Things to do in and Around Orlando that Aren’t Exactly the Major Theme Parks



There are so many things to do and so many experiences to have in and around the Orlando area it is difficult to choose what to do in just one week or less. Here is a guide of some local favorites as well as tourist attractions to help you whittle down activities to do when you’re not in CE. Orlando weather in October is beautiful with 84 high / 68 low.

**For the Foodie**

Close to the convention center:

Everglades Restaurant

<https://www.evergladesrestaurant.com/>

Maggiano’s

<https://locations.maggianos.com/florida/orlando/>

Blue Martini Lounge

<https://orlando.bluemartini.com/>

A little further out:

High Tide Harry’s near the airport

<https://hightideharrys.com/>

Church Street Station for food, drink, and entertainment

About 20 minutes south of the convention center on I-4.

<https://www.churchstreetstation.com/>



Peruvian - El Inka Grill & Ceviche

<http://www.elinkagrill.com/>

4 Rivers Smokehouse for delicious burnt ends

11764 University Blvd

<https://4rsmokehouse.com/locations/east-orlando/>

Le House Vietnamese on Church Street

<https://www.scottjosephorlando.com/reviews/75-vietnamese/4703-le-house>

**For the Sports Enthusiast**

Top Golf

<https://topgolf.com/us/orlando/>



Andretti Indoor Karting & Games

<https://andrettikarting.com/>



UCF College Football 

[www.ucfknights.com](http://www.ucfknights.com)

Orlando Magic NBA

<https://www.nba.com/magic/>

Golfing

[http://www.orlandogolf.com](http://www.orlandogolf.com/)



US Tennis

<https://www.usta.com/en/home.html>



**For the Nature Enthusiast**

Lake Eola Park

<https://www.orlando.gov/Parks-the-Environment/Directory/Lake-Eola-Park>



Paddle Board

[https://paddleboardorlando.com](https://paddleboardorlando.com/)

Kayak

<https://rootsrated.com/stories/the-top-5-places-to-canoe-and-kayak-near-orlando>

Gatorland

14501 S Orange Blossom Trail

[https://www.gatorland.com](https://www.gatorland.com/)



Airboat Rides

<https://m.viator.com/Orlando-tours/Airboat-Tours/d663-g3-c26027>

**For the Shopper**

Outlet Mall

<https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/orlando-vineland>

Mall at Millenia

<https://www.mallatmillenia.com/>

**For Fun & Amusement**

WonderWorks

<https://www.wonderworksonline.com/orlando/>



Medieval Times

[www.medievaltimes.com](http://www.medievaltimes.com)



The Wheel at ICON Park

<https://iconparkorlando.com/>



Blue Man Group – imaginative audio and visual experience.

<https://www.universalorlando.com/web/en/us/things-to-do/shows/blue-man-group/index.html>



Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios – Stranger Things haunted house this year.

[www.universalorlando.com](http://www.universalorlando.com)



Mickey’s Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at Disney – for those a little less adventurous.

[www.disneyworld.disney.go.com](http://www.disneyworld.disney.go.com)



Downtown Disney & Disney Springs – shopping, eating & entertainment without entering parks.

<https://disneyparks.disney.go.com/downtown-disney/>

**For Those Willing to Drive**

Less than 1-hour east of Orlando is the beautiful coastline. Kennedy Space Center is an eye-opening experience that can be done in about half a day. The rest of the day can be spent hanging around at the Cocoa Beach pier, Port Canaveral, or anywhere in between.

There are no rocket launches scheduled the week of the meeting but as some launches are scrubbed and rescheduled and there is nothing like seeing one up close. For non-military personnel there are good numerous spots along the Beachline Expressway SR-528 anywhere between Merritt Island to Cape Canaveral or view right from the beach. For military personnel, use NOTU Security for Badging/Access to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station 321-853-1290 to get on base for up close viewing.

Here are some locations and links of interest.

  

Kennedy Space Center

Florida 32899

<https://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/home/index.html>

<https://www.spacecoastlaunches.com/blog/launch-list/>

Navy MWR Cape Canaveral

<https://www.navymwrcapecanaveral.com>

Patrick AFB MWR

<https://www.gopatrickfl.com/outdoor-recreation.html>

Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral

<http://www.explorationtower.com/>

Casino Cruise off Port Canaveral

[https://victorycasinocruises.com](https://victorycasinocruises.com/)

Fishing Charter Port Canaveral

<https://fishingbooker.com/destinations/location/us/FL/cape-canaveral>

Ron Jon Surf Shop Cocoa Beach, open 24 hours

<https://www.ronjonsurfshop.com/>

Lone Cabbage Fish Camp for airboat rides to see alligators and taste frog legs or gator tail. <http://twisterairboatrides.com/index.html>

Places to eat or drink in the Cocoa Beach/Cape Canaveral area: Grills, Fishlips, Rusty’s, Florida Seafood, Sandbar, Coconuts, Roberto’s Little Havana.

No matter what you choose to do with your free time in the Orlando area, you’re bound to have an experience to remember. I wish you much fun in the Florida sun with at least a little bit of learning. Be sure to check out photos and info during and after the AFOS meeting on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.