

CUBA FOR EDUCATORS

Professional Development

June 22-July 1, 2011



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

For educators, the opportunity to go to Cuba provides an unprecedented way to discover first hand the history, culture and environments that have been off limits since the Cuban Revolution. In this professional research expedition, educators will be meeting Cuban experts in such areas as environmental education, history, agricultural and urban planning as well as Cuban people in their daily life. You will be exposed to urban and rural life settings and learn about the country's education system. A wide range of topics will be covered, from history to urban restoration projects, agriculture, medicinal plants and organic farming, to understanding the unique ecology and endemic species of the island. Join us in the field--this once-in-a-lifetime experience will surely enhance your professional repertoire.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES

Jun 22-Jul 1, 2011

LENGTH

9 days

LAND COST

\$2849

(11 participants)

Cost is all inclusive in double occupancy, except one lunch, international airfare and departure tax of approx \$25

Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges.

Estimated airfare from Miami is \$600 and includes visa fee and mandatory Cuban health insurance. Please call 800-451-7111 for assistance with flight arrangements from your city.

Requirements for participation: Must be a full-time educator conducting a professional research project in Cuba with results to be disseminated to schools, professional journals and conferences. In addition to a completed enrollment form, your curriculum vitae, passport copy, and statement of intent relevant to your field of expertise are required.

Certified



ClimateSafe

To learn more about this program and gather information about the difference this action is making, please visit:
www.holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about the fascinating history of Cuba on a walking tour of Habana Vieja – visit the Plaza de Armas, Palacio de los Capitanes, Generales Museo de la Ciudad, Plaza de la Catedral, Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana, and the many restoration projects currently under way
- Visit one of many organic farms “El Vivero de Alamar”, considered one of the most successful. Meet the owner, Miguel Salcines, an expert agronomist to learn more about how Cuba coped with food shortage issues during the special period
- Take in the breathtaking views of the Valley de Viñales and the Mogotes; flat-topped hills dating back to the Jurassic period.
- Enjoy staying at the famous Hotel Nacional de Cuba in Havana – take in one of their dinner shows and experience the amazing music and dancing of Cuba!
- Learn about the Cuban educational system and the Cuban approach to environmental education with expert speakers such as Dr. Orestes Valdes, the Ministry of Education's Environmental Education Coordinator
- Exposure to geography, geology, social sciences, arts and culture, history, economy, language, music and much more

A \$200.00 per person deposit and enrollment form is due immediately to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable less a \$100 cancellation fee until Feb. 22, 2011. Final payment is due on Mar. 19, 2011. Cancellations received after Mar. 19 are not refundable so travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.



June 22

Havana

Depart the U.S. and arrive in Havana this afternoon. This evening you will have an orientation and lecture on Cuban American history by Professor Carlos Alzugaray, Director of the Center for Cuba-USA Studies at the University of Havana. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight at Hotel Nacional (D)

June 23

Havana

Daily theme: History
Site walk and lecture in Havana Vieja to learn about historic restoration projects. This afternoon, visit the University of Havana, hosted by Dr. Delio Carrera, Professor of History and Law. This evening you will attend the Cannon Blast Ceremony at la Cabana Fortress. Overnight at Hotel Nacional (BLD)

June 24

Havana

Daily theme: Education in Cuba
Morning lecture by Dr. Orestes Valdes, the Ministry of Education's Environmental Education Coordinator. Afternoon site lecture at Parque Metropolitano, an ecological park being studied by Havana schools and universities. Local problems such as deforestation, social and industrial waste, and the general lack of concern for the region's flora and fauna, will be addressed. Afternoon will be hands-on, helping with one of Dr. Valdes projects. Overnight at Hotel Nacional. (BLD)

June 25

Viñales

Daily theme: Life in Rural Cuba
Depart Havana this morning for Western Cuba. Along the way we will witness the breathtaking view of the Viñales Valley and the mogotes, flat-topped hills dating back to the Jurassic period. This type of formation is only found in four countries of the world. Visit a hardworking Cuban family that has been growing tobacco and other crops on this land for over 100 years. We'll learn how the Cuban farmer works together with the Cuban government in order to get the farming supplies he needs as well as transporting his produce to market. Explore the small town of Viñales and learn about medicinal plants at the Viñales Botanical Garden. This afternoon have a chance to view some of the geological wonders and caves of this area with a visit to the Soroa Biosphere Reserve. Overnight at Hotel La Ermita (BLD)

June 26

Havana

Daily theme: Life in Urban Cuba
Return to Havana this morning where you will visit the organic farm El Vivero de Alamar. After the economic collapse in the early 1990s Cuba was forced to develop new methods to feed its population. Hosted by expert agronomist, Miguel Salcines, you'll learn about the advances Cuba has made and the more than 7,000 urban allotments or "organoponicos". Afterwards you'll have lunch at the home of ceramist and painter, José Fuster. Afternoon is free for exploration of Havana. Overnight at Hotel Nacional (BLD)

June 27

Cienfuegos

Daily theme: Rural Conservation and Military History.
Depart the capital and drive approximately three hours this morning to Cienfuegos, stopping at the Zapata Wetlands to meet with a ranger and visit Playa Cochinos, the famous Bay of Pigs. After lunch there will be some time to explore the local culture on your own. Overnight at Hotel Jagua (BLD)

June 28

Trinidad

Daily theme: City Conservation and Restoration. This morning you will have free time for independent study, followed by lunch. This afternoon you'll visit a community project, hosted by Arq. Iran Millan, Director of Cienfuegos Office for City Conservation and Restoration. Later this afternoon will be free for personal experiences of local culture, followed by dinner. Overnight at Jagua Hotel (BLD)

June 29

Trinidad

Daily theme: Colonial Cuba. Travel approximately one hour this morning along the coastal road to the beautiful city of Trinidad. Cuba's best preserved colonial town, Trinidad was the third settlement in Cuba founded in 1514 by Diego Velazquez, the first governor of Cuba. Today's activities include a site lecture on Cuban colonial lifestyle and time for walking the cobblestone streets of this UNESCO Heritage site. We learn about pottery-making and visit the Valle de Los Ingenios, the site of an old sugar cane town. During the early 19th century, French settlers fleeing a slave revolt in Haiti established the region cultivated sugar cane. Afternoon is dedicated to personal projects. Overnight at Hotel Trinidad del Mar (BLD)

June 30

Havana

Wrap up this morning before departure for Havana. On arrival, lunch on own with afternoon free time to complete individual study projects. Farewell dinner tonight, possibly with a local host. Overnight at Hotel Nacional (BD)

July 1

Depart

Depart after breakfast for the return flight to the U.S.