



## Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Fact Sheet

### MEDIA CONTACTS

For information on Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, sidebar stories, photo opportunities and shooting stand-ups, or to request a press kit, please contact:

- Andrea Farmer, PR Manager, 321-449-4318 or [afarmer@dncinc.com](mailto:afarmer@dncinc.com)
- Jillian Dick, PR Representative, 321-449-4273 or [jdick@dncinc.com](mailto:jdick@dncinc.com)

### KENNEDY SPACE CENTER VISITOR COMPLEX OVERVIEW

Each year, more than 1.5 million guests from around the world experience their very own space adventure by exploring the exciting past, present and future of America's space program at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Built in 1967 as a means for NASA astronauts' and employees' families to view space center operations, today the Visitor Complex is one of Central Florida's most popular tourist destinations.

Since 1995, when Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts began managing the Visitor Complex, every aspect of this 70-acre facility has been entirely redeveloped and enhanced. From larger-than-life IMAX® films to live shows, hands-on activities and behind-the-scenes tours, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex offers guests an educational, entertaining and comprehensive space program experience.

### LIVE SHOWS/PROGRAMS

#### Kennedy Space Center Tour:

This tour takes guests on a narrated, video supplemented bus tour of Kennedy Space Center. The first stop is the LC-39 Observation Gantry, where guests enjoy a panoramic view of KSC and the Space Shuttle launch pads, as well as the rocket launch pads at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Buses then drive by the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) and the Orbiter Processing Facility.



The second stop is the **Apollo/Saturn V Center**, which provides visitors with an inspirational and exhilarating look into America's quest for the moon. Guests relive the historic launch of Apollo 8 at the Firing Room Theater, and then marvel at a monstrous 363-foot long Saturn V moon rocket, the most powerful rocket ever built, and one of only three Saturn V rockets in existence. The Lunar Theater provides a rare look at the harrowing final moments before man landed on the moon.

**Astronaut Encounter:**

Visitors may come face-to-face with a real astronaut every day during a half-hour, interactive Q&A program.

**“Mad Mission to Mars 2025,” a KSC Visitor Complex/Mad Science Production:**

This live-action stage show uses stereoscopic 3-D computer animation and theatrical effects to magically transform guests into “astronaut trainees” for an interactive journey through the cosmos.

**Launch Viewing:**

Visitors may experience firsthand one of the most stunning and dramatic events on Earth: a live NASA launch. From a Space Shuttle launch to the International Space Station to the thunderous ascent of massive rockets carrying satellites, Martian rovers and planetary explorers, there's always a mission in the works at America's busiest launch facility.

**EXHIBITS****Shuttle Plaza:**

"Explorer," a full-size Orbiter replica, allows guests to picture more clearly what it's like to live and work in space. Full-size, genuine solid rocket boosters and an external fuel tank are also on display, representing all three components of a Space Shuttle. Real Space Shuttle mission hardware is displayed at the Launch Status Center, and live briefings on space-related topics are presented daily.

**Rocket Garden:**

The ever-popular Rocket Garden is a Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex hallmark featuring eight authentic rockets from the past, including a Mercury-Atlas rocket similar to the one used to launch John Glenn into space in 1962, and “climb-in” Mercury, Gemini and Apollo capsule replicas.

**Early Space Exploration:**

Highlighting the Mercury and Gemini space programs, this facility features artifacts from the first manned space flights and houses the original Mercury mission control consoles.

**Exploration in the New Millennium:**

Guests transition into the future of space exploration as they journey from the Vikings' discoveries of Greenland and Iceland to Mars Viking Lander, the first probe to land on Mars in 1976, as well as view live NASA space exploration updates in real time.

### **Astronaut Memorial:**

Dedicated May 9, 1991, the Astronaut Memorial honors the 24 U.S. Astronauts who gave their lives for space exploration. The 42½-foot high by 50-foot wide "Space Mirror" brilliantly illuminates the names cut through the monument's black granite surface.

### **ASTRONAUT HALL OF FAME**

Located six miles west of the main Visitor Complex, the Hall of Fame features the world's largest collection of personal astronaut mementos, historic spacecrafts, hands-on activities and astronaut training simulators.



### **FILMS**

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is home to the only back-to-back twin IMAX® theaters in the world, showcasing two large-format motion pictures on screens five and a half stories tall. Visitors may view "*Space Station 3-D*," a 3-D film taking audiences on an incredible cinematic journey of discovery from planet Earth to the newest star in the sky – the International Space Station, as well as "*The Dream Is Alive*," which captures the beauty and sensations of space flight and the business of living and working in space.

Visitors to the Universe Theater can view the Film "Quest for Life," which illustrates the ever-present need for humans to search for life in this galaxy and explore the unknown reaches of the universe.

### **SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS AND PROGRAMS (Add-on Ticket Options)**

#### **Lunch With an Astronaut:**

Experience lunch with an actual astronaut and hear inspiring space exploration stories. Guests may ask questions and have photos taken with the astronaut, and each guest receives an autographed souvenir.

#### **"NASA Up Close" Tour:**

Led by a trained space expert, this tour gives visitors an insider's view of the space program from launch preparation to liftoff. The tour includes up-close views of Space Shuttle Launch Pads, the VAB, the International Space Station Processing Facility and the Operations and Checkout building. The Shuttle Landing Facility and the massive Crawler-Transporter are also featured in the tour. On the final stop, relive a Saturn V rocket launch and man's moon landing at the Apollo/Saturn V Center.



#### **"Cape Canaveral: Then and Now" Tour:**

Enjoy a narrated, in-depth journey through the Cape's 50-year history of space exploration during this guided tour. Highlights include the Air Force Space and Missile Museum, the Mercury Memorial, Launch Complex 19, the site of 10 manned missions in two years, and Launch Complex 5/6, site of the first two Mercury launches and the birthplace of NASA's manned space program. The tour also stops at Launch Complex 34, the site of the 1967 Apollo 1 tragedy in which astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee perished in a fire during a launch test.

## OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- ? Robot Scouts
- ? Children's Play Dome
- ? Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility
- ? NASA Art Gallery
- ? Nature and Technology Exhibit: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

## ATX™-ASTRONAUT TRAINING EXPERIENCE (NEW)



Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's newest and most interactive guest program to date, ATX™ - Astronaut Training Experience, offers participants a true taste of the space flight experience. Developed with input from veteran NASA astronauts, the day-long program includes an orientation and mission briefing by a member of the U.S. astronaut corps, true-to-training simulator exercises, access into rarely-seen areas of Kennedy Space Center and the culmination of the training: A team-oriented space shuttle mission in a full-scale Space Shuttle mock-up and Mission Control Center.

## GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

**Operating Hours:** Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex opens daily at 9 a.m. Closing times vary according to season. The Visitor Complex is open every day except December 25 and certain launch days. Guests should plan to spend a full day for a complete experience at the Visitor Complex. For more information, call 321-449-4444 or visit [www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com).

**Admission:** Maximum Access Admission is \$37 + tax for adults and \$27 + tax for children ages 3-11. Includes the KSC Tour, IMAX® films, the Astronaut Hall of Fame and all attractions and exhibits. Maximum Access tickets include a second day free.



### Editor's Note:

- Please note that advance notice is required to coordinate media entry.
- All film crews require a Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex escort.
- B-roll is available of most Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex attractions and exhibits.
- Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is located on State Road 405, six miles east of US 1 and just a few miles southwest of the NASA press site.