

University of Saint Francis

Bahamas Field Studies

*March 6-14; SPRING BREAK 2009
Forfar Field Station
on Andros Island Bahamas*

FAQ's

Q: Where do we stay on Andros Island?

A: We will be staying at the docks at Fresh Creek on Andros Island and then most of the time on 2-3 47+ foot sail boats owned by IFS, sailing around Andros and other Bahamian islands “Doc” Wiedman, the University of Saint Francis faculty who will be directing the trip has been on IFS’s Board of Trustees since 1993. 6-8 people share a boat with a crew of 2. There is **NO NEED** to bring radios, CD players, hair dryers, etc, ... **so don’t**. It is **NOT** a fashion show. **You will be allowed NO MORE THAN 35 lbs of luggage TOTAL!** Share stuff! They supply all bedding, but some who get cold easily have brought polar fleece bags and were glad. It is beautiful here!

Q: Do I need a passport or VISA?

A: Yes, henceforth you will need a passport to go to the Caribbean, Mexico, and even Canada. Now might be a good time

to apply for one. It can take 6-8 weeks after application for them to arrive. Applications can be picked up at any post office.

Q: How much does the trip cost?

A: The cost for the TRIP (not including tuition) will be:

\$1250 (but you can save \$50 by paying in full by Jan 16, 2009).

**A \$400 non refundable deposit is due on Friday
Jan 16, 2009**

******All fees must be in by Jan 30, 2009******

Q: What is covered in the cost of the trip?

A: The fee covers

- airfare to/from Ft. Lauderdale and Andros Is.,
- quad occupancy at the LaQuinta Airport Inn (Ft. L) the night before we fly over,
- breakfast the day we fly to Andros through breakfast the day we return,
- all Bahamas use taxis (\$75), Taxi to/from Forfar (\$60), lodging,
- field guide, tee shirt, all ground and water transit, and expert leadership with over 50 Bahamas trips led between them.

*****Snorkeling gear is considered personal and is NOT covered.**

You may rent or buy it from Doc or anywhere else, but it is cheapest to try and borrow! The Fee does NOT cover USF 's tuition for the course; BIOL 360 you must register for the class as you normally do and pay for it. Read about deposits and payment due dates below.

Q: How long will we be in the water?

A: We will be sailing along the world's third largest barrier reef. It is the star of this show. We will be on it as often as weather and time permits, often 3-4 hours a day. If you have never snorkeled or are a weak swimmer, we can help teach you as long as you are not afraid of the water. Everyone wears a Personal Floation

Devise provided by IFS (or a **3mm** minimum, full shorty wetsuit will do the same safety need). We plan to visit a few small islands so we will not be on the boats 24/7. We also plan to spend 2-3 days on Andros visiting settlements and viewing non water-based features.

Q: How much spending \$\$ do I need?

A: Most people find \$75 to be OK, but you can spend lots more on carvings (\$65 ave), baskets (\$20 ave) and Batique (\$20 ave), if that is what trips your trigger. There are 2 ATMs, but we are not near them, so do not plan on them.

Q: Can the sail boats handle special diets?

A: Yes, up to a degree. Veggie types are no problem. If you have special needs, be sure to let Doc know, in writing, before Feb. 1 the specifics of your needs.

Q: How do I get to/from Fort Lauderdale?

A: The class/trip starts at the LaQuinta Airport Inn the night before we go over to Andros. We will meet in the lobby at 8 pm to get flight info. How you get there is your business. We need to know how, but you are free to make any arrangement you wish.

Q: Who gets to go if the trip “maxes” out?

A: There are only 16 total spaces on the boats and those are best utilized if our gender mix is just perfect. Couples may not get to room together and friend requests are secondary to our needs, but we will try. Folks taking the class for USF credit get first priority based on deposit dates. If there are more credit taking students then we can accommodate, on Tues, Jan 20 (the day after MLK Day), then there will be cut offs made based on USF GPA and or recommendations by faculty. Students taking credit can bump folks who are students not taking the course for credit and these folks (based on deposit date) can bump guests. This may be done at an earlier date if we max out, so far we have never had this problem, but have come close. It's best to get the \$400 deposit in ASAP

Q: How can people keep in touch with me?

A: The best answer is that they can't, but that is impractical. When we are in port at Fresh Creek there may be pay phones. Emergency phone numbers will be given out to you. The best thing is to plan to be away from the phone for a few days. You may be amazed at its calming influence.

Q: When does class meet?

A: It would be great if the spring break class could make the 3 pre winter break meetings with the winter break class folks so that the lectures and info do not need to be delivered twice. So please try to attend class meetings: Nov 23, 30, Dec. 7, 2008 in the University of Saint Francis' Achatz Hall of Science's Gunderson Auditorium 7-9 pm. There will be one other mandatory meeting Sunday **Feb. 7, 2009; 7-9 pm** Gunderson in Achatz

Any more Q's???

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The biology web site: <http://www.sf.edu/biology/trips.shtml> has information and forms if you need additional copies.