

Urca de Lima



Well, here we are standing at the precipice of a LAMP diving opportunity. The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) is hosting this great event and has been kind enough to allow LAMP to help with the operation. For all volunteers interested, we are traveling to Ft. Pierce to visit and dive on the site of an 18th century Spanish shipwreck. The wreck is that of the *Urca de Lima*, a merchant vessel that sank during a hurricane in 1715. Our goal is to perform a monitoring dive on the wreck site to examine the condition of the wreckage and generate a basic site map that will be used to track the condition of the wreck site. Providing the wreck site is not covered by sand, we should be able to see hull timbers, ballast, and replica cannons placed on the wreck site after the original cannons were salvaged during the 1920s.

We will be meeting at the lighthouse Monday morning at 8:00am to load gear and prepare to leave. Departure from the lighthouse will take place around 9:00am in order to make the three-hour drive to Ft. Pierce. That afternoon we will be training volunteers on the beach to map sites using archaeological methods such as laying out a base line and point-plotting artifact/wreckage locations onto a map using tape measures. Pending access to a boat, we will also be simultaneously be looking for the wreck site using our Klein 3900 sidescan sonar in order to save time locating the site.

Tuesday, we will arrive at the site around 8:30-9:00am. The wreck is under 10-15 feet of water and is about 200 yards off of the beach. We will be swimming out to the wreck site from the beach, so prepare for a good hike! One dive will take place in the morning and, after re-convening on the beach for snacks, discussion, and replacing tanks, we will dive for a second time in the early afternoon. Our day should end around 3:00pm in order for everyone to hit the road and return to St. Augustine at a reasonable hour.

This trip will be a great opportunity for our diving volunteers to get to do some real archaeology as well as training for upcoming work to be done here in St. Augustine. The *Urca de Lima* site should have, conditions pending, great visibility (10-50ft) compared to the First Coast inshore and offer some beautiful scenery. Please let us know via email or telephone if you plan on attending for this fun and exciting trip!

904-829-0745 x202 (Lighthouse) or 904-838-8813 (Brendan's Cell)

Where: Ft. Pierce

When: May 19-20 (Mon-Tue)

Who: LAMP and FPAN (Florida Public Archaeology Network)

Link to the FPAN *Urca de Lima* trip:

<http://www.underwaterpublicarchaeology.org/Urca%20del%20Lima.pdf>

Here's the link to the official homepage of the *Urca de Lima*

<http://www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/preserves/uwurca.cfm>

