

Detailed Itinerary

Pensacola, Florida (Days 1-3)

Dive the Mighty "O" (USS Oriskany) and shore dives at Fort Pickens Jetties and other sites, see attached list of Pensacola shore dives.

June 8, 2013

Travel to Pensacola, Florida. Set up camp at Fort Pickens campgrounds. Late afternoon check-out dive in preparation for the Mighty "O". Perhaps a night dive, too.

Lodging*

Fort Pickens Campgrounds

Gulf Islands National Seashore

1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway

Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

(850) 934-2622

<http://www.nps.gov/guis/planyourvisit/campground-openings-in-florida-and-mississippi-districts.htm>

Park Admission Fee:

\$6.00 per vehicle. Limit 2-8 people per vehicle.

\$4.00 Single occupant vehicle.

\$2.00 extra passengers

Group Camping

\$20 per night and in addition to park admission fee. (We will split cost among all in our group; example: 10 campers = \$2.00 ea./per night) equipped with picnic tables, 2 grills, restrooms, outdoor showers and a large fire ring.

The club will make arrangements for group camping - Must RSVP to Bay Area Divers by June 1, 2013. Payment to Bay Area Divers due onsite.

June 9

Dive the Mighty "O"

Dive Shop in Pensacola

Scuba Shack

711 S. Palafox Street

Pensacola, FL 32502

(850) 433-4319

Rental Info

\$9.75 per tank (need 2 tanks)

\$16.50 per tank nitrox (28% is recommended)

\$4.95 air fills

Oriskany Info

\$150 per diver (1-9 divers) for a 2 tank dive

\$135 per diver (10+ divers) for a 2 tank dive

Required Certification Level: Open Water

Must RSVP to Bay Area Divers by June 1, 2013.

MUST HAVE OWN EQUIPMENT, including weights and tanks. Rental equipment available through Scuba Shack. Meet at dive shop at 7:00 am for check-in and load equipment. Approximately 2 hour boat ride to Oriskany. We will be accompanied by a Scuba Shack dive specialist(s) (number depends on the size of our group). AOW certified divers may go to 135ft, but most of the diving will be at 100 ft. Homemade ice cream and fruit served, grilled hot dogs after first dive, refreshments after second dive also. Water is provided. Coolers are available if you want to bring sodas or other refreshments. Perhaps sangria for the boat ride home?

Motel Option

Days Inn

710 North Palafox Street

Pensacola, FL 32501

800-325-2525

(responsible for making own reservations)

June 10, 2013

Shore diving, see attached list of proposed dive sites.

Day 4 - Panama City, Florida

June 11, 2013

Travel from Pensacola to Panama City for more shore diving at St. Andrews State Park (either the Gulf side or jetties, depending on the conditions) and a night dive in the "kiddie pool". See below link for more info:

http://www.shorediving.com/Earth/USA_East/Florida/Andrews_Jetty/index.htm

Lodging*

St. Andrew's State Park

4607 State Park Lane

Panama City, Florida 32408

(850) 233-5140

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/standrews/>

Park Admission Fee:

\$8.00 per vehicle. Limit 2-8 people per vehicle.

\$4.00 Single Occupant Vehicle.

\$2.00 extra passengers

Group Camping (in addition to park admission fee)

\$5 per adult, per day; additional \$1 per youth - equipped with water, a picnic table, and fire ring, and restroom with shower. **Must RSVP to Bay Area Divers.**

Hotel

Osprey on the Gulf
15801 Front Beach Rd.
Panama City, FL 32413
850-234-0303

(responsible for making own reservations)

Days 5-6 - Homosassa River, Florida

Travel from Panama City to Homosassa to swim with the manatees! Then we head to Williston to set up camp at Devil's Den and prepare for the Blue Grotto.

June 12, 2013

Morning shore dive at St. Andrew's, then travel from Panama City to Homosassa

Lodging*

Nature's Resort
10359 West Halls River Road
Homosassa, Florida 34448
1-352-628-9544
<http://www.naturesresortfla.com/rates.html>

(Responsible for making own reservations. We will be camping as a group, so be sure to mention you're with Bay Area Divers, so they assign you a site with our group)

Camping

\$28 per night, equipped with water and electricity (2 large tents can fit on one site). Let Bay Area Divers know if you want to share a site. We will start a "buddy list" for site sharing.

Chalets and Park Models

\$120 per day (See Nature's Resort web page for pictures of the chalets and park models - responsible for making own reservations).

June 13, 2013

Swim with the manatees. We will make group reservations. RSVPs by June 12 for the private swim (need 4 to sign up for a private 6 hour boat tour and swim with lunch included). After, we will travel to Williston to set up camp at Devil's Den. Individuals are responsible for making own camping reservations.

Lodging*

Devil's Den

5390 N.E. 180th Ave
Williston, Fl 32696
(352) 528-3344
<http://www.devilsden.com/DevilsDenScubaHome.php>

Camping

\$8 per person, per night, equipped with water and electricity
(responsible for making own reservations)

Optional Trailer Rental

\$125 per night - sleeps 6 max.

Homosassa River Swim with the Manatees
4155 S Suncoast Blvd
Homosassa, FL 34446
1-352-257-8687

Rates are as follows:

6 Hour Private Manatee Tour Includes:

\$95 per person (requires a min. of 4 people)

Wetsuit & Snorkel Gear (no discounts for having own equipment)

Drinks & Snacks

Towels & Sunscreen

Lunch at Crackers

http://www.snorkelwithmanatees.com/private_manatee.html

OR

\$35 per person (must have own snorkel equipment)

Encounters are offered at 8:30 am and 11:30 am

http://www.snorkelwithmanatees.com/homosassa_manatee_tours.html

Day 7 - Williston, Florida

June 14

Dive Blue Grotto!

Required Certification Level: Open Water (**cave or cavern certifications are not required**)

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

Blue Grotto

3852 N.E. 172nd Court

Williston, FL 32696

850-528-5770

\$37.38 per day to dive the cavern

\$15 tank rental

\$20 nitrox tank rental

\$10 air fills

\$18 nitrox fills

Blue Grotto is only one hour away from Devil's Den campsite. Since it is the closest and most economical, we will be camping at Devil Den's but diving the Blue Grotto.

June 15, 2013

Travel back to Houston.

****There is a 9% lodging tax in Florida for all campsites, motels, hotels, etc.***

Pensacola Planned Shore Dives

1. FT. PICKENS JETTIES Beach Dive

Location: On the western tip of Santa Rosa Island National Seashore

The Ft. Pickens Jetties is a good beach dive with easy access. A drive approximately six miles west on Santa Rosa Island will bring you to the park. Here you are only minutes away from the hotels, restaurants and clubs. The park's excellent facilities include camping grounds. The rock jetties are located at the very end of the island. Start your dive at the beach and follow the gradual slope to a 50-foot depth. The rocky bottom is alive with marine life. The site is often used by instructors for check-out dives. Because of strong currents that accompany each tidal change, ***it is extremely important to dive on a slack tide***. Check with the local dive shops or the park rangers for tide information. Remember to always tow a diver's flag on a surface float.

2. SPORT Beach Dive

Location: West end of Santa Rosa Island on the bay side.

This wreck is located in the bay just past the entrance to the Gulf Islands National Seashore. It is accessible by beach or boat. The Sport is an old tug that was sunk during the 1906 hurricane. It is located in shallow water on a sand bottom. Check with local dive shops or park rangers for the exact location.

3. CATHERINE Beach Dive

Location: West end of Santa Rosa Island on the Gulf side, inside the Gulf Islands National Seashore. It is just off the beach near the Old Coast Guard Station.

The Catherine was a Norwegian bark that ran aground on August 7, 1894. The broken remains lie in approximately 15 feet of water. A dive from the beach will require a strong kick to make it through the surge. Remember to float a diver's flag behind.

4. UNKNOWN WRECK Beach Dive

Location: Just off Pensacola Beach. Swim east toward the second water tower.

This old, unidentified wreck is just beginning to uncover itself. It lies just off the beach in 15 feet of water. Already uncovered are ballast stones, a steering station and a large metal tank.