

# What will you be doing in the beginning of January 2016?

I know what I, Ed Tiedemann, and some of my diving friends will be doing. We will be in Florida experiencing some of the amazing Springs that are found in the central part of the state. If that is not enough we will also be in the water, up close and personal, snorkeling with the Manatees. This diving adventure trip is one we have been doing since 1969 and you can join us if you like.

We will be staying in Gainesville, Florida at the beautiful and very friendly "Lodge at Gainesville". This will be our "home" base for our dive adventure. The lodge offers great rooms and a wonderful meeting areas. With an excellent continental breakfast to start the day right - you will be ready for your day of diving. You should make plans to check in on Wednesday, January 6th. After a good night sleep we start our dive adventure with a trip to Crystal River Florida.

For our first day of diving we head to the West coast of Florida to the town of Crystal River. Here we board boats for a morning of snorkeling with the Manatees. They are one of the most interesting animals we can hope to see underwater. If we are careful not to disturb them, we may be able to get close enough to have your picture taken with one. Since the Manatees are an endangered species there are restrictions on where snorkelers can snorkel in the river. These restrictions are making it more difficult for us to see the Manatees each year. This year could be the last year that we get the chance to snorkel with these fascinating creatures.

After our morning snorkel with the Manatees we will visit Blue Grotto for some Spring Diving. Blue Grotto Springs offers some very interesting diving with depths up to 100 feet. This type of diving offers Open Water Divers the chance to see some of the amazing underground waterways that are found in Central Florida. A beautiful setting with shaded areas to set up your equipment and easy access to the water.

After a good night's sleep we are off to Devil's Den. This is a classic "sink" hole with interesting and fascinating formations. We will spend the day making as many dives as you want (tables and computer allowing). If you have "Night Diver" certification - we will be doing a night dive that evening at Devil's Den. If you don't have "Night Diver" certification you can still do the dive as part of your Advanced Specialty training. You can do the dive and get certified as a "Night Diver". Check out the "Florida 2016 FAQ" with all the details on all the Specialties we will be offering during your Florida Dive Adventure.

On our third day, we will be diving Ginnie Springs. Ginnie Springs is one of the largest and beautiful spring on the area. The flow makes this the clearest in Central Florida. The Springs of the area offer almost unlimited visibility. The waters coming out of the springs are crystal clear and diving in the Springs can give you an unreal feeling of flying through the air. This is a diving experience not to be missed!

Since we are going to dive in some very interesting areas, we will be able to offer some of the most popular Advanced Specialties that we offer at Tiedemann's Diving Center. We will be offering Nitrox Diver, Night Diver, Computer Diving and Underwater Imaging during the trip.

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## Trip Details:

The dates for our dive adventure are from Wednesday, January 6th. to Sunday, January 10th. The diving dates are January 7, 8 & 9. The cost of the trip is \$595 per person based on double occupancy.

That includes: Diving escort service of Ed Tiedemann and friends, Accommodations for four nights at The Lodge at Gainesville (double occupancy), Continental Breakfast at the lodge, Three days of diving - four locations - Manatee snorkel boat dive, Blue Grotto, Devil's Den & Ginnie Springs, All boat and entrance fees All air fills and Use of tanks and weights.

Non-diver friends can join us on the trip for \$395. That includes hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy), snorkeling with the Manatees and entrance fees to all the parks. If you want your own private room, the extra cost is \$225. The Lodge at Gainesville is conveniently located in the center of our three dive locations. With a dozen restaurants all minutes away, you can always find something you'll like.

The fee does not include food or transportation to Florida and transportation in Florida (you will need to have a car or be in a carpool to reach the dive sites). Divers on the trip usually fly to Orlando, Gainesville or Jacksonville. Once at the airport you will need to rent a car or be part of a carpool. We will be helping to set up carpools to save on car rental expenses. Please contact us with your travel information so we plan accordingly.

If you have not yet done your dives for certification, this three-day trip is ideally set up just for that. This means a great vacation, and having the chance to complete your open water training at the same time. There are not too many people who can say that they did their open water dives while swimming with the Manatees or seeing the crystal clear springs of Florida. The fee for certification on the trip is only \$120.00. That includes all the instruction and your certification card. Since you will be certified on our second day you can even do the Night Diver Speciality course and get certified as a Night Diver.

If you need equipment, you can rent a full set (BC, wet suit, hood, regulator, pressure gauge and "octopus") for only \$40 per day.

One reason for planning our trip to the springs of Central Florida is that during the Winter months, the Florida Keys and East coast of Florida can be very unpredictable. High winds can make boat diving difficult if not impossible. The springs offer almost guaranteed good diving and the visual beauty is unbelievable. Another reason for choosing this area is that it is only a couple of hours from the Orlando area. With so many great things to do in Orlando, you can enjoy some great diving and have a fun-filled time in Orlando if you wish.

We will have a meeting at **Tiedemann's Diving Center** before the trip so that everyone can get to know each other and we can go over the details of the trip. The number of divers that can go on the trip is limited. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to go. A deposit of \$100 is needed to hold a place on the trip for you. The remaining money is due December 6. If you have any questions about the trip, you can reach us at Tiedemann's Diving Center, 516-796-6560.

Check out Florida FAQ 2016 for even more details including details on the Speciality courses we will be offering.