



## **Sustainable and Community Development in Cuba**

Tour leader: Malia Everette  
9 Days | February 17-25, 2012  
\$2500 (12-person min. on tour)

Sustainable and Community Development in Cuba 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 Malia Everette, Director of Global Exchange's Reality Tours and advisor to Ethical Traveler. Malia has been facilitating educational and customized trips to Cuba for 20 years and overseeing Global Exchange's Reality Tours to Cuba for over 13 years.

This is a unique opportunity for professionals related to the theme of the tour (example: educators, sociologists, social workers, anyone involved in sustainability, travel writers, journalists) to visit Cuba legally and explore the future of US-Cuban relations. This delegation is a joint Global Exchange Reality Tours and Ethical Traveler program with logistics handled by Global Exchange Reality Tours. 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.

### **ITINERARY**

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#### **Day 1 | Feb 17, FRIDAY**

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

#### **Day 2 | Feb 18, SATURDAY**

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 | Feb 19, Sunday**

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 | Feb 20, Monday**

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 | Feb 21, Tuesday**

Morning excursion to Soroa nature area to visit waterfall and orchid garden. Lunch Return to Havana.

Overnight: Hotel Nacional | Meals: B, D

**Day 6 | Feb 22, Wednesday**

Leave for Cienfuegos. City tour of one of Cuba’s “youngest” cities (founded in 1819) with a vibrant youth population, and diverse architecture. The province features the country’s largest botanical garden, and some of Cuba’s finest mineral waters resources. Other important city highlights include the colonial Jagua Castle across the entrance of Cienfuegos Bay, the Paseo del Prado promenade, and the Palacio del Valle mansion, one of Cuba’s most exuberant examples of eclectic architecture. During our visit to this province, the group will visit an agricultural cooperative and a senior citizens’ home, tour the city and meet with representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Overnight: El Jagua | Meals: B, D

**Day 7 | Feb 23, Thursday**

Breakfast at hotel and return to Havana. 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 | Feb 24, Friday**

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 | Feb 25, Saturday**

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

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## **Price & Inclusions**

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### **Tour price**

12-14 people | \$2500.00  
15-19 people | \$2375.00  
20-25 people | \$2250.00

\*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
- Cancun-Havana-Cancun airfare
- \$400 per person donation to Ethical Traveler.org + Ethical Traveler membership
- GX general annual membership (this is a \$35 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

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**For more information or to book the tour contact**

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Carol Steele  
(415) 255-7296 ext. 251  
[carol@globalexchange.org](mailto:carol@globalexchange.org)

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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](http://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](http://www.ethicaltraveler.org).

**About Malia Everette**

Malia has been facilitating educational and customized trips to Cuba for 20 years and overseeing Global Exchange's Reality Tours to Cuba for over 13 years. Reality Tours to Cuba has been named as National Geographic Traveler's 50 Tours of a Lifetime in 2010 for "Sustainable Tourism" tour to Cuba.

Malia has an MA in International Relations, and is an advisor to Ethical Traveler and serves on the boards of the Institute of Agriculture and Food Policy (Food First) and the Women's Earth Alliance. She has written numerous articles about socially responsible travel and been a speaker on behalf of Global Exchange's programs and especially on US international relations with Cuba since 1997.