

# fish FOR change

Connection - Education - Conservation - Exploration



Abaco, Bahamas



**CONNECTION** Connection is the heart of our student programs. Students from around the world connect with one another in new environments. Relationships are the foundation of our service projects and fishing.



**EDUCATION** Fish for Change students are immersed in all elements of education, as both students and teachers. Students learn from guides, instructors, local officials, scientists, and conservationists. Students also teach English in the local schools, and pass on fly-fishing knowledge to local students. Students are constantly engaged and growing in the hierarchy of education, in other words, becoming leaders.



**CONSERVATION** Fish for Change students engage in local conservation projects that produce real change in real time. Students work with local people on issues including waste management, recycling-based community art projects, reforestation, scientific research, and the protection of local fisheries.



**EXPLORATION** Fly fishing is our lens for exploration. We study and practice all aspects of the infinite world of fly-fishing, especially as it relates to the local area. In addition to fly-fishing, students engage in other forms of local adventure tourism including snorkeling, diving, paddle boarding, indigenous culture exploration, and more.



Fish for Change is a nonprofit organization that offers international fly fishing programs. Our mission is to use fly-fishing as a platform to make the world a better place by uniting a diverse group of students in wild fisheries where they engage in a variety of initiatives that promote **Connection, Education, Conservation, and Exploration**

Throughout the course of the program, students integrate with local communities and work together on local and global initiatives, including community development projects, mangrove restoration, education based projects with local children, community art projects, trash clean ups and more.

# Program Dates

June 27 - July 4, 2020

Tuition: \$3,950

(all inclusive except for flight, gear, trip insurance and tips)

Average group size: 10 students/ 2 staff

Service Hours 25

## Itinerary

### **Saturday**

Travel Day, Lodge and Fishery Introduction, Ice Breakers

### **Sunday**

Introduction to Saltwater Fly Fishing, fishing with guides and applying new skills, fly tying clinic, BTT tagging education, group reflection and writing

### **Monday**

Guide Fly Fishing / tagging, group reflection and writing

### **Tuesday**

Coastal Clean up and Mangrove Restoration with Friends of the Environment

### **Wednesday**

Guide Fly Fishing / Tagging, chill day, group reflection and writing

### **Thursday**

Hurricane Rebuilding, local interviews, group reflection and writing

### **Friday**

Guided fly fishing / tagging, group reflection and writing

### **Saturday**

Departure

## Service Projects/ Activities

Throughout the course of summer programs students work on service programs and community development projects

**Guide Flies** - Guide Flies provides sustainable jobs for locals while providing anglers with durable and deadly flies. Students will have a chance to use and learn from Guide Flies as they tie flies for the fish they will pursue

**Coastal Clean up**- Students will educate the community on proper disposal of resources and clean up the beaches alongside local kids.

**Mangrove Restoration** - Hurricane Dorian devastated the mangrove population in Abaco. These mangroves serve many purposes for the Bahamas including being the nursery grounds for the sport fish we pursue. Students will have a chance to help rebuild the mangrove population.



**Bonefish and Tarpon Trust Tagging Program** - A major focus of this program is to create the next generation of Bonefish and Tarpon trust members and conservationists. Students will have the opportunity to tag and track some of our favorite sport fish while also being educated on proper tagging, handling, and angling techniques.

**Local Interviews** - Connection is our key pillar with Fish for Change. Students will spend an afternoon conducting interviews with locals and digging deep into their lives and whys.

**Hurricane Rebuilding** - Abaco has a long way to go as they rebuild from Hurricane Dorian and need all hands on deck. Students will work to rebuild the community.



## Location

The Delphi Club on Abaco is a small luxury hotel and fishing lodge in an idyllic wilderness location. Surrounded on three sides by dense and pristine woodlands and coppice, the Delphi Club is a haven for wildlife. In the nearby mangrove wetlands may be found a huge expanse of unspoiled bonefishing flats and superb habitat for a wide array of wading birds and other wildlife.



## Accommodation

The upper floor of the lodge will accommodate the girls and the lower floor will accommodate the boys with a trip leader on each floor. There will be one to two students per room. Everyone comes together at the dining room table for meals and group discussions. The beach in the back of the lodge is a perfect ground for casting practice and fishing in free time.



## **The Fishery and how to prepare**

Delphi Club is close to the world-class bonefishing flats of the Abaco Marls, where large numbers of uneducated bonefish provide fantastic sport for fly-fishermen in uncrowded waters. There are also superb white-sand wading flats at Cherokee Sound, where larger and more seasoned bone fish and occasional permit present a special challenge, and at Cross Harbour. With the right conditions, there can also be great fishing off the Club's beach.

**Target Species:** Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Triggerfish

**Flies:** Check out Guide Flies Delphi Club Box [www.guideflies.com](http://www.guideflies.com)

**Boat:** Skiffs that comfortably fish 2 anglers

**Guides:** Delphi Club's team of guides are passionate, fun, and English speaking. They will work with you one on one during your time on the water.

**Weather:** Tropical Climate. Sunny and humid

**Cast:** An accurate and efficient 40 foot cast is recommended.

### **Preparing for your trip:**

Saltwater fly fishing is a challenging, but rewarding sport. Throughout the course of the week we will cover gear, knots, flies, casting, etc. The best way to prepare for your trip is cast, cast, cast. Find an instructor in your area, get out on the water as often as you can, or set up targets in your backyard. Being confident in your cast will add a lot of value to your days pursuing saltwater slam species. Learn more here <https://www.delphi-bahamas.com/fishing>



## Travel Information

Students fly into Fort Lauderdale International Airport. Fish for Change will book group charter plane into Marsh Harbour, Bahamas and send out an invoice.

**Saturday Arrival:** Make sure your flight arrives in Fort Lauderdale before 1pm.

Heather Harkavy, our Director of Operations, as well as other trip leaders will connect with students at the airport and take them to Bahamas flight. Parent/ Guardian will be notified when students arrive at lodge safely.

**Saturday Departure:** Depart from lodge on group charter plane in the am to Fort Lauderdale.

Book a flight out of Fort Lauderdale Airport anytime after 2pm. Fish for Change team will help students catch their next flight.



## Packing List:

### Fishing Gear

**Rods:** Bonefish: 8 & 9 weight rods, 9ft Permit/  
other 10 & 11 wt rods, 9ft

**Reels:** Saltwater reel holding 200 yards of 20-  
pound backing

**Lines:** Saltwater floating line

**Leaders:**  
10-15lbs

**Flies:** Guide Flies Delphi Club box  
[www.guideflies.com](http://www.guideflies.com) / Poppers & steel tracers  
for other species

**Other:** Flats boots or closed toe sandals for  
wading flats, pliers, clippers, sun gloves, dry  
bag, boat socks (to prevent burnt feet)

If you are missing items of gear, please notify  
our team.

### Personal Gear

4 long sleeve flats shirts (quick dry, sun  
protection with a hood is recommended)

4 quick dry flats pants

2 shirts

2 shorts

Light Sweater / Fleece

Pajamas

1 lightweight rain jacket

1 bathing suit

Bufs (sun protectors for your face)

Toiletries

Bug Spray

Sunscreen

Antihistamines & after - bite cream

Camera

Headlamp

Sunglasses

Hat

Sandals, hiking shoes, wading boots

# General Considerations

## **Currency:**

US money is accepted everywhere. Once arriving you will not have the opportunity to withdraw money. Please do so in advanced.

## **Gratuities:**

All tipping is entirely discretionary and no automatic service charges are applied. For guidance, it is usual to pay \$150-\$200 per guest, per week (c. \$25 per guest, per night) for household staff and \$75-\$100 per boat, per day for guides, shared by those in the skiff. But it's all entirely up to you.

## **Time Zone:**

Eastern Standard Time Zone

## **Laundry:**

Laundry is available at no extra cost

## **Communication:**

Communication: Student Programs are a phone free zone. Students will have access to their phone for photos throughout the course of the week, but no access to WiFi. Reach out to [info@fishforchange.org](mailto:info@fishforchange.org) or 1(800) 970 - 8407. Family and friends can also follow along on the daily instagram stories @fishforchange and blog <https://www.fishforchange.org/> blog to keep up on students adventures.

## **Water Bottle:**

Bring a water bottle as we are a plastic free lodge. Purified water is available throughout the lodge. The water is spring fed, filtered and OK to shower and brush your teeth, we recommend staying with bottled water for drinking.

## **Emergency Contact Info**

Emergencies: [info@fishforchange.org](mailto:info@fishforchange.org) or 1(800) 970 - 8407

Fish for Change strongly recommends that you enroll with Global Rescue prior to embarking on your trip.

## **Bahamas Student Testimonials**

"Throughout the week fishing shifted out of the spotlight and connecting to the locals quickly took its place. Hearing these people's stories and impacting them is something I have become obsessed with. Fish come and go but people don't their stories are what live on. This trip serves as a testament to the power of fishing and the spark it can ignite in someone. We all went from indifferent Americans who were fed by a golden spoon, to a group of young men who understand what struggle is. We are now able to appreciate our opportunities and therefore act on those opportunities to make the most out of them for these kids that we met in summer 19' at Sand Banks Abaco." Tucker Gannon, 15 years old, California

"This week has been the most influential and positive week of my entire life. I have gained so much knowledge about fly fishing, life, and the world that surrounds me. From learning how to make an ideal cast against the wind, to broadening my horizon about the hardships many people face in this country. Along with these skills, we learned about the four main pillars that have shaped fish for change, education, conservation, exploration, and connection. For me, the pillar of connection has truly stood out to me. In one week, I have never made so many strong connections with so many people in my life." Joe Evans, 15 years old, California

"He put his body on the line to save the fish from breaking off. I wish I was able to film this... everything was happening in slow motion. Blake stripped slowly and then set the line tight, the fish started sprinting towards the volcanic rock. Knox was going insane, high legging it through the flats to catch up to the fish and then he ATE it. It was like a scene from a movie. IT WAS SICK IS ALL I CAN SAY!

Seeing Blake catch the fish wasn't even the coolest part, the best part was the reaction from everyone. The energy was contagious. Screaming and hollering all around. Tingles running down my spine. This is what I live for. OVERALL TODAY WAS OUTRAGEOUS." Peter Buell, 18 years old, Texas

"This trip was full of life long memories and friendships; from traveling around Abaco one day in a broken down truck, to cliff jumping into a blue hole, and catching my first bonefish on fly. However, the stories I will be retelling the most will be our basketball game with the locals, the interview I had with Wesley, and the smiles that the kids from Sand Banks wear despite their situation. Sure, this trip made me a better fisherman, teacher, and student. However, most importantly it taught me an invaluable lesson: to make the most of my opportunities." Eric Schuher, 19 years old, Virginia