



Become a Cavern or Cave Diver

Cavern Diver

Learn to safely explore the daylight zone of Florida's spectacular freshwater springs. This is a challenging and very exciting course that includes four training dives over two days. During your first open water dive you'll practice line handling, reel use and emergency procedures without entering a cavern. For your next three dives, you're headed into the cavern, staying within the light zone and 200 linear feet total distance from the surface. You learn about:

- Cavern navigation and line protocols
- Planning, organization, techniques, problems and hazards of cavern diving
- Special equipment use, such as lights, guidelines, reels and redundant breathing systems
- Air sharing, disorientation, silting, line problems and other emergency procedures
- Silt prevention, buoyancy control, air management and emergency procedures
- Depth and distant limits for cavern diving

The 5 principles of safe cavern and cave diving:

- Be trained in the overhead environment, maintain skills, and dive within your limits
- Always run a continuous guideline to open water
- Gas management (rule of thirds)
- Avoid diving too deep (stay within training and experience level)
- Minimum of three lights (two for cavern since sunlight is primary source)

Intro to Cave Diver

Safe diving in the cave environment requires additional equipment and redundancy with dual first and second stages. This class can be completed with a standard OW rig, but a Y- or H-tank manifold is mandatory for valve shutdown should a free flow regulator occur. A sidemount or backmount double configuration is highly preferred. Excellent buoyancy control and horizontal trim are essential at this level. A certification at this level opens up many more cave options. Divers at this level, however, must remain on the main line in the cave system.

Apprentice Cave and Full Cave Diver

These courses build upon the Intro to Cave course and include skills and procedures to safely navigate traverses and circuits, along with other advanced skills. The Apprentice Cave certification expires in one year, so most divers move on to Full Cave soon after or at the same time if they are ready. Completion of Full Cave Diver does not expire, but the expectation is that the graduate will keep their skills honed so they can handle any emergency.

How can I get certified?

Contact Glenn Van Vliet at SnapperScuba.com or 850-217-0679. Glenn is a PADI DSAT Tec Deep and MSDT Instructor, PSAI Sport, Cave and Technical Instructor, and an EFR CPR, AED, and First Aid Instructor.