

Tiedemann's Diving Center - Florida January 2016 - January 6 to 10

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1) What does the trip price include? The price includes: four nights at The Lodge at Gainesville, three days of escorted diving - which includes use of tanks and weights, air fills, boat fees and park entrance fees.

Day One - a morning of snorkeling from boats on Crystal River to hopefully (no guarantees) see the Manatees and an afternoon of Scuba diving at Blue Grotto.

Day Two - a full day of diving at Devil's Den including a night dive for divers certified as night divers or taking the night diving course.

Day Three - a full day of diving at Ginnie Springs.

The price for all of the above is \$595 each for double occupancy, \$225 extra for single occupancy and \$530 each for triple occupancy.

Non-divers can join us for \$395 (double occupancy) - this includes snorkeling with the Manatees on the first day and joining us at the parks - Blue Grotto, Devils Den and Ginnie Springs.

2) What about transportation? Transportation to Florida and around Florida is not included. You can fly into Orlando, Gainesville or Jacksonville. Airfares as of this writing was only \$250 round trip. It is possible to drive to Florida, the trip from Long Island to Gainesville is 1100 miles.

3) What about carpooling in Florida? We do our best to get together members of the trip to share a rental car. There should be no problem getting into a car pool.

4) I don't own all my own gear, can I rent it? You may rent gear from Tiedemann's Diving Center for \$40 per day. This includes: BC, regulator, Octopus, gauges (pressure, depth and compass), wet suit (jacket and pants) and hood. The fee can be adjusted if you have some of the gear. If you are taking the computer course you can rent a dive computer for \$30 for the whole trip. We do not rent mask, fins, snorkel, wet suit boots or wet suit gloves. You will need to bring the equipment to and from Florida.

5) Do I need a light for the trip? Yes, since some of the dives will be in caverns, a light is necessary. You can rent one for \$ for the whole tri

6) Do I need a dive computer for the trip? No, all the planned dives can be done without a dive computer. If you wish, you can take the Advanced Specialty Computer diving course we are offering and rent a computer.

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7) **What about meals for the trip?** Continental Breakfast is included, lunch and dinner are not included. Our hotel is located in an area with all types of restaurants to meet any budget.

8) **What will the weather be like?** The temperatures will be Fall-like. Central Florida in January can be cool. One thing is for sure, it will be warmer than Long Island.

9) **What is the diving like?** The first day - in the morning - will be snorkeling on the river to see the Manatees. Water temperatures should be in the high 60s. The first day - in the afternoon - will be Scuba diving in Blue Grotto - this is spring fed and water temperatures will be 72 degrees. The second and third days are also spring fed areas and the water temperatures will be 72 degrees.

10) **What will visibility be?** There are no guarantees about visibility. In the past we have had in Crystal River about 20 to 30 feet of visibility. Could be as high as 50 to 60 feet. In Devil's Den the visibility has been upwards of 60 to 70 feet. In Ginnie Springs we will see the clearest water in the world. The visibility is about 200 feet. The best visibility you can have.

11) **When do I have to be in Florida?** You should plan to be in Gainesville on Wednesday, January 6th. We start diving early Thursday the 7th.. The earlier you come in on the 6th. the better. You can check in after 2:00 p.m.

12) **When is checkout?** Checkout is by 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 10th.

13) **Why is the trip so close to the Holidays?** We want to try and see the Manatees when it is not crowded. During the holidays there are so many snorkelers, the Manatees are not going to be in the areas that we can interact with them. Right after the first of the year there are very few snorkelers in the area. This means less crowds and a better chance to see the Manatees.

14) **How far do we have to drive each day?** The longest car ride is on the first day. Crystal River is about 60 miles from Gainesville. Day two is about a 30-minute drive and day three is about a 45-minute drive.

15) **Will we be doing anything on Long Island before the trip?** Yes, we will have a meeting at Tiedemann's Diving Center to meet everyone on the trip.

16) **Will I be able to do my dives for Open Water Diver Certification?** Yes, this trip is designed so you can get your Open Water certification and some Advanced Training. The fee for the Open Water dives for certification is only \$120. That includes all the instruction and your certification card.

Tiedemann's Diving Center * 56 Gardiners Ave * Levittown, NY 11756 * 516-796-6560

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