

# Texas Flower Gardens 2006

*Close to home!*

June 24-25  
Sat-Sun

August 4-5  
Sat-Sun

*Weekend adventure!*



## Dive the "Texas Caribbean" with Scuba Center!

Join Scuba Center on a trip to the Texas Flower Gardens, the northernmost coral reef in the continental U.S., located in the Gulf of Mexico!

Leaving out of Freeport, you'll spend an exciting weekend aboard either the M/V Spree or M/V Fling, two of the fine boats operated by Gulf Diving, LLC.

You'll see everything from stingrays, moray eels, parrot fish... maybe even migrating hammerhead sharks or the giant whale shark.



On Saturday, you'll make up to 5 dives: 3 dives on the East & West Flower Garden Banks, 1 rig dive and 1 night dive. On Sunday, you'll get to make 2 dives on Stetson Bank. That's a total of 7 dives!

Each trip is lead by a PADI Instructor from the Scuba Center staff.

Sign up today for the close-to-home Caribbean getaway! Each trip is limited to 10 spots.

*To sign up, contact:*

**Scuba Center**

3030 Hwy 31 E

Tyler, Tx 75702

(903) 595-2703 ScubaCenter@sbcglobal.net

Sign up online at: [www.divetex.com](http://www.divetex.com)

**Trip Cost:**  
**\$425.00**

*Full payment is required to reserve your spot.*

32% EANx Available For  
\$65.00

**SCUBA CENTER**



**TYLER • TEXAS**



# FAQ

**Q: How many dives will I get to do?**

R: A maximum of 7. Weather and conditions permitting, there will be 5 dives on Saturday at the East & West Flower Garden Banks with the possibility of an oil rig dive and a night dive. On Sunday, there will be 2 dives at Stetson Bank.

**Q: What kinds of sealife should I expect to see?**

R: Well, they don't call it the "Texas Caribbean" for nothing! You can expect to see just about all of the same fish and animals you see in other destinations like Cozumel or Roatan: angelfish, parrot fish, moray eels, barracuda, butterfly fish, stingrays, manta rays, reef sharks... and the list goes on!

If you're diving in the winter months (Feb & March), there's a really good chance that you'll see schools of hammerhead sharks migrating through the gardens. In late July and August, whale sharks have been spotted at the Flower Gardens. The diversity of life in the Flower Gardens is exceptional!

**Q: Where do I stay? On the boat?**

R: Yes! Your accommodations are aboard either the M/V Fling or M/V Spree, which will also be your dive boat. Each boat has cabins in its lower deck which have 4 racks (bunks) in each cabin. Racks are not pre-assigned and you will be able to select your rack when you board the boat.

**Q: Where and what do I eat?**

R: Meals are also provided as part of your trip. Food is good and plentiful, with 3 meals a day served plus snacks. If you have special dietary requirements (vegetarian, etc.) please let us know so that the crew can make proper accommodations.

**Q: Cool! I'm ready to go! What do I need to bring?**

R: Divers should bring a full set of gear including a full tank and weights. It is also strongly recommended to take a safety sausage.

If you are diving EANx, the boat will provide a cylinder for you.

Also, please bring any clothes and toiletries needed. Not many clothes are needed, since you will be in your swimsuit and wetsuit most of both days.

Other items that are strongly recommended: Sunscreen, bungee cords (for securing your tank in the tank racks), Beach Towel, batteries or chargers for cameras and camera gear, rain poncho/jacket, and a primary, secondary & marker light for night dives.

**Q: What is the water temperature like, and what kind of wetsuit should I bring?**

R: In the summertime, the water temperature is between 78-82°F. Depending on how cold/warm-natured you are, a 3mm wetsuit is perfect for this time of year. In the winter months, water temperatures can be anywhere from 60-70°F which requires a full 7mm wetsuit with hood and gloves.

**Q: I don't know if I am susceptible to motion sickness or not. Will I get sea-sick?**

R: If you are unsure about your susceptibility to motion sickness, it is highly recommended that you procure some time of sea-sickness preventative from your physician or the local pharmacy before your trip. When you find out that you are sea-sick, it will already be too late to do anything about it. Dramamine, Scopace, and Bonine are a few of the commonly used preventative medicines. Contact your physician for the best medicine for you. Once you get your preventative medicine, make sure and take it a couple of hours before you get on the boat.

**Q: I will be diving nitrox, but I don't own an O<sub>2</sub> analyzer. How will I analyze my mix?**

R: The boat has a dedicated analyzer that will be available for you to use.

**Q: When should I arrive in Freeport to board the boat?**

R: The boats board promptly at 8:30 p.m. on Friday night. To be safe, you should be there no later than 8:00 p.m.

**Q: Do I need a dive computer?**

R: Yes. While dive tables can be used, you will be greatly limited in your bottom time on each dive. Both Gulf Diving and Scuba Center strongly recommend the use of a dive computer on this trip. If you need to rent a computer please let us know so that we may facilitate your needs.

**Q: Tipping?**

R: While the boat divemasters and galley hands are crew, they make their living off of tips. Tips are voluntary and performance based, but a 10% tip of the cost of the trip is appreciated. The captain will have a basket you can put your tip in at the end of the trip.

Have any more questions? Give us a call at (903) 595-2703.