

Bahamas Field Studies

December 28-January 10, 2009/2010

FAQ's

Because of how Christmas fits into the calendar, instead of the usual 2 sections of 7 days each, this break will have *ONLY ONE 11 day class/trip*

Q: Where do we stay on Andros Island?

A: We stay at Forfar Field Station near the settlement of Stafford Creek. It is owned by International Field Studies a not-for-profit organization from Nelsonville, OH and affiliated with Hocking College (OH). IFS is celebrating its 37th year of hosting Bahamas field studies students. Doc Wiedman, the University of Saint Francis faculty who will be directing the trip has been on IFS's Board of Trustees since 1993. **Forfar is rustic!** 6-8 people share a cabin, bathroom and shower. There is NO NEED to bring radios, CD players, hair dryers, et cet, ... **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. The cabins are within spitting distance of the beach. It is beautiful here!

Q: How can people keep in touch with me?

A: The best answer is that they can't, but that is impractical. There is a pay phone that you may use at Forfar (it sometimes works!). Cell phones do not work there for US plans... yet ...unfortunately. We will set up an e-mail chain that will allow for daily updates from one person. Forfar is WiFi wired. Currently, you can NOT receive e-mail while there, but that may be changed by the time we arrive, but do not count on it. 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 or weeks. You may be amazed at its calming influence. Forfar did not have a phone until 1994 and did not have 24 hour on demand electricity until 1989.

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 13 day excursion (11 days on Andros) will be \$1995. Save \$50 by paying in full by Oct. 30, the day that the \$400 (non refundable) deposit is due for the winter break trip. Total is due by Monday, Nov. 30. The total cost for the spring break trip is \$1250. Save \$50 by paying in full on Tues, Jan. 19, 2010 when the \$400 (non refundable) deposits are due. Those who successfully compete for the research rate will be charged \$1570 which is due in full Oct 30. <http://www.sf.edu/biology/trips.shtml>

Q: What is covered in the cost of the trip? Q: How do I get to/from Fort Lauderdale?

A: The fee that you pay to Carolyn Exner in Achatz Hall covers:

- Charter bus fare to/from USF- Fort Lauderdale (required for all trip takers)
- 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 taxes (\$75), Taxi to/from Forfar (\$60), lodging, field guide, tee shirt, all ground and water transit, and expert leadership with over 60 Bahamas trips led between them.

Snorkeling gear is considered personal and is **NOT** covered. You may rent or buy it from Doc Wiedman at USF or anywhere else, but it is cheapest to try and borrow! ***The Fee does NOT cover USF 's tuition for the course, 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: The world's third largest barrier reef 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 Floatation Device provided by the field station (or a **3mm** minimum, full shorty wetsuit). We will try to have a pool night to check gear and practice snorkeling here in Ft Wayne before the trip. HUM course takers will have the chance to go snorkeling once or twice and should have the needed equipment, if they choose to go.

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

A: Most people find \$75-100 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, (some times they work!) but we are not near them often, so do not plan on them.

Q: Can Forfar 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 Dec. 1 the specifics of your needs.

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

A: There are only about 40 beds at Forfar 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, October 20 (the day after deposits are due), then there will be cut offs made based on USF GPA. 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. So far we have never had this problem, but have come close. It's best to get the \$400 deposit in on Oct.5, 2008, the first day we will take them. **Deposits are due for all by Monday, Oct. 19, 2009 to secure a space.** All trip fees are due by Nov. 23, 2009!

Remember

- **Info Meeting Sept. 27 or October 18 (Attend only one) University of Saint Francis' Achatz Hall of Science's Gunderson Auditorium 7-9 pm**
- **Other Mandatory class meetings: Nov 22, 29, Dec. 6, 2009 7-9 pm Gunderson in Achatz**

Any Q's??? Need More Information?

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