



## ECKERD COLLEGE

### Join Eckerd College Continuing Education as we explore Cuba!

Don't miss this opportunity to travel to Florida's island neighbor just 90 miles off of Key West with an Eckerd College-curated experience. The last three trips sold out quickly and we expect this one will, too.

We are limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The group will depart from Tampa on a non-stop Southwest flight and be greeted by our local, professional guide, who will be with us for the full trip. We will arrive in Havana late morning.

Traveling with an Eckerd-only group means that you may already know someone else who is going and you already share a common interest. Plus, staff know you and has worked to make the trip specific for Eckerd adult learners.

**Itinerary Information** *(Please note that the itinerary is subject to change and we cannot guarantee details at this time.)*

We depart on Tuesday morning from Tampa International Airport on a **morning** flight.

#### Days 1-4 in Havana

Tuesday-Friday are spent discovering Havana and the old neighborhoods steeped in art and history. In addition to museum tours and lectures from University faculty and renowned artists and writers, we will take a guided walking tour to get familiar with the historic district. We will enjoy fabulous meals at top restaurants and meet with many locals and have a true immersive experience discovering things that are not traditionally included in tour packages. We are planning a day-trip to the Viñales Valley, west of Havana and the primary tobacco and coffee farming area of Cuba. We will visit a working farm, enjoy a farm-to-table lunch, and explore ancient caves, enjoying a subterranean river cruise in this UNESCO World Heritage site.



#### Days 5-6 in Playa Giron Area

On day 5, we depart Havana in the early afternoon and journey to the countryside to explore the beautiful scenery of the island. On our way we will tour *Vigia La Finca*, the famed Hemingway home where he lived for 20 years and wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*. We will stay two nights in the sleepy little village of Playa Larga, where we will visit the Cuban museum to the Bay of Pigs invasion, and enjoy a snorkeling excursion on one of the most pristine reefs in the western hemisphere. If snorkeling isn't for you, there is an optional visit to a hummingbird sanctuary (Zunzuncito House), where you can see the world's smallest hummingbird that resides only in that part of Cuba.

Note: Should the trip to Playa Larga not be possible, we will still visit the Hemingway House and substitute the overnight portions with a visit to the western part of the island, the Viñales Valley, to explore the primary tobacco and coffee farming area of Cuba. We will visit a working farm, enjoy a farm-to-table lunch, and explore ancient caves, enjoying a subterranean river cruise in this UNESCO World Heritage site.



## Registration Fee Includes. . . Almost Everything!

This trip is a true value that you won't experience elsewhere. We've tried to make it as all-inclusive as possible. The following is covered by your registration fee:

- R/T Non-stop Southwest flight from Tampa
- Cuban Travel Visa (required)
- Comfortable, modern tour bus in Cuba
- Local professional guide for the full 6 days
- Entrances to museums, venues and group activities
- Walking tours and snorkel excursion/equipment
- 5-nights' lodging in comfortable, modern B&Bs
- Expert lectures, author and artist discussions
- Meals – 5 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners
- Emergency medical travel insurance
- Eckerd Study Travel staff with you
- More!

Continuing Education staff has taken numerous groups on this trip in the past and it is always tremendously popular and often described as a “**trip of a lifetime.**” Take advantage of the opportunity to travel with Eckerd College on a program designed just for you, curated with local Cuban friends of the college.

**Cost:** \$2,750 per person double occupancy, add \$200 for a single supplement (private room).

**Refund Policy:** Cancellation requests must be made in writing and refunds will be made according to the following:

- 90 days before departure date – 100%
- 60 days before departure date – 50%
- 45 days before departure date – 25%
- <45 days before departure date – 0%

All cancellations received with less than 90 days before departure will be assessed a \$100.00 administrative fee.

Space is limited and registration is now open for OLLI Members, Eckerd College Alumni, and friends.



[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

## FAQs

### *Isn't it illegal to travel to Cuba?*

Yes, and no. Tourist travel is still prohibited. However, since you will be traveling with Eckerd, you will be covered by the educational activities, people-to-people license to enter the country. Cuba requires visas, which we provide to you.

Please note that **your passport must have at least six months remaining** from the date of our return to Tampa before it expires in order to enter the country, and at least **two pages are required for entry/exit stamps**. For detailed information, please visit the [State Department's website](#) for more information.

### *Who is this study travel program designed for?*

This trip is designed specifically for our Eckerd College OLLI members, Eckerd Alumni, and their families and friends. Please know that beyond the learning opportunities, participants will enjoy adventures requiring:

- Walking up to several miles a day, often on crowded, uneven, cobblestone or dirt paths.
- Walking up and down **multiple, steep flights of stairs** daily.
- Being outdoors daily for full days.
- Snorkeling an amazing coral reef (optional).

All ages of healthy, active adults are welcome! Elevators are uncommon in Cuba, so you must be able to handle several flights of stairs in your casa (staff will take luggage up/down), at restaurants, museums, etc., getting on and off the motor coach several times daily, walking in the heat, etc.

### *What are the accommodations like?*

Most nights will be spent at bed and breakfasts run by local families. This allows for true immersion as we will have many meals with them. \*

- All rooms feature a private bathroom
- All rooms have air conditioning
- All rooms feature comfortable bedding
- The homes provide gathering spaces and outdoor areas for meals or conversation
- Stairs are steep and plentiful (their staff will assist with luggage)
- The homes are in the Old Havana district where you can easily walk and explore during free time.

Two nights will be spent in the countryside in a small beachfront community. These accommodations will be very basic though you will still have a private bath and air conditioning in your room.

\*As you know, Cuba is a country defined by hardship and resilience. Many aspects of daily life that we take for granted may be lacking there. Be prepared to experience, for instance, electricity blackouts, lines or waits at some venues, bumpy bus rides, and other surprises along the way. We will do our best to minimize any inconveniences, but you should definitely bring an extra helping of patience as we are experiencing life that is quite different from what we are used to.

### *What about Money?*

The Cuban Peso is the official currency of Cuba and the U.S. dollar is not accepted by Cuban banks. But, locals accept US dollars. You do not need to exchange dollars for pesos prior to departure. **Important: American-issued credit or debit cards are not accepted in Cuba.** For more information please visit the [State Department's Quick Facts](#) page.

### *What about food?*

Bring your appetite! The food of Cuba is that of many regions throughout the Caribbean and beyond. In addition to fine restaurants, you will enjoy homemade meals at the B&Bs, eat at quirky paladares (family-owned or small cafeterias) with delicious options, and taste street food for the senses.

- Dietary restrictions: it may be possible in some restaurants and in the Havana B&B, to make substitutions based on dietary restrictions and preferences. We will do our best to accommodate your requests but if you have severe gluten intolerance or allergies, for instance, this may not be the best trip for you. Please contact Judy Tilton with specific questions.

### *What if I still have questions?*

Contact Judy Tilton, Eckerd College Continuing Education Study Travel Manager at [tiltonjd@eckerd.edu](mailto:tiltonjd@eckerd.edu) or 727-864-8290.



[Click Here to  
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