Join us for the trip of a lifetime

CUBA

Hike in parks with a wealth of biological diversity, walk through 500-year-old Caribbean cities, dance to Afro-Cuban music, and taste chocolate grown in Cuban house lots. Join us on this 9-day educational tour of the natural and cultural riches of Cuba's Oriente province, the eastern part of this tropical Caribbean island. Experience eastern Cuba through its people, food, music, art, natural areas, and landscapes.
AT A GLANCE

What: Eastern Cuba
When: Nov 4-13, 2015
Cost: $3,549

Includes Miami-Cuba-Miami air; $300 single supplement.
See details on page 5 for expenses included and not included.

For additional information, contact:
Laurie Greenberg » 608-263-6735 or Lisa Kaufman » 608-890-2873
Meet the UW-Madison Continuing Studies group in Miami and fly together to Camagüey, Cuba. Explore the city’s 500-year-old center, declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations for its unique architecture and layout. Walk down historic, winding, stone-paved streets, pause at squares to enjoy statues and fountains, and learn how the city was moved to its present site to cut down on constant pirate raids!

You can thank the Madison-Camagüey Sister City Association for the warm greetings you will receive here in Cuba’s third-largest city. For 20 years the organization has sponsored cultural exchanges between Madison and Camagüey. You will meet some long-time friends of Madison: musicians, artists, historians, and educators.

Enjoy an overnight stop in Guardalavaca on the north coast to learn about Cuba’s marine environment, then continue to Baracoa in the northeast corner of the island. This is the site where Christopher Columbus first set foot in Cuba in November 1492. Enjoy Baracoa’s historical wonders, warm people, tropical plants, distinctive cuisine, and locally grown coffee, chocolate, and coconut. Baracoa will be your home base for two 1-day trips to enjoy some of the richest biological diversity the Caribbean has to offer.

Departing Baracoa and heading south, you’ll leave the wet, tropical habitat of the north coast behind. Climb from sea level on the Atlantic up in elevation through the Sierra Maestra (the tallest mountain range in Cuba) for spectacular scenery. Then travel back down to sea level at the Caribbean and on to Santiago de Cuba—the heart of Afro-Cuban culture. Santiago, a cosmopolitan port city for hundreds of years, pulses with multicultural expression brought by West African slaves, European colonists, Creole and Caribbean immigrants, and others who have arrived on Santiago’s shore. Enjoy the cultural fusion manifested in the city’s vibrant offerings of music, dance, literature, poetry, food and architecture. Say goodbye to Cuba in Santiago and return to Miami by air.

Knowledgeable Cuban guides will accompany the group each day and at Cuba’s nine World Heritage sites. Cuban biologists will provide interpretation at natural areas (UNESCO biosphere reserves and national parks).

See CUBA now!
Nov 4: Depart for Cuba
- Fly from Miami to Camagüey, Cuba.
- Afternoon meeting with Cuban host agency.
- Orientation and welcome dinner.

Nov 5: Camagüey
- Take a walking tour of the city with a local historian, highlighting architectural and historical features of the 500-year-old city center.
- Visit the cooperative workshop and studio of Orestes Larios and other local artists.
- Attend a concert by the Camagüey Chamber Orchestra. Converse with musicians and artists.

Nov 6: Camagüey to Guardalavaca
- Travel through small towns and agricultural lands of cattle and sugar cane to the north coast and marine habitat at Guardalavaca. In the afternoon, join a snorkel trip to see the coral reef and marine fish.

Nov 7: Guardalavaca to Baracoa
- Journey along the north coast past white sand beaches and scrub vegetation, through the mining region of Moa, and on to Baracoa, Cuba’s “First City.”
- After settling in at the hotel, take a walking tour with the city historian to learn about Baracoa’s rich history and cultural offerings.

Nov 8: Baracoa area
- Hike to the summit of El Yunque (1,886 feet; 4 hours roundtrip) through tropical rainforest and clear freshwater streams to see some of the region’s endemic plant and animal species—those that exist nowhere else in the world.
- Take a guided hike to learn about cacao and other economically valuable plants. See how cacao is processed into chocolate, and enjoy a chocolate tasting.

Nov 9: Baracoa area
- Take a day trip to the Parque Nacional Alejandro von Humboldt with a naturalist-guided hike through the forest. Learn about the park’s biological diversity.
- An afternoon boat ride on the bay in the biosphere reserve offers an opportunity to observe and learn about mangrove habitats. Look for endemic plant species, manatees, and other wildlife, and visit local communities of people who live in the reserve.

Nov 10: Baracoa to Santiago de Cuba
- Drive south into the mountains climbing through the Sierra Maestra on La Farola highway to the Caribbean; head west to Santiago de Cuba.
- Visit historic sites of downtown Santiago with a guide, including Parque Céspedes and the home of Diego Velázquez, Spanish conquistador and later governor of Cuba for Spain. Enjoy a view of the city and the harbor from the rooftop bar and restaurant at the hotel.

Nov 11: Biosphere reserve

Nov 12: Santiago de Cuba
- Visit la Universidad del Oriente to learn about the Cuban higher education system and the academic programs at this university.
- Visit San Pedro de la Roca, a magnificent World Heritage Site perched 200 feet above Santiago’s bay. This fortress, built of local rock and coral, has guarded Santiago’s harbor since 1638.
- Stop at Moncada Garrison for Cuban revolutionary history and Santa Ifigenia Cemetery.

Nov 13: Depart for Miami
- Fly from Santiago de Cuba to Miami.
DETAILS

General Information:
Group size is limited to 20 people to ensure a quality experience.
Price: The all-inclusive price of this trip is $3,549 per person for double occupancy. Single supplement: $300

Included in the costs are:
• Airfare from Miami to Camagüey
• Airfare from Santiago de Cuba to Miami
• Airport transfers in Cuba
• Visa fees
• Hotel accommodations in Cuba
• Daily breakfast, most lunches, and welcome and farewell dinners
• Motor coach and driver while in Cuba
• English-speaking Cuban guide
• Fees for attractions

Costs not included:
• Travel between home and Miami
• Hotel costs in Miami
• Cuban departure tax
• Some meals
• Alcoholic beverages
• Tips
• Any individual purchases

Note:
We recommend travelers arrive in Miami at least one day in advance of the flight to Cuba, stay in a hotel in or near the Miami International Airport, and meet the group at the recommended hour for the flight to Cuba on our date of departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

Questions? Contact:
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