

Forfar Marine Science Program Student Handbook



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IFS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The [Forfar Marine Science Program](#) is run by International Field Studies, Inc. (IFS). IFS is an educational and scientific non-profit organization established to promote and assist educators with field study programs. Established in 1970, IFS grew out of the increasing teacher interest in implementing field study experiences for their students with minimal organizational difficulty and expense. In response to this interest, IFS began by supporting field studies throughout the United States with administrative assistance, financial coordination, group insurance coverage, and transportation.

Today, IFS continues to promote the concept of field studies as an important educational method. These experiential, outside of the classroom learning experiences are successful in almost every discipline, including the natural sciences, creative arts, history, and physical education. IFS believes an interdisciplinary approach to learning is especially well suited to the field studies environment.

FORFAR FIELD STATION

[Forfar Field Station](#) is a rustic former dive resort nestled in a beachfront coconut grove on the east coast of Andros, Bahamas. Forfar Field Station is named after Archie Forfar who originally built the field station as a dive resort in the 1960's. Since its debut, Forfar has served as an educational and field studies resource to over 50,000 students and group leaders that range from elementary/middle/high school level to college and graduate students and researchers. Read our [History Page](#) to learn more about Forfar Field Station's past.

LODGING

Forfar provides rustic cabin-style lodging along the beach with a 56-bed capacity divided among 8 cabins. Each cabin has 3-4 sets of bunk beds, electricity, fans, mosquito bug nets, and a private bathroom with hot water and a shower. The Forfar Lodge houses our Dining Hall, Classroom, Recreation room, and an open living area.

The classroom accommodates lecture seating for 32 people with AV equipment and preserved specimens for study. Forfar Field Station also houses an on-site dive shop that provides a full range of diving equipment available for rent. When groups aren't out exploring, they can relax with an enjoyable game of beach volleyball, basketball, ping pong, or lounge on the beach with a good book. The relaxing ocean sounds pair nicely with the field station's design to make a peaceful learning environment for students.

FOOD

Breakfast and dinner are served in the dining room and most lunches are eaten picnic style at study sites. IFS ships most food from Fort Lauderdale, FL and supplements with local food from the Mennonite farm and BAMSI (Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute) which are both located in North Andros. Menus are set and usually offer a mix of standard American fare (lasagna, chicken) and a touch of Bahamian cuisine (pigeon peas and rice). Reasonable dietary needs, such as vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, soy-free, nut-free, or gluten-free diets, can be accommodated if you notify us before the trip. For more information, you can view our [sample menu](#).

Thursday night is Cooks' Night Off and groups typically go out to a local restaurant. Dinner runs from \$18 to \$25 per person and is cash only. Ice cream, snack foods, and soft drinks can be purchased at several locations on the island.

STAFF

The staff at Forfar consist of local Bahamian staff and the resident staff. The resident staff consist of a Station Director and up to 7 Educational Staff. [Current staff profiles](#) can be viewed on our website.

ABOUT ANDROS ISLAND

Andros is an extremely rural, undeveloped, and sparsely populated island. Many of the things people take for granted and expect as a minimum in the U.S. are not available on Andros. There are a few local stores where snack foods and meals can be purchased but they have limited supplies and depend on shipments to the island which are often delayed. To learn more about Andros we suggest reading our blog post, "[About Andros Island](#)".

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

PASSPORT, FLIGHT INFORMATION, AND REQUIRED FORMS

We've put together a webpage for your trip that includes detailed information about passport requirements, your flight to/from Andros, and the forms that are required to complete your registration for the course. You can visit the webpage at this link: intlfieldstudies.org/fmspforms

Students will partake in a Virtual Orientation via Skype ~6 weeks prior to the program start date where the IFS office will provide a detailed overview of the station, review travel logistics, and answer any questions.

MEDICAL PREPARATION

1. You will be required to have a physical examination completed by a doctor to participate in the PADI dive courses.
2. Travelers with existing medical conditions should consult their personal physician regarding special precautions they may need to take.
3. Pack a supply of all prescriptions and over-the-counter medications that you take regularly. Make sure your supply of prescriptions will be sufficient to last the entire trip, including unexpected delays. Keep all medication in original packages and pack them in your carry-on luggage.
4. If you cannot get a supply of medication before you go, carry legible printed copies of prescription orders with generic drug names, and a letter stating the need for the prescription medication.
5. If you wear eyeglasses or contacts, bring a copy of your prescription, and an extra pair. Pack enough contact solution for the duration of your trip.
6. Have a thorough dental check-up before departure.
7. If you have asthma, including exercise induced asthma, make sure you bring inhalers!

MEDICAL INSURANCE

All participants are required to have medical insurance with international travel coverage to participate. [Check our blog post for more details and insurance options.](#)

The most popular options for Forfar Marine Science Program students are:

1. Using your current insurance coverage and verifying that the insurance provider covers international travel.
2. If the policy does not cover international travel, you will need to purchase insurance coverage for your time abroad. The most popular and cost-effective option for college students is the [International Student Identity Card \(ISIC\)](#).
3. If you do not have medical insurance or international medical coverage and would like to explore additional options, we suggest reviewing the [US State Department's provided resources](#) and consulting our blog post on [International Medical and Travel Insurance](#).

If your current health insurance is valid for international travel, it may be necessary to contact your insurance agent or company while abroad. Keep all names and phone numbers, as well as your policy number(s) and/or ID card with you at all times.

If you need emergency medical care while studying abroad, be aware that most foreign medical providers do not accept payment through your insurance company. You will probably have to pay in full when you leave the doctor's/dentist's office or when he/she leaves the hospital. You will then file a claim with your insurance company for reimbursement upon your return to the U.S. You may, therefore, want to have a credit card or ready access to cash, either from a debit or credit card or by wire transfer.

DIVE INSURANCE

Dive insurance is required for all Forfar Marine Science Program students and it is not covered in your program fees. Please be sure to secure dive insurance and send a copy to our office by the form due date. You can [read our blog post](#) on dive insurance to learn more. Past students often purchase the DAN Membership for one year for about ~\$45 which comes with travel insurance that will cover your stay at Forfar.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

IFS strongly recommends travel insurance. Be sure to check with your provider to see their policies regarding flight changes, cancellations, and COVID-19. IFS is an educational nonprofit organization and therefore does not offer any travel insurance nor endorse any specific companies since it is not our area of expertise.

VACCINATIONS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend the following vaccinations for The Bahamas:

1. Hepatitis B, if you might be exposed to blood (for example, health-care workers), have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment.
2. A booster dose for tetanus-diphtheria, if over five years since your last shot.
3. The current flu shot, especially if participating during the fall or winter overseas.

Make an appointment with a Health Clinic, the county Health Department, or your personal physician if you have not yet seen them. Your healthcare provider can make personal recommendations for vaccinations based on the activities in which you will be participating. If you would like more information on recommended vaccinations and potential health risks, please visit the [CDC website](#).

MONEY

Due to the remote location of the field station, acquiring money is not quite as easy as it is in the US. There is only one ATM on the island and customers incur significant fees for withdrawing cash. Very few stores on the island accept credit cards and it's very important to have cash and to not rely on using credit.

Do not exchange U.S. dollars into Bahamian currency before you leave the States. The exchange rate from Bahamian to USD is pegged at a 1:1 ratio and you can spend US/Bahamian money interchangeably. It is common to pay for and receive change in both Bahamian and US bills.

CASH AND ISLAND EXPENSES

We suggest you bring a minimum of \$120 with you to Andros. We have a safe at the station and any extra money you bring can be stored in the safe. Keep in mind the safe is only used for storage of money, passports, and plane tickets; other items such as cameras, electronics, or jewelry will not be stored in the safe. Students that are on a budget will not need a lot of cash during their stay at the field station since you will already have paid for your living expenses (which includes all the activities you're participating in and 3 meals per day). Most students typically enjoy spending money on snacks, drinks, souvenirs, or extra dives, and the amount of money you end up spending is entirely up to you.

There will be opportunities (particularly on Thursday evenings) to go to local restaurants for dinner. Eating dinner at a Bahamian restaurant typically costs between \$18-\$25 and includes a full meal and a beverage.

DEBIT CARDS

There is only one ATM machine on Andros that can be visited while out on trips. Please be aware that these trips won't happen frequently and the machine occasionally runs out of money and/or is not always operational. The ATM does not charge a currency conversion fee, but you will be charged an ATM withdrawal fee. You should contact your bank to let them know that you will be out of the country and provide them with the dates of your trip (if you don't notify your bank they will most likely lock your accounts as a fraud prevention measure when they recognize activity from the Bahamas).

CREDIT CARDS

Although credit cards are not accepted by many establishments on Andros, we still suggest that you bring one with you so you have access to a line of credit in case of emergency. Keep in mind that it is unlikely you will be able to use it at stores/shops throughout the island.

PACKING

IFS has put together a suggested packing list for Forfar Marine Science Program students that is specifically tailored towards the environment of Andros. The packing list includes information about clothing, toiletries, first aid supplies, optional items, and required/suggested scuba gear for your trip.

Remember to prepare a first aid kit that contains basic medical supplies (details are listed on the packing list) and pack it in your carry-on luggage. The packing list can be found at the main [FMSP Student page](#). If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the IFS office.

CULTURE SHOCK

Due to the differences between American and Bahamian culture, many students visiting the field station experience some degree of culture shock. We encourage students to prepare for culture shock and suggest reading articles such as, "[How to Deal with Culture Shock while Studying Abroad](#)".

TRAVELING TO ANDROS

FLIGHTS TO AND FROM ANDROS

Do not purchase your flight until you receive an email from our office. We want to ensure enough students have registered and we are able to run the program each session. We will make the call at least 8 weeks before the program start date, likely earlier. You will fly to Andros from Nassau out of the Lynden Pindling International Airport, the flight will be about 15 minutes. The IFS office will book your flight from Nassau to Andros. The flights you book must arrive in Nassau by 1pm and flights home can leave Nassau anytime after 12pm.

If you arrive in Nassau the day/night before, be aware that sleeping in the airport is not permitted. [This website](#) has some good information about the airport and suggests Orange Hill Inn as it is fairly close to the airport. Unfortunately, New Providence doesn't have budget hotels and there are very limited options near the airport. Traffic on New Providence especially in Nassau is very bad and it will take a long time to get from downtown to the airport and cost \$30-40 for a cab ride (one way). You could also look at Airbnb.com as there are a number of options that are relatively inexpensive.

IMMIGRATION AND AIRPORT TRAVEL

When you pass through Immigration in Nassau before catching your flight to Andros, you will need to carry a letter from the IFS office that will be provided on the [student page](#). More information on navigating the airport and pre-departure tips will be shared with students via email closer to the trip start date.

A Forfar staff member will greet all students at the airport in Andros as soon as you land. They will coordinate travel to Forfar, a 25 minute car/van ride from the airport.

LIFE AT FORFAR

DAILY ROUTINE

A daily itinerary will be available on the [student page](#) prior to your arrival. Most days fall into a similar pattern but since we are at the mercy of weather and tides, the week's activities are likely to shift so you're out on the boats during the best weather.

At the beginning of each week, duty groups are assigned usually by cabin, to assist with the daily general duties. Group duties include serving food and helping with clean-up (wiping tables and sweeping the dining room), loading the lunch coolers on and off the vans or boats, setting up and cleaning up of lunch, and being responsible for items left behind on vans or boats.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

The schedule for a typical day is as follows:

7:00 am	Lodge Opens
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Departure for a full day on boat or van
12:00 pm	Lunch in the field
4:00 pm	Return to Forfar
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Evening lecture in classroom, group activity, or free time
10:00 pm	Lodge closes. Quiet time commences until 7:00 am.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to land-based sites is provided via trucks, vans, cars, and buses. We have two skiffs and a V-hull that provide water transportation. Only Forfar Field Station Staff may operate field station vehicles and equipment, unless there is an emergency or advance permission has been granted. In order to support the local community, transportation to and from the airport will be provided by local Taxi drivers.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in all lectures, labs and activities will be recorded and contribute towards your final grade. Tardiness or disruptiveness in classes will also be recorded and negatively impact your attendance grade. If you are unwell and unable to attend any classes your attendance grade will not be impacted. Assignments that are handed in late will have points deducted for each day past the deadline until they are submitted.

LAUNDRY

Laundry is available Mondays and Wednesdays from the Forfar housekeeping staff. Clothes will be washed in a washing machine and hung up to line dry. They will wash/dry and fold your laundry for \$3.00 per load.

ELECTRICITY

The Bahamas uses the same electricity format as the US (110-volt alternating current) but power outages are somewhat frequent. There are frequent power surges on the island and any devices that are plugged directly into an outlet could be damaged. We suggest that you bring a surge protector for anything you will be plugging in to an outlet.

COMMUNICATION

Most of our guests communicate with friends and family by telephone or email. There are a few different options available to you while you're at the field station with varying costs and reliability.

TELEPHONE

Students may purchase prepaid phone plans from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) or [Aliv](#). These plans are available for purchase at several markets throughout the island or at the airport in Nassau and the service provided is mostly reliable. There is a cellphone tower located near the field station and you should receive 4G data speeds. Please note: the plans offered at the local markets may differ from what is listed on the websites.

INTERNET

Forfar has Wi-Fi that can be used throughout the lodge, but there is no internet connection available in the cabins. The internet connection on Andros is inconsistent and usually slows down in the evenings. We have two separate internet lines setup with WiFi networks at the field station. One of the networks is for use by the staff and Forfar Marine Science Program students will have limited access to the other wifi network. Students often use the internet connection to send emails, messages, and make free phone calls over WiFi through programs like WhatsApp.

MAIL

Andros is very remote and even local mail is irregular and unreliable. Do not expect to send or receive mail during your stay.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The safety of our guests is the number one priority of IFS and our staff. Our Educational Staff are trained in CPR and First Aid and many have advanced training for dive related accidents. The remote location dictates our policies concerning safety. We ask that you fully cooperate regarding general safety and accident-prevention procedures.

There is not a hospital on Andros but Forfar Field Station is 30 minutes away from two clinics (one in the north, one in the south) that are staffed with nurses and a doctor on call. Because legal permission may be required before emergency treatment can be administered, it is imperative students complete the medical release form and that these forms are readily available in the unlikely event of an accident.

COMMON MEDICAL PROBLEMS

In most cases, medical problems result from situations that can be prevented. The staff will help you identify things to avoid. Please bring medical problems to a staff member's attention immediately.

- **SUNBURN AND SUN POISONING**

The sun in the Bahamas is more intense than in most regions of the United States, precautions are necessary. Sunscreen may not be sufficient protection and we encourage all participants to wear rash guards, hats, and sunglasses to help with sun exposure.

- **DEHYDRATION AND HEAT EXHAUSTION**

Be sure to drink plenty of water and rest in the shade periodically. This is a serious condition that can lead to other medical issues if not treated.

- **POISONWOOD**

Is an abundant woody plant on Andros. It has an oil-based toxin similar to poison ivy/poison oak and it causes a similar, itchy rash. Reactions can be severe and may affect people normally unaffected by poison ivy. Wash the affected area as soon as possible with soap and water. Then cleanse with Tecnu Cleanser or another commercially available product for the removal of toxic oils. Treat the rash with Calamine Lotion, or other ointments used to treat poison ivy.

- **INSECTS**

There are a wide variety of insects such as sand flies, mosquitoes, and doctor flies (horse flies) on Andros that can make you miserable. Be sure to bring protection against bugs including sprays and long socks/sleeves/pants to protect yourself in the evenings. All beds in the cabins come with bug nets.

- **CUTS**

Consider every cut important since infections occur easily. Cuts and open wounds may be slow to heal with continuous exposure to salt water. If a wound is not healing, remain out of the water for a day or two and monitor it carefully. Wear footwear at all times since urchins, limestone, glass, metal, and other sharp objects may be in the sand.

- **FIRE CORAL**

Fire coral is a naturally occurring type of coral that is most commonly found on both natural and artificial reefs. It inflicts a sting that may last for 30 minutes or more. Isopropyl alcohol or vinegar will help neutralize the stinging cells.

- **SEA URCHINS**

Sea urchins, especially *Diadema*, have brittle spines which can stick in your skin. The spines are very difficult to remove and the area will remain painful until they dissolve.

- **SHARKS, BARRACUDAS, AND RAYS**

If you encounter a shark, barracuda, or ray, it is important to remain calm, and remember that they have never caused a problem for Forfar guests. If a shark shows more than casual interest, notify those around you and swim slowly and calmly back to the boat or shore with your buddy. Avoid stepping on rays when walking in shallow water by shuffling your feet.

- **CENTIPEDES AND SCORPIONS**

While it is rare to see either a centipede or scorpion on Andros, large ones can bite and the toxin they inject can cause excruciating pain. As long as these creatures are left alone, they will not be a problem.

- **SNAKES**

The only snakes found on Andros are non-venomous and harmless to humans.

SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES

The Bahamas has a relatively low rate of violent crime, especially on Andros. The most common type of crime that Forfar guests experience is theft of unattended baggage when traveling to/from. Below are tips that apply to any situation traveling abroad.

1. To reduce your chance of being targeted in criminal activities, do not draw attention to yourself through expensive dress, jewelry, or personal accessories (cameras, mp3 player, sunglasses, etc.).
2. Don't walk alone at night.
3. Don't carry a lot of cash and do not pull out large quantities of money in public. Don't leave cash or valuables in your room. There is a safe on station to secure valuables.

4. Those of legal age should **limit alcohol intake** -- alcohol consumption impairs judgment.
5. Make sure someone responsible at home (for example, your parents) has backup information to help if your ATM card, credit card, or passport are stolen or lost.
6. If a crisis arises while abroad, contact will be made with the US Embassy and with the local authorities in order to assure the safety and security of all members of the program.

U.S. CONSULATE (EMBASSY) IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS

How can the embassy or consulate assist me while I am abroad? U.S. consular officers assist Americans who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. Although consular officers cannot act as your legal counsel or representative, they can provide the names of local attorneys and doctors, provide loans to destitute Americans, and provide information about dangerous conditions affecting your overseas travel or residence. You can reach the U.S. Embassy in Nassau at (242) 322-1181 or after hours at (242) 328-2206.

IFS POLICIES

IFS has established policies that need to be followed by all guests to Forfar. Everyone must adhere to these guidelines, regardless of past policies. You will be living in a foreign country and representing IFS during your stay.

FORFAR FIELD STATION RULES

- No smoking, vaping or chewing tobacco in cabins, vehicles or the lodge at any time. There is only one designated spot at Forfar where smoking is permitted and will be discussed during orientation.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Lodge opens at 07:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 p.m.
- There is no curfew at Forfar but you will be required to provide sign in/sign out details of when you left/returned and destination for safety purposes.
- “You break, you pay” policy in the cabins. All damages must be reported immediately so they can be fixed and the structural integrity of the cabins can be maintained.
- Zero tolerance policy for non-prescription drugs and alcohol on Forfar property

GUESTS IN A FOREIGN LAND

Forfar guests are visitors in a foreign country. IFS expects an awareness of, and respect for, the Bahamian people and culture. Our guests must understand their behavior reflects on themselves, their school, IFS, and their country. The Forfar Station Director reserves the right to send home, at his or her own expense, any guest whose behavior is offensive, or could adversely affect the friendly atmosphere enjoyed by IFS, its guests, and the local community.

MANNER AND DRESS

IFS guests are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the rules established by sponsoring groups. Dress is casual, but please be aware that shirts and shorts are required in the lodge. If the Forfar Station Director feels dress, or behavior, are inappropriate, he or she may take action.

IFS WATER SAFETY POLICY

Upon arrival at Forfar, you will be provided with a buoyancy control (BC) snorkel vest. Anytime guests are snorkeling or swimming in the open ocean from our boats, they must wear their BC. This policy is non-negotiable and includes group leaders/chaperones. This policy is in place to keep everyone safe and visible in the open ocean should any unforeseen events take place. BCs are required for swimming in freshwater inland blue holes. Guests are not permitted to do any flips or dives into the blue holes. Only

feet-first jumps are allowed when swimming in the blue holes. BCs are not required while swimming off the beach in front of Forfar Field Station but are required for creek snorkeling. These rules are in place per liability and risk management protocol and apply to all guests staying at Forfar Field Station.

If the BC is lost or seriously damaged, the guest will be charged the cost to repair or replace the vest (\$30.00). SCUBA divers will be charged for damage or loss to equipment supplied by IFS.

ALCOHOL POLICY

No alcohol is to be brought to or consumed on Forfar Field Station property by guests. If you are caught with alcohol, the alcohol will be confiscated. The legal drinking age in the Bahamas is 18. If IFS provides transportation to an evening outing, you are required to come back with IFS. Disorderly conduct in public or on the grounds of Forfar, may result in you being asked to leave Forfar Field Station at your own expense.

DRUG POLICY

IFS has a zero tolerance policy for non-prescription drugs. If a student is found in possession of, or under the influence of any drug illegal in the United States or Bahamas, that student will be sent home immediately at his or her own expense. Prescription drugs may be taken only by the person listed on the label, and only in the manner directed by the label. IFS will not be responsible for, nor can we predict, random searches from the Bahamian or U.S. Customs officers.

CONSERVATION POLICIES

Hundreds of visitors come to the Andros with IFS every year. One of the special aspects of the IFS program is the amount of experiential field experiences the students have in both the marine and terrestrial environments. These environments are very sensitive, requiring careful examination with the utmost restraint. In order to maintain the most pristine environment possible, the IFS attitude toward conservation is very strict. Below is a list of general guidelines. Please keep in mind if students are unable to follow these guidelines, their privileges may be limited or revoked.

CONSERVATION AT SEA

We enforce a strict “look but do not touch” policy. Privileges may be revoked if groups are causing damage to the coral and marine animals. Coral and many other marine animals are extremely sensitive and can be negatively impacted even by minimal levels of human contact. In addition, there are several defensive animals that can inflict very painful stings. Some areas cannot endure 40 pairs of fins. Please be cooperative with the staff if they limit groups or pull aside snorkelers for a snorkel review.

We want everyone to wear sunscreen while in the water, however, [chemicals in sunscreens](#) have been shown to be detrimental to coral reefs. For more information about sunscreens damage to marine environments and which types of sunscreens are approved for use at Forfar, [please read this blog post](#).

FISHING POLICY

Fishing must be pre-approved, by the Station Director, and appropriate permits must be arranged prior to your group's arrival. Fishing is allowed with minimum impact to the environment or Bahamian economy. Any person fishing while staying at Forfar Field Station must comply with all Bahamian fishing regulations. Guests may not spear fish. Fishing cannot be conducted as a means of feeding guests staying at Forfar. Fishing is not allowed in areas that are used for diving, snorkeling, or areas used by Bahamian Guides. Fishing is not allowed at the same time or place as diving or snorkeling.

CONSERVATION ON LAND

Feel free to collect shells on the beaches, but make sure there is nothing living on or inside of them.

- Please do not buy shells from locals. We do not want to encourage a shell trade.
- If you need to use the restroom, the woods are okay, but please do not use trails or privately-owned property as a toilet. And remember to watch out for poisonwood.
- Pack out what you pack in. Everything from napkins to apple cores to toilet paper needs to be put in the trash bag and returned for proper disposal.
- Some areas cannot be subject to 40 pairs of feet. Please be cooperative with the staff if they limit groups or give directions for walking through a site.
- Do not order turtle in restaurants or purchase turtle shells. Many Sea Turtles species are endangered and there is a possibility that what is available has been caught illegally.
- “Conchservation” in the Bahamas, there is an increasing concern for conch (a popular marine snail that is consumed widely throughout the Bahamas). Due to poor harvesting regulations and over-fishing of this resource, Queen Conch has been placed on the Threatened/Endangered list. We ask our guests to consider this when choosing dining options while in the Bahamas.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Guests are expected to keep their cabins clean and orderly at all times. At the end of their stay, they are expected to sweep their rooms and be certain sheets, all personal items, and trash are removed. Damage and cleaning fees will be assessed if necessary.

IFS tries to accommodate the return of items left behind, but is not responsible for doing so. The cost of shipping or mailing an item is the responsibility of the owner.

Bringing a **drone** to the country requires an additional permit from the Bahamas Civil Aviation and that can be found on <http://apps.bcaa.gov.bs/>. You have to create an account, and register the drone, otherwise it may be held at customs during entrance into the country until you leave again.

KNOWING THE LAWS

1. Once you leave the United States, you are not covered by U.S. laws and constitutional rights.
2. Bail is not granted in many countries when drugs are involved..
3. Bahamian laws do not include a right to a public defender in lower courts. Any legal representation is at the expense of the visitor.
4. In some countries, evidence obtained illegally by authorities may be admissible in court.
5. In the Bahamas drug violators are arrested regularly, even for possession of small quantities. Marijuana is not legal in the Bahamas and can result in time in prison.
6. Few countries offer drug offenders jury trials or even require the prisoner’s presence at his/her trial.
7. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking illegal drugs in The Bahamas are strict, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines (\$1000-\$50,000 for possession).
8. If you are arrested for drug possession, you should expect to spend at least one night, and possibly longer, in jail.
9. In the event you are arrested your U.S. citizenship will not help you and will not exempt you from full prosecution under The Bahamas’ criminal justice system.

LEAVING ANDROS AND RETURNING TO THE U.S.

Sometimes the onset of an illness picked up during international travel does not occur until weeks or even months after returning home. Symptoms may not surface for as long as 180 days after some infections. Keep this in mind after you return.

REVERSE CULTURAL SHOCK

Similar to experiencing culture shock upon your arrival to the Bahamas, you may also experience reverse culture shock when you return to the US. We suggest preparing for this by reading articles such as, "[How to Deal With Reverse Culture Shock After Studying Abroad](#)".

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS POLICIES

1. The first \$800 worth of goods that you bought are exempt from duty and federal tax if returning from The Bahamas.
2. If you have not exceeded the limit, you don't need to list every item purchased on your customs form. Beyond the exemption, you must list every item.
3. The US Department of Agriculture regulations state any plants, fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, animals and animal products may not allowed to be brought back into the US. [Read more here](#).
4. **Think twice about things you buy.** If they're made from the hides, shells, feathers, or teeth of endangered species, you risk the seizure by government inspectors and you may face a substantial fine.

CONTACT INFORMATION

International Field Studies, Inc.

Lindsey Christ, Executive Director or Becky Schmitthenner, Program Coordinator

1550 Old Henderson Road, Suite E268

Columbus, OH 43220

Phone: (614) 268-9930

E-mail: lindsey@intlfieldstudies.org or office@intlfieldstudies.org

Website: intlfieldstudies.org

Forfar Field Station

This number should only be used for business and outgoing emergencies

Phone: (242) 368-6129