

Cuba Learning Tour

January 28 through February 4, 2005

(Optional Vacation Week from February 5 – 11)

You are invited!

Your hosts Jack and Irene Suderman encourage you to take the opportunity of visiting the beautiful island of Cuba to meet wonderful people and the dynamic church at work.

Where are we going?

The group traveling to Cuba will arrive and depart from the city of Holguin. Holguin is located in eastern Cuba, a region that is different from the rest of the country. The Eastern provinces are known as the “cradle of the Revolution”: an attitude of independence is more apparent here than anywhere else in the country. Relatively untouched by tourism, Cubans from the “Oriente” (East) demonstrate a friendly, helpful manner going out of their way to make visitors feel special. The scenery is diverse and extreme, including arid cactus covered hills, tropical rainforests and spectacular mountain ranges.

What will we be doing?

The primary focus for every learning tour of Mennonite Church Canada is helping Canadian Mennonites connect with what God is doing in different parts of our world. Through daily times of worship, reflection and conversation we gain a greater appreciation for God’s wonderful work of reconciliation, hope and healing. In addition, participants are challenged to see and share how God is moving in their own lives. God does move in our lives, and being in a new setting often helps us understand this more clearly. The group will be led in experiences of meeting and interacting with Cubans in their daily lives and worship settings. Some of the visits being developed for this tour include a hospital, a daycare and of course churches – to name a few. These visits are balanced with museum tours, beach time, and stops at important historical sites.



Who can come?

We are inviting anyone who is willing to participate in the learning tour’s activities, which include times of worship, reflections on faith experiences, and interacting with people of a different culture. Participants will need to be able to walk short distances and handle their own luggage.

How much will it cost?

Mennonite Church Canada is offering this learning experience to individuals on a double occupancy basis for \$2000 CAD/person. This package price includes a gift to the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada Witness in Cuba for \$400 - a tax receipt will be issued.

Included are: double occupancy hotel room; meals: breakfast and dinner daily; return air fare from Winnipeg (depending on charters there may be no extra cost for other cities of departure).

Participants will need to purchase travel insurance before leaving Canada and be prepared to pay the airport exit fee of \$25 USD, as well as incidental costs such as lunches and beverages along the way. It is required to have a passport for international travel.

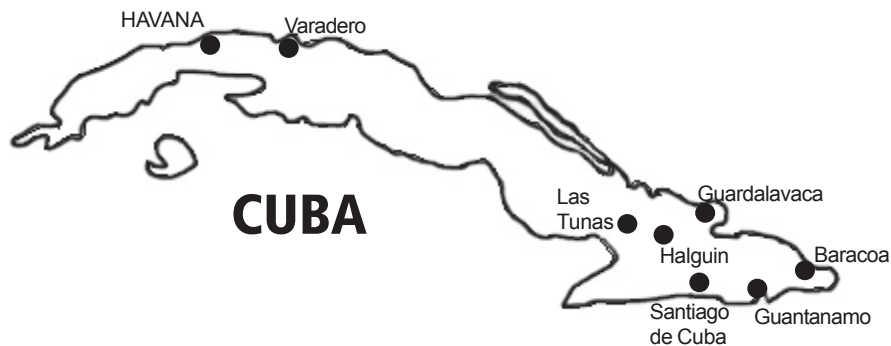
Optional Week Pricing:

Extra week in Guardalavaca at 3-star hotel (all inclusive, double occupancy, Club Atlantico or Club Amigo) is \$80 CAD per day/person.

Extra week in Guardalavaca at 4-star hotel (all inclusive, double occupancy, Sol Rio de Luna) is \$135 CAD per day/person.

Contact:

Al Rempel or Karen Peters
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Sign up today!

This offer is limited to the first 12 people who register. At registration we require a \$250 deposit per person. Terms and conditions for this tour reflect the terms and conditions of the tour operator handling the event. These may be reviewed at <http://www.achecubaholidays.com/terms.htm>.



Baracoa is about as far "off the beaten track" as you can get in Cuba. It is a town situated on the Eastern tip of the island and is surrounded by a mountainous national park. Because of its remoteness not many tourists make the journey and it is this very isolation that has allowed Baracoa to retain its individuality and laid back atmosphere. "The best part of Baracoa is just being there". A walking tour of the downtown area includes a stop at some historical buildings on the main square and a climb up to a former fort, El Castillo, now remodeled into a hotel with panoramic views of Baracoa and the bay.

Moncada Barracks are the former military barracks where the initial and failed attack took place in 1953 by Fidel Castro. The bullet holes remain on the outside of the building and the display inside reviews the attack in graphic detail. Watch the changing of the guards at the tomb of the national hero and visionary, Jose Marti, in the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery.

The group will take time to debrief following their experiences with the church in Cuba.

Tentative Schedule

Jan 28, Friday

Departure and arrival in Holguin
Transfer to hotel in Guardalavaca Beach
Relax and enjoy hotel (orientation session in the evening)
Accommodations: Guardalavaca Beach Hotel Club Amigo (3 nights)

Jan. 29, Saturday

Departure for churches in Cayo Mambi
Meet with local pastor and attend evening service
Accommodations: Guardalavaca Club Amigo

Jan. 30, Sunday

Worship at Holguin & Las Tunas (Depending on further arrangements)
Accommodations: Guardalavaca Club Amigo

Jan. 31, Monday

Travel to Baracoa
Accommodations: Baracoa El Castillo (1 night)

Feb. 1, Tuesday

Travel to Guantánamo
Worship and interaction with Church
Accommodations: Hotel Guantánamo (1 night)

Feb. 2, Wednesday

Tour: Moncada Barracks, museum and history lesson of the revolution. Morning interaction with church leaders in the area. Afternoon travel and stops at points of interest along the way.
Return Travel to Guardalavaca
Accommodations: Guardalavaca Club Amigo (2 nights)

Feb. 3, Thursday

Relaxation/ Holiday
Accommodations: Guardalavaca Club Amigo

Feb. 4, Friday

Return travel

OPTIONAL WEEK

Relaxation/Holiday at resort with return travel on February 11.