



# PORT CANAVERAL

Comments are by CruiseCritic.com members & friends collected by DarryDFL & 'PegEggFL' for our family & friends.<sup>1</sup>

Click on any blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.

For the latest info on Port Canaveral, go to <http://tinyurl.com/2e4bbbd>.

Hosted by 'SNelsonBrown', it has become the definitive authority.

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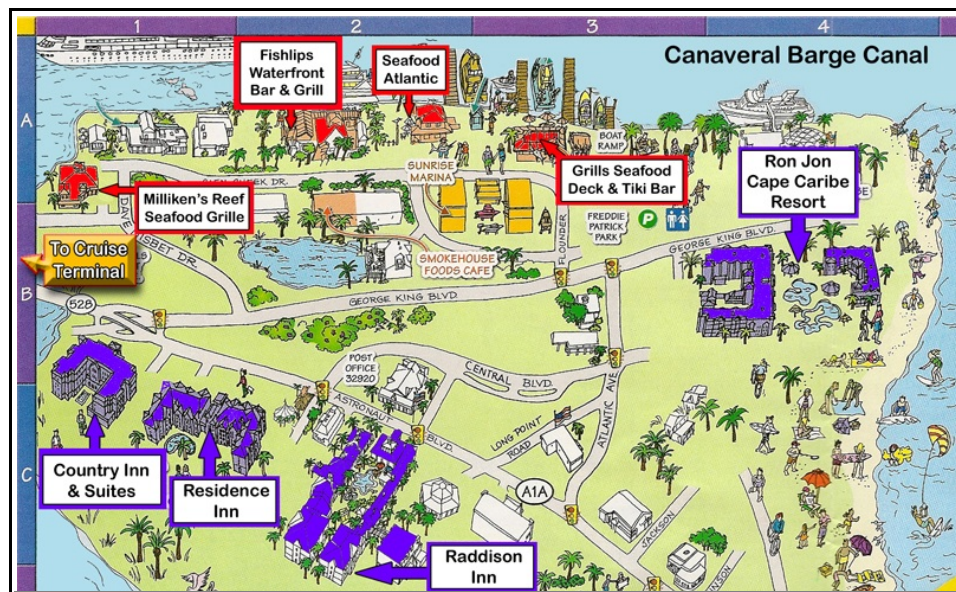
★ [Executive VIP Limo](#)

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## TERMINALS & PIERS

- ★ Photo: <http://bit.ly/cxcZ6u>
- ★ Terminals Described: <http://bit.ly/LpOuS>
- ★ Canaveral Port Authority, P.O. Box 267, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920  
Phone: (321) 783.7831 — Fax: (321) 783.4651
- DarryDFL, Jul/14/2010: Assignment of ships to terminals:

### A SIDE (NORTH) TERMINALS

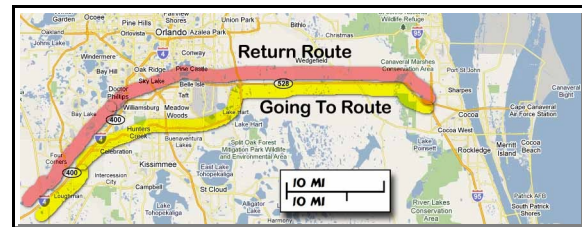
- ★ Cruise Terminal 5: *Carnival Sensation*
- ★ Cruise Terminal 8: *Disney Magic, Disney Wonder*
- ★ Cruise Terminal 10: *Carnival Glory; RCI's Monarch of the Seas*



## TRAFFIC

- Driving Directions to Port Canaveral from Melbourne (MLB), Orlando International (MCO), Orlando Sanford (SFB), Space Coast Regional (TIX), & Daytona Beach (DAB): <http://bit.ly/vrFvI>

➤ DarryDFL, Oct/10/2009: Driving time from Tampa (junction of I-4 & I-75) to Port Canaveral, on Friday afternoon, using the toll roads was 2 hours. We drove the speed limit & stopped at the rest stop just west of Orlando for a potty break. Tolls were over \$5.



**Tampa to Port Canaveral**

- DarryDFL, Oct/28/2009: Driving time from Port Canaveral to Tampa (junction of I-4 & I-75), but by taking what looked like a longer route, it still took 2 hours; but only cost \$3.25.
- Highway Patrol Traffic Crash Reports: <http://tinyurl.com/6o2ez>
- Speed Traps in Florida: <http://tinyurl.com/yf352uc>
- Statewide Traffic Conditions: <http://www.fl511.com/>
- SNelsonBrown, Jul/1/2010: For those with a heavy foot, tickets for driving violations in Brevard County are well over \$200. Cops are out there on motorcycles & unmarked cars. You can be stopped for not wearing your seat belt, & there is no excuse yet found to keep from not getting ticketed for this violation. Traffic lights have cameras installed to catch drivers that run red lights or commit other infractions. You are notified by mail if you received a fine starting at \$150. Do yourself & someone else a favor — drive safe.

➤ SNelsonBrown, Jul/1/2010: The **Exit to Orlando** (OIA) airport off the Beachline has changed. Those traveling from the east coast on the Beachline will find the new exit about ¼ of a mile BEFORE the old exit. The old exit is closed. You no longer go under the bridge & exit to the Orlando Airport. You exit along with the SR 436 Rd exit & bear to left to go to airport. Be sure to pay attention to the new exit signs.

## TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

➤ SNelsonBrown, Jun/20/2010: [LisaF1 asked about places to take a 5-year-old.] Manatee Park right in back of the Radisson; the Dinosaur Store which is in Cocoa Beach; Shark Tank at 4 Points (which is the sister to the Radisson); Cocoa Beach Pier; and Brevard Zoo.

## TRANSPORTATION

### AIRPORTS CLOSEST TO PORT

☆ **Orlando International (MCO)** — <http://www.orlandoairports.net>

➤ afcj1, Aug/6/2010: For anyone looking into renting a car at MCO — 1-way to Cocoa Beach, **Budget** has a very good price using code: S232000. I reserved a compact for a total of \$39.41. A full-size is only \$1.00 more. I've been watching these prices and this is the lowest I've seen recently. If you've never driven this route, there are 1 or 2 tolls; otherwise, it's a straight shot.

**WARNING:** Lots of speed enforcement.

☆ **Melbourne International** — <http://www.MLBair.com/> — No. 1 among airports that use Twitter says Forbes.com's "Wheels Up" column, June 21/2010). <http://tinyurl.com/2fqxpzc>

### AUTO TRAIN

➤ 'Radio', Aug/16/2009: I love the Auto Train. I try to take it when possible. Yes, I know it cost more than a plane, & I know you can get there faster on a plane. The Auto Train leaves daily at 4 PM from Lorton, VA heading South, & daily from Sanford, FL heading north. It is a non-stop train (there are no passengers stops), & it will arrive at its destination usually by 9:30 AM. I always take the Auto Train two days before embarkation. There is one Lounge Car, & one Dining car for Sleepers, & one of each for coach. I usually get the sleeper when possible. Meals are included as well as coffee, bottled

water, snacks, & a movie in the lounge car. You can find out much more at the Amtrak website.

► n2Knight, Jul/16/2010: I booked my transportation down to the port! I am on the Amtrak Auto Train arriving just about 45 minutes northeast of Orlando. I will have my own vehicle down there (hence the Auto Train), so if anyone needs a ride down to the Radisson hotel, I have to pass nearby the Orlando airport. My train arrives at 9:30am the day before the cruise.

### BEACH LINE TRANSPORTATION

<http://BeachLineTransportation.net> — 1-877-382-3224, 321-453-9660

► afcj1, Aug/6/2010: Beach Line quoted me \$28.50 pp and Travelynx has quoted \$25. Since the quote is for 1 person, they might give discounts for more people. These 2 companies have received recent good reviews on the Florida boards.

### BEACHLINE EXPRESSWAY

Toll calculations for the Beachline Expressway from Orlando or other areas to the port: <http://bit.ly/dmJozk>

### COCOA BEACH SHUTTLE — <http://bit.ly/a0XApx>

► 'BigSteelerFan', Aug/13/2009: **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** offers shuttles from the Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral.

► 'Daytona', Aug/13/2009: Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL) transfers are only for the day of embarkation/departure. If the Cocoa Beach Shuttle or others don't work, you can rent a car from Orlando & drop off in Cape Canaveral.

► 'Marcel8004', Aug/14/2009: We have used a shuttle [from Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral] in the past with *less than satisfactory* results. They didn't keep the schedule they promised & we were at their mercy. It can cost less than \$100 each way & we can have it from Saturday late morning until Sunday morning. They will shuttle you to the ship for free after dropping the van at the rental agency & we will have more freedom to get around Saturday evening in Cape Canaveral if we need to pick something up or just get around & see the sights. We booked Thrifty for \$63 plus fees on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. Teresa booked Hertz a little later for a little more since Thrifty showed no availability. If you don't have any discounts (AAA, etc.), take a look at the work in Cape

Canaveral thread for a list of the discounts for various groups. Travel sites like [Priceline](#), etc can get you similar discounts but they do **not** do business with all of the car rental agencies.

➤ 'O hi o Lady', Aug/14/2009: We used **Cocoa Beach Shuttle**. They were great. We only took it from the airport last time because we had a tour on the way back but they give a cruise critic discount, \$52.50 for 2 each way. Not bad considering traveling from Orlando. Using it both ways this time.

➤ 'HaileyJordan', Aug/1/2009: We were on the Freedom of the Seas in May 2009. We flew [into Orlando] the day before & rented a car at the airport from **Avis**, then we had the car for the day. We returned the car Sunday morning in Cape Canaveral (near the hotel) & [Avis] shuttled my husband back to the hotel. Then we took a taxi about 11 to the Ship. They had a shuttle from the hotel, but the taxi was so much easier. Also I think Avis will take you right to the ship if you want, ask them. We are going again next May & plan on doing the same thing. We stayed at the Radisson, but next time I am going to stay at the Comfort Suites.

➤ 'A2Mich', Aug/1/2009: Having lived in Orlando for 18 years, I can tell you that there are numerous shuttles from MCO to Port Canaveral/Cocoa Beach area, but it can be less expensive to simply rent a car. You may spend \$50+ renting a car, but you will spend at least that much taking a shuttle service from Orlando airport to Port Canaveral — & then still have no way around (to go for dinner, shopping, etc.). It is super easy to get to Port Canaveral from MCO: Take the North Exit out of the airport (towards 436/528), follow the signs for '528 Beachline East'. The drive is about 45 minutes. Once you get near the port, there are plenty of signs to point you in the right direction. Cocoa Beach area is not that big, & you might enjoy going to Ron Jon's Surf Shop for some unique t-shirts.

➤ 'Sky616', Aug/15/2009: We are flying in the day before from Baltimore & renting a car from **Avis** at the Orlando Int'l airport. We are driving to the **Radisson**. It is like \$60 for the rental car. The morning of the cruise we are dropping the rental car off at Avis in Port Canaveral & they have a shuttle that will take you to the ship free of charge. On the day we get back, we are just taking the Cocoa Beach shuttle. It is \$62 for three of us. That is including a *10% discount because we mentioned CruiseCritic* when reserving.

➤ 'Dopey1956', Aug/17/2009: We are flying in from Philadelphia to Orlando. We have 4 adults & will have to get a bigger car. Anyway, car rental with **AAA**

will be at least \$70.00 for us to get **Country Inn & Suites**. Since we are coming in to Orlando at 5:10 PM, we will have to pay for 2 days because by the time we return the car they will be closed to return it till the next morning before we get on the cruise ship. Bummer. So if we get **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** to pick us up at the airport & take us to the hotel it will be \$75 for 4 adults total. I will sure remember to say *I heard it on CC to get a 10% discount*. Thank you for that tip. I think we will be doing this so we don't have to drive ourselves & let somebody else do the driving for us.

► 'Dopey1956', Aug/18/2009: We will be arriving from Philadelphia Airport to Orlando on the 10th. I have booked **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** from the airport to **Country inn & Suites**. Then in the morning, we'll get a shuttle to Port from the hotel. When returning from the cruise, again **Cocoa Beach Shuttle** will pick us up & return us to airport. Cost of shuttle for 4 adults was \$75.00 one-way; round trip was \$150, but I used the CC discount at 10% & paid \$135 round trip for 4 adults. Not bad at all. Leave the driving up to them. They also told me to tell the cruise that for departure, we will be meeting them at 8 AM. So, maybe, we will get to walk off with our own luggage.

► Chiro, Jul/6/2010: I'm not sure where you are doing your research, but the car service you quoted at \$150 to Cocoa Beach & back is the same as the Cocoa Beach Shuttle that I found. For four people, they asked for \$75 one way, & \$150 return. It might be a little cheaper for a rental car; but, with 2 kids & 4 bags & carry ons, I'd rather sit in a roomy shuttle & not have to worry about driving, traffic, parking, pick up & dropping off the rental car, etc. I'm booking the shuttle, thanks.

► Parrot7, Jul/26/2010: I will book with Cocoa Beach Shuttle for what I would have paid for Beach Line Shuttle:

☆ Beach Line Shuttle \$62 + gratuities @ 15% = \$71.30

☆ Cocoa Beach Shuttle \$52.20 + gratuities @ 15% = \$60.03

A saving of \$11.27

## HERTZ SHUTTLE

► 'ReallyItsMeMa', Aug/10/2009: We have used Hertz Shuttle twice before our cruise. We returned the car just after 10:30 both times. The first time, the shuttle was just loading. The driver called to us to leave the bags right by the car & he would come get them. The three of us were on the shuttle with only

2 other people & he left as soon as my husband came out of the building from returning the car.

The second time, the shuttle was full & leaving to go to the ships. The driver said he was only going to the Mariner & would be back soon. There were 4 other people waiting that he had to leave along with us. He was back very quickly.

The drivers load the bags for you though my DH & my 17-yr-old DS passed things up to him but he told them they didn't need to help. At the port, he unloaded things directly to the porters waiting for us as he opened the door. I did tip both the driver & the porter since we had 5 good size bags & a case of water.

Personally, I wouldn't waste the money on the taxi. I also wouldn't do as some do with one person dropping everyone off at the port, then go return car & come back themselves on the shuttle. We like to stay together. Even if I had little kids, I would take the rental shuttle.

Hertz is directly in front of the **Residence Inn**, they actually use the same driveway so it is very convenient if you are staying at Residence Inn.

## RENTAL CAR

➤ MasterBaker, July 13/2010: If you are returning a car back in Cape Canaveral & if you do NOT fill your gas tank before turning it in, you will be charged \$6.999-per-gal so save yourself a little bit of monies by stopping at one of the gas stations before you turn it back in.

➤ afcj1, Aug/6/2010: For anyone looking into renting a car at MCO — 1-way to Cocoa Beach, **Budget** has a very good price using code: S232000. I reserved a compact for a total of \$39.41. A full-size is only \$1.00 more. I've been watching these prices and this is the lowest I've seen recently. If you've never driven this route, there are 1 or 2 tolls; otherwise, it's a straight shot.

**WARNING:** Lots of speed enforcement.

➤ CrusKitten, Aug/6/2010: I rented a full size with **Hertz** (AAA discount) for \$45.01. Checking **Budget**, with taxes, the full size would come to \$42. I will keep my reservation with Hertz at this point, \$3 is not worth the hassle to cancel and re-book.

➤ afcj1, Aug/7/2010: I found another discount code for Budget:U259451 for O/W, from the port to MCO on the Nov/13/2010 @ \$37.42 total for an economy car. The price goes up by \$2.00 for each car level upgrade. Make

sure to delete your cookies if you've already been on the Budget Website for accurate pricing.

## TRAVELYNX

<http://www.travelynx.net/> — 800-226-5969 or 321-631-7777

## EXECUTIVE VIP LIMOUSINE & SEDAN

[www.ExecutiveVIPLimousine.com](http://www.ExecutiveVIPLimousine.com) — 321-505-0009 or 321-452-6187

Town car service for up to 3 persons is \$79 from Orlando Airport to Port Canaveral cruise ships & area hotels. Limousine service for up to 6 persons is \$125; no charge for store stop along the way for soda, water, snacks, etc. round trip transportation to Kennedy Space Center is \$59 for up to 3 people in a town car & \$99 for up to 6 people in a limousine. From port & area hotels. Orlando theme parks, nights on the town, any & all occasions.

➤ CorkyAnige, Jul/6/2010: I'm not sure why; but, in my research, it seems like the shuttle is one of the most expensive means of transportation from Port Canaveral to MCO. Have you looked into a car service? I booked a car service (VIP Limo) for both ways to our hotel pre-cruise & from cruise port to airport post-cruise. There are 4 of us going — & it's \$150 total both ways — beats the \$35/per person/each way for the Carnival shuttle! I am booked with VIP Limo. The \$150 is for 4 adults in a town car. He also quoted \$240 for up to 10 people in a stretch limo; but, since there are only 4 of us, we opted for the town car. Yes, that includes the driver. It just seems like much less hassle than a car rental or shuttle service.

➤ CorkyAnige, Jul/15/2010, <http://tinyurl.com/29lrw52>, #337: We are hiring a car service (staying at hotel in Cocoa Beach 2 nights pre-cruise). **VIP Limo** is charging us \$150 round-trip for 4 people. He also quoted me \$240 round-trip for a 10-passenger limo. Would love to go that route if we had more people to absorb the cost. Shirley has his information posted in this thread — I think post 295. We will have to take a taxi from the hotel to the cruise port; but, we plan to walk everywhere else we want to go in Cocoa Beach.

## YELLOW CAB

➤ 'EBFurr', Aug/10/2009: We have sailed out of Port Canaveral 5 times & have always stayed at the Radisson (by the way, we have always had a good experience there) but we have never used their shuttle. It is a real hassle. We



get a Yellow Cab (321-636-1234) from the hotel to the port. It is a 2-3 minute trip & costs about \$3 per person. We usually have six in our group & they send a van for us, but they have all kinds of vehicles. Call the evening before & tell them what time & where to be. They will also be out in front of the terminal at departure for the ride back if you wish.

### BEELINE TO ORLANDO

► Cruizer4662, Jul/26/2010: The Beeline is the ONLY straight line from [the Orlando] airport to the port. One wreck will tie up traffic for a couple of hours. That is why when we go to Orlando area, we plan on a couple of hours cushion.

### COCOA BEACH

★ [www.cocoabeachnow.com/](http://www.cocoabeachnow.com/)

★ Map: <http://bit.ly/aSA1aa>

### CONSUMER'S COMPLAINT

<http://www.800helpfla.com/complnt.html>

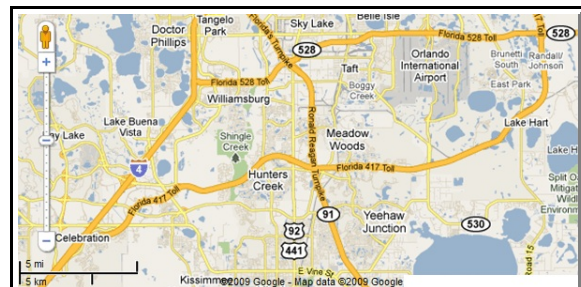
### DRIVING FROM AIRPORTS

Driving Directions to Port Canaveral from these airports: Orlando International Airport (MCO), Melbourne International Airport (MLB), Melbourne International Airport (MLB), Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB), Space Coast Regional Airport (TIX), Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB):

<http://bit.ly/vrFvI> — Also, see “[Rental Car](#)” below.

### DRIVING FROM TAMPA

► DarryDFL, Oct/25/2009: Looking at a map, one might think Florida 417 Toll would be better for getting to Port Canaveral faster than going into Orlando & taking FL 528. However, not only is it more expensive, it takes longer because you're forever stopping to pay a toll. Returning via FL 528, we stopped



at 3 toll booths & paid \$3.25 (total). That is almost \$3 less, plus 15 minutes in time. FL 528 exits I-4 near Sea World.

## FORBIDDEN ITEMS

► SNelsonBrown, July 14/2010 < <http://tinyurl.com/29lrw52> >:

☆ The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) guidelines specify that in addition to guns, illegal drugs, fireworks & ammunition, all lighters with fuel are forbidden unless they are in a DOT-approved case. You can't have realistic replicas of explosive devices, either. No matches are allowed except one packet of safety matches in carry-on luggage.

☆ Most lines don't allow irons due to the danger of fire, but they are provided for passenger use in the laundries, where they have automatic cut-offs.

☆ Royal Caribbean allows walkie-talkies up to five watts & covering up to 10 miles, as do Disney & others.

☆ Disney does not permit VCR/DVD players, Nintendo or other video game consoles because of compatibility issues with stateroom TVs.

☆ You can't bring metal detectors onto Disney ships or onto their private island, Castaway Cay, because anything found would have to be returned to the owner or donated to charity.

☆ Most lines don't allow knives longer than 3–4 inches.

☆ Most lines don't allow baseball bats, hockey sticks, spears, cricket bats, or bows & arrows.

☆ Royal Caribbean forbids HAM radios, bleach or surfboards.

☆ Crystal & Carnival forbid Segways.

☆ Carnival prohibits throwing stars.

☆ Princess confiscates hookahs. [According to *Wikipedia*: A hookah or water pipe is a single or multi-stemmed (often glass-based) instrument for smoking tobacco in which the smoke is cooled & filtered by passing through water.]

☆ All lines confiscate pepper spray, handcuffs, slingshots, blowguns & medical marijuana.

☆ Alcohol policies vary drastically. Lines like Royal do not return any alcohol confiscated on embarkation day — contrary to the 'wisdom of the Web', where passengers urge one another to try smuggling in the booze, since the cruise line will just hold it until the end of the sailing if they catch you.

☆ Disney allows guests to bring alcohol on board to drink in staterooms.

- ★ Holland America Line allows only wine & champagne at embarkation, with a limit of 2 bottles of wine per stateroom, while other lines allow guests to drink what they buy in port; but, not to bring alcohol on board at embarkation.
- ★ Norwegian Cruise Line doesn't allow alcohol brought on board & is the strictest line in enforcing the policy.
- ★ Cruise lines that include drinks in the ticket price — like Regent, Windstar, Silversea & Seabourn — will allow guests to bring their own alcohol on board & drink it in their staterooms; generally, if passengers want to bring their own bottles to the dining room, there is a 'corkage charge'.
- ★ Although a handful of lines allow children of all ages, many prohibit infants under 6 months or 1-year, & some only allow children 2 years or older. If you come to the ship with an underage child, you & the child are likely to be told you cannot board — & no compensation will be offered.
- ★ Because of the threat of fire, cruise ships are concerned about overloaded extension cords & multi-plug adapters, which many insurance companies frown on even on shore. This is a gray area, & most of the lines allow their security people license to judge whether something is dangerous.
- ★ Some cruise lines require guests to clear their portable fans with a staff electrician.
- ★ Cruise lines can confiscate anything they consider a threat to the safety of the ship at any time, from the initial screening until the passengers get off the ship. It isn't unusual for someone who has left a hair curler plugged in, while away from a stateroom, to find that it has been removed. Most confiscated items are restored at the end of the cruise. & the vast majority of passengers never even run into an issue.
- ★ Be sure to read the cruise line policy before booking: it can save you time, money, embarrassment, & bad hair days.

## **GAS**

Find best gas station with lower cost: <http://bit.ly/bHtr49>

## **MAPS OF LOCAL AREA:**

★ BigAwl, Mar/3/2010, Points of Interest Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2aysgcd> or <http://bit.ly/aSA1aa>

★ Port Canaveral Motels & Restaurants: <http://bit.ly/axqlin>

## MOTELS

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 'BigSteelerFan': **Radisson, Residence Inn, & Country Inn** are the closest to the pier that offer free parking for the cruise. They range from about \$129–\$169 a night, including parking for the cruise. I think the tax is 12%.
- 'Karen&Roy', Aug/4/2009: We rented a car at the airport, & dropped it off near the port the morning of the cruise. There are several companies that shuttle you to the ship for free. It was nice having the car the night before to explore & find a nice restaurant.
- 'HB Cruiser', Aug/4/2009: We always use the rental car agency's shuttles upon return from our cruises in Port Canaveral. All you have to do is walk from the terminal across the parking lot to the other side & they all meet up there. We use **Budget Rental Car** because they seem to be the quickest & nicest in the area that I have dealt with. We tried Avis twice & had the same horrible experience both times after getting off the ship: mean & rude staff. I tried them the 2<sup>nd</sup> time thinking it was just an isolated incident, but boy was I wrong. Go to <http://www.mousesavers.com> for discount codes for several of the rental agencies.
- 'Dbr1009', Aug/7/2009: Being a hotelier for many years, more than I care to mention, most hotels have had, at one time or another, bed bugs! These pests are brought in by people; it means nothing about a hotel's cleanliness. Now on the other hand, it all depends how the property handles the situation. It is costly & time consuming, having to close off the infected room for a week, throwing out the infected areas, & tearing furniture apart, etc.
- SNelsonBrown (Shirley), Jul/7/2010: Hotels such as Best Western, Days Inn (these 2 are sisters), & La Quinta are 'this close' to the beach. So are some restaurants such as Durango's, Beef O'Brady, Boston Seafood. & then you have the small shopping mall across the street which has a grocery store. The best part of these hotels they are close to the pier. Further down about a mile or less, you have Fawltly Towers, Inn of Cocoa Beach, 4 Points, Comfort Inn that has just about everything around it such as shopping, dinosaur shop, again 'this close' to the beach. There are restaurants such as Florida Seafood, Brando, Old Fish House, IHOP, Italian Gardens, Sushi House. These are all walking distance. You don't need transportation to go to these places — now if you want to go across the river then you better be

an excellent walker & can take this heat to walk over to Merritt Island where they have it all. Great restaurants, movies, malls, etc.

## COUNTRY INN & SUITES

Website: <http://www.countryinns.com/capecanaveralf>

☆ General Manager: Bud Burch, [bud.burch@countryinns.com](mailto:bud.burch@countryinns.com)

- SNelsonBrown, Jul/1/2010: The great thing offered is a free continental breakfast that includes hot continental breakfast with sausage, bacon, eggs, waffles, cereal, juice, milk & coffee etc. You must pay an additional fee & upgrade to the cruise & park package to park your car at the hotel while on the cruise.
- WannaSail4ever, Jul/29/2009: What a deal. We got upgraded to a suite. It did have a frig & microwave. A good breakfast was served free & Internet was included. But the best part was the shuttle to the port & back. No charge, but we tipped the driver both ways. We took the 10:30 shuttle to the port (it takes all of 3 minutes) & some of the very first people to get onboard. It took all of 5 minutes to check in. They did not board until 11:30. However, cookies & lemonade are served. We disembarked with our own luggage & were literally the 1st people off the ship. We were in our car (the shuttle was ready & we did not have to wait for other people) by 7:55 AM. So easy! Nice shuttle bus too. Can't say enough about that shuttle service. I'm very glad that we have this same hotel booked for Oct. They have a very nice pool area too.
- 'SNelsonBrown', Oct/9/08: The great thing offered is a free continental breakfast that includes hot continental breakfast with sausage, bacon, eggs, waffles, cereal, juice, milk & coffee etc. They also now have their own shuttles to the port & no longer need to depend on another shuttle service. It offers rates with park & cruise but you can leave your car *without* paying for a park & cruise rate. Manager Bud Burch can be reached at this email address: [bud.burch@countryinns.com](mailto:bud.burch@countryinns.com)
- 'Stretch44', Aug/10/2009: Residence Inn is the place to stay provided you have a car. They have no restaurant, but they do have a free breakfast in the morning. We will be staying there for our 4<sup>th</sup> time this September.
- 'BigSteelerFan', Aug/13/2009: My recommendation is Country Inn which costs **\$128**. A shuttle is provided to the ship.
- 'Dopey1956a', Aug/14/2009: There is a **\$4 charge** per person for taking the shuttle to the ship.

- 'Matt12995', Sep/18/2009: Yesterday, I re-booked my room at a savings of \$30. I don't know if that they would have given me the new lower rate or not when I got there. I booked my room several months ago, & it was nice to see a price drop.
- DarryDFL, Oct/11/2009: Our room cost \$75 on [Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com). Check-in could not have been faster or more efficient. Carla offered coupons to local restaurants, area maps & directions to anywhere one could want to go. Parking a car for a week of the cruise is \$20. (We were given a paper tag for the car's dashboard.) Both cable & wireless is included free, & a great buffet breakfast. There was no charge for riding the shuttle. Dwayne, the shuttle driver, provided a humorous commentary on the way to the ship, pointing out sites of interest & the manatee in the inland waterway. We tipped him.
- DarryDFL, Oct/25/2009: Pickup at the port could not have gone smoother. Dwayne picked us up 7 minutes after he was called. He delivered us & our baggage to the motel in about 7 minutes. We left for Tampa at 10:40 am.
- 'NZDisneyMom', Oct/10/2009: We're at Country Inn & Suites on Saturday night, too. & I just checked our reservation which we had made several months ago — & then found a lower rate for the same requirements — so I made a new reservation & cancelled the old one. We come out even on cost of the room vs. parking at the port — so yay! We stayed at this hotel in December when we cruised last. The hotel was comfortable & clean, & the shuttle was super easy.
- DarryDFL, Oct/10/2009: The Country Inn does still charge, but the Radisson was a lot more points. (Beth is using some of her Visa rewards points to get the room). The Radisson was like 15,000 more than Country Inn, so we'll just pay the 20 dollars & save the points.
- WannaSail4ever, Oct/10/2009: I always bid for the Country Inn & Suites on Priceline. If you bid 2.5 star in the port only area, you're pretty much assured to get it. This time we paid \$50 + the taxes. I think that's like \$63. or so. They charged us \$20. to leave the car. Now, that could be because we got the room on Priceline. I'm not sure. However, it does include the shuttle to & from the port, Internet & a pretty decent breakfast.
- '10th Anniversary', Oct/28/2009: On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we stayed at Country Inn & Suites. It was a great hotel & it was close to the terminal. It had a "full" continental hot breakfast. Stayed in a kid suite: 1 queen bed & 1 set of bunk beds & 1 extra single bed, & 2 TVs. We would definitely stay here again.

► DarryDFL, Oct/19/2009: We drove to Port Canaveral on Saturday, the day before the cruise, & we stayed at the Country Inn & Suites, which is right near the port. We could actually see the Carnival Glory & the two Disney ships in port when we arrived. We chose this hotel because we got a free room with my wife's credit card points. They also allow you to leave your vehicle parked there during the cruise (for a \$20 fee), & provide a shuttle service to the pier. This saved us money versus driving down the day of the cruise & paying the pier's parking rates. After checking in we headed to Grills Seafood & Tiki Bar which sits right on the waterway that the cruise ships traverse. We had an unofficial pre cruise meet & greet with some of the folks from our Cruise Critic roll call. Despite the cool temperatures & winds, everybody seemed to have a nice time. I was able to get some pictures of the Carnival Glory & Disney Magic as they left port.

### MARRIOTT RESIDENCE INN

<http://Marriott.com/hotels/travel/mlbri>

☆ General Manager: Sarah O'Shea, [Sarah.OShea@marriott.com](mailto:Sarah.OShea@marriott.com)

► SNelsonBrown, Jul/14/2010: Free cruise parking with an overnight stay. Complimentary full hot breakfast buffet & nightly social hour (Mon-Thurs) with complimentary light dinner, beer & wine. (The complimentary light dinners are *hors d'oeuvres* except for Wednesday & then it is manager's cookout with hot dogs & hamburger.) \$3 shuttle to the port (Cocoa Beach Shuttle).

► 'ReallyItsMeMa', Aug/10/2009: The Residence Inn is very nice. We have stayed there twice. It is only a few years old, very clean & has a free hot breakfast. The front desk staff has always been very helpful. The rooms are big with full size refrigerators, microwave, cook-top & table & chairs. We have never left a car there since we fly down & always have a rental car. We haven't used their shuttle either since we use the rental shuttle. We would stay there again if we cruise out of Port Canaveral again.

► 'BigSteelerFan', Aug/13/2009: Residence Inn **\$169**, but my recommendation is *Country Inn*.

### RADISSON

<http://www.radisson.com/capecanaveralfi>

Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, Florida 32920 — Reservations: 1-800-395-7046 US/Canada Toll-free

Telephone: (321) 784-0000 Fax: (321) 784-3737

Email: [info@radissonport.com](mailto:info@radissonport.com)

★ Joe P, General Manager, [jpanackia@radissonport.com](mailto:jpanackia@radissonport.com)

★ Free transportation for guests to the Port, Cape Canaveral, Cocoa Beach, Merritt Square Mall, & Kennedy Space Center (plus highly discounted tickets).

★ Free cruise parking with an overnight stay

★ Breakfast buffet for \$9.95, some higher rates include breakfast

★ 100% non-smoking facility.

★ Webcam (points to the port):

➤ SNelsonBrown, Jul/21/2010: The Radisson, 4 Points and Quality Suites are all sisters and all owned by the same person.

➤ 'Peaece13', Jan/15/2010: Yes, we are parking at the Radisson & have already booked a spot on a shuttle. When I reserved it about 2 weeks ago, the first shuttle we could get on was 12:30, so I was glad I had read I could go ahead & reserve space.

➤ "MSCully", Jan/15/2010: They do not charge [for parking] either, it is included in your room cost! Make sure that when you book that you schedule the shuttle.

➤ 'EBFurr', Aug/10/2009: We have sailed out of Port Canaveral 5 times & have always stayed at the **Radisson** (by the way, we have always had a good experience there, despite some of the negative posts you see) but we have never used their shuttle. It is a real hassle. We get a [Yellow Cab](#) from the hotel to the port — it is a 2-3 minute trip & costs about \$3 per person. We usually have six in our group & they send a van for us, but they have all kinds of vehicles. Call the evening before & tell them what time & where to be. They will also be out in front of the terminal at departure for the ride back if you wish.

➤ 'Cruising Forever', Oct/10/2009: I KNEW there was some price difference; Rad doesn't charge to park, but I think they are basically the same deal; Country Inn, I believe, includes breakfast, but Rad doesn't. I'm just partial to the Rad pool! Rad lets you pre-reserve your shuttle spots & when I called today, their earliest is at 12:30 pm (they don't send the first one over till 11:30 am), so I'm thinking I may see if DH will drop me & the luggage off & take the car back to the Rad & then try to share a cab back with someone. I don't mind that much getting over there a little later, but that was the absolute busiest time for boarding in the past.



- BakinCakes, Jul/12/2010: I was a bit concerned with some of the reviews on CC about the Radisson. I emailed Joe P, the General Manager, & he called me. He assured me that it is undergoing serious renovations, & that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the hotel is still waiting for its “facelift”. The other  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the rooms & the guest common areas & pool area are completed. While  $\frac{1}{3}$  are still undergoing change, every room is kept clean & guest ready.
- JaneRN, Jul/11/2010: Our cruise was from July 3–10th. We stayed at the Radisson the night before, took their shuttle over to the ship around 11. In 30 minutes, hubby & I were on the ship. My son & daughter-in-law & extended family took the noon shuttle; and, basically, they walked right on. Embark was a piece of cake. [When the cruise was over,] We did self-assist getting off. It was too easy. Our floor was called just after 7am. We were off, shuttled back to the hotel by Radisson, & in the car on the road all by 8am.
- MischievousSmile, Jul/21/2010: The gang of 27 ladies from Canada all booked rooms yesterday at the Radisson. There is a 48 hr special on right now: \$84 a night.

### RON JON'S

- WannaSail4ever, Oct/10/2009: Ron Jon's is my favorite. Talk about a nice setup! Great big pool with lots of activity & it's got a golf cart to the beach which is very close to Jetty Park. They actually have a band out by the pool in the afternoons & a *palapa* bar & grill too. [Wikipedia: a *palapa* is an open-sided dwelling with a thatched roof made of dried palm leaves.] As for their shuttle, in July, we took their 10:30 AM shuttle to the port. After disembarking by carrying off our own luggage, we were back at the hotel & on our way around 7 AM. The driver was shocked to see us off so early, but it helped since we had a 9 hour drive.
- stefyo, Jul/16/2010: We are two families, a party of 7, in a 2 bedroom Villa; total cost (with tax) was \$244 for the night.

### MOTELS: COCOA BEACH

- ★ Tourism: <http://VisitCocoaBeachNow.com/>
- ★ For the best info on motels: <http://tinyurl.com/2e4bbbd>, post #295.
- SNelsonBrown, Jun/23/2010: Turtle nesting season is May 1 – October 31. Cocoa Beach is a great place to watch them; but, do NOT disturb the turtles.

It's against the law. Almost all motels view the turtle nesting.  
<http://SeeFloridaOnline.com/turtles/>

► MasterBaker, Jul/15/2010: We have stayed at the **Best Western Cocoa Beach** several times pre-cruise. Days Inn is their sister property & they are right next to each other & share management. It's a great location right on the beach. It's nothing fancy, but it's clean, the staff is nice & offers a cruise & park deal that is less \$ than just parking at the pier. So it's like having a free hotel night pre-cruise if you need to park a car in Port Canaveral.

► TaraParrothead, Jul/21/2010: **LunaSea** was charging \$50, incl. a voucher for a full breakfast at a local restaurant and parking. They said the shuttle was \$2 per person each way. Ask if they have a fire fighters discount, some places do. It's #10 in brown on BigAWL's map: <http://tinyurl.com/2aysgcd>

► CorkYanige, Jul/23/2010: Last week, when we had some issues with our airline (flight canceled, moved to day of cruise, had to call airline and move back another day). Anyway, we ended up having to extend our pre-cruise stay 1 extra day. I had gotten a great early, pre-purchase rate at **4 Points by Sheraton** for 1 night pre-cruise; but, now the current rates were no where close to that rate that I a couple months ago. I called and was told that the suite that I had was not even available for the night before. I was told that I would have to check into 1 room and check out and check into a different room for the 2<sup>nd</sup> night — or to call back & talk to the GM. I did that, and he switched my suite. (I was in a handicap-accessible room. I don't know why & didn't even realize it til then.) and added the 2nd night FOR THE SAME PRICE!!! He definitely did not have to do this for me since I was already locked into this hotel since my 1 night was already pre-paid & non-refundable. But I definitely got the feeling that he was there to make the customers happy!

► SNelsonBrown, Jul/22/2010: You are talking about **La Quinta** on Henery St right? I LOVE that place — well, I did when I would take my granddaughter there sometimes on the weekend so we could have our play dates every few months. It is 'this close' to the pier. We got the room that faced the ocean and would sit out there to watch the people play ball, surf, fish while eating junk stuff from the places/grocery stores. I have to go there every so often and still like the place. They have a great GM with quite the sense of humor and everybody needs that in this life. I went there one Sunday and the place had the greatest breakfast put out — I wanted to stay so bad, but that wouldn't have been nice — really? I believe you will really enjoy your stay — remember

we don't have anything really fancy here, but for the time spent, it is nice — make sure you tell them you are from the board — they love to hear that.

## **NASA**

➤ NASA Launch Schedules:

<http://www.nasa.gov/missions/highlights/schedule.html>

➤ Space Flight: Leading source on news about space.

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

➤ Space Flight Tracking: Tracks space flights.

<http://www.spaceflightnow.com/tracking/index.html>

➤ Space Flight FAQ: <http://spacelaunchinfo.com/faq.html/#park>

➤ Unofficial Space Launch Guide (how to get launch & landing pass, etc.):

<http://www.sworld.com.au/steven/space/shuttle/guide.txt>

## **NON-U.S. CITIZENS**

International travelers who are seeking to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program are now subject to enhanced security requirements. All eligible travelers who wish to travel under the Visa Waiver Program must apply for authorization using the following process. Go to the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), the Official U.S. Government Web Site, <http://tinyurl.com/22qoyrg> in English, Čeština, Dansk, Deutsch, Eesti, Español, Français, Greek, Íslenska, Italiano, Japanese, Korean, Latviešu, Lietuviu, Magyar, Nederlands, Norsk, Português, Slovincina, Slovenščina, Suomi, & Svenska.

## **PARKING AT CRUISE TERMINAL**

<http://www.portcanaveral.com/cruising/parking.php>

According to the website, Mar/18/2010: Parking at Port Canaveral's cruise terminals is paved, gated & has 24-hour surveillance. Terminal 10 has an outdoor parking area & a 6-level parking garage.

➤ Parking Fees:

★ \$15/night for vehicles up to 20 feet in length

★ \$26/night for vehicles over 20 feet

★ The total fee for the time the vehicle will be parked is due on entry. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard & Traveler's Checks issued in U.S. dollars.

➤ **Parking for the Disabled:** Special parking spaces are provided. The parking fee is waived for vehicles that ❶ Have special equipment such as ramps, lifts, foot or hand controls; or ❷ Display the Florida Toll Exemption permit. (Call 800-983-2435 ext. 2 to apply for an exemption form.)

## RESTAURANTS

➤ DarryDFL, Jul/23/2009: These restaurants offer great viewing of departing & arriving ships: [Grills](#), [Fishlips](#), [Kelsey's](#), [Milliken's](#) Reef.

➤ '10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary', Sep/25/2009: We are arriving in Cape Canaveral around 3 p.m. Saturday & go over to the beach & watch the *Carnival Glory* leave.

➤ SNelsonBrown, Jul/23/2010: **Shrimp!** Born and raised in Key West, I didn't know there were other types of shrimps except our delicious huge, pink shrimps. However, Norm and I have found the shrimp dinners at Florida Seafood and at Grills the best yet. They are called the "Canaveral Whites" and I believe that is what is used more here than anything else. If you ever see "Pink Gold" Shrimps advertised, GO FOR IT — expensive, but worth the monies.

### GRAND BUFFET (CHINESE)

➤ SNelsonBrown, Jul/16/2010: The Grand Buffet (655 North Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach; 321-868-0283). It is about 4 miles south of the Residence Inn on the west side. The avenue is called Astronaut until the triangle. Then it is North Atlantic Avenue. Then South Orlando, but it is all still US A1A. The little, young man who waits on your table is named Andy. What a bright kid for being 9-years-old. Loves his tips & smart as a whip. From the Country Inn & Suites all the way down for miles.

### GRILL'S SEAFOOD & TIKI BAR —

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

➤ 'WannaSail4Ever', Aug/20/2009: It has an indoor room & an outdoor large patio. There is a band later in the evening. Most ships depart early & the place is always packed. I like it outdoors. People do gather there early because there is a boat ramp beside the restaurant. Lots of funny things happen



there to watch like people forgetting the emergency brake on the incline. In July we watched a man chase his truck into the water. He did catch it though. It's one of those "crowd pleaser" events.

➤ DarryDFL, Oct/10/2009: We held an informal M&M at Grills Seafood last night. It was easy to find & reach from Country Inn & Suites. While the band was loud, the conversation was uninterrupted. The food & music was good. Offers great photo-taking of departing ships.

➤ DarryDFL, Oct/19/2009: After checking in, we headed to Grills Seafood which sits right on the waterway that the cruise ships traverse. We had an unofficial pre-cruise Meet & Greet with some of the folks from our Cruise Critic roll call. Despite the cool temperatures & winds, everybody seemed to have a nice time. I was able to get some pictures of the *Carnival Glory* & *Disney Magic* as they left port.

#### **FISHLIPS WATERFRONT** — <http://www.fishlipswaterfront.com/>

➤ WannaSail4ever, Jul/29/2009: Fishlips is pretty good & has a nice outdoor balcony bar. Not too big though. We ended up at Grill's where the real party seems to be. Crowded & lively! Loved it. Very casual & a great place to watch the ships leave.

➤ CorkyAnige, Jul/8/2010: We LOVED Fishlips! It's a cool atmosphere & we got there at the right time on the Sunday before our Monday cruise to watch 2 ships leaving port. It was so cool. Oh, & the food was good & the service was terrific!

#### **KELSEY'S** — <http://www.kelseys.com/framesets/mainframeset.htm>

#### **MILIKEN'S REEF** — <http://millikensreef.com/>

➤ Menus: <http://tinyurl.com/yzl7qw7>

➤ WannaSail4ever, Jul/29/2009: Ate lunch at Milliken's Reef. It is the closest to the port with the best view of the ship in port (earlier in the day). They have a band & also have indoor & outdoor seating. Much nicer than Grill's or Fish Lips or Rusty's. We ended up at Grill's where the real party seems to be. Crowded & lively! Loved it. Very casual & a great place to watch the ships leave.

## THAI THAI

► SNelsonBrown, Jul/23/2010: [If you love sushi], right across the street is Thai Thai — they just cross the street from the Radisson and they are there — the decor is beautiful, the food is excellent — pricey; but, since they are the only ones in Cape Canaveral, they go for the high price. PLEASE, tell them the highway is very, very busy so to be extra careful. There is a traffic light to the north of the Radisson.

## WEBCAMS — View Ships Arriving & Leaving

- ☆ Coca Beach Surf Company's Jetty Park Webcam at the Cape Caribe Resort at the Port. <http://tinyurl.com/yktn5gz>
- ☆ Local TV 6 Webcam, views the Inlet: <http://tinyurl.com/yl6zmko>
- ☆ Maps Live — Click “**Birds Eye View**” after you've zoomed into Port Canaveral. <http://maps.live.com/>
- ☆ Maps Live — Click “**Street View**” — see what you'd see out your car windshield. <http://maps.live.com/>
- ☆ Milliken's Reef: <http://tinyurl.com/yzl7qw7>
- ☆ Port Canaveral: <http://tinyurl.com/yln8dwe>
- ☆ Port Canaveral: <http://tinyurl.com/yl6zmko>
- ☆ Radisson Webcam with views of the ships in Port. The “Start Control” button puts you in line to control the camera, after 2 minutes, if someone else is in line, it will be their turn. You can get in line again. <http://tinyurl.com/yghyqd6>
- ☆ RonJon Resort Webcam: <http://tinyurl.com/ykcjoqa>

## WEBSITES

- ☆ For info on other ports, visit <http://DarryD.com/CC>.
- ☆ Melbourne Beach Hotels, Hotel Guide Network, <http://tinyurl.com/2akp5c8>
- ☆ Melbourne Beach Restaurants, Dining Guide, <http://tinyurl.com/238s4od>
- ☆ RedBox (Movie Rental Return) Locations. Some folks rent movies to view on their laptops while flying to the cruise.: <http://tinyurl.com/ygaug9q>