



Kennedy Space Center Touring Plan (Full-Day Family Visit)

Arrive at Opening (8:45–9:00 AM)

- Security opens ~8:45 AM. Be through the gates right at 9 AM.
 - Snap photos with the astronaut character if they are as the complex opens.
 - Grab a park map and check the **daily showtimes** for Astronaut Encounter and IMAX movies.
-

1. Heroes & Legends + Astronaut Hall of Fame (9:00–9:30 AM)

- Walk straight in—no crowds yet.
- This exhibit is part museum, part immersive storytelling and a great intro for kids.
- The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at the end is a good spot for early photos and quieter reflection.

Minimal walking + climate controlled = a perfect first stop.

2. Bus Tour to Apollo/Saturn V Center (9:30–12:00 PM)

- Head straight to the **bus boarding area**. Bus tours start around 9:30 AM.
- **Goal:** Be on one of the early buses to beat the crowds.
- You'll drive by launch pads and restricted areas with narration from NASA.
- Spend time at the **Saturn V Center**—don't rush:
 - **Lunar Theater**
 - **Saturn V Rocket**
 - **Moon Rock you can touch**
 - **Apollo 11 gallery**
- Small café + restrooms here too.

The bus tour gets crowded later, so doing this now saves serious wait time.

3. Return & Lunch Break (12:00–12:45 PM)

- Take the return bus and head to Orbit Café or Moon Rock Café (at Saturn V if you're still there).
- Grab lunch before peak crowds hit around 1 PM.

Consider mobile ordering (if available) or pack your own lunch/snacks.

4. GATEWAY: The Deep Space Launch Complex (12:45-2:00 PM)

- Head to **GATEWAY** while Spaceport passes are still available
- Explore the cutting-edge spacecraft exhibits from SpaceX, Boeing, and NASA
- Reserve a spot and ride one of the Spaceport KSC simulated space missions
(Note: riders must be 39"+ tall)

✓ A visually impressive, futuristic exhibit—a nice contrast to the retro glory of the Apollo era.

5. Space Shuttle Atlantis + Shuttle Launch Experience (2:00–3:00 PM)

- Head to **Space Shuttle Atlantis**, the visual and emotional centerpiece of KSC.
- The entry reveal moment is a family favorite—don't spoil it ahead of time!
- Kids can do hands-on activities and slide down the shuttle simulator tube.
- Do the **Shuttle Launch Experience**.

✓ Expect some waiting here—this is the most popular exhibit in the afternoon.

6. Other Experiences as Time Permits (3:00–5:00 or 6:00 PM)

- **Astronaut Encounter** – meet a real astronaut (check schedule for times).
 - **IMAX Theater** – usually 45 minutes, two features, a great way to wind-down at the end of the day.
 - **Planet Play** – Let the younger ones run around while parents sit down (indoor air-conditioned playground).
 - **Walk through the Rocket Garden** – snap Instagram worthy photos.
 - Swing by any missed exhibits like **Journey to Mars, NASA Now + Next, or the Mars Rover Prototypes**.
 - **The Space Shop** – commemorate your visit with space novelties galore!
-

✨ Dad Tips for a Smooth Launch

- **Wear comfy shoes** – you'll walk 2–3 miles without noticing it.
- **Refill water bottles** at hydration stations.
- **Bring snacks** – granola bars and fruit are lifesavers between exhibits.
- **Download the KSC app** – helps track showtimes, maps, and more.
- **Strollers are allowed** and recommended for younger kids.
- **If visiting in summer**, go heavy on the indoor attractions midday.
- **Two-day admission** is only \$14 more, space enthusiasts should consider it.