

Ed Tiedemann's
Florida Diving Adventure



January 3 to 7, 2024



Everyone needs some "Adventure" in their lives.

Over the years we at Tiedemann's Diving Center have organized hundreds of trip. Some to very exotic places like Truk Lagoon or Dunbar Rock. Some interesting places like the Saint Lawrence seaway to do some amazing wreck diving. Yet there is one area we go back to year after year without fail - Central Florida.

Most people think of the Florida Keys when it comes to diving in Florida, but one of the secrets of Florida is it's Springs. These fresh water Springs offer some of the most interesting diving in the world, giving divers a chance to see fascinating underwater formations and the best visibility in the world. When Jacque Cousteau visited Ginnie Springs he called it "visibility forever". We will be traveling to Ginnie as part of our adventure.

For me, Ed Tiedemann, diving in Central Florida's Springs offers some great adventures in diving. Diving that I have been doing since the 1960's. If you want some adventure in your life, consider joining me and the great instruction team at Tiedemann's Diving Center. Remember, everyone needs some adventure in the their lives. If this sound good to you, read on and find out how you can join us.

Ed Tiedemann





Day One, Wednesday - the adventure begins. We start our trip on Wednesday, January 3, in Gainesville Florida. Every adventurer needs a good nights sleep. To make sure we get that, we will be staying at the Best Western Gateway Grand located in Gainesville.

How you get to Florida... is up to you. Most people fly into Jacksonville or Orlando since you can get good airfare and renting a car is simple.

Since our adventure will take us to a number of interesting places, you will need to rent a car or be part of a car pool. We will be setting up cars pools to keep the cost down.

If you are into a "road trip", the distance is only 1100 miles and it can be done in one or two days.

Link to Best Western Gateway Grand:

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



Day Two, Thursday - our day starts with a nice continental breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast we are off to Blue Grotto for a full day of diving. This is a unique location and great place to start our adventure.

If you are planning to get your Open Water Diver certification during the trip you will do two dives here with your instructor. These count towards the four you need for certification.

For all the certified divers on the trip, you can do two or three dives, whatever you feel like doing.

Link to the Blue Grotto site:

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





Day Three, Friday - after breakfast we head to Devil's Den. This formation is known as a "sink hole". What looks like a hole in the ground on the surface, turns into a huge underground cavern with a beautiful bowl of clear water and interesting formations.

For the divers getting certified, we will do your two remaining dives and that afternoon and you will be a certified **Open Water Diver**.

For certified divers, two or three dives can be done during the day.

As an added bonus, we will be doing a night dive at Devil's Den. To do the night dive you will need to be certified as a Night Diver or be taking the Night Diving course we are offering.

Link to Devil's Den:

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



Day Four, Saturday - after breakfast we are off to Ginnie Springs. Here, we will be diving in waters that is considered the clearest dive-able water in the world.

We have a chance to dive in a number of different Springs and do a "river run".

Since everyone will be certified at this point all divers can do two or three dives.

You should plan to complete your last dive so that you will have 24 hours after your last dive before you get onto an airplane, if you are flying home on Sunday. Most people plan to take a flight home later, around 5 or 6 pm (or later).

Link to Ginnie Springs website:

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



Day Five, Sunday - we check out of the hotel today. We get an early start so we can get to Crystal River. Getting on the river early makes our chances of seeing the Manatees excellent.

We then board a boat and head out onto the river to snorkel with the manatees. We will have the opportunity to see, in the wild, one of the most relaxed and interesting creatures.

There are very few creatures we can truly interact with in the water. The manatee is an exception. You can get great photos and videos of you with the manatees. Manatees are an endangered species so don't miss the opportunity to meet them in the wild.

Our manatee interaction will be done by 1 pm. So you will have plenty of time to get to the airport if you are catching a flight home that day. Check the travel time from Crystal River to the airport you are leaving from to get an idea as to how long it will take to get to the airport.

Want to see video from the 2018 trip? Check out this on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftO-NrOCR_c

The Details

As you can see, we have lots planned for our trip. You can join us for everything or just the parts that interest you. The **full price of the trip** is just \$795 per diver.

That price includes:

Hotel accommodations for four night based on double occupancy

Three days of diving

Blue Grotto - includes entrance fee, tanks, weights, and air fills

Devil's Den - includes entrance fee, tanks, weights, and air fills

Ginnie Spring - includes entrance fee, tanks, weights, and air fills

Crystal River - Manatee boat snorkeling trip and use of their wetsuits

Non-diver friends can join us on the trip for \$595. That includes hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy), and entrance fees to all the parks and snorkeling with the Manatees. This can be a great snorkeling trip if you are not certified. Each of our three destinations are great for snorkeling. That price includes use of a wetsuit, mask, fins and snorkel for the whole trip.

Things **not included** in the trip price are: Transportation to and from Florida. You can drive to Florida (it is 1100 miles from the shop in Levittown to the hotel in Gainesville). You can fly into the Orlando airport or the Jacksonville airport.

Transportation while in Florida. We will be traveling from our Gainesville hotel to the three parks and Crystal River. We will be setting up carpools to keep the costs down.

Other than the continental breakfast at the hotel no meals are included in the trip price.

To review, the price of the trip includes...

- **4 nights accommodations - double occupancy**
- **Use of a tank for the trip**
- **Use of a set of weights for the trip**
- **Entrance fees for Blue Grotto**
- **Air fills at Blue Grotto**
- **Entrance fees for Devil's Den**
- **Air fills at Devil's Den**
- **Night dive at Devil's Den (much be certified Night Diver or in our Night Diving class we are offering)**
- **Entrance fees for Ginnie's Springs**
- **Air fills at Ginnie' Springs**
- **Snorkeling tour with the Manatees**
- **Use of a wetsuit for the Manatees tour**

The price of the trip does not include...

- **Transportation to and from Florida**
- **Transportation in Florida**
- **Meals - continental breakfast is included at the hotel**



"Tiedemann's rental gear is first class."

Equipment:

Lights, tanks and weights are included in the price of the trip.

You would need to have your own personal gear - mask, snorkel, wetsuit boots, fins and wetsuit gloves. Everything else can be rented.

Each diver needs a full set of Scuba equipment and a dive light. That includes - BC, regulator with "octopus", and SPG. For thermal protection you will need what ever you would use in 72 degree waters. I recommend a full suit consisting of a 5 or 7 mm jumpsuit or 7 mm pants with a 3 mm jacket on top. Tiedemann's rental wetsuit is just that, 7 mm pants with a 3 mm jacket.

If you do not yet own your own gear, you may **rent** a full set, or what ever you might need. Rental available include: wetsuit - jacket, pants & hood, BC, and full regulator. The normal price for a one day rental for that on Long Island is \$100. For the trip we have a special price of only \$150 for the **entire** trip.

Note; You will need to take the rental gear down and back for the trip. Also, one member of the trip, who is driving down and back, has made an offer to take a diver's gear bag down and back, for a very reasonable fee. This way you don't have to fly with the gear. Great deal...



Not yet certified?

If you need to do your dives for your **Open Water Diver** certification, The trip is set up to do just that. To finish or certification you need to do four dives over two days. We will complete those dives on Thursday and Friday of the trip. The cost for that is \$120. The fee for certification on Long Island is \$300. You save \$180.

Since we are doing more dives than the four dives needed for Open Water Diver certification, divers getting certified as Open Water Divers on the trip can also do one or two advanced speciality courses during the trip.

The advanced specialities courses which can be done during the trip, for divers who are also doing the four dives for Open Water Diver are:

- Computer Diving**
- Night Diving**
- Nitrox Diving (Enriched Air Nitrox)**
- Underwater Imaging (stills and/or video)**



Want to get more out of your trip? The trip is great way to experience some new and interesting dive locations. Since are going to be doing a good number of dives, why not use those dives to learn something new. We will be offering a few of our great **Advanced Diving Specialities**.

More information about our Advanced Program can be found at the end of this flyer.

The Advanced Diving Specialities we will be offering are...

Nitrox Diving - normally \$300 on Long Island - only \$250 on the trip - that includes the online home study from SSI, which is normally \$95 and a certification card which is normally \$35, two Nitrox fills on the trip.

Computer Diving - normally \$250 on Long Island - only \$200 on the trip - that includes the online home study from SSI, which is normally \$75 and a certification card which is normally \$35 and use of a computer for the entire trip, if you do not own one yet.



Underwater Imaging - photos and/or video - normally \$250 on Long Island - only \$200 on the trip - that includes the online home study from SSI, which is normally \$75 and a certification card which is normally \$35 and the use of a Go-Pro type camera, if you do not own an underwater camera.



Night Diving (normally \$250 on Long Island - only \$150 on the trip - that includes the online home study, which is normally \$60 and a certification card which is normally \$35).

All programs will have an academic review sessions on Long Island before the trip. These will be scheduled, to the best of our abilities, around your schedule.

All required dives will be worked into the trip's normally diving schedule.

More Details:

A \$200 deposit is **needed to** will hold your spot. Trip size is limited, so don't wait and miss out.

The balance for the trip is due **December 3, 2023**.

If you do not have someone to stay with, we will help you find a roommate.

If you wish your own room, the cost is only \$290 extra.

If you can't do the whole trip, contact me at 516-796-6560 and I can adjust the trip so that it works for you. Your price would be based on what you would like to do with us during the trip.

Want to talk with me directly about the trip?.

Check the shop website - www.TDCScuba.com - for current hours when I will be at the shop.

Take care,

Ed

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The following are the details of how the Tiedemann's Diving Center's Advanced Open Water Program works.

“Great divers never stop learning.”

What really makes a person advanced at something? Is it just education? Is it just experience? Most people agree it is a combination of both. That combination is what makes the SSI Advanced Open Water Diver certification so prestigious. Unlike that other certification that only requires an open water diver to do five more dives to be certified advanced. The SSI program is built around both education and experience.

To receive Advanced Open Water Diver certification an Open Water Diver has to complete 4 Advanced Specialties and log 24 dives. Since most Advanced Specialties have two dives associated with them, that gives a diver 8 dives. Add that to the 4 dives are required for Open Water Diver certification, the divers has 12 logged dives after they complete their education.

The experience part is just about going diving. As a diver goes on dives, they log their dives. Once a diver has completed a total of 24 dives, they receive the prestigious **Advanced Open Water Diver** certification.



The great thing about the program is that you can do it in any order. Go on a dive trip and log some dives (like our trip to Florida). Take a specialty course and get certified in that area.

Once you complete your Open Water Diver certification, you start working on your Advanced Open Water Diver certification by just going on a dive and logging it. A very flexible system...

As you work your way towards Advanced certification, you receive recognition at the midpoint, with Specialty Diver certification. This certification is awarded when you complete 2 specialties and log 12 dives.



Want to go all the way in Recreational Diving? The highest level of recreational certification is Master Diver.

This is reached when a diver completes 50 logged dives, 4 Advanced Specialties and takes a Rescue Diver program. This is a certification that you can truly be proud of.



The question is - How far do you want to go?