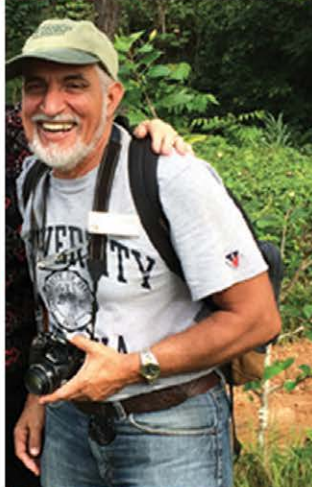


CUBA March 8 - 15, 2018



**Join Botanical Expert
Dr. Carlos Sanchez!**
Carlos is a professor at
the University of Havana
and a botanist for the
National Botanic Garden.
His current research is
focused on the ferns and
lycophytes of Cuba and
their conservation.



Betchart Expeditions Inc.
Call 800 252 4910 or email betcharttaunya@gmail.com



Betchart Expeditions INC.

17050 Montebello Road • Cupertino, California 95014-5435 USA

Telephone: (408) 252-4910 • (800) 252-4910 • Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: BetchartEx@earthlink.net On the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDE_{SM}

March 8 – 15, 2018 Cuba Fern Trip

We invite you to join this Expedition with **Cuban botanical expert Dr. Carlos Sanchez.**

Carlos is a professor at the University of Havana and a botanist for the National Botanical Garden. His research is focused on the ferns and lycophytes of Cuba and their conservation.

He spent several weeks this summer at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden where he reviewed and identified an impressive 720 herbarium specimens, including two new species for the Flora of Cuba. He also gave several talks to Bay Area plant societies and to UCBG.

He looks forward to sharing his enthusiasm for the flora of Cuba with you on this fascinating trip!

CUBAN FERN TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the outstanding National Botanical Garden
- See the UNESCO World Heritage site city of Old Havana
- Explore the natural beauty of Vinales Valley UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Visit the eco complex of Las Terrazas and surrounding trails in Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve
- Explore the scenic trails at Topes de Collantes National Park in the Escambray Mountains.

DAILY ITINERARY

Pre Night

Wed Mar 7

Home to Miami

Spend the night at the group hotel located near the Miami Airport

Day 1

Thurs Mar 8

Miami to Havana, Cuba

9:30 am check-in for our group flight from Miami to Havana, Cuba. Visit the historic Square of the Revolution where Castro addressed the country and see the Jose Marti Memorial. Welcome dinner. *Habana Paseo or similar (2 nights).* D

Day 2

Fri Mar 9

National Botanical Garden & Historic Havana

Our day begins with a visit the National Botanical Garden for a special tour and lunch. The Garden was opened to the public in 1984 and covers 600 hectares with 4,000 identified species. The field collection is divided between Cuba phytogeographic (3,500 native plants) and international. The indoor collections are housed in 3 pavilions: arid, tropical rainforest, and mountain rainforest. Ferns will be seen in selected gardens. Lunch at the Botanic Garden.

Spend the afternoon walking through the many plazas and squares of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Accompanied by our local guide, mingle with the local Cuban people. Dinner on your own at a palador. B,L

Day 3

Sat Mar 10

Pinar del Rio - Vinales Valley

This morning, travel west to explore the Vinales Valley National Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its mogotes and picturesque limestone formations dating back to the Jurassic. The valley is surrounded by mountains covered with pine and oak forest. Walk through the forest to the isolated village of Los Aquáticos with abundant vegetation. The valley is farmed by traditional agriculture techniques, primarily cultivating tobacco. The culture of the valley is a blend of the indigenous people, Spanish heritage, and black slaves. *Hotel (1 night)*. Dinner on your own. B,L

Day 4

Sun Mar 11

Vinales Valley – Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve – Las Terrazas

Head east through the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve with a choice of trails such as La Serafina, Las Delicia or Banos del San Juan. Visit the Las Terrazas Eco-Tourism complex and reforestation project. Dinner on your own. *Hotel Moka,(1 night), Las Terrazas*. B,L

Day 5

Mon Mar 12

Las Terrazas - Topes de Collantes National Park

This morning we depart for the Sierra del Escambray Mountains. Drive through the Cuban countryside with small towns and sugar cane fields. Afternoon scenic walk along “The Fern Tree Trail” in Topes de Collantes National Park. Dinner on your own. *Los Helechos – The Tree Fern Hotel (3 nights)*. B,L

Day 6

Tues Mar 13

Parque de Codina

Today we explore *Parque de Codina*, just 3 miles from *Topes de Collantes*. Our mountain adventure begins with a drive in large Soviet-era trucks through this mountainous area. Explore the interpretive trail *Encantos de Codina* with a Cuban naturalist. See a variety of native ferns, orchids and trees in picturesque landscapes and learn about the medicinal use of many of the plants. Dinner on your own. B,L

Day 7

Wed Mar 14

Topes de Collantes National Park

We’ll have a morning hike on the Vegas Grande trail to a picturesque waterfall with luxurious vegetation. In the afternoon hike along part of the Caburni Trail in Topes de Collantes. Farewell dinner. B.L.D

Day 8

Thur Mar 15

Topes de Collantes - Santa Clara - Miami

Today we travel to the university town of Santa Clara. Best known as the site of the last battle of the Cuban revolution, where Ernesto “Che” Guevara’s derailed a train full of troops on its way to Havana. See his statue and have lunch before heading to the airport for our return group flight to Miami. Arrive Miami in the evening. Go through Immigration & Customs procedures. B,L

Note: 4 hour minimum connection required. Optional Post Night Miami group hotel recommended, with flight departing from Miami for home the following morning.

IMPORTANT: *Flight times are based on 2017 schedules. Updated schedules may not be available until approximately 30 days prior to departure. We recommend booking your flights to/from Miami/Home with an overnight in Miami before and after the trip. Rooms at our group hotel near the Miami airport will be offered and will be added to your final invoice.*

Hotels: *The hotels to be confirmed before the tour.*

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Questions? Please call Taunya DeYoung
Betchart Phone: (800) 252 4910 or (408) 252 4910
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: betcharttaunya@gmail.com

Expedition Fee: \$3,995 per person twin share based on 6-8 participants + group air fare from Miami to Havana, Cuba with return Santa Clara to Miami, approximately \$695 (including mandatory Cuba emergency medical insurance) + \$75 visa. This includes 2 dinners as listed. Single supplement is \$495. There are limited single accommodations available on this expedition.

With 9 or more participants, the trip fee will be significantly lower at \$3,495 per person twin share + group air + visa. Cost of some additional dinners may also be included.

Expedition Fee Includes: Group transfers in Havana & Cienfuegos, transportation by air conditioned motorcoach or van, accommodations twin share with private bath in Cuban 3-star hotels which reflect the culture of the country; meals as listed; entrance fees; gratuities to waiters at included meals; 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 & post nights in Miami; dinners except as indicated; gratuities to your expedition leader, guide, driver, hotel staff, waiters at independent meals; 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. Cuba visa is currently \$75. Miami Hotel nights pre/post are additional.

RESERVATIONS

#1496

YES! I/We want to join **Cuba Fern Expedition, March 8 – 15, 2018** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account. I understand the final payment is due December 1, 2017. A copy of the information page of my passport is enclosed. Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home or Office _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Please reserve _____ double _____ twin or _____ single accommodations.

Member: _____ AAAS _____ Sigma Xi _____ ACS _____ Other

Please mail to: **Cuba Fern Trip March 2018**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers will fly together from Miami to Havana on group flights March 8 and return together from Santa Clara or Havana to Miami on March 15. All passengers will book independent flights to arrive in Miami on March 7, 2018 and to depart Miami after 10:30 pm on March 15 or overnight in Miami. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 100 days before departure less a \$250 handling fee per person. There is no refund after December 1, 2017 unless your place is resold, then a \$250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, entrance fees, or other expedition features.

Responsibility: Marazul Charters Inc. is a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP) and Carrier Service Provider (CSP) for Cuba by the US Treasury Department. You will travel under a General License. Betchart Expeditions Inc. is a licensed TSP and is assisting the in administering this program with services provided by Marazul and Havanatur. Betchart Expeditions Inc. act only as agent 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 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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