

Exploring Cuba: Sustainable Development, Community & Art

Tour leader: Jeff Greenwald

9 Days | June 12-20, 2012

\$2800 (includes RT Miami/Havana) || 12-person min. on tour

Exploring Cuba: Sustainable Development, Community & Art is a 9-day tour combining visits and dialogues with educational, social, cultural, agricultural and environmental organizations to gain a broad understanding of modern Cuba.

This special journey is led by Jeff Greenwald, Executive Director of Ethical Traveler, a global alliance of travelers dedicated to human rights and environmental protection. Jeff is also the author of six best-selling travel books, including *Shopping for Buddhas*, *The Size of the World* (for which he created the first international blog), and *Snake Lake*.

This is a unique opportunity for professionals to visit Cuba legally and explore the future of US-Cuban relations. Global Exchange is a licensed travel service provider by the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control and its "Sustainable Tourism" tour to Cuba was named 50 Tours of a Lifetime in 2010 by National Geographic Traveler.

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Day 1 | June 12, TUESDAY

Arrive in Havana from Miami. Transfer to hotel. Evening welcome dinner and orientation meeting. Overnight: Hotel Nacional or similar | Meals: D

Day 2 | June 13, WEDNESDAY

Walking tour of Old Havana. Participants will walk through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about its historic, architectural, and cultural significance. The area was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Learn about the City Historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. See buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, meet with neighborhood residents. Requested visit with Office of City Historian to learn about restoration of colonial center.

Lunch in Old Havana, El Templete, followed by a visit to the Literacy Museum, to learn about the "Yo Si Puedo, (Yes, I can) literacy program. Receive an overview of Cuba's Education system. Additional activities:

- City tour continues and/or time to visit the Convento Belen community development project.
- Optional cultural activities

Overnight: Hotel Nacional or similar | Meals: B, L

Day 3 | June 14, THURSDAY

Leave for Vinales Valley, visit tobacco farm & learn about the importance of the tobacco industry in Cuba. Walking tour of the town of Vinales and dialogue with the local people on tourism issues in the region.

Overnight: Hotel Ermita or Jazmines | Meals: B, L, D

Day 4 | June 15, FRIDAY

Leave for Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Enjoy an all day excursion to “Las Terrazas” / Pinar del Rio Eco-Community and Sustainable Development site in the Sierra del Rosario Mountains – a UNESCO designated “Bio-Reserve” area. Site visits and meetings with specialists at the CITMA Eco-Station, the reforestation project, “La Moka” eco-hotel; visit studios of local artists and meetings with community activists; tour of the old Coffee Plantation site and the San Juan River area.

Lunch options at Las Terrazas include the “Cafetal” Restaurant, and dinner at the Romerio Vegetarian Restaurant, the “Casa del Campesino.” Evening – Free to rest.

Overnight: Hotel La Moka | Meals: B, L

Day 5 | June 16, SATURDAY

Morning excursion to Soroa nature area to visit lovely waterfall and orchid garden.

Overnight: Hotel La Moka | Meals: B, D

Day 6 | June 17, SUNDAY

Visit Los Portales Cave . This beautiful national monument is located between the Sierra de Rosario and the Sierra de los Organos Mountains and was where Ernesto “Ché” Guevara established his center of operations during the 1962 October missile crisis.

Return to Havana

Overnight: Hotel Nacional

Meals: B, D

Day 7 | June 18, MONDAY

Breakfast at hotel. Visit to the School of Art and meet with staff and students to learn about art education, youth, arts, arts funding, freedom of expression, teachers and unions in Cuba. Visit to the community Arts project Murealando.

Dinner at El Aljibe.

Overnight: TBD | Meals: B, D

Day 8 | June 19, TUESDAY

Visit the Foundation for Nature and Humanity (Fundación Antonio Nuñez Jimenez) and projects on permaculture, environmental preservation and restoration and community involvement.

Additional activities:

- Stop to see local farmer's market on way to have lunch at El Bambu, one of Havana's few vegetarian restaurants.
- Visits to the Institute for Tropical Agriculture/INIFAT and PAEME, a school training renewable energy engineers in Havana.

Farewell Dinner at Café Del Oriente and wrap up meeting. Optional: Jazz club outing in the evening

Overnight: TBD | Meals: B, D

Day 9 | June 20, WEDNESDAY

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for flight to Miami. Meals: B

Price & Inclusions

Tour price

12-16 people | \$2800 (includes Miami-Havana-Miami airfare)

*Single rooms are available for an additional \$400.

Price includes

- Accommodations at 3 or 4 star hotels
- Accommodations on a double room occupancy basis
- 2 meals a day, except for Day 1 (dinner only) and Day 8 (breakfast only)
- Transportation by private, air-conditioned motor coach as well as transfers for group
- Program activities as specified in itinerary
- Miami-Havana-Miami airfare
- \$250 per person donation to Ethical Traveler.org (this is a \$250 tax deduction)
- GX general annual membership (this is a \$50 tax deduction)
- English speaking, tour guide(s) to accompany the group throughout the touring period.
- Preparatory reading materials.
- Admission and fees to museums and program activities.
- Honoraria for speakers and Donations to community groups
- Luggage transfer (at owner's risk throughout). Baggage allowance is two checked baggage with linear dimensions totaling 55" (the sum of the three dimensions), providing all pieces do not exceed 66 pounds. 1 hand luggage piece is allowed and is the responsibility of the passenger throughout.

Price excludes (continued from previous page)

- Expenses of a purely personal nature.
- Room service charges.
- Transportation of luggage in excess of weight allowance.
- Conveyance fees used for private purposes.
- Gratuities to the bellboys and waiters.
- Cuban airport taxes and Mexican Departure taxes
- US airport taxes
- Travel Insurance (We strongly advise that each participant arrange for their own travel insurance).
- Optional Cultural Activities in the evenings
- Gratuities for the guides and drivers (we suggest \$20-30 per person).
- Extra Beverages and one meal a day

For more information or to book the tour contact

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About Global Exchange Reality Tours

Global Exchange is an international human rights organization dedicated to promoting social, economic and environmental justice around the world. Reality Tours, as a part of Global Exchange's public education programs, organizes citizen delegations to explore human rights issues abroad. For more information on Reality Tours, please visit www.realitytours.org.

About Ethical Traveler

Ethical Traveler (ET) is the first grass-roots alliance uniting adventurers, tourists, travel agencies, and outfitters — everyone who loves to travel, and sees travel as a positive force in the world. ET feels that all travelers are, in effect, freelance ambassadors. Ethical Traveler also believes that we have the ability to join our voices, and to use our economic power to strengthen human rights and protect the environment. For more information on Ethical Traveler, please visit www.ethicaltraveler.org.

About Jeff Greenwald

Jeff Greenwald is the Executive Director of [Ethical Traveler](http://www.ethicaltraveler.org), a global alliance of travelers dedicated to human rights and environmental protection. Jeff is also the author of six best-selling travel books, including *Shopping for Buddhas*, *The Size of the World* (for which he created the first international blog), and *Snake Lake*. His work has appeared in many print and online publications including *Afar*, *Islands*, *Outside*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* and *Salon*. Jeff's critically acclaimed one-man show, "Strange Travel Suggestions," premiered in San Francisco in 2003. To read dispatches about his previous Cuba trip, please visit www.ethicaltraveler.org/explore/dispatches/