

Smith College – Interterm Course

GEO 270j - CARBONATE SYSTEMS and CORAL REEFS of the BAHAMAS

January 9-21, 2010

Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas

Travel Plans and Contingencies

Bahamas course website: Any final trip updates that may develop between now and January 9, 2010 will be distributed by e-mail and posted on our course website, along with the Bring List. Following the trip, all group digital photos also will be posted at this site:

www.science.smith.edu/geosciences/bahamas/

Arrival to Florida:

For the night of January 9th, our group has reservations at the Red Roof Inn – Miami Airport, 3401 NW Lejeune Road, Miami (Tel. 305-871-4221). This hotel is located very close (within 2 to 3 miles) of Miami Airport.

Upon arrival at the Miami Airport, collect your baggage (follow signs to baggage claim - on the lower level) and find the hotel courtesy phones in the baggage claim area. Use the phone for the Red Roof Inn – Miami Airport and arrange for courtesy van pick-up and transfer to the hotel. You will need to tell them your Airline. The van comes every 30 minutes but you pick it up upstairs on the departure level. At the hotel check-in counter, tell the reception personnel that you are with the Smith College group, give them your name, and you will be checked in to a reserved, pre-assigned room. This hotel is not luxurious, but a pool lounge, and other amenities are available for your use. There is a Bennigan's Restaurant next door to the Red Roof Inn, and there may be one or two other restaurants within easy walking distance (ask at the desk). Otherwise, the area right around the hotel isn't walking friendly, and there are no drug stores, etc. close by, so don't plan on shopping from this location. This is the time to relax and get some rest. Remember: we leave **early** on the 10th for the Airport and the flight to Nassau and then on to San Salvador.

If you are flying to Fort Lauderdale you can use the Tri-Rail (commuter train) to transfer to Miami Airport. You can get the train schedule and fare information at: www.tri-rail.com (or call 1-800-874-7245; this is by far the least expensive airport transfer option). If using the train, take a Tri-Rail shuttle bus from the Ft. Lauderdale Airport to the Tri-Rail Airport-Dania Beach train stop and take the southbound train to the Miami International Airport train stop. You can then take a taxi to the Red Roof Inn or a shuttle bus to the Miami Airport. At the Miami Airport, follow the instructions for Red Roof Inn courtesy van pick-up and transfer to the Inn as above. Alternatively, you can get a taxi at the Ft. Lauderdale Airport and go directly to the Red Roof Inn Airport in Miami. This is likely the most expensive option, but cost sharing between course participants might be possible depending on your flight schedule. Finally, you can consider an airport shuttle service. You will need to make a reservation for this. One possibility is Go Shuttle at 1-800-244-8252 or 1-954-561-8888, with online reservations at www.floridalimo.com. They have reasonable rates, particularly with a shared ride. Ask them if they can take you to the Red Roof Inn at Miami Airport. If not, go to the Miami Airport and follow the instructions for courtesy van pick-up and transfer to the Red Roof Inn as listed above.

(over)

Questions and any problems arising between now and January 9th:

Bosiljka Glumac and Ann Pufall will be available to answer questions and handle problems that may arise between now and January 9th at the contact points listed below:

Bosiljka Glumac:
413-585-3680 (office)
413-584-6564 (home)
413-531-6801 (cell)
email: bglumac@smith.edu

Ann Pufall:
413-530-5671 (cell phone)
413-584-1548 (home)
email: apufall@smith.edu

If you have travel problems on the 9th:

If you are having travel problems on the 9th, such as very late arrival to Florida owing to flight delays, etc., and you think we should know about it, call Bosiljka Glumac at her cell phone number (413-531-6801). Alternatively, call Ann Pufall (413-530-5671), Tony Caldanaro (413-531-8102), or Al Curran (413-374-3852). You can also call the Red Roof Inn at 305-871-4221 and ask for or leave a message for Ann Pufall, Bosiljka Glumac and/or Al Curran.

What if you don't make it to Miami on the 9th and miss the flights to the Bahamas on the 10th?????

Of course, this is a worst-case travel scenario, but it is possible with winter weather, etc. Unfortunately, we won't be able to wait for you, so the group will fly to San Salvador early on the 10th as planned. **If you encounter significant travel problems on the 9th, call Bosiljka Glumac's cell phone number as above.** If Bosiljka doesn't answer, try other cell phone numbers listed above, leave a message, describe your problem, and be sure to leave us a return phone number. You should continue on to Miami as soon as can be arranged with your airline.

In the meantime, we will book you on the next day's Bahamas Air flight to Nassau, connecting to San Salvador (Bahamas Air Flight 222, departing Miami at 8:10 am for Nassau; Bahamas Air Flight 378 departing Nassau at 11:00 am for San Salvador). Our Bahamas flight has been prepaid as part of Smith College Geosciences Dept. Group Reservation JUVQYV, so you will not need to purchase a new ticket. Bahamas Air phone numbers are: 242-377-8451 or 1-800-222-4262; Ms. Karen Feaste is a representative who booked our group flights. If an overnight in Miami is required, stay at the Red Roof Inn (we will reserve a room for you if you contact us). We would leave any messages for you as needed at the Red Roof Inn and with your contact numbers.

If you think necessary, contact the Gerace Research Centre on San Salvador at 242-331-2520 or 2521. Identify yourself as with the Smith College group, leave your name and a complete message for Bosiljka Glumac. Mr. Tom Rothfus is the director of the Gerace Research Centre, so you should talk with him, if possible. Messages can also be left with the Bahamas Telecommunication Corporation (BTC) at 242-331-2388.

Let's hope that none of us have travel problems and that all arrive safely in Miami on the 9th!!!!

Good luck with finishing this semester, and Happy Holidays!!!!!!