Visitors looking for details on the destination's offerings can take advantage of the organization's cultural concierge program for planning or booking performances or rely on these local arts and cultural experts for general insight into the Space Coast arts and cultural scene. [www.artsbrevard.org](http://www.artsbrevard.org).

Visitors who want a taste of the arts during their vacation have a host of unique options to explore in the Space Coast.

Located 35 miles (56 km) east of Orlando, Florida's Space Coast is home to Orlando's closest beaches. A family-friendly destination with more than 10,000 guest rooms, the area is an ideal, value getaway offering adventure, history and nature. With 72 miles (110 km) of beaches, the longest stretch in the state, and 250 square miles of wildlife refuge, the Space Coast is one of the largest intact eco-systems in Florida. Home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, it is the only place in the country where one can watch a live Shuttle launch. Encompassing Cocoa Beach, Melbourne Beach, Palm Bay and Titusville, the Space Coast also is noted for surfing, its numerous history and art museums, and a popular cruise port, Port Canaveral. For more information, contact the Space Coast Office of Tourism at (877) 572-3224 or visit [www.space-coast.com](http://www.space-coast.com).