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Space Coast Shopping Makes Vacations Even More Exciting

SPACE COAST, Fla. - If shopping is a passion, there are some great spots on the Space Coast where a shopper can indulge in the age-old pastime while experiencing the uniqueness of the destination.

Melbourne Square

Located on U.S. 192, this mall is the place to go for national retail stores with convenient amenities like a custom-designed 1,500 square foot children's play area - the first of its kind on the Space Coast - featuring recreation and educational options; a children's library reading area; adult seating and even a baby changing station. Shoppers have more than 125 specialty stores, combined with national retailers ranging from designer names to major retail anchors. www.melbournesquare.com

The Avenue Viera

Shoppers can find high-quality merchandise in a convenient, Main Street setting at this open-air regional specialty shopping center. Located near I-95, this pedestrian center is a great place to go for an experience which blends the shopping experience with the opportunity to enjoy the ideal Florida weather. www.shoptheavenue.com

Merritt Square

Located just over the State Road 520 Causeway from Cocoa Beach, Merritt Square offers more than 100 shops including major retailers. A Space Coast staple for many years, the mall caters to its tourism guests with special programs like a coupon booklet for shoppers who present a cruise boarding pass or hotel room key and early shopping access on Sundays to cater to cruise passengers arriving in port. www.merrittsquaremall.com.

Miracle City Mall

Located directly across the Indian River from Kennedy Space Center's main shuttle launch pad, this mall features popular retail and department stores.

Crossroads Marketplace

One of Titusville's newest shopping developments, Crossroads Marketplace consists of more than 200,000 sq. ft. of retail space.

Historic Downtown Melbourne

The downtown Melbourne area has a lot to offer shoppers in search of something unique. Visitors can uncover unusual gift items, ranging from 1950s-style art for the home to candy and chocolate, homemade soaps, cigars and fine wines. www.downtownmelbourne.com

The Eau Gallie Arts District

This area of Melbourne is the place to discover great art. Visitors will find quaint art shops, antiques and cozy restaurants and coffee shops. The Eau Gallie Arts District is located within a short drive of the beach and is home to the regarded Brevard Art Museum. www.eaugalliearts.com

Cocoa Village

Nestled along the Indian River Lagoon is the scenic, historic area of Cocoa Village. Upscale restaurants and fun boutiques line the streets of this 1860's landmark. Guests can uncover unique collectibles, jewelry and other specialty items. www.cocoavillage.com

Downtown Titusville

This nostalgic area offers arts and crafts shops, clothing and consignment shops, flower and gift shops, as well as a number of restaurants. A few blocks south of the downtown area on U.S. 1 are specialized stores, and antique shops. www.nbbd.com/downtown

Indian Harbour Beach

Featuring three large shopping centers, this area offers shoppers a great variety.

Cottage Row

In the downtown area of Cocoa Beach, just north of the Minutemen Causeway and between Orlando and Atlantic avenues, lies Cottage Row – military houses from the 1940s and '50s that have been converted into quaint shops, salons and restaurants.

Fifth Avenue

This beachside extension of U.S. 192 in Indialantic is lined with a collection of restaurants and specialty shops.

Ron Jon Surf Shop

Located at the corner of 520 and Highway A1A in Cocoa Beach, this local icon is open 24-hours every day of the year. It features beach gear, beach apparel, skateboards, surfboards, accessories and much more. www.ronjons.com

Cocoa Beach Surf Co.

Featuring a 5,600-gallon shark tank, Cocoa Beach Surf Co., is the world's largest surf complex and offers beach rentals, surf gear, a Starbucks and more. www.cocoabeachsurfcompany.com

Other unique shopping venues include the **Searstown Mall** in Titusville; **Viera Marketplace**, **Shoppes of Lake Andrew** and **Hammock Landing in Melbourne**; and **Palm Bay West Regional Shopping Center** in Palm Bay.

The Space Coast also features a variety of flea markets, farmer's markets and specialty shops including **Cocoa Marketplace**, **Space Coast Frontenac Flea Market** and **Super Flea & Farmers Market**.

From antiques to art to beachwear and more, the Space Coast offers shopping enthusiasts an array of options which represent the destination's unique character.

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.