

Carolina Dive Center Florida Springs Trip FAQ

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Can someone bring our dive gear to Florida for us?

You are responsible for bringing your dive gear to and from Florida. Keep in mind that most cars will already be full of gear and cannot hold your gear. You are free to try and make arrangements with other participants. However you are still responsible for your gear.

# Will Weather Impact Our Diving?

We will dive rain or shine. Rain does not impact our diving. Keep in mind that North Florida is prone to large temperature swings. So check the weather and plan accordingly.

### What is the water temperature:

The springs and rivers are fed by an underwater spring system. Therefore the water temperature is a constant 73 Degrees. Divers will need to wear a wetsuit. (Most divers wear a 5mm or more wetsuit). Dive Gloves and Hoods are strongly recommended for warmth.

We are diving in Caverns. What is the difference between Cavern Diving vs Diving in the Ocean or Quarry?

Cavern divers keep the cave entrance clearly within site at all times; cave divers do not and may, in fact, penetrate hundreds or even thousands of feet beyond sight of daylight. Because cavern divers remain in close proximity to the cave entrance, they are still theoretically capable of making Emergency Swimming Ascents (ESAs). The only difference between cavern and open-water diving, in this respect, is that a diver making an ESA from a cavern would be swimming out as well as up. In contrast, cave divers have no possibility of making ESAs, and thus must take additional steps to help protect themselves from the possibility of a loss of breathing gas. While cave divers use highly specialized equipment, cavern divers use what is largely standard open-water gear (albeit with a few, minor modifications to reduce the possibility of entanglement, improve buoyancy control and body position, and make equipment more accessible).

#### Will We See Manatees on our Manatee Snorkel?

Please remember that manatees are an endangered species and that our tours are conducted in their own natural environment. The manatees are not contained to any specific area of the refuge and are free to come and go as they please. No two days are ever the same. Weather, tidal influences and time of year affect the conditions daily and it can never be predicted just how many manatees you will see. During the colder winter months we have the largest concentration of manatees.

#### Can I touch the manatees?

Yes, you are allowed to touch the manatees however you can only do so with one open hand. No bear Hugs. Remember we are a guest in the endangered manatees home. It is a privilege to be able to view just one of these gentle and curious animals in the wild. By following the rules that we cover with you we can all insure that this privilege will be shared with future generations?