



San Salvador, Bahamas
(242) 331-2520 phone
(242) 331-2524 fax
geraceresearchcenter.com
email:: gress@juno.com

U.S. Mailing Address
c/o Twin Air
498 SW 34th St
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315

NEW RESEARCHERS PACKET 2007-2008

Thank you for your interest in the Gerace Research Centre (GRC). The GRC has been in operation since 1971 and continues to be the main field centre for education and scientific research in the Bahamas. Our goal is to encourage and support the development of notable research projects in the fields of Archaeology, Biology, Geology and Marine Science.

Many of you have visited the GRC with student groups and therefore are aware of the facilities we have to offer. For others, the enclosed packet describes the GRC and the island of San Salvador in general. Additional information can be found on our web site: geraceresearchcentre.com. For all researchers, enclosed you will find up to date information relating to carrying out research projects. This includes regulations, general information, proposal forms, air charter information and manifest list, insurance, and housing forms.

Please remember the following points which relate to organizing research field trips.

- Administrative affairs, both before and after your arrival, should be taken care of between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.
- Beginning January 1st, 2007, all U.S. citizens will need a passport to enter the Bahamas; birth certificates will no longer be accepted.
- If you plan to use our charter service, make note of the weight limitations and Bahamas Customs and Immigration information. **Weight limitations will be strictly enforced.** Also, be reminded that connecting U.S. flights on your return trip from San Salvador should either be the following day or after 6:00pm on the day of return to the U.S. Although most charter flights return to the U.S. by early afternoon, this allows for poor weather conditions or any unforeseen mechanical problems
- We have worked hard on the situation and have managed to work out a slight reduction in charter costs. Unfortunately, the rates are still higher than they had been in the past. The rates shown represent our “break-even” cost for full planes and so if your group does not consist of a multiple of 8, your rates will be higher than those shown. A back to back is a situation in which we are able to have groups on both legs of a roundtrip (i.e. group A flies to San Salvador and then Group B boards then plane and returns to Fort Lauderdale). Note that if no back to back can be arranged, you will need to pay the rate shown for this scenario. We will do our best to try to arrange back to back flights, but with the increased number of groups traveling in by other means (Bahamasair, etc) this is getting harder and harder to do.
- To make arrangements for flights on Bahamasair call their group department at Tel: 305-593-8841 or Fax: 305-593-6246. This department has been able to give low price tickets for many schools the past few

THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS



years. There is presently a non-stop commercial flight into San Salvador from Fort Lauderdale on Saturdays through Spirit Airlines which can be booked online and may work well for **smaller** groups. Another route which has worked for some groups is to fly into Nassau directly and make arrangements with a charter service there to bring you over later in the afternoon. Southern Air is one company which can be chartered from Nassau to San Salvador – phone number is (242) 377-2014/5. **As always, please call or e-mail us if you have questions or are having difficulty arranging flights.**

- **Be sure to send the required forms (see packet) in to us within the time frame listed prior to your arrival.** These forms are important to ensure we are properly prepared for your visit - problems invariable arise when we do not get these forms in a timely manner.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact the GRC if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving new research proposals and providing you with the support and facilities necessary to make your research a success.

Sincerely,

Thomas A Rothfus
Executive Director



Regulations Regarding Research, Publications, and Collecting.

It is the legal policy of the Bahamas Government that scientific studies and collecting require a permit, and the Gerace Research Centre (GRC) has the authority to control such endeavors on San Salvador.

For purposes of keeping the government and other scientists informed, and to prevent any possible conflict of interest, researchers working out of the GRC must complete the enclosed Research Proposal **and** Bahamas Department of Agriculture Research forms for approval and assignment of a research number by the Research Centre's Executive Director and Research Committee. Subsequently the forms will be sent to the Bahamian government for their approval and issuance of permits.

In the proposal, topics should be succinctly defined so they do not overlap with projects already being undertaken by others. Please include enough detail to give a clear picture of your research objectives and methods. Indicate why your research is important and how your work will further knowledge in this area. You must show familiarity with the literature on the subject and with related work, if any, that has been done or is currently being done on the island and that may have a bearing on the proposed research. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine whether there will be any conflicts with other projects. A booklet of publications, contributions, and research of the GRC is available upon request.

Projects which require several researchers must submit proposals for each researcher's aspect of the major project. If approved the major project will be given a number and each individual working on the project will be given a related sub-number. All graduate students should submit a proposal under his/her major professor, and if the proposed project is part of a larger active project, they may also be given a sub-number.

In the event one scientist feels another's research is incorrect due to approach, assumptions, etc., or if he has a new approach to an existing project, the two scientists should discuss the matter personally in an attempt to collaborate in joint research or to resolve the problem. However, if such discussions develop into a controversial exchange, then the Research Committee will consider a separate proposal from the challenging scientist.

Please remember that applications for outside funding should be submitted only after GRC approval has been obtained. Also keep in mind that strict weight restrictions are enforced on the amount of baggage that can be brought to the island on the charter aircraft. You must check with the charter aircraft company when hazardous materials are to be transported to see if they can carry them on the planes or if special handling is necessary.

For new research projects, a Research Proposal must be submitted to and approved by the GRC. For active research projects, the following will be required:

1. A current research permit from the Bahamian Government. This can be acquired by submitting a Research Proposal or Proposal Renewal to the GRC.
2. A Field Work Report must be submitted within three (3) months after leaving the Bahamas. A form will be provided.
3. An annual Progress Report must be submitted by October 1st of each year. A form will be provided. Please inform us if the research project has ended or is completed.



4. Proposal Renewals will be required annually in order to obtain current permits to continue field work on active projects. Proposal Renewals as well as new Proposals must be submitted at least three (3) months in advance of the anticipated dates of the field work. If adequate time is not allowed, and the permit is not issued before the researcher's arrival, then field work cannot continue. If the direction of research changes drastically, a new proposal must be submitted and reviewed by our research committee.
5. Four copies of all publications resulting from this research must be submitted to the GRC (one for us, three for the appropriate Bahamian Government Agencies). Dr. Isaacs, of the Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture, asks for pictures (i.e., slides) (see regulation 9 of the Ministry of Agriculture Guidelines).

Anyone who does not comply with these requirements will not be allowed to continue their research in the Bahamas until such time as all requirements are met.

The GRC's policy is that any publication resulting from the collecting of any specimen or research done while in residence at the Research Centre must acknowledge the GRC. The accepted form of citation is:

"I (We) am (are) indebted to The Gerace Research Centre and its staff on San Salvador Island, Bahamas for logistical (and financial) support for this research.

The GRC's philosophy includes preservation of specimens and conservation of the environment of San Salvador. To prevent the useless killing of our species for trophies, the collecting of live specimens is prohibited without permission from the GRC's Executive Director. The one exception is the collection of specimens to be put in the Research Centre's aquaria for study. These must be returned to their natural habitat upon completion of that project.

For student study and research purposes the GRC maintains a repository which includes specimens from all the sciences. For souvenirs persons should take photos of organisms in their natural environment, rather than collect them.

There are several designated areas of San Salvador and its outlying cays which are protected by the GRC from any collecting, unless prior permission is obtained from the Executive Director. These include:

Geological Sites:

- Any of the Pleistocene reefs
- Quarry E
- Sandy Point (all of the southern end of the island from Conch Point around to the western side of the island)
- Stromatolites in Storr's Lake
- Lighthouse Cave (animals as well as speleothems)
- Conch shells embedded at Barker's Point
- Fossil Cerion
- Rhizcretions

Archaeological Sites:

- Prehistoric Indian Sites (artifacts on the surface and in the ground)



Historic Sites (artifacts on the surface and in the ground, plus, no one should climb on buildings and no one should deface (i.e., write on or chisel) the building walls)

Underwater Sites (shipwrecks, prehistoric Indian sites, colonial sites)

Botanical Sites:

Rocky Blacklands east of Sandy Point

Fern Locations

Fresh water Marshes near Airport & Research Centre

Underwater Sites:

Dump "reef" (it is close to the campus and can thus be utilized for long term studies by students)

Archaeological Sites (described above).



RESEARCH PROPOSAL 2007-08

Please type or print

Date _____

Name _____

Academic Department or Discipline _____

Institution _____

Institution Address _____

Institution Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

Fax Number _____ E-Mail _____

I. PROPOSED RESEARCH TOPIC:

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR RESEARCH AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO CARRY IT OUT? (please provide a succinct description of your project, including specific procedures you will be using.):



RESEARCH PROPOSAL (CONT'D)

- III. IN WHAT PERIOD OF TIME DO YOU PROPOSE TO USE THE GERACE RESEARCH CENTRE:

- IV. WHAT SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT PRESENTLY AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE WILL YOU USE TO CARRY OUT YOUR RESEARCH? (include lab and field equipment, vehicles, boats, etc.)

- V. LIST THOSE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, ALONG WITH THEIR MONETARY VALUE, WHICH YOU PLAN TO BRING WITH YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR RESEARCH. (remembering the weight restrictions on aircraft, plan to ship items early or pay for extra space aboard aircraft)

- VI. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE GERACE RESEARCH CENTRE PUBLISH YOUR RESEARCH?

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



APPLICATION TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE BAHAMAS
(ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL.)

The Bahamas Government reserves the right to reject any or all applications. The grant of a permit is on the condition that the applicant submits to The Bahamas government three copies of any published material resulting from this project. Any variation from the details outlined in this project will require a separate Permit.

Section A

1. Full names and address of applicant and affiliated institution:

2. Project details-state title and purpose of research giving full details of proposed activities:

3. Dates of proposed research project:

From: _____ To: _____

4. Name, registration number and brief description of vessel and/or other carrier to be used in the Bahamas:

5. Cruise plan-indicate proposed route and entry/exit port to be used:

6. List below all equipment to be imported in connection with research project, for which duty-free exemption is sought:

Items	Value

7. Date, port and method of arrival in The Bahamas of equipment detailed above:

8. Precise location(s) where research is to be undertaken (attach sketch map of location):

9. If it is proposed to collect specimens/samples please provide full details including how they will be used:

10. If land-based stations are required please provide full details of location, equipment to be installed and number of part-time/full-time staff:

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11. The following information is to be provided for each person expected to come to The Bahamas in connection with the proposed research (Please attach a curriculum vitae of each individual):

Name	
Date of Birth	
Sex	
Address	
Nationality	
Passport Number	

Name	
Date of Birth	
Sex	
Address	
Nationality	
Passport Number	

12. Names and designations of scientists who will act as advisors to the project (where applicable):

13. Samples of any questionnaires to be used in The Bahamas should be submitted with this form.

Section B:

- 1) I understand that all members of the project must abide by the laws of The Bahamas, while in The Bahamas.
- 2) I undertake to submit to the Department of Agriculture within three months of the completion of the research in The Bahamas, a copy of all papers published reports resulting for the project.
- 3) I agree that there shall be no commercialization of the equipment or supplies imported under the terms of the permit applied for.
- 4) I agree to facilitate and provide food and accommodations, etc, for an observer participant should The Bahamas government wishes to nominate one.
- 5) I agree to export all equipment, etc, imported in connection with the permit applied for immediately upon completion of the project.
- 6) I undertake to report to the designed authorities before commencement of the project.
- 7) I understand that a research permit does not entitle the holder to conduct research upon private property without the permission of the occupier or owner.
- 8) I certify the above to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(Signature of Applicant)



GENERAL INFORMATION

San Salvador Island

San Salvador Island is one of the outermost of a chain of some 700 islands sprinkled throughout more than 5,000 square miles of the most beautiful waters of the world. Although San Salvador is similar to the other islands of this archipelago, it is unique for its history, ecology, inland lakes, and potential for future development.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World at San Salvador. At that time the island was populated by the Lucayans, an Indian population which lived by fishing and agriculture. After befriending these people, the admiral explored the island, going north from Long Bay where his fleet was anchored and rowing some twenty miles in search of an entrance through the barrier reef. One such boat canal was found with seven feet of water leading to a deep harbor which Columbus reported "would hold all the ships of Christendom." It is now known as Grahams Harbor.

The harbor remains as it was except for the Gerace Research Station (GRC), which is located on the berm of a beach composed of calcareous sands.

Much of the interior of San Salvador is made up of lakes which were utilized in days past for transportation. This unique inner island passage promoted the development of several communities on the perimeter of these interconnected lakes. After trampling in the dense bush which covers the island, one can appreciate why this method of transport was used.

Today the island's paved perimeter road traverses through several small settlements which reflect the unspoiled Bahamian natural charm. The largest community, Cockburn Town, is the center of all activities on the island, having the Commissioner's office, Post Office, telecommunication station, and electricity generators.

Most descriptions of the Bahamas picture islands basked continually with a warm breeze, blue skies, and long sunny days. This is for the most part true. However, it is not uncommon during winter, when a northwestern front arrives, to have as much as a week of rainy, cool weather. These are days when it becomes too cool to swim and sweaters feel most

comfortable in the evenings. The rainy season during the later summer permits the propagation of insects on San Salvador to the extent that the nuisance level becomes almost intolerable during September and October. This, along with the potential for hurricane activity, is the predominant reason for not having field projects during those months of the year. The nuisance level of insects is reduced during the winter and spring dry season.

The waters of the Bahamas are warm, blue, and have tropical reefs which can only be described for their beauty and abundance. Different from northern waters, diving in the sea produces very little comparative air temperature shock. However, many persons require wet suit vests when diving for long periods of time, even in May and June.

The Purpose of the Gerace Research Centre

The GRC, as part of the College of the Bahamas, has a continuing agreement with the Bahamas government to undertake a wide range of environmental research projects in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. San Salvador offers a natural field laboratory for such studies.

Four purposes guide our activities at the GRC:

1. to inquire into the meaning of environmental relationships.
2. to develop an understanding of another culture.
3. to instruct students in research methods and techniques.
4. to conduct initial surveys and advanced field studies of the island.

The Cross Cultural Experience

San Salvador and the GRC with their cultural setting and geographic location are not for everyone. Faculty and students will not live in a manner and style to which they have become accustomed at vacation resorts. San Salvador lies well off the coast of Florida, a distance which can be measured in cultural difference as well as miles. The language is English



and the people are generally very receptive, but linguistic affinity and friendliness can easily be misinterpreted for cultural similarity. In fact, this island is inhabited by a largely agrarian people who are very religious, who have a value system and world view quite unlike our own. One of the attractions of the GRC for all visitors is the cultural difference one finds on the island, but visitors have not always been sensitive to, or respectful of this difference. It is with good reason that we include "dress clothing" on the equipment list and insist that participants refrain from forms of personal behavior which might jeopardize the research centre. We want to continue to be deserving of the welcome that San Salvador and the Bahamas Government have extended to us, and feel that a posture of deference to another people's cultural values is the best one to adopt.

Faculty Housing

Facilities at the GRC were built over forty years ago by the United States Sea Bees. Faculty rooms are all on the ground floor and designed to house two or more people. Each room has a sink and mirror, 2 beds or more, a dresser and desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. However, in some cases, two adjoining rooms share a toilet and shower. Each room has a ceiling fan, and a number of the rooms can be air-conditioned with window units for an additional fee.

The GRC furnishes bed linens and towels for each room, but does not provide daily laundry service. Each participant must launder his/her own towels and bed linens. Maids clean each room and lavatory daily.

Student Housing

Undergraduate students are housed in dormitories located in the barracks which housed the Navy personnel during their stay on the island. They consist of a number of separate rooms housing a maximum of five students each, in either single or bunk beds. Men's and women's dorms are separate.

While these barracks were one of the finest built for military, they in no way compare with dormitories on your home campus. For a field

station, however, living conditions are more than adequate for persons who are disciplined in keeping their quarters neat and who can function comfortably with minor inconveniences.

Graduate students are housed in ground floor rooms that can accommodate two to five students. Each room has at least one dresser and a desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. In one case two rooms (housing two students each) share one bathroom.

While the GRC furnishes workers to clean the floors and lavatories of the student dorms and rooms, each student is responsible for keeping his personal living area neat and clean. Undergraduate students are also responsible for supplying their own sheets, pillowcases, and towels.

Laboratory Facilities

The GRC has available 10 modest but adequate laboratory classrooms, most of which are air-conditioned. A limited number of compound and dissecting microscopes, as well as assorted laboratory glassware, are available for student and faculty use. There are two large air-conditioned lecture rooms with overhead and slide projectors and VCRs, a wet lab containing aquariums with circulating sea water, a library, and a specimen repository. Each faculty member submits, prior to his project, a list of those items of equipment and library references required to complete his/her research or individual course. In this way each project has equipment tailored to the specific research being undertaken.

Dining Facilities

The GRC has complete dining facilities for ninety people. The bulk of the food utilized on campus is shipped from Nassau by marine transport or from the United States by air freight.

Fresh vegetables and fruits can be limited since we are dependent not only on availability of supplies from Nassau but also on the supply boat being able to sail from Nassau to deliver produce. With the aforementioned problems in logistics, our menu is sometimes limited, however, the kitchen staff will provide well balanced meals and can normally serve a vegetarian alternative. **Other special dietary needs may be difficult to accommodate, and should**



be discussed with the GRC Director prior to booking.

Recreation and Entertainment

Sports equipment is provided for basketball and volleyball. Students should bring their own small games, such as cards, chess, etc. Paperback literature is available in our library for free time reading. Sodas, candy, snacks, postcards, stamps, and souvenirs are available for purchase at the Snack Bar located on campus.

Three different night spots are located within walking distance of the GRC.

Dress Code

The Bahamian dress code is more formal than the current one in the U.S. For instance, islanders feel insulted if visitors attend church in working clothes (i.e., jeans). In respect for the Bahamian sensitivity regarding dress, it is necessary to require that shoes, shirts, and bathing suit cover-ups are worn in all public and semi-public places, and also in the Research Centre cafeteria.

Insects

Like most tropical places, San Salvador has insects. The island has palmetto bugs, flies, and roaches which are not usually considered a nuisance to our participants. However, of the several hundred species of mosquitoes, San Salvador can boast of twelve. During the rainy season, the nuisance level builds to intolerable levels. However, relief can be obtained in screened quarters, especially during the twilight hours. Throughout the year most participants should not experience mosquito bites during the heat of the day in unshaded cleared areas.

The biggest offender of the insect world on San Salvador is the "no-see-um." You may know them by the name of sand fly, punky, gnat, or nit. They can get through standard mosquito mesh and can sometimes crawl under covers to deliver a painful bite. Some people are more tormented by these insects than others. Two people sleeping next to each other may find one bothered by bites while the other experiences no discomfort at all. After the first two

weeks on the island people either get used to the nuisance or develop an immunity to bites. Insect sprays are useful in the control of these tropical nuisances, and anti-itch creams bring relief from bite irritation. Occasional spraying for insects has begun around most settlements on the island, including the GRC. This has helped to keep the nuisance level of both mosquitoes and no-see-ums down as compared to previous years.

Other insects which at times can give a great deal of concern are wasps and bees. On San Salvador there are bees which can give painful stings. To date there have been no ill effects experienced even by those normally allergic to bee stings.

Bahamas Immigration and Customs

Beginning December 31st, 2006, a passport will be required for U.S. citizens to visit the Bahamas. Birth certificates will no longer be accepted for re-entry into the US.

Bahamian customs officials are subjecting incoming people and their luggage to rigorous search. It is illegal to bring into the Bahamas any illicit drugs, spear guns, or obscene literature (this includes "Playboy" and similar publications). Note that prescription and non-prescription medications are allowed. It can be expected that the Bahamas government will prosecute any person found to possess illegal drugs or marijuana according to Bahamian law, which is more stringent than U.S. law, regarding the possession, use, or sale of drugs and marijuana.

Things to Bring

On charter air transportation, personal luggage will be limited to 40 pounds, including carry on baggage. This will be strictly enforced on both inbound and outbound charter flights. Any additional luggage will be left behind. Anyone who insists on exceeding this limit may be charged as much as the cost of another round-trip airfare or more. It is essential that GRC visitors include the following in their luggage:

- a. sun screen, sun tan lotion, & sun hat
- b. insect repellent and anti-itch cream for bites*



- c. sun glasses, spare glasses, contact lenses (if applicable)
 - d. band aids and antiseptic, other necessary sundries such as aspirin, feminine hygiene products, etc.*
 - e. flash light and extra batteries*
 - f. plastic drinking glass
 - g. spiral note book, pencils, pens.*
 - h. light washable clothing to include at least the following: rain jacket, sweater and/or sweatshirt (winter months), one set of dress clothing (if you plan to attend church), long sleeve shirt, jeans, shorts, T-shirts, etc.
 - i. sturdy walking shoes and old sneakers, dive boots, or water shoes to wear in the water
 - j. swim suits, plus snorkel, mask & fins
 - k. cosmetic items and laundry detergent*
 - l. proof of citizenship (passport) and a photo identification (college ID or driver's license)
 - m. Undergraduate students should bring 2 sheets, 1 pillowcase, 1 blanket, and 2 towels.
 - n. Watch and/or travel alarm clock (if you have trouble waking up in the mornings).
 - o. Water bottle.
- (* - Usually available on the island, but expensive)

In order to keep your limit to 40 pounds and also bring the aforementioned items, we suggest you wear your dress clothing to the island and bring two changes of field clothing and bathing suits. Avoid bringing heavy boots, shoes and winter coats, and pack in light duffels or small cloth suitcases.

Swimming and SCUBA Diving

SCUBA diving to a depth of 25 feet for research purposes is possible through the Gerace Research Centre. Students must be accompanied by the professor in charge when diving. Deeper diving can be arranged with the local dive shop on the island. All SCUBA divers must bring with them proof of certification (C-card) and their log book. They should also bring their own regulators, BC's, and weight belts (**minus weights**). Weights and tanks can be rented at the GRC.

Personal Funds

Personal funds must be brought for sodas, snacks, drinks, post cards, stamps, snorkeling or SCUBA equipment rentals, and souvenirs. **There are no ATMs, on San Salvador. Credit cards are not accepted at the GRC or most other locations on the island.** The only exception to this is the Riding Rock dive resort which will take major credit cards. The Bahamian dollar is equivalent to the US dollar and they are used interchangeably on the island. **Personal spending money must be in cash in small denominations.** Travelers checks will be accepted but with a 3% surcharge to cover administration. A safe is available on campus for safe keeping of funds, passports and airline tickets. Previous experience indicates that GRC visitors spend as much as \$20 to \$100 in a week on the above mentioned incidentals.

Medical Care

Persons who choose to participate in activities at the GRC must be aware that medical facilities and personnel on San Salvador are very limited and can in no way be compared with standards found in most parts of the USA. Thus, one must assume a certain amount of risk in the event of serious or emergency medical situations. It is for this reason that the Research Centre requires individuals to procure our accident and sickness insurance policy which, in the case of an emergency, will cover the costs of a flying ambulance for evacuation to hospital facilities. Minor medical care on San Salvador is provided by a resident doctor and nurse in a modest government clinic. By Bahamian standards, San Salvador is considered to be one of the most fortunate Out Islands in having even this level of medical service for its population of around 1000. A modest fee, usually \$75 or less, is charged for medicines and treatment at the clinic. Participants should be prepared to pay such fees if they require medical treatment.

Special inoculations are not required, although a tetanus shot is strongly recommended.

Insurance Coverage

A student must purchase health insurance coverage for a fee of \$1.25 per person, per day, which is included in the cost of the class.



Laundry

Coin operated washers are provided on the campus for personal laundry. Laundry detergent can be purchased on the island, however, as with other imported products you will find it more expensive than in the USA.

Electricity

Electricity on San Salvador is provided by diesel powered generators operated by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation. As in the USA the electricity is 120 volts, 60 cycle.

Time

The time zone for San Salvador is the same as the Eastern Time Zone in the USA, including both standard and daylight savings time.

Churches

Catholic, Baptist, Anglican, and Seventh Day Adventist worship services are available on San Salvador. They welcome anyone who would like to attend their Sunday services. It is important that visitors follow custom and wear dress clothing, e.g. dress shirt and slacks for men and dress or skirt and blouse for women.

Transportation to, and on the Island

Transport to San Salvador will be via small eight or nine seat charter aircraft (when available) which leave from Ft. Lauderdale (see Air Charter Information).

Travel may also be personally arranged through Bahamasair, which generally has one flight daily from Nassau to the island. It may be possible to travel from your home institution to San Salvador in one day by utilizing Bahamas Air.

The Bahamasair schedule does vary considerable depending on the time of year and you should contact their group department to make inquiries on time tabling at Tel: 305-593-8841 or Fax:

305-593-6246. The Bahamasair group department is also able to give cut price fares.

Transportation for daily classes and church is provided by the GRC. A faculty member from the group will be responsible for driving. The cost of repair of any damage done to a vehicle **as a result of negligence and/or misuse** will be paid by the faculty who was driving at the time.

There is no regular bus or taxi service available on the island.

Most visitors find it enjoyable to walk to the several night spots located within one to two miles of the campus after classes in the evening.

Telephone Service

The GRC's telephone number on San Salvador is (242)-331-2520/2521, and Fax (242)-331-2524.

These are business numbers and should be utilized for business/emergency calls only. For personal calls, visitors may use a phone on campus which can be used to make collect calls or with AT&T, MCI, and Sprint calling cards.

In an emergency an individual attempting to telephone a student or faculty member should call the GRC's number between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and the participant will return the call. Messages may also be passed on through the Bahamian Telephone Company (BATELCO) at 242-331-2388.

Internet Service

High Speed Internet service is available for use by students and faculty in the library during normal library hours. There is a small fee associated with this service. Wireless internet is available for faculty and researcher use in most rooms (no charge) between the hours of 7 am and 9 pm.

Mail

Packages of any kind should not be sent to students or faculty. All packages are fully inspected and a rather high import duty is placed on most items, besides the fact that they will in all likelihood arrive after the participant leaves San Salvador. Mail sent through the Bahamian postal service can take up to four weeks to reach the island from the US, and vice versa.



All mail from the Bahamas must have Bahamian postage. U.S. postage stamps cannot be used. Post cards and Bahamian stamps are available for purchase at the Research Centre.

Property Damage Bond

Personal conduct on San Salvador must not jeopardize the GRC or cause undue property damage. Therefore, each student will be asked to post a \$10.00 property damage bond upon arrival on San Salvador. This fee will be refunded in full before departure from the island if no damage is incurred by the student **or the students' group.**

Personal Conduct

The GRC and its guests are present on San Salvador under the courtesy of the people and government of the Bahamas. As such, you will be expected to conduct yourselves in a manner that is respectful of local sensitivities, customs, and laws. Any violations of Bahamian law will be prosecuted in the Bahamas with no recourse to U.S. laws and attorneys. **Any conduct that reflects negatively on the Research Centre will be grounds for immediate deportation at the expense of those involved.**

Payment

Payment is requested at least two weeks in advance of your stay. Please contact us if this is a problem as we can usually work around this.

Cancellation Policy

Reservations cancelled up to 4 days in advance will receive a full refund. A fee equivalent to one night's stay will be charged on cancellations after this time. Charter aircraft seats cancelled up to 31 days in advance will receive full refunds. Due to advance payment requirements by the air charter companies, no refund will be given on seat cancellations after this time.

There are no provisions made for any refunds if a student has to leave San Salvador due to medical or personal reasons.

Summary

Now that you have read the preceding description of the Gerace Research Centre and environment, it becomes your decision whether you can adapt yourself to this field situation. We recommend our facility for those who truly enjoy working and living with people from different places, who are especially sensitive to a people and culture that are different from their own, and who view scholarly field work as being especially appropriate to their personal goals. For those who have unique medical requirements, require special diets, have problems in adjusting to a completely new situation and different culture, or have difficulty in living with and meeting a variety of people, we strongly recommend that you consider this program with reservation. To those who feel they can adapt, the San Salvador experience may well be one of the highlights of your life.



AIR CHARTER INFORMATION 2007-08

Costs

The cost of each charter is divided equally among the passengers utilizing the aircraft. The Gerace Research Centre assists participating schools to reduce their costs by both coordinating several small groups using one aircraft, and by arranging dates for participants so groups arriving and departing utilize the same aircraft whenever possible (called a back-to-back). If back-to-backs can be arranged, the per person cost round trip is \$475.00 per person. If no back to back can be arranged, the cost is dependent on the number of people in the group as the charter cost is the same whether full or empty. Please contact the GRC for further information. Please note that no refund on seat cost will be given for cancellation made less than 31 days of your arrival.

Luggage and Excess Baggage

There are luggage weight restrictions on the charter aircraft, and the weight allowance is limited to 40 lb. per person. **If space allows**, one faculty member from each student group is allowed to carry an extra 60lbs. This should be verified with us prior to your arrival at the charter service. **Please be firm with your group about staying within the 40 lb weight limit.** This will make everything run more smoothly on flight days. Excess baggage will be allowed only if space is available, and at a rate of \$0.80 per pound each direction (i.e., \$1.60 per pound round trip). If you know you need to bring extra weight, please notify us well ahead of time. We will try to make arrangements to deal with it. One alternative is for you to purchase extra seats ahead of time at the regular rate, which will allow approximately 150–180 lbs. of additional baggage per seat purchased (depending on the group weight). This method only works if extra seats are available and the total weight allows for this. Another way to deal with excess weight, if using the charter for your flights to San Salvador, is to send it to Twin Air one month or more prior to

your arrival. Then we may be able to fit it on a plane when space is available and have it at the Research Centre when you arrive, sometimes at no extra cost to you. If you are not using the charter service for your arrival on San Salvador, you will be charged a rate of \$0.80/lb for sending excess baggage this way.

Excess baggage that cannot fit on the plane with you when you leave San Salvador will be sent off later when space is available on a plane, and shipped to you via UPS at your expense. This process may take some time as we have to wait for a GRC visitor who is willing to carry your boxes through customs, this is now necessary as unaccompanied baggage can spend months in US customs before it will be released.

Scientists should keep in mind that the same luggage requirements must be met when leaving San Salvador, so allowances should be made for samples collected on the island and being returned to the USA.

Place of Departure

All aircraft will leave from Twin Air at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. Twin Air is located on 498 SW 34th St, not at the main terminal (see enclosed map).

Time of Departure

Because back-to-back flights are arranged whenever possible, all flights will depart from Ft. Lauderdale at 7:30 AM, unless other arrangements have been made. All persons must be at the air charter terminal no later than one hour prior to flight time to weigh luggage and board the aircraft.

Departure Taxes

Departure taxes, both US and Bahamas will be included within the cost of the air charter tickets. If you plan to travel via Bahamas



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Air you will pay a \$15.00 per person departure tax on leaving the Bahamas.

Automobile Parking

If your group is driving, parking is available near the air charter hanger from which you will be departing. Ask the people at Twin Air for details when you arrive.

Return Flights

Be advised that back-to-back flights out of San Salvador may arrive late due to poor weather conditions. Therefore we recommend that you stay overnight in Fort Lauderdale. If you must fly from Ft. Lauderdale on the same day you return from the island, please schedule your connecting flight after 6:00 PM. If you have a connecting flight earlier than 6 pm and do not make it due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be responsible for any cost incurred to change the flight to a later time. For those with connecting flights the same day, we will make every effort to get you on the first flight out of San Salvador if space is available. Upon returning to Fort Lauderdale you will have to clear US Customs. After you clear customs you will be able to call a taxi for transport to the main terminal to catch flights, call your hotel for their shuttle service, or to get your car from the nearby parking lot. If you have a connecting flight earlier than 6 pm we will not be responsible for any cost incurred to change the flight if you do not return to Fort Lauderdale in time.

Disclaimers

Since the deregulation of the airlines there has been a reduction in commercial airfares on the one hand and a stricter policy of passenger responsibility on the other. If a passenger cannot meet his flight (especially when holding super saver or restricted tickets) he can stand by for a later flight without penalty. However, on days of heavy air travel, which is

especially true between the north and Florida in the winter months, a stand-by seat may not be readily available. Thus a passenger may have to pay a penalty for a new ticket which can often amount to something greater than the total original round trip super saver ticket.

While the commercial airlines have passed on a great responsibility to the passenger, they have reduced their responsibility if they are at fault for a delay. If a commercial flight is late and you miss a connecting flight they do not reimburse you for the penalty a possible connecting flight might cost you, unless it is on their airline. If their aircraft does not arrive at all, then you may get your money back for that flight, which may be only half of a super saver ticket. If you are delayed overnight they do not pay for your meals and lodging, nor do they pay for any penalty accrued on flying on another airline's connecting flights.

In the past there have been delays on the air charters between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador due to weather or mechanical breakdowns. Although this has happened only a few times, the Gerace Research Centre has housed and fed people left on San Salvador an extra night and reimbursed the daily fee for anyone detained in Fort Lauderdale over night. Also, in the past the air charter company has paid the penalty fees involved when passengers were late for their commercial flights out of Fort Lauderdale when returning from San Salvador.

The Research Centre and the air charter companies flying for the GRC will continue to make every effort to be on time so that passengers meet their commercial flights out of Fort Lauderdale. However, it must be understood that San Salvador is an exotic, out of the way island, with no airplane repair facilities. Also, the GRC must, by law, only charter aircraft from those companies that carry an air taxi certificate. This means that the maintenance of the aircraft and insurance on the aircraft are the same as those of commercial carriers. In real terms to us, this means there are very few aircraft in South Florida that have this certification and are available for charter.



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Because the commercial carriers have become so rigid and notoriously late in meeting their schedules and charter companies feel that they cannot continue to support policies which commercial carriers no longer honor, we must give the following disclaimers:

1) If an air charter flight is delayed overnight due to mechanical failure or weather, the Gerace Research Centre will charge one half the daily room and board to those students and faculty remaining on San Salvador. Likewise, the Research Centre will reimburse one half of the room and board at a participating hotel to those who were scheduled to come to San Salvador but were forced to remain in Fort Lauderdale as the result of such a delay.

2.) The air charter company will always try to meet people's schedules, even if this means sub-chartering from another company if there is a last minute mechanical problem. However, they will not be held responsible for payment of overnight accommodations nor airline penalty charges if passengers are delayed in meeting connecting flights out of Fort Lauderdale because of mechanical or weather problems.



SCUBA REGULATIONS AND RENTAL FEES 2007-08

1-All students who wish to use SCUBA gear during their course of study on San Salvador must be certified, card carrying members of either PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC, YMCA, SSI or any other internationally recognized SCUBA certification organization.

2-Prior to any diving on San Salvador, each diver will complete a diving application which includes certification type and number, dive history, and a signed statement showing recognition of hazards and a hold harmless agreement. At this same time we will photocopy your certification card for our files.

3-Supervision of any SCUBA diving will be conducted by a faculty member who is himself a trained diver, and emphasis should be on their obtaining dive-master. **The depth limit for any dive will be 25 feet**, and there will be no recreational diving unless the faculty member holds master diver status.

4-Persons involved in SCUBA diving should bring their own equipment since the GRC has only a few items for rental with the exception of weights and tanks. The rental prices for equipment are as follows:

Full tank	\$12.00 per dive
Light, with batteries	\$3.00 per dive
Mask, Fins, Snorkel	\$1.00 per day (each)
Snorkel Vest	\$2.00 per day

5-Use of the GRC boats is limited to Grahams Harbour, Fernandez Bay, and the inland lakes. Any SCUBA or snorkeling in other areas must be from shore.



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BOOKING AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES 2007-08

GERACE RESEARCH CENTRE

c/o Twin Aircraft Co.
498 SW 34th St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Complete the enclosed project proposal form and e-mail or return it to the above address as soon as possible. Note that even if you are a returning group, this form must be completed each year and returned to us. Upon receipt of the proposal the Executive Director of the Gerace Research Centre (GRC) will contact you concerning any required alterations to the proposal and confirmation as to dates for utilization of the GRC.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND FORMS

Make copies of the enclosed General Information, Student Contract and Health Form and distribute these to prospective students.

REGISTRATION FORMS AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Collect student fees and completed Student Contracts and Health Forms **at least six weeks** prior to your course starting on San Salvador. Please fax or e-mail the Air Travel Manifest forms to us at least five weeks before you are to arrive on San Salvador. Other forms below may be e-mailed or sent to us via regular mail to the above Florida address at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival:

- 1-Housing Form
- 2-Insurance Registration Form
- 3-Air Travel Manifest Form
- 4-Travel Information Form
- 5-Student Contracts and Health Forms

Upon receipt of these forms you will be billed via e-mail for room and board, insurance, and air charter transportation. Please note that Air Charter fees are non-refundable if cancelled less than 31 days of your arrival. Please make your check for payment of room and board, air travel, and insurance (one check for all three is fine) to **Gerace Research Centre, Ltd.**



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**HOUSING FORM
2007-08**

Professor's Name _____

Department and Institution _____

Address _____

Phone (W) _____ (H) _____

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Date flying to San Salvador _____ Date flying from San Salvador _____

Number of Male Undergraduate Students to be housed in Dorm _____

Number of Female Undergraduate Students to be housed in Dorm _____

Number of Male **Graduate** Students to be housed in Graduate Dorm* _____

Number of Female **Graduate** Students to be housed in Graduate Dorm* _____

Names of Married Students Requiring Private Room*

Names of Faculty Couples:

Names of Single Male Faculty:

Names of Single Female Faculty:

Names and Ages of All Children of Faculty:

***IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE. This can also be requested for older "non-traditional students" – please include a short note detailing this request if applicable.**



INSURANCE INFORMATION 2007-08

The Gerace Research Centre (GRC) has arranged for an accident and sickness insurance policy with CIGNA Worldwide Insurance Company, with the following benefits:

Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$ 25,000 per person
Accident & Sickness Medical Expense with Deductible	\$ 10,000 per occurrence \$ 25,000 per person
Medical Evacuation & Repatriation	\$ 5,000
Deductible	\$ 25

This insurance will cost \$1.25 per day, per person. It is mandatory that all students have this coverage while they are in residence at the GRC and for those days flying between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador. However, if a student desires insurance while in transit to and from Fort Lauderdale they can also pay for this additional coverage at \$1.25 per day. For example, if a student stays at the GRC for 7 nights, the cost would be \$10.00 (includes days flying between Fort Lauderdale and San Salvador); but if he also wants coverage for two days traveling to Fort Lauderdale and two days traveling back home, the cost would be \$15.00.

To initiate this insurance policy each faculty must complete and send to the above address the enclosed insurance information form which consists of a list of names of all persons insured and the number of days of coverage desired. **It is imperative we receive the list of names at least four weeks prior to your travel to San Salvador** so the policy can be instituted. Payment is not required prior to your arrival on San Salvador.

The GRC will waive this policy for all those who have comparable insurance which covers accident and sickness and medical evacuation costs up to \$5,000. A word of caution, though, many medical insurance policies do not cover air ambulance and repatriation costs, furthermore, many accident policies do not cover sickness.

We will also waive this mandatory insurance if the head of your school's business office signs a letter stating that the school will cover all expenses accrued by your students due to sickness and/or accident, including air ambulance service.

Please be informed that this insurance carries a \$25 deductible and that any medical expenses must first be borne by the student and then a claim must be submitted for reimbursement. A visit to the medical clinic here on the island starts at \$30 for nonresidents, therefore students should keep at least this much cash in reserve for medical services while at the GRC.



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INSURANCE INFORMATION FORM

2007 – 2008

(please type or print)

SCHOOL/GROUP: _____

	INSURED PERSON	M/F	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE		TOTAL DAYS
				FROM	TO	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						



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TRAVEL INFORMATION FORM 2007 – 2008

(To be filled by the person in charge of the group)

School/Group _____ Persons in charge: _____

I/we plan to arrive in Ft. Lauderdale/Miami on _____ (date)

I/we will be arriving by (check one) Car___ Plane___ Bus___ Train___

If arriving by means other than car, please give details of your arrival into Ft. Lauderdale/Miami (i.e., airline, flight number, date & arrival time).

Please tell us where we can reach you, if necessary, during the evening you will spend in Ft. Lauderdale/Miami (i.e., hotel where you will be staying).

If you are flying on Bahamas Air, please give details of connections and arrival time on San Salvador.

Please give details of your departure from Ft. Lauderdale/Miami (i.e. airline, flight number, date & time of departure or driving party.)



STUDENT CONTRACT FORM 2007 - 2008

I agree to the following statements and assume the following responsibilities:

1. To read the General Information and to complete the Health Status Form and the student Contract Form.
2. To avoid forms of personal conduct that may jeopardize the Gerace Research Centre (GRC), fully understanding that if the Executive Director believes my conduct has jeopardized the GRC I will be expelled from the island at my own expense and will forfeit all fees paid.
3. To post a \$10.00 property damage bond upon arrival on San Salvador. This fee will be refunded in full before departure from the island if no damage by my group is incurred.
4. To discuss with my professor health and accident insurance for my stay on San Salvador, and agree to purchase a policy through the GRC for a fee of \$1.25 per day.
5. I agree to the following Hold Harmless Clause:

I fully understand that the GRC, along with its administrators, faculty and staff will not be held responsible, financially or otherwise, for any injury, accident, or sickness, including those resulting from any in the water activities. By signing this release I certify that I am cognizant of the basic risks and dangers in swimming and snorkeling in a marine environment.

In the event of my physical or mental incapacitation for any reason, I hereby authorize the GRC to take such actions and engage such services on my behalf as they deem necessary for my health, and I agree to promptly reimburse them for all costs incurred on my behalf including medical assistance and transportation to medical facilities.

Signed _____

Date _____

College _____



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HEALTH STATUS FORM
(required for all visitors to the GRC)
2007-2008

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Campus Address _____ City/State _____ Telephone _____

Home Address _____ City/State _____ Telephone _____

Height _____ Weight _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Telephone _____

Do you participate regularly in active sports? Yes _____ No _____. If so specify what sports. If not, indicate what exercise you normally obtain:

Have you ever been rejected from military service or employment for medical reasons? Yes _____ No _____. If yes, please explain.

When was your last physical examination? Month _____ Year _____ Where _____.

When was your last chest X-ray? Month _____ Year _____ Where _____.

Reason for and results of chest X-ray:

Have you ever had an electrocardiogram? Yes _____ No _____.; have you ever had an electroencephalogram? Yes _____ No _____.; if yes to either, give reason for test and the results:

Check the blank if you have, or ever have had, any of the following. Explain, giving dates and other pertinent information.

- Frequent colds or sore throat _____
- Hay fever or sinus trouble _____
- Trouble breathing through nose, other than during colds _____
- Painful or running ear, mastoid trouble, broken eardrum _____
- Asthma or shortness of breath after moderate exercise _____
- Chest pain or persistent cough _____
- Spells of fast irregular, or pounding heart _____
- High or low blood pressure _____
- Any kind of "heart trouble" _____
- Frequent upset stomach, heartburn, indigestion, peptic ulcer _____
- Frequent diarrhea or blood in stool _____
- Belly or backache lasting more than a day or two _____



Kidney or bladder disease; blood, sugar, or albumin in urine_____

Syphilis or gonorrhea_____

Broken bone, serious sprain or strain, dislocated joint_____

Rheumatism, arthritis, or other joint trouble_____

Severe or frequent headaches_____

Head injury causing unconsciousness_____

Dizzy spells, fainting spells or fits_____

Trouble sleeping, frequent nightmares, sleep walking_____

Nervous breakdown or periods of marked depression_____

Dislike for closed-in spaces, large open places or high places_____

Any neurological condition_____

Train, sea, air sickness_____

Alcoholism, or any drug or narcotic habit (including regular use of sleeping pills, Benzedrine, etc.)_____

Recent gain or loss of weight or appetite_____

Jaundice or hepatitis_____

Tuberculosis_____

Diabetes_____

Rheumatic fever_____

Any serious accident, injury or illness not mentioned above (describe under "remarks" giving dates).

List any prescribed medications you are currently taking (for example, insulin)

Describe purpose for medication.

Do you have any allergies (food, drug, environmental)?

Are you or have you ever been on a special diet?

Are you under professional care other than for periodic checkups?

If yes, please explain.

Have you received professional help regarding any mental or emotional disorder?

If yes, please explain.

Date of last tetanus shot_____ .

Remarks:_____



Gerace Research Center

Signature _____.

Date _____.



2007-2008 FEE SCHEDULE

Each student per night _____	\$ 58.00
One faculty per eight students _____	free
Each additional faculty per night _____ (You will be credited \$7.25 for every student over 8)*	\$ 58.00
Visiting Faculty & Researchers** per night _____	\$ 58.00
Each faculty spouse per night _____	\$ 53.00
Each faculty child per night (under 5 yrs. of age) _____ (from 5 to 14 yrs) _____ (14 yrs or over) _____	free \$ 26.00 \$ 53.00
Professional programs housed in faculty housing (per person, double occupancy, per night) _____	\$ 69.00
Window Air Conditioner, per night (faculty rooms only, limited availability) _____	\$ 10.00
Vehicle usage - Per day (includes gasoline) - Daylight hours only for groups over 13 people total _____ (1 -3 persons:: \$56/day, 4-6 persons:: \$25/day; 7-13: \$10/day)	free
Insurance - per person, per day (including days of travel to and from island) _____	\$ 1.35
Air charter - per person, round trip, Ft. Laud./San Salvador With a back to back flight _____ Without a back to back flight _____	\$ 396.35 + \$53.65 immigration taxes – \$450.00 total \$496.35 + \$53.65 immigration taxes – \$550.00 total
<i>The above rates assume full planes of 8 persons; Rates will be recalculated for incomplete planes.</i>	

Boat (16 passengers max.) with required Captain in Grahams Harbour - \$14.00 per person with \$120.00 minimum; per half day (includes Captains' fee and fuel).

Zodiac with motor and fuel, \$55.00/per half day (Pigeon Creek and inland lakes use only)

*Example: If you bring 10 students, one faculty would be free, the remaining two students would credit you another faculty at the rate of 2 x \$7.25 or \$14.50. Therefore, you would pay \$58.00 minus \$14.24 or \$43.50 per day for the additional faculty. Any additional faculty, other than those included at one free for every 8 students, **must have an integral part in the program and take part in teaching and supervision.**

**All faculty who do not have a specific instructional role in the program.

*** Applicable only if using the charter aircraft service



HOTELS PROVIDING SPECIAL GRC RATES: 2007–2008

Please call the numbers below; unless indicated, you cannot get these special rates if you call their 800 numbers or through your travel agent. Guest must identify as being with the Gerace Research Centre (formerly the Bahamian Field Station) when making reservations.

FORT LAUDERDALE HOTELS

COMFORT SUITES AIRPORT & CRUISE PORT

1800 South Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
PHONE: (954) 767-8700

RATES: Have not yet been determined for this year (9/07-8/08)

NOTES:

- Standard Queen Suite, 1 - 2 persons per room
- Suite has coffee maker, refrigerator, sleeper sofa
- Expanded Continental Breakfast, Outdoor Heated Pool
- Free airport shuttle service to and from main airport and Jet Center
- Free high speed wireless internet access

HAMPTON INN – FT. LAUDERDALE AIRPORT NORTH

2323 Southwest 12th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
PHONE: (954) 524-9900

RATES: Have not yet been determined for this year (9/07-8/08)

NOTES-- 1 - 2 persons per room (\$10 per person over 2, up to 4 total)

- Free hot breakfast bar, and local calls
- King rooms complete with microwave, refrigerator
- Free courtesy shuttle to International Airport and Jet Center, and within a five mile radius of hotel.
- Free high speed internet access

NASSAU, BAHAMAS HOTELS

The Nassau Harbour Club & Hotel which had had a long relationship with the GRC has closed. A popular option is

ORANGE HILL BEACH INN

P.O. Box N 8583
West Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas
PHONE: (242) 327-7157
FAX: (242) 327-5186
Email: info@orangehill.com

