



PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM OFFERS AUTHENTIC TASTE OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

Cultural Exchange Program Brings Visitors Into Bahamian Homes, Schools

Travelers who return from a vacation in The Islands Of The Bahamas leave behind the white-sand beaches, blue waters and oftentimes a friend or two. The People-To-People Program, established by The Ministry of Tourism, provides an opportunity for visitors to learn about the country and the culture from the locals who know it best.

The program "matches" visitors, often entire families, with more than 500 Bahamian volunteers of similar ages and interests for a day or evening activity which could include boating, fishing, shopping at the local outdoor market, attending a local school, enjoying a "back-street tour" or, more often, visiting Bahamians in their home for a traditional meal of Peas 'n Rice, fried fish and Guava Duff.

Since its inception the People-To-People Program has expanded its outreach and program offerings, moving beyond Nassau and Grand Bahama Island to The Out Islands of Eleuthera, Harbour Island, The Exumas, Bimini, The Abacos, Andros and Cat Island. Through the program, visitors not only gain a genuine and informed view of Bahamian culture but also gain insight into the distinctive cultures each individual island has to offer.

The People-To-People encounters have resulted in lasting friendships between visitors and locals. Philip Archer, a program volunteer for more than 18 years, has received hundreds of invitations to visit families from different countries through his participation in People-To-People. In fact, his daughter, Shamika visited a family in Florida whom she met through the program.

Travelers who want to know what is waiting for them in The Bahamas can utilize the E-pal program which offers travelers a taste of what they are going to experience before they even set foot on the sand. Never heard of conch salad or seen how crystal clear waters of the Out Islands look like? A friendly E-pal can help guide the way with insight on the best of what The Islands Of The Bahamas have to offer before the visit even begins.

To learn more about the People-To-People Program, visit www.bahamas.com and access the "People-To-People" option under the "About The Bahamas" section. To participate in People-To-People email peopletopeople@bahamas.com or call 242-356-0378.

The Islands Of The Bahamas have a place in the sun for everyone from Nassau and Paradise Island to Grand Bahama to The Abaco Islands, The Exuma Islands, Harbour Island, Long Island and others. Each island has its own personality and attractions for a variety of vacation styles with some of the world's best scuba diving, fishing, sailing, boating, as well as, shopping and dining. The destination offers an easily accessible tropical getaway and provides convenience for travelers with preclearance through U.S. customs and immigration, and the Bahamian dollar at par with the U.S. dollar. Do everything or do nothing, just remember It's Better in The Bahamas. For more information on travel packages, activities and accommodations, call 1-800-Bahamas or visit www.Bahamas.com. Look for The Bahamas on the web on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). To purchase one-of-a-kind items from The Bahamas, visit www.eshopbahamas.com.

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Media Contacts:

Kelly McKenna
Weber Shandwick
(212) 445-8380
kmckenna@webershandwick.com

Anita Johnson - Patty
Bahamas Ministry of Tourism
(954) 236-9292
ajohnson@bahamas.com