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Contact:

Joel Kaiman, TJM Communications, Inc.
(407) 977-5004; joel@tjmcommunications.com

Treva J. Marshall, TJM Communications, Inc.
(407) 977-5004; treva@tjmcommunications.com

Donna Balancia, TJM Communications, Inc.
(321) 698-8387; donna@tjmcommunications.com

Florida's Space Coast Fast Facts

Description:

The Space Coast boasts 72 miles of beaches, the longest stretch in the state. The year-round warm weather, steady waves and world-class surf shops have earned the area the designation as the East Coast surfing capital of the United States. Home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the region obtained its name from its historic relationship with the nation's space program.

Located:

The Space Coast is located 35 miles (56 km) east of Orlando and is Orlando's closest beach.

Nature/Wildlife:

The Space Coast is one of the largest intact eco-systems in Florida. There are more than 250 square miles of wildlife refuge, where Florida's beautiful and rare creatures live. Bird nesting areas are found throughout the Indian River Lagoon. The beaches are home to a variety of sea turtle nesting areas.

Located on the Atlantic Flyway, the area is within close proximity to 40 sites on the Great Florida Birding Trail and is a perfect place to watch for migrating species. The country's most popular birding festival, the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, is held here each January.

On kayaking excursions, visitors can view pods of dolphins or herds of manatees.

Destination Highlights:

72 miles of beaches, the longest stretch in the state; Kayaking and Air Boat Rides; attractions such as Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Ron Jon Surf Shop, and Cocoa Beach Surf Co.; Historic Downtowns of Melbourne, Cocoa Village, Titusville and the Eau Gallie Arts District; Port Canaveral, where Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian and Disney cruise ships dock.

- Special Events:** Festivals and special events are abundant on the Space Coast. Art festivals, surfing contests, golf tournaments and cultural events, including plays and Broadway productions are available throughout the year. For more information, visit www.artsbrevard.org/events.
- Attractions/Art:** **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** is the top space attraction in the United States. It features two IMAX theaters; the Shuttle Launch Experience; the Rocket Garden, showcasing historic NASA rockets, the Apollo/Saturn V Center, which features rockets and equipment from the Apollo missions to the moon, and the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Some other noted attractions include boat rides like the **Indian River Queen** paddleboat, ideal for large groups and reunions and **Museum Row** in Titusville, where the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum, the American Police Hall of Fame Museum and the Space Walk of Fame Museum are located. Other area attractions include the **Brevard Zoo, Sebastian Inlet, Cocoa Beach Pier** and **Historic Downtown Areas**.
- Shopping, dining and history:** The Space Coast boasts approximately 1,450 restaurants.
- Cocoa Village**, an 1860s landmark, is a quaint area for shopping for everything from antiques to clothing; along with great restaurants, ranging from upscale to casual. Historic **Downtown Melbourne**, which dates back to the early 1900s and has been recently revitalized to feature a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment experiences. There are fun nightlife options catering to every taste. **Downtown Titusville**, established in 1850, has a range of restaurants and interesting historic markers. One of the oldest communities on the Indian River, this nostalgic area features arts and crafts shops, clothing boutiques and nearby riverside parks. It also features the **North Brevard Historical Museum**, where visitors can learn about the remarkable first families that settled Titusville and take a unique look into the industries that supported the early Florida pioneers.
- Accommodations:** More than 10,000 guest rooms including hotels, motels, beach rentals as well as condominiums and rental homes.
- Meeting space:** More than 100,000 square feet of meeting space.
- Campgrounds:** There are 2,500 campground and RV park sites.
- Access by Car:** Interstate 95 (I-95) runs north and south through the area. The Beach Line Expressway (SR-528) connects from Orlando to the west.
- Airport Access:** Orlando International Airport (MCO) is serviced by most major airlines. Melbourne International Airport (MLB) offers Delta Airlines, US Airways and Direct Air flights and as well as charters. Orlando-Sanford International Airport (SFB) services a number of charter and commercial domestic and international flights.
- Weather:** Winter – High 73 F (23 C) to Low 54 F (12 C)
Spring –High 82 F (28 C) to Low 59 F (15 C)
Summer – High 91 F (33 C) to Low 72 F (22 C)
Fall – High 82 F (28 C) to Low 64 F (18 C)

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, and after the shuttle program ends will continue to offer viewing opportunities for unmanned rocket launches. 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. Visit www.spacecoastlaunches.com to learn about remaining shuttle and upcoming rocket launches.

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