Rainbow River Drift Dive and Manatee Snorkeling Trip Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> , 11am and Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 am



Rainbow River Snorkel or Dive Saturday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 11am

Rainbow river is a crystal-clear springs-fed river drift dive that ranges from 4-20 feet deep. The water is about 72 F year-round. You can choose to snorkel or dive, most of the river is very shallow. This is a lovely dive with lush green bottom and springs bubbles throughout. It is quite different from the salt water dives in the rest of Florida. You never know what you might see, turtles, diving birds and loads of fish. A pontoon boat waits at the KP Hole Park boat launch and ferries divers/snorkelers up the river, and then we drift back to the park in about 45 min- 1 hour. The ferry doesn't have a set schedule, he generally stops at noon, unless we make specific arrangements for him to stay a little longer. There is no dive shop or rentals at this location, or close by, so you need to bring everything you need with you. You can do one or 2 dives. Kayaks and Canoes are also available to rent. No certification required to snorkel. Make sure you bring the right weights for fresh water and each group of divers carries a dive flag. Pull down to the boat ramp area parking spaces and unload your dive gear. ONLY bring what you are diving with, no bags or anything else unless it goes in the water. The park does not allow any food or drink in disposable containers, so bring re-usable water bottles.

KP Hole Park 9435 SW 190<sup>th</sup> Ave Road, Dunnellon, FL 34432 (352) 489-3055

Park fees \$15, lockers \$3, plus \$10 water taxi fee per dive. Pay cash, at the park.

Show: 10:15 Go: ~11:00 am. Enter the park at the boat ramp. After you unload, park your car and pay your park admission. The boat will not allow you to leave your things in the boat. You can leave your keys in a locker.

## Manatee Snorkeling Trip Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 am

We will rent a pontoon boat that seats about 12, at the Crystal Lodge Dive Center. We can stay as long as the group wants, typically 3 hours. No diving is allowed with the manatees. You can bring your own snorkel gear or rent some at the shop. There are changing rooms, but no showers.

This is an informal trip, there is no upfront cost, but because the seating on the pontoon boat is limited, I would like a list of people going. Please bring cash. We do not have a group hotel picked for this trip There are several options in the area, but rooms fil up quickly and some of the hotels are a little iffy, so I recommend booking in advance.

**Contact Info:** Terry Wells 980 253 9458, <u>terrylwells@yahoo.com</u>. Cell reception at the park and surrounding area is a little weak, so be prepared for dead spots.

**Crystal Lodge Dive Center, 525 NW 7<sup>th</sup> Av, Crystal River 34428.** The shop is behind the Best Western Crystal River Resort, so park in that parking lot.

**Show: 8 am Go: 8:30 ish. Cost** - the boat is \$40/hour and will be split between the people that go on the boat (**approx. \$10-\$20 per person.**)