



# Bahamas Ferré Cambridge

*"Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?"*

After the recent elections in my country, The Bahamas, I have been appointed Minister of Tourism and have been given the awesome task of creating programs that will bring locals and tourists closer together. Wouldn't it be marvelous and magnificent for one's eyes to behold locals and tourists closer together in the Bahamas?

As Minister of Tourism, I would propose and create numerous, exciting, fun-filled, and educational activities that will help to enhance their closeness.

Imagine how excited tourists would be if they are involved with locals in learning our native games, dances, songs, music, and dialect. Picture the locals teaching the tourists the ring plays, hopscotch, limbo, the junkanoo rush and rubbing the screw driver and saw to create raken scrape music.

The tourist would feel that they can truly communicate with the Bahamians when they can speak to the Bahamian dialect. What a thrill it would be for them to hear themselves saying, "gimme", "key", instead of cay, pronouncing conch as "konk" not conch, and "ting" instead of thing. Their eyes would glimmer with satisfaction.

Not only do games, music and language bring people closer, but there is an old saying that goes, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." What better way to prove this than by creating a program where locals and tourists can get together and share recipes and learn to prepare some of the popular food from the tourists' homelands and some of our own Bahamian delicacies. Tourists can learn how to cook peas 'n rice, conch salad, crab n' dough, guava duff, and many other mouth-watering and finger-licking foods. Just think how proud they would be of their accomplishments, especially if they get to cook in an outdoor rock oven.



Another way to get locals and tourists together is to invite the tourists to the quaint, old, historical settlements of our country. Here, the senior citizens could educate them about our rich history and heritage by narrating it in stories, songs, riddles, and folktales. Also the tourists can be invited to live with a Bahamian family and experience our way of life first-hand, because there is nothing better than a first-hand experience.

For nature lovers a garden can be created on the island that they are visiting where the tourists could learn about Bahamian flora. Here they can plant their own favorite plant and with the help of local gardeners, take care of it during their trip. It will continue to be cared for when they return home and they can proudly state that they own a plant in the Bahamas.

I truly believe that tourism is everybody's business and that my job as the Minister of Tourism is your job. Therefore, if I can lead my ministry into creating activities such as sharing our culture, food, and even our homes, I am certain these endeavors will foster closeness and life-long relationships between locals and tourists who visit our beautiful shores.

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