

# KP Hole Rules and Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Parks and Rainbow River Rules:**

- Pets (excluding service animals) and alcohol are not permitted.
- Coolers are subject to search.
- Disposable containers (such as cans, plastics, glass, plastic foam or paper) are not permitted on the Rainbow River.
- Divers and snorkelers are required to float a "diver-down" flag.
- The entire Rainbow River is a designated "Idle Speed/No Wake" zone.
- The main springs are protected. Motorized vessels, anchoring, diving and fishing are not permitted beyond the marker buoy.
- Exiting the Rainbow River at any point except the Tuber's Exit (also known as Blue Run of Dunnellon Park) is considered unlawful trespassing and violators may be subject to arrest.
- Personal float size may not exceed 60 inches in any dimension. Tying or lashing together of floats may not exceed ten feet.
- Fees and cut-off times are subject to change without notice.
- All rentals require proof the renter is at least 18 years of age. Acceptable identification includes a driver's license, state-issued identification card, military identification or passport.
- All tubers must be a minimum of 3 years old to tube from this facility and it is strongly recommended they have the ability to swim.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What does "KP" stand for?** KP Hole is named after the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal order much like the Masons or Knights of Columbus. This area was used as their annual Fourth of July Boys Picnics in the early to mid-1900s.

**How long is the Rainbow River (a.k.a. Blue Run)?** The Rainbow River is 5.7 miles long from the headsprings (located at the Rainbow Springs State Park) to the conflux of the Withlacoochee River.

**How much water flows from the main springs?** The four main 'vents' (encompassed by the Rainbow Springs State Park) have an average daily output of more than 400 million gallons of water per day.

**How fast is the current of the Rainbow River?** The current averages approximately 1 ½ knots.

**What is the water temperature of the Rainbow River?** Like most freshwater springs in Florida, the average water temperature is 72 degrees year round.

**How deep is the Rainbow River?** Most of the natural river bed ranges between 8-15 feet deep, although there are deeper areas. Garfish Hole, also known as Devil's Elbow, located approximately ½ mile upriver from the K.P. Hole, on the east side of the Rainbow River, is the deepest accessible area for divers. It averages between 20 and 26 feet deep.

**What size boats are allowed on the Rainbow River?** There is no size restriction for boats. However, vessels must travel at idle speed as the entire Rainbow River is a designated "Idle Speed / No Wake" zone

**Where can I fish on the Rainbow River?** Although fishing is not permitted at KP Hole, fishing is allowed on the water by boat or float except beyond the designated marker buoy for the main springs.

**Are there manatees in the Rainbow River?** No, there is an old lock system on the waterway between the Rainbow River and the Gulf of Mexico. Because that system is no longer used, manatees cannot travel to the Rainbow River. The last sighting of a manatee in the area was in the mid-1990s.

**Can I bring my dog?** Pets are not permitted in the park. However, if you are launching your own boat or renting one of our canoes or kayaks, you can walk your dog down the boat ramp and load your pet into the boat.

**How long is the tubing trip?** The average tube trip from the KP Hole Park to the designated take-out at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park on County Road 484 is 3.3 miles long and takes an average of four hours to complete.

**Are there certain times to tube?** Rentals are available beginning daily at 8 a.m. Rental times vary depending on the time of year. Please call the park at 352-489-3055 for rental times and availability of services before your trip.

**Can I bring my own float?** Yes. However, admission fees and cut-off times still apply.

**Does the float size matter?** Personal flotation devices are limited to a size of no more than 60 inches.

**Can I bring my cooler?** Yes, but remember, alcohol is not permitted. All other food and drink items must be in non-disposable containers. Disposable items such as plastic bottles, cans and wrappers are not permitted on the Rainbow River. You must bring your own float for your cooler as coolers are not permitted in our rental tubes.

**What happens if it starts to storm?** Florida is well known for its afternoon thunderstorms. Exiting the Rainbow River at any point other than the designated Tuber's Exit is trespassing. We recommend starting your trip early to avoid the seasonal afternoon thunderstorms.

**Can I snorkel while tubing?** Snorkeling is permitted with a diver-down flag. Please remember not to lose your float while snorkeling.

**Can I make reservations?** Unfortunately, due to capacity limitations all access and rentals are on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the park for more information or plan accordingly particularly on weekends or holidays.