

Serendipity Travels to the Caribbean, 2014



This trip involves cross-country travel and cruise-ship cruises from two different ports in Florida. One of the cruises is a four-day affair from Port Canaveral, near Orlando. The other is an eight-day cruise from Port Everglades, which is in Fort Lauderdale.

Two Days in Florida

20 March

Once we were off the shuttle, first order of business was to see if we could check in to the Radisson (again, we stayed there before the cruise as well). No rooms were ready that early, but we could get into the laundry room. Since we normally carry only a week's worth of clothes, the timing was perfect. While the washer and dryer were working, we caught up with email and other internet necessities.

We were able to check in to our room once the laundry was done. Then, we took off in search of lunch. We had noticed (and photographed) Fishlips Restaurant on the way to sea. Finding it by land was easy enough, and we had lunch by the water.

The afternoon was devoted to a visit to Kennedy Space Center, only a few miles north of Cape Canaveral. The visitor center is self-supporting – full-price adult admission is \$50.00. The experience is worth the price of admission. There are several exhibits, including Apollo capsules, a space shuttle, and lots of rockets. Included with general admission is a bus tour that passes (but doesn't stop at) several launch and preparation facilities. On the bus tour, there's a good chance you will also see some of the wildlife that inhabits this area, which is a wildlife sanctuary.



Several of the exhibits include short movies and simulations of launches and the work behind the program. It would be easy to spend an entire day at the space center. Click the Photo Map Tour of Florida link below to see the pictures we took at KSC and on the road south to Fort Lauderdale.

21 March

Florida Highway A1A parallels the Atlantic coast, pretty much unbroken between Cape Canaveral and Fort Lauderdale. Our task today was to drive that route, pausing for pictures, and ending up at The Bridge at Cordova motel. For much of the way, you cannot see the ocean because

**Click for a
Photo Map Tour
of Florida**



there is a sandy mound between the highway and the sea or high-rise buildings occupy the shore line. To compensate, there are lots of parks where a short hike will take one to a view of the sea and an opportunity to wade in the water.

Today was windy and cloudy, so we passed on the opportunity to get our feet wet. Several of the locals were, however, enjoying their day at the beach.



Google Maps took us right to our motel. After checking in we walked down 15th Street to the Fifteenth Street Fishery, a popular dinner place – one you can reach by car, your own boat, or the local water taxi.

22 March

We arranged for a shuttle between the Fort Lauderdale - Hollywood Airport, where we would turn in our car, and Port Everglades, where we would board the ship for our second cruise. With a few hours to kill, we took another ride along the coast and had lunch before saying good bye to our trusty Ford Focus.

Soon, we were back on a ship, ready for more cruising!