

North Florida Springs with Smoky Mountain Divers

Gainesville – Williston area in north central Florida

March 27th-29th, 2026

Open Water Diver Students and Certified Divers

COME WITH US TO THE BEAUTIFUL FRESHWATER SPRINGS IN NORTH FLORIDA!

Blue Grotto has a large basin that has depths to 40 feet and more with three large training platforms. There is an air bell with viewing windows and breathable air pumped from the surface. We will see Blue Grotto's favorite resident, "Virgil the Turtle". Virgil is very curious and will come to see you and say "Hello!"

Devils Den is an underground spring inside a cavern. "On cold winter mornings you can see steam, like smoke, rising from the chimney-like opening. The early settlers of this area saw this steam rising from the cave's opening and believed that the devil must reside in this cave underground - thus the name Devil's Den." The swimming area is a doughnut shape around the debris cone and can be up to 54 feet deep.

LESSON PLAN FOR THE WEEKEND: Open Water Diver Students will make three certification dives during the day on Saturday at Blue Grotto. We will make our fourth certification dive Sunday morning at Devil's Den. Everyone will be done by noon and free to start back home.

Certified divers will follow our location for the two days but can plan their own dives in accordance with their certifications and experience.

FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS: Each person going on the trip will be responsible for making their own room and travel arrangements. There are many hotels to choose from in the Gainesville / Williston area. Meals are available at several nearby restaurants. Approximately nine hours driving time is required to get to Gainesville from the Tri-Cities.

DIVE SITES: The dive sites consist of freshwater springs, and limited ledge or cavern diving for certified divers. The water is crystal clear and a cool 68-72 degrees. A warm jacket could be necessary, and a hooded sweatshirt is nice after the dives during cooler months. A full wetsuit will be required. (For SMD Open Water Diver students a wetsuit is included in the price of the course)

WAIVERS: As part of going on the trip you will need to fill out the dive shop trip registration sheet, and waivers for the commercial springs. Once you register for the trip we will email you the waivers for the springs. Once filled out, email them back to us at Info@Smokymountaindivers.com

GREAT BOUYANCY MAKES A GREAT DIVE: One thing that helps make a great dive is clear water. Blue Grotto has an excellent video about not stirring up the silt in the spring. Check out their YouTube channel "Dive Blue Grotto" and this video about "Buoyancy Control" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5HOpAH4n7U>

BRING YOUR GEAR: Open Water Diver Students have rental gear included as part of the tuition for their class. ALL STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO BRING THEIR OWN GEAR TO FLORIDA.

SCHEDULE: Departure will be at the convenience of your carpool. Make your way to Florida Friday. The group will meet at the Blue Grotto Dive Resort parking lot 8:15AM Saturday March 28th, 2026. The GPS address is;

Blue Grotto Dive Resort, 3852 NE 172 Ct, Williston, FL 32696 phone# 352.528.5770

ITEMS TO PACK CHECKLIST - OWD Students

- Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Boots & Octo Necklace
- Full Wetsuit (5mm recommended)
- Regulator w/ Octo, SPG, LP Inflator Hose
- Computer
- BCD w/ L.P. Inflator
- 2 Tanks and Weights
- Diver's Logbook or Digital Logbook
- Underwater Light (optional, night dive requires a dive light and a backup light.)
- Compass (optional)
- Underwater Slate w/ Pencil (optional)

RENTAL GEAR CHECKOUT: The necessary equipment for the trip is listed above. If you do not think you will be able to transport your own gear for the trip, we can help you make arrangements for your gear. Give us a call at the shop to discuss.

- **OWD Students** have rental gear included in the cost of their tuition for the class. You still have to pick it up and bring it to Florida.
- **CERTIFIED DIVERS** are expected to have their own gear. If you don't have something, you will need to rent it. You should show up in Florida with two full tanks.

NOTE: PACK GEAR AND REGULATORS CAREFULLY. DO NOT PLACE WEIGHTS IN DIVE BAGS. WEIGHTS WILL DAMAGE MASKS, GAUGES, COMPUTERS AND REGULATORS

RETURNING GEAR: SMD Staff will be available Monday and Tuesday following the Florida Trip from 10:00AM to 6:00PM to **CHECK-IN CLEAN RENTAL EQUIPMENT** for maintenance.

TRIP FEE AND DEPOSITS: Trip fees are listed below. Choose the package that best fits your needs.

- Open Water Diver Training Price = **\$280**
OWD Student Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, Lunch Saturday, Instructor Fees, and Two Air Fills for the trip.**
- Certified Diver (Non-Training) Price = **\$150**
Certified Diver (Non-Training) Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, Lunch Saturday, and Two Air Fills for the trip.**
- Non-diver Price = **\$20**
Non-diver Package includes: **Admission into Two Springs, and Lunch Saturday.**
- Night Dive = **\$55** (Certified divers only. Not for OWD students. Blue Grotto requires a minimum of four divers for this.) Night Dive package includes: **Night Entry and one Air Fill.**

****** \$50 Deposit Due NOW to confirm we have enough people to make the trip. ******

******* TOTAL TRIP FEE DUE BY FRIDAY, March 20th, 2026 *******

FLORIDA SPRINGS DIVE TRIP

March 27th-29th, 2026

YOU MAY REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURNING IT TO:

SMOKY MTN. DIVERS, INC. 6635 KINGSPORT HIGHWAY, GRAY, TN 37615
PHONE (423)239-7333. OR E-MAIL: Info@smokymountaindivers.com

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	

CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

PHONE #	E-MAIL	

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME & PHONE #		DAN INSURANCE # (REQUIRED)

STATEMENT OF RELEASE

I, NOR MY HEIRS WILL HOLD SMOKY MOUNTAIN DIVERS, INC., AND THEIR OWNERS OR OFFICERS, OR ANY OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED IN DIRECTING THIS TRIP RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY THAT I MIGHT INCUR WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS TRIP.

SIGNATURE

DATE

IF UNDER 18 PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SIGN & DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

RENTAL AGREEMENT

ALL RENTAL EQUIPMENT IS DUE BACK AT SMOKY MOUNTAIN DIVERS NO LATER THAN NOON ON TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE TRIP. RETURN ALL WETSUITS CLEAN & DRY. WASH SUITS WITH SOAP & WATER AND HANG TO DRY. **LATE RENTAL EQUIPMENT & DIRTY WETSUIT RETURNS WILL PAY A \$25 SERVICE CHARGE.**

SIGNATURE

DATE