

Discover CUBA!

*A People-to-People exploration of Cuba
with a Botanical Slant • November 4-13, 2016*

Dear Travelers:

We invite you to come with us to Cuba in 2016! The group will travel in November 2016 on a General License with the U.S. Treasury Department to take you on a **People-to-People exploration of Cuba.**

On this fascinating program, we begin our tour in Old Havana and continue to the Jardín Botánico Soledad, the Escambray Mountains, and the Spanish colonial cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Havana's old town is rich with culture, music, museums, architecture, and more. We will explore Cuba's diverse landscapes, including the plains or llanos, ideal for growing sugar cane, and the mountain regions.

The Cuban natural world is reflected in their national symbols: *Roystonea regia*, the royal palm with its swollen upper trunk; the white mariposa, a species of jasmine and the national flower; and the national bird, the tocororo, with blue, red, and white colors which match the national flag. Cuba is also home to the world's smallest bird, the bee hummingbird, and a profusion of native orchids and palms.

As we travel around this beautiful island, we will meet with Cuban naturalists, botanists, scientists, and local experts. Throughout our journey, we will engage Cubans directly in discussions about their lives and work, culture and traditions.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Old Havana and Trinidad.
- Spend time in the Spanish colonial city of Cienfuegos.



- Visit several botanic gardens and see their amazing plant collections.
- Explore the mountain station at Topes de Collantes.
- See the extraordinary plant life in the Sierra de Escambray.
- Learn about Las Terrazas reforestation project.
- See the orchid collections at the Orquideario Soroa.
- Visit Vivero Alamar, an impressive project for sustainable agriculture.

We hope you will join us for this fascinating journey to Cuba.

Best regards,
Taunya De Young
Betchart Expeditions Inc.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Miami to Havana, Cuba

Depart on a morning charter flight from Miami to Havana, Cuba. Transfer to our *Hotel (4 nights)*. Enjoy a walking tour in Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Accompanied by our guide, mingle with the local people and enjoy the Malecon. Welcome dinner. D

Day 2 Havana Botanic Garden

Have an orientation to Havana at the Scale Model of Havana, a project of the Group for the Comprehensive Development of the Capital. Visit the Havana Botanic Garden and meet with staff members. Afternoon welcome by scientists from the Botanical Society of Cuba. B,L,D

Day 3 Las Terrazas & Sierra del Rosario Reserve

Visit the Las Terrazas Eco-Tourism complex and reforestation project and meet with staff to learn about their work. See the hundreds of orchids at the Orquideario Soroa surrounded by the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve. B,L,D

Day 4 Havana—Vivero Alamar & Quinta de los Molines

Morning meeting with an urban agriculturalist and visit the community project, Vivero Alamar, that deals with growing, preserving, and preparing fruits and vegetables. Discuss sustainable agriculture practices in Cuba. In the afternoon, meet with the staff of Quinta de los Molines, the first Botanic Garden in Cuba. See the garden, learn about their educational outreach, and join in a group discussion. B,L,D

Day 5 Havana to Topes de Collantes

Have a morning drive through the Cuban countryside with small towns and sugar cane fields to the village of Australia. Learn about the history of the region (it was used as the Cuban



headquarters during the Bay of Pigs invasion). Late afternoon scenic mountain drive to Topes de Collantes. *Hotel (2 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 6 Parque de Codina

Today we will explore the Parque de Codina just 5 km away from Topes de Collantes. We will drive in large Russian trucks through this mountainous area and will explore the interpretive trail Encantos de Codina (Spells of Codina). A variety of orchids and ferns, as well as picturesque landscapes can be seen. B,L,D

Day 7 Trinidad & Cienfuegos World Heritage Cities

Enjoy a morning to explore the UNESCO World Heritage city of Trinidad. Walk the cobblestone





streets, listening to music. Visit art studios, and see the colorful church and cathedral. Afternoon arrival at the seaside city of Cienfuegos. *Hotel (2 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 8 Jardin Botanico Soledad & Cienfuegos

Visit the Jardin Botanico Soledad, once managed by Harvard University and now by the Cuban Academy of Science Institute of Botany. The garden covers 220 acres and contains over 2,000 trees. Learn about the Garden's efforts to maintain the rich biodiversity of Cuba's extraordinary plant life.

Afternoon to explore the history of Cienfuegos, the central Jose Marti Plaza, the Palacio del Valle, and the Necropolis Tomas Acra that was designed after the Parthenon of Athens. B,L,D

Day 9 Cienfuegos to Havana

Morning return drive to Havana. Farewell dinner in Havana. *Hotel (1 night)*. B,L,D

Day 10 Havana to Miami & Home

Transfer to the Havana airport for our return charter flight to Miami. B

RESPONSIBILITIES

Marazul Charters Inc. is a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP) and Carrier Service Provider (CSP) for Cuba by the US Treasury Department. AAAS, Sigma Xi, and ACS will travel under a General License. Betchart Expeditions Inc. is a licensed TSP and is administering this program with services provided by Marazul and Havanatur.

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Photographs by David Morrison, Bob Nansen

& Taunya DeYoung. Map by April Milne

CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS

#1439

Yes! I/we want to join the **People-to-People CUBA Expedition, November 4-13, 2016**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As payment, I/we enclose a deposit for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

_____ I/we enclose a copy of the Information page of our passport

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership: ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS ___ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single Twin Share: ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please Mail To: Cuba November 2016
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

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THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

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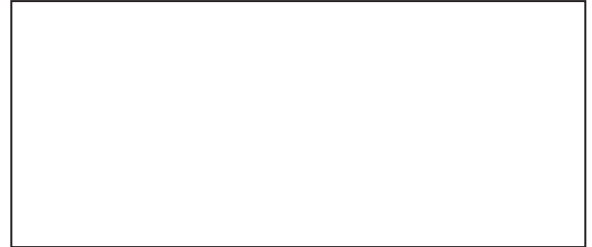
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FIRST CLASS



COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$4,295 per person twin share + air fare from Miami to Havana, Cuba, RT approximately \$650. Single supplement is \$795. If you do not have a roommate or we cannot provide one, the single supplement must be paid.

Expedition Fee Includes: Group transfers in Havana, transportation by air conditioned motorcoach or vans, accommodations twin share with private bath in 3-star or 4-star hotels which reflect the culture of the country; all meals from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 10; entrance fees; gratuities to bellboys and waiters; leadership by an excellent naturalist; special meetings with Cuban guests; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare and Cuba visa (quoted separately); pre-night in Miami, gratuities to your expedition leader, guide and driver; excess luggage charges; items of strictly a personal nature (passport, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, laundry, internet, phone, fax, snacks or sodas); personal insurance; foreign airport departure tax.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers fly together from Miami to Havana on charter flights November 4 and return together on November 13. All passengers should book independent flights to arrive in Miami on November 3 and to depart Miami after 7:30 pm on November 13 or overnight in Miami. Ticketing fee is \$50 additional. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please complete the reservation form and mail along with a deposit of \$1,000 per person and the information page of your passport to:

**Cuba November 2016
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due August 30, 2016.

Questions: Please call **Taunya, Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: (800) 252 4910
or (408) 252 4910
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a \$100 handling fee per person. There is no refund after September 1, 2016 unless your place is resold, then a \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, or other expedition features.

