How to be a Good Tourist on Florida's Space Coast

Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints

Florida’s Space Coast is unlike any other place in the world. From our rocket launches to the 72 miles of shoreline, 2 national wildlife refuges, and one of the most diverse estuaries in the world, we've got a lot going for us. Keeping our natural spaces natural and healthy is extremely important. Local businesses, organizations, and non-profits help to protect and conserve our wildlife every day, but there’s something we can all do to have a positive impact on this amazing environment so it can be enjoyed for years and years to come!

From our wetlands to our lagoons and beaches, here’s how you can be a good tourist on the Space Coast.

LEARN HOW TO BE A GOOD TOURIST TO SPACE COAST WILDLIFE HERE
Pick Up Your Trash

Litter is a major problem all over the world, and especially on the Space Coast. All our drains lead to the lagoon and all the trash that is left on the beach washes straight out into the ocean. Water bottles, snack wrappers, empty sunscreen bottles, and forgotten beach toys are all traps for sea turtle hatchlings. Plastic bags, tags, and balloons end up in the stomachs of sea animals and shorebirds. If you’re going to be a good tourist, you need to place your garbage in designated receptacles located at the entrances of each Space Coast beach park.

Did You Know

Along with garbage cans, there are tubes filled with grocery bags at the entrances of Space Coast beach parks. You may take one of these bags to keep your trash contained while you are on the beach, and easily collect and carry your trash to the closest garbage can when you’re ready to head home. If you brought it to the beach, you need to bring it home too!

Image by @z_e_photography
Properly Dispose of Fishing Gear Waste

Fishing is a way of life here on the Space Coast. From our freshwater lakes and rivers to our brackish lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean, there are tons of fish to be reeled in. However, improperly discarded fishing line, tackle, and bait is extremely dangerous and harmful to the fish and wildlife that also inhabit these waterways. Make sure that you are very aware of any waste you generate while fishing and dispose of it properly when you’re ready to reel in that last cast.

A special note: Fish carcasses are often thrown to lazy pelicans, but this is a very dangerous practice. If you’re filleting your catch of the day, make sure you properly dispose of the remains so sharp bones can not tear pelican pouches, harm other scavengers, and disrupt dietary behaviors.
Did you know?

There are tubes located at popular fishing spots, including piers, specifically to dispose of trashed and tangled monofilament. Check out this [map of fishing line recycling bins](#) created by FWC to find the closest bin to your fishing hole.

### Straws on the Space Coast

You'll notice we've got a very interesting relationship with straws and other single-use plastics here on the Space Coast. Many beachside restaurants only provide straws upon request, some have switched to paper or another, more sustainable straw option. The [Rikki Tiki Tavern](#), located at the end of the [Cocoa Beach Pier](#) only uses straws made from pasta! It’s all in an effort to quell the stream of single-use plastics into our landfills and waterways. Consider bringing your own straw or refusing single-use plastics if you have access to reusable alternatives while you are on vacation.
Pasta straws in Tiki Drinks at the Cocoa Beach Pier. Image by @theluvaviatrix
Eco-Activism on Vacation!

Join a Beach Clean Up

Many local businesses host weekly beach clean-ups to keep the beaches of the Space Coast, clean and safe for everyone. Join one, meet a local, and do a good deed on your vacation!

Image by @champs11
**Villon Coffee Co**
Meet at the Coffee Truck in Satellite Beach on Saturdays at 8 am, clean up some trash and get a discount on coffee! Check their Instagram account, [@villoncoffeeeco](https://www.instagram.com/villoncoffeeeco) for updates and more info!

**Bula Kava Bar**
Every other Sunday at 5pm join Bula Kava Bar at 1st St North Beach. Check out their Instagram account [@bulacocoabeach](https://www.instagram.com/bulacocoabeach) for updates and more info.

**Keep Brevard Beautiful**
Keep Brevard Beautiful has a whole calendar of beach clean ups throughout the Space Coast. Check out their [calendar of events](https://www.keepbreva.com/events) to find the closest clean-up near you.

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**Dine At Eco-Conscious Restaurants**

Restaurants on the Space Coast are also very interested in keeping our destination as healthy and happy as possible. Businesses that are [Lagoon Loyal](https://www.lagoonloyal.org) and [Ocean-Friendly](https://www.oceanfriendly.com) have adopted practices that help to curb the use of single-use plastics and otherwise harmful materials like styrofoam and plastic bags. They may also be part of larger restoration projects like Victorio’s Oyster Bar in Titusville who donates over 1 million pounds of oyster shells to the Brevard Zoo’s “Restore Our Shores” Oyster Mat project to help clean the Indian River Lagoon. Check out these local restaurants to fill your belly and support conservation and habitat restoration next time you’re on the Space Coast.
At Victorio’s in Titusville, these grilled oyster shells will be sent to the Brevard Zoo where they are turned into oyster mats, and placed in the lagoon to Restore Our Shores.

Surfrider Ocean-Friendly Restaurants:

- Longdoggers - All Locations
- Nomad Cafe - Melbourne
- Mustard’s Famous Hot Dogs - Melbourne
- Villa Palma - Cocoa Village
- Tiny Turtle - Cocoa Beach
- Victorio’s Oyster House - Titusville
- Backwater - Melbourne
Lagoon Loyal Restaurants

Look for the Lagoon Loyal Logo while you're on the Space Coast

- Dixie Crossroads - Titusville
- Fish Lips - Port Canaveral
- Cuizine Restaurant - Satellite Beach
- Here's The Scoop Homemade Ice Cream - Downtown Melbourne
- Kona Poke Fresh Island Bowls - Indialantic
- Mima's Cafe & Tea Bar – Indialantic
- Nature's Table – Melbourne
- Rising Tide Tap And Table - Port Canaveral
- Third Culture Kitchen - Titusville
- Wicked Pineapple - Satellite Beach
- Sun On The Beach - Satellite Beach
Support Eco-Friendly Attractions and Businesses

By experiencing the Space Coast you can also help conserve and restore the health of the Space Coast's ecosystems. The Brevard Zoo is a beacon of our community and works extremely hard every day to keep not only the animals in their care healthy but also to keep the wild animals and habitats of the Space Coast healthy too! When you visit the zoo, you are actively contributing to the health of the Space Coast's natural spaces! Check out these other eco-conscious attractions and businesses while you’re here on the Space Coast!

Lagoon Loyal Businesses

- Baytree National Golf Course - Palm Bay
- A1A Outdoor Center - Cocoa Beach
- Cocoa Kayaking - Cocoa Beach
- Fin Expeditions Kayak Tours - Cocoa Beach
- Florida Wildlife Hospital - Melbourne
- Karen's Kayaks - Melbourne
- The Salty Shack - Indialantic
Smart Souvenirs

On the Space Coast, your souvenirs can also have a positive impact on the environment! These gift shops are stocked with some great gifts and mementos for visitors of every age, and the proceeds help to support the organizations that protect and conserve our natural spaces and the wildlife that lives here!

**Turtle House** - Indialantic
109 S Miramar Ave
Indialantic, FL 32903
Gift shop proceeds benefit the Sea Turtle Preservation Society

**Turtle Nest** - Port Canaveral
9086 Flounder Street
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
Gift shop proceeds benefit the Sea Turtle Preservation Society
**Titusville Welcome Center** - Titusville
419 S Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32780
Gift Shop proceeds benefit the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

**Brevard Zoo Gift Shop** - Viera
8225 N Wickham Rd,
Melbourne, FL 32940
Gift shop proceeds benefit the Brevard Zoo's operation and conservation efforts

**Mang Gear - Brevard Zoo Restore Our Shores**
Mang is an apparel company that plants mangroves along the shores of Florida for each purchase. They partnered with the Brevard Zoo for the Restore Our Shores program and created an awesome shirt, with an awesome cause. Shop their online store [here](#).
It's easy and fun to be a good tourist here on the Space Coast. Share your good-tourist experiences with us using #SpaceCoast, no good deed goes unrewarded!

APRIL 21, 2021

*(Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism)*
Vacation Planner for Florida’s Space Coast

The official Space Coast Vacation Planner Guide is now available. There are two ways to get yours:

ORDER YOUR COPY
VIEW DIGITAL VERSION
Plan Your Great Florida Air Show Weekend

READ MORE

The Great Florida Air Show 2021

READ MORE
How to be a Good Tourist to Wildlife on the Space Coast

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