

VISIT TITUSVILLE FL PRESENTS

ARTEMIS II

Launch Visitor Guide

Your Complete Guide to Watching Humanity Return to the Moon

TARGET LAUNCH DATE

April 1, 2026

6:24 PM EDT · Kennedy Space Center

Crew: Reid Wiseman · Victor Glover · Christina Koch · Jeremy Hansen

VISIT TITUSVILLE FL

GATEWAY TO NATURE & SPACE

visittitusvillefl.com

The Mission

Artemis II is humanity's return to deep space — the first crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit in over 50 years. Four astronauts will fly around the Moon aboard the Orion spacecraft, launched by NASA's SLS from Kennedy Space Center — right across the river from Titusville.

MISSION PROFILE

10-Day Lunar Flyby

Orion will travel ~230,000 miles to the Moon, pass ~5,000 miles beyond it on a free-return trajectory, and return to Earth. At re-entry speed of ~25,000 mph, this will be the farthest and fastest crewed spaceflight in history.

VEHICLE

SLS + Orion "Integrity"

First crewed flight of both the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft. SLS produces 8.8 million lbs of thrust at liftoff — the most powerful rocket ever flown. Launching from historic Pad 39B.

Meet the Artemis II Crew



Reid Wiseman

COMMANDER

NASA · Navy Captain



Victor Glover

PILOT

NASA · Navy Captain



Christina Koch

MISSION SPECIALIST

NASA · Record holder



Jeremy Hansen

MISSION SPECIALIST

Canadian Space Agency

All Launch Windows — April 2026

Each window is 2 hours. If April 1 scrubs, backup dates are ready. Sunset on April 1 is ~7:40 PM EDT.

DATE	WINDOW OPENS	LIGHTING	NOTES
Wed, Apr 1	6:24 PM EDT	1.3 hrs before sunset	Primary — golden hour 🌅
Thu, Apr 2	7:22 PM EDT	Near sunset	Stunning sunset backdrop
Fri, Apr 3	8:00 PM EDT	Just after sunset	Twilight — dramatic
Sat, Apr 4	8:53 PM EDT	After dark	Night launch
Sun, Apr 5	9:40 PM EDT	After dark	Night launch
Mon, Apr 6	10:36 PM EDT	After dark	Last in window
Thu, Apr 30	6:06 PM EDT	Before sunset	Next lunar month

💡 Why April 1 Is Special

A 6:24 PM launch = golden hour lighting. The SLS will ascend into a sunlit sky with incredible contrast. Photographers: this is your shot. Later dates shift to twilight and night — the exhaust plume glows dramatically against a dark sky.

Best Viewing Spots

Titusville sits directly across the Indian River from Launch Complex 39B — the best public viewing area for Artemis II. LC-39B is on the Cape's northern end, making Titusville closer than Cocoa Beach or Port Canaveral.

⚠️ Arrive Extremely Early

This is the first crewed Moon mission in 50+ years. Expect hundreds of thousands of visitors. For popular spots, arrive **4–6 hours before launch**, or potentially the night before. Parking fills hours early.

Free Public Viewing — Titusville

Max Brewer Bridge & Parrish Park

★ TOP PICK FREE

~10.75 mi from pad · A. Max Brewer Memorial Pkwy (SR-406)

Elevated bridge with the best free sightline to LC-39B — unobstructed views over the Indian River. Walk to the top for maximum elevation. Parrish Park at the base has parking, restrooms, and waterfront access. Park at Sand Point Park and walk up.

Space View Park

★ ICONIC FREE

~11.1 mi from pad · 8 Broad St, downtown Titusville

The most famous public viewing spot on the Space Coast. Features Space Walk of Fame monuments and live NASA audio feeds. Directly on the Indian River with views toward KSC. A must-visit for the space history experience.

Rotary Riverfront Park

FREE

~11.5 mi from pad · S. Washington Ave

Popular local alternative with similar views, easier parking, fewer crowds. Great for families. Good in-and-out access.

Kennedy Point Park

~12 MI · FREE — Long riverfront, good tripod space, near marina. More elbow room for photographers.

William J. Manzo Memorial Park

~11 MI · FREE — Hidden gem. Playground, restrooms, picnic area. Views toward VAB & LC-39B. Less crowded.

Ticketed & Premium

~3.5 MI · CLOSEST

KSC Feel the Heat

Apollo/Saturn V Center. **SOLD OUT.** Sold out in 30 min. Check kennedyspacecenter.com for unlikely releases.

~8 MI · \$99

KSC Main Complex

Rocket visible above tree line. On launch days ONLY ticket holders admitted. Check KSCVC for availability.

~11.5 MI · RESERVATIONS

The Space Bar Rooftop

Courtyard Marriott rooftop — views, food, cocktails. Call ahead. Extreme demand.

Closed / Restricted

Playalinda Beach — RESTRICTED

Lots 1-3 closed. No stopping on beach road. Drive-through only, strictly enforced. NOT open for Artemis II viewing.

KARS Park — CLOSED

Will NOT be open to public for Artemis II. Changed from Artemis I. Do not plan on this location.

Getting to Titusville

Titusville is on Florida's Space Coast, ~45 min east of Orlando via SR-50 or I-95. Plan your route, arrive early, and pack patience.

FROM ORLANDO / I-4

SR-528 east → I-95 North → Exit 215 (SR-50) or Exit 220 (SR-406). Or SR-50 east directly (~50 min without traffic).

FROM I-95 NORTH OR SOUTH

Exit 220 (SR-406) for downtown & Max Brewer Bridge. Exit 215 (SR-50) for hotels on Helen Hauser Blvd.

FROM COCOA BEACH / PORT CANAVERAL

SR-528 west → I-95 North. Or US-1 North (scenic, slower with launch traffic).

FROM DAYTONA BEACH

I-95 South → Exit 220 (~45 min). US-1 South as scenic alternative.

Parking Strategy

Parking Is the #1 Challenge

Free parking near viewing spots fills hours before launch. **Park further away and walk in.** Highway/causeway parking is strictly prohibited — you will be ticketed or towed.

SAND POINT PARK

Base of Max Brewer Bridge. Walk up. Fills very early.

DOWNTOWN STREETS

Street parking near restaurants. Walk to Space View Park.

PARK SOUTH & WALK

Park near restaurants, walk/rideshare north to viewing spots.

Traffic & Road Closures

Max Brewer Bridge Closure

After liftoff, **all lanes close to vehicles for ~1 hour** for pedestrian safety. May also close before launch. Follow City of Titusville and Titusville PD on social media for real-time updates.

Expect These Delays

- ✓ I-95 exits congested for hours
- ✓ SR-406 and SR-50 heavy volumes
- ✓ US-1 bumper to bumper
- ✓ Post-launch exit: 2–3 hours
- ✓ KSC roads NOT public access

Smart Moves

- ✓ Arrive 4–6 hours early (or night before)
- ✓ Bring food, water, entertainment
- ✓ Stay overnight to skip exit traffic
- ✓ Use Waze/Google Maps real-time routing
- ✓ Follow @TitusvillePD for live updates
- ✓ Download NASA app for launch status

ORLANDO INTL (MCO) · ~45 MIN

Largest nearby airport. Book rental car early — extreme demand.

MELBOURNE ORLANDO (MLB) · ~40 MIN

Smaller, less congestion. Smart alternative.

Where to Eat

From legendary seafood to craft breweries to riverfront dining — Titusville delivers. Restaurants will be very busy on launch days. Call ahead or arrive early.

Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant

★ LEGENDARY

📍 1475 Garden St · dixiecrossroads.com

THE Titusville restaurant. Famous for rock shrimp and royal reds since the Shuttle era. A must-visit. The Thompson family has served Titusville for generations. Expect long waits on launch days — worth it.

Downtown & Waterfront

Playalinda Brewing Co. Craft Brewery

Beloved brewery in a converted hardware store. Creative pub food, great beers. The pre-launch gathering spot.

📍 305 S Washington Ave

Café Paradiso Bistro Cajun/Creole

New Orleans cooking downtown. Locals rave about the food.

📍 337 S Washington Ave

Pier 220 Seafood & Grill Waterfront

At Max Brewer Pkwy with river/KSC views. Fresh seafood, steaks.

📍 2 A. Max Brewer Memorial Pkwy

Orleans Bistro and Bar Cajun/Creole

Cajun bistro on the Indian River. Gumbo, jambalaya. Two decks with launch views.

📍 2204 S Washington Ave

Whiskey's Bar & Lounge Bar & Grill

Downtown spot, walkable to Space View Park.

📍 345 S Washington Ave

MORE GOOD EATS

Cosmic Creamery — space-themed ice cream

Loyd Have Mercy — Southern comfort

Wild Ocean Market — fresh seafood

El Leoncito Mexican & Cuban

Authentic Mexican and Cuban. Great shrimp. River views.

📍 4280 S Washington Ave

Shiloh's Steak & Seafood Steakhouse

Titusville staple for steak and seafood dinners.

📍 3665 S Washington Ave

Sunrise Bread Co. Bakery & Café

Fresh-baked goods, breakfast, coffee. Perfect morning fuel.

📍 315 S Hopkins Ave

Kelsey's Pizzeria Pizza

Local pizza joint with solid menu and loyal following.

📍 2845 Garden St

Space Coast Ice Cream Ice Cream

Handcrafted ice cream downtown. Sweet stop while exploring.

📍 219 Harrison St

HOTEL AREA

Durango's Steakhouse — 4825 Helen Hauser

The Local Kitchen & Tap — gastropub

The Space Bar — Marriott rooftop

📺 LAUNCH DAY TIP

Eat early dinner (3–4 PM) before heading to your spot, or pack a cooler. Viewing areas have no vendors. Restaurants will have very long waits.

Where to Stay

Titusville hotels will sell out. Book now. Titusville is closest to the action, but Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, and Orlando work if rooms are full.

BEST LAUNCH VIEWS

Courtyard by Marriott

Home to The Space Bar rooftop with direct LC-39B views. Space-themed rooms, pool. Top hotel for launch viewing.

📍 6245 Riverfront Center Blvd · (321) 966-9200

DEDICATED LAUNCH ROOM

Hyatt Place Titusville

110 rooms + complimentary Launch Viewing Room. Free breakfast, pool, pet-friendly.

📍 Titusville · hyatt.com

MARRIOTT

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Free breakfast, pool. Near I-95.

📍 4735 Helen Hauser Blvd

HILTON

Hampton Inn Titusville

Free hot breakfast, pool. Off I-95 Exit 215.

📍 4760 Helen Hauser Blvd

CHOICE HOTELS

Comfort Suites

Full breakfast, top-rated (9.6/10).

📍 4830 Helen Hauser Blvd

COCOA BEACH · 30 MIN

Beach + launch combo. Many hotels/VRBOs. Launch visible (~14 mi).

MELBOURNE · 45 MIN

More inventory, lower prices. Drive to Titusville for launch.

ORLANDO · 50 MIN

Massive supply. Allow 2+ hrs on launch day.

Booking Tips

Book multiple nights to skip traffic stress · Check Airbnb/VRBO · Flexible cancellation in case of scrubs · RV parks may have spots

Things to Do While You're Here

SPACE & HISTORY

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex — Shuttle Atlantis, astronaut encounters. Full day.

American Space Museum — 308 Pine St. Apollo galleries. \$10. Mon-Sat 10-5.

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum — Historic military aircraft.

NATURE & ADVENTURE

Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge — 140,000 acres. Black Point Drive for manatees, gators, 300+ birds.

Bioluminescence Kayaking — Paddle glowing waters at night. Tours from Haulover Canal.

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary — 500 acres of trails, wildlife.

DOWNTOWN

Murals, shops, Titusville Playhouse. Space Age charm.

TRAIL TRIFECTA

3 trails converge downtown: East Coast Greenway, Coast to Coast, St. John's River Loop.

ON THE WATER

Fishing charters, eco tours, dolphin kayaking on Indian River Lagoon.

Launch Day Checklist

You've traveled to witness history. Here's your complete game plan.

What to Bring

Essentials

- ✓ Lawn chairs and/or blankets
- ✓ Sunscreen SPF 50+ (Florida sun!)
- ✓ Plenty of water (1 gal/person min)
- ✓ Packed food and snacks in a cooler
- ✓ Charged phone + portable charger
- ✓ Cash (some vendors cash-only)
- ✓ Bug spray (mosquitoes near river)
- ✓ Hat and sunglasses

ESSENTIAL

NASA App

Live countdown, status, stream. iOS + Android.

Nice to Have

- ✓ Binoculars for pad watching
- ✓ Camera + telephoto lens + tripod
- ✓ Portable radio (NASA freq)
- ✓ Rain jacket (April showers)
- ✓ Flashlight for after dark
- ✓ Umbrella (sun or rain)
- ✓ Games/books for the wait
- ✓ Folding wagon for gear

NAVIGATION

Waze / Google Maps

Real-time routing for launch-day traffic.

UPDATES

Social Media

@NASA, @NASAArtemis, Visit Titusville FL, Titusville PD.

Launch Day Timeline (April 1 at 6:24 PM)

TIME	HAPPENING	YOU SHOULD
Morning	Final prep at pad	Explore downtown, museums, brunch
~12 PM	SLS fueling begins	Head to spot if going to popular areas
2-3 PM	Popular spots filling	Secure your spot, set up chairs
~5:30 PM	Terminal countdown	Phone on camera, eyes on pad
6:24 PM	 LAUNCH	Watch with EYES first. Phone second.
6:25+ PM	SRB separation	Keep watching — trail is spectacular
7 PM+	Celebrations	Be patient with traffic. You saw history!

Pro Tips from Locals

THE SOUND DELAY

From ~11 miles, sound arrives **~50 seconds after ignition**. The ground rumbles. Car alarms go off. Don't leave early — the sound is half the experience!

EYES FIRST, PHONE SECOND

Watch the launch with your own eyes. There will be thousands of recordings. Only one chance to feel it yourself.

IF IT SCRUBS

Scrubs are normal. Don't be discouraged. Check NASA app for next window. Backups through Apr 6, then Apr 30.

MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT

Bioluminescence kayaking, wildlife refuge, downtown, seafood. Make memories beyond the countdown.

This Is History

The last crewed mission to the Moon was Apollo 17 in December 1972 — over 53 years ago. Artemis II's crew will fly farther and faster than any humans ever. You're witnessing humanity's permanent return to deep space. Soak it in.

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Preservation Through Education