

Hello Beach Bums!

Registration is now open for the NBBC trip Sunday, January 18th, 2023 to Blue Spring State Park to see the Manatees with club President Kathy Eastman! Please be sure to note this is a special SUNDAY adventure. Our day trip price includes Bus

Transportation and a private Chartered Boat Cruise of Blue Spring and St. John's River.

Sign-ups are open online FIRST COME/SERVE at this link:

<https://buy.stripe.com/bJe6olgBodVF7tG61CeME07> until

December 22ND. Limited seating FIRST COME FIRST SERVE. We will try to fill up 2 buses and boats but if we do not get enough registrations we will have to cut back to 1 bus and boat. Sign up online and if you do not make it onto a boat, we will contact you and refund you directly by January 5th. Information is contained below about the trip.

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

A very special trip awaits members for January with NBBC President Kathy Eastman and Trip Leader Cathy Snyder! We will begin by praying for a cold morning so we can view up to 1000 Manatees at Blue Springs State Park in Orange City, FL. The colder the more Manatees will enter the spring. Once we arrive at the State Park, we will board the boat that NBBC has chartered for a 2 hour Nature Tour of The Spring and St. Johns River. Our Captains will point out all the wildlife and flora along the river. You are sure to see Manatees, Alligators, Blue Herons, White Crested Cranes, Turtles, Egrets, and much more. After our Cruise you will have time to walk along the boardwalk and the spring to see the manatees up close, grab a snack at the concession stand, and visit the gift shop. We will then board buses and head to Tavares for a late lunch (price of lunch not included). Tavares has several restaurants to choose from. Dress in Layers. Bring a blanket for the boat ride is suggested. Hot Chocolate (or hot chocolate with Baileys) is allowed in your thermos.

TRIP DETAILS:

Blue Springs State Park and Eco Boat Tour

Trip leaders: Kathy Eastman and Cathy Snyder

WHEN: Sunday January 18th, 2023

WHERE: Blue Springs State Park, Orange City, FL

BUS BOARDING: 07:45 am at Lowe's Parking Lot. Hwy 441, behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant

ARRIVE: 9:30 am

BOAT TOUR: 10:00AM (2 HRS)

MANATEE VIEWING AT THE SPRINGS: 12:00- 1:30PM

BUS BOARDING TO RESTAURANT: 1:45PM (an hour ride)

RE-BOARD BUS TO TV: 4:45pm

ARRIVE IN TV: 5:30pm

COST: \$61.00 pp (includes bus transportation, driver gratuity, 2 hr boat tour, entry to State Park). **DOES NOT INCLUDE BOAT CAPTAIN GRATUITY OR COST FOR LUNCH.

All NBBC trips are Non-refundable; participate at your own risk.

If needed, seats are sold FIRST COME/SERVE based on date you paid online. If we do not fill up both boats, we will contact you and refund your credit card. If you want to ride on the bus with a partner or spouse, you must sign up with one online payment. We no longer match up groups. If you are registered as a single, we will match you up on the bus. Bus number and/or Bus loading method will be notified by January 9th. With our new online payment we are working on a system and will let you know if bus loading is by lottery or sign up date. Please be patient. It is a work in progress.

More Trip Info:

For hundreds of years, the Timacuan Indians made the spring area their home. The spring run, river, and surrounding swamps and uplands, provided food, clothing, shelter and materials for tools and weapons.

In 1972, Blue Spring became a State Park with the help of Jacques Cousteau after he filmed the episode called The Forgotten Mermaids. The same pristine beauty enjoyed Florida's earliest residents still can be seen today.

The spring is much more than a scenic area for canoeing and swimming; it's a place that plays a vital role in the survival of one of Florida's most beleaguered residents – the manatee. A self-guided boardwalk leads visitors through a lush hammock to Blue Spring. An observation platform provides a view of the endangered mammals that gather in the spring during the cooler months of the year. From November through March, the manatees leave the colder waters of the St. Johns River for the safety and comfort of the 72-degree spring.

Members can bring alcohol and non alcohol drinks for the boat ride if desired (Irish Coffee anyone?). Members cannot open containers until they are on the boat, no drinking in the State Park. The boat has shade but no windows. This is an open vessel and dressing in layers is suggested, along with a lap blanket.

Amenities:

Restrooms

Gift Shop

Snack Bar

Easy Walking Boardwalk

Snacks are allowed on the bus along with your personal water, coffee, and sodas, alcohol, in a spill proof container. Masks are optional

BLUE SPRINGS INFO :

Blue Spring State Park: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blue-spring-state-park/manatees-blue-spring-state-park>

Nature Cruise: <https://bluespringadventures.com/st-johns-river-nature-cruise/>

Save the Manatee: <https://www.savethemanatee.org/>

TAVARES RESTAURANT INFO:

Puddle Jumpers <https://puddlejumperfl.com/>

Tiki West Raw Bar and Grill <https://tiki-west-raw-bar-and-grill.menu-buzz.com/>

Citrus Sky Bar/ Citrus Hotel <https://www.citruskybar.com/>

Ruby Street Grill <http://www.rubystreetgrille.com/>

See you all soon!

Kathy Eastman - President

Northern Beach Bums Club (NBBC)