

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 Freeport to The Out Islands like 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. Volunteer families from different countries have even visited with USA ambassadors through participation in People-To-People.

To learn more about the People-To-People Program, visit <u>www.bahamas.com</u>, where some longtime Bahamas Ambassadors are featured along with testimonials from previous guests. Interested visitors can register for People-To-People online.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 55 miles off the coast of Florida offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on Facebook, YouTube or Instagram to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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