

Shopping Ashore

Port & Shopping Guide

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Port Canaveral



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE
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History & Highlights Overview

The City of Cape Canaveral is located on the Atlantic Ocean, approximately midpoint between Miami and Jacksonville, and is slightly over 50 miles east of Orlando. This 1.9-square-mile beach and coastal community is bound on the west by the Banana River, on the north by Port Canaveral, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by Cocoa Beach. Adjacent to the north side of the Port is the John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA. Seven miles to the south of the city is Patrick Air Force Base. This strategic Florida location places the city in the center of America's space facilities, and immediately adjacent to Port Canaveral, the only deep water port between Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville. This location also means that the community is an integral part of the retirement-resort-vacation-recreation complex of the north beaches area of Brevard County.

As early as the 1920s, a group of vacationing, retired Orlando journalists was appraising the area that is

now the city of Cape Canaveral. They invested more than \$150,000 in the beach acreage that now encompasses the area of presidential named streets. The group of investors decided to call their development Journalista in honor of their trade. Journalista is now officially titled Avon-by-the-Sea. This seasonal retreat for inland residents was anticipated to become a resort area much as Cocoa Beach had developed to the south because of the wooden bridge that connected Merritt Island to the beaches. At the same time, fishermen, their families, a few retirees, and descendants of Captain Mills Burnham (the original official lighthouse keeper of the Cape Canaveral light) resided in the northern part of the present city. They owned acreage named Artesia, which occupied the general area that is now the port.

It is generally believed that two main groups of Native Americans populated the Cape Canaveral area leading up to colonial times. These are the Ais and Timucuan, both of

whom frequented the Cape Canaveral area due its local abundance of seafood and edible vegetation. The Ais are believed to have populated the coastal area along the Indian River, originally called "Rio de Ais" (River of the Ais) from the Cape Canaveral area south to the St. Lucie River, and extending perhaps as many as 30 miles inland. The Timucuan are believed to have populated a large area extending from Cape Canaveral north to Georgia. The Ais were fiercely war-like and nonagricultural, and survived chiefly on seafood and indigenous vegetation. They were known to be cannibals, and were greatly feared by other Native American tribes and European explorers. The Ais hated the Spanish, and were the chief reason the Cape Canaveral area was not colonized by Spanish settlers. ☉

