

DIVING EPICENTER

with Ben & Jen

Spring Diving Gear Checklist

Print it off, check it off, and share with a friend.

Start with the Core Kit, then add the section that matches how you're getting to the water.

Spot: _____ Date: _____ Access: Walk-in / Kayak / Boat / Charter

THE CORE KIT — BRING THIS EVERY TIME

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Mask (defogged) | ☐ Snorkel |
| ☐ Fins | ☐ Wetsuit or rash guard |
| ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen | ☐ Towel |
| ☐ Dry bag for phone/keys | ☐ Drinking water |
| ☐ Cash for parking | ☐ Hat / sunglasses |
| ☐ Water shoes | ☐ Snacks |

Two things people forget most:

Cash for parking (many Crystal River lots are cash-only) and defogging your mask before you leave — a foggy mask ruins the first ten minutes of every dive.

ADD FOR YOUR ACCESS TYPE

Walk-in / shore springs

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Water shoes (rocky entries) | ☐ Small towel + change of clothes |
| ☐ Compact gear bag | ☐ Nothing bulky — you're carrying it in |

Kayak / paddle-in

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Kayak / paddleboard + paddle | ☐ PFD (life vest) |
| ☐ Everything leashed or clipped | ☐ Dry bag (waterproof, not splash-proof) |
| ☐ Headlamp (shaded spring interiors) | ☐ Offline/printed map (patchy cell service) |
| ☐ Anchor or stake-out pole | ☐ Whistle |

Boat

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Dive flag (required when snorkeling) | ☐ Full fuel + safety kit |
| ☐ Anchor + line | ☐ Cooler with ice |
| ☐ Polarized sunglasses (spotting fish) | ☐ VHF or charged phone in dry case |
| ☐ Extra water + fuel for backcountry | ☐ First-aid kit |

Charter / guided dive

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Dive certification card | ☐ Booking confirmation |
|--|---|

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Cash for tips / cleaning service | ☐ Personal mask/snorkel (if you prefer yours) |
| ☐ Motion-sickness remedy (if prone) | ☐ Warm layers for the boat ride |

Scuba add-on (cave/cavern & deeper sites)

For certified dives at sites like Devil's Den, Blue Grotto, Ginnie, or Manatee Springs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Certification card (right level for site) | ☐ Dive computer |
| ☐ Primary + backup dive light | ☐ BCD + regulator (serviced) |
| ☐ Weights + weight belt | ☐ Tank(s) / fills arranged |
| ☐ SMB / surface marker | ☐ Logbook |

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

- ☐ Check the weather and water temp — *springs are ~72°F year-round; winter air is much colder*
- ☐ Confirm the spot is open — *manatee-season closures Nov–Mar; certification-required sites*
- ☐ Tell someone your plan — *where you're going and when you'll be back*
- ☐ Confirm your buddy — *never freedive or breath-hold in water alone*
- ☐ Charge everything — *phone, cameras, dive computer, lights*

Tip: keep a printed copy in your gear bag and one on the fridge. Restock the moment you get home, while you still remember what you ran out of.

See you at the next spot.

Ben & Jen • Diving Epicenter • www.divingepicenter.com