

University of Saint Francis

Bahamas Field Studies

December 30-7 & Jan. 6-14, 2012

(2 one-week courses, students may attend either week)

updated 3-1—2011

FAQ's

Because of how Christmas fits into the calendar we can again return to our “normal” routine of having 2 one-week courses for students to choose from.

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. IFS is celebrating its 38th year of hosting Bahamas field studies students. Doc Wiedman, the University of Saint Francis faculty who will be directing the trip was on IFS's Board of Trustees from 1993-2010. **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 40 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!). Though Forfar is WiFi wired, cell phones and laptops will be discouraged (read, leave them at home or locked in IFS's safe). We will set up an e-mail list serve that will allow for daily updates from the group. Currently, you can **NOT** receive e-mail while there other than for emergencies. Emergency phone numbers for Forfar will be given out to you. The best thing is to plan to be away from the world 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: What courses can I take?

A: A Gen Ed course that fits LO #3 and #23 BIOL 360 Bahamian Field Studies is a 3 hour course. BIOL 360 can be taken as either a Spring or Fall semester class. Also the lab that accompanies BIOL 439 Ornithology (3 hours) will be taught during week TWO. BIOL 439 is a Spring class and will meet the last 7 weeks of the spring semester as well as our trip and pre-trip classes.

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. No Visa is required.

Q: How much does the trip cost?

A: The cost for the 7 day excursion will be set by Sept. 15, 2011, based on past history. I expect that it will be **around \$1450 +/- \$50**. It all depends on energy costs. That is why we must wait so long before anyone like our airlines will lock into a fare. You will be able to save \$50 by paying in full by Oct. 31, the day that the \$500 (non refundable) deposit is due for the winter break trip. Total is due by Nov. 28 Updates will be posted at <http://www.sf.edu/biology/trips.shtml>

You will still need to provide your own transportation to/from Ft. Lauderdale (see next Q).

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:

- Airfare to/from Ft. Lauderdale and Andros Is.- **NOT to/from Fort Wayne.**
- 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/text book,
- tee shirt,
- all ground and water transit, and
- expert leadership with over 60 Bahamas trips led between them.

We will discuss possible options for transport to/from Ft. Wayne / Ft. Lauderdale, but most likely it will be up to the participant to provide their own.

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.

Q: How much spending \$\$ do I need? And what can I spend it on or not?

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. **During the course, Forfar Field Station is considered an extension of the USF campus. Since it is dry, so will we be.** There are smoking "sections" on the perimeter of the Forfar campus.

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. 18, 2011 to secure a space.** All trip fees are due by the Monday after Thanksgiving!

Remember

Info Meeting SUNDAY Sept. 18

USF’s Achatz Hall of Science’s Gunderson Auditorium 7-9 pm

Other Mandatory class meetings:

Nov 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2011

7-9 pm in Achatz 111; these are a graded part of the course (5% per meeting); make arrangements to attend, it is like any other mandatory class meeting

Any Q’s??? Need More Information?

Contact:

Dr. Larry Wiedman (USF) lwiedman@sf.edu (260)399-7700 ex 8214