

Intercultural Communication in Cuba Today

July 12-26, 2015



Join us for a two week travel course to explore the novelty of Cuba, the country very few U.S citizens have an opportunity to see firsthand! During the trip we will learn about the Cuban revolution, how the U.S blockade effects everyday life for the Cuban people, and some of the amazing feats that Cuba has accomplished in the insitutions of education and healthcare despite the blockade. We will also explore the tourism boom in Cuba as it is now a growing industry on the island, the role of African religions in Cuba and its connection to art and dance, and societey. Students will have the opportunity to take overnight excursion trips to the resort of Varadero to witness the impact of tourism directly and to the area of Matanzas to soak in the local culture.

The two weeks will provide students with a balance between lectures from Professor Gardner, Cuban experts, and exploration of Havana and the surrounding areas on excursions. During the tour of Old Havana you will see various forms of architecture. You will also have the opportunity to appreciate the historians attempt to restore some of the buildngs. Interaction with the Cuban people will make noticable their resilience and outlook on life, despite the hardships they face. Politics are involved in most aspects of the Cuban daily life, but their "go with the flow" attitude is surprisingly upbeat.

Kasey Gardner – Professor of Communication

Professor Kasey Gardner teaches Communication at Los Medanos College and directs the nationally ranked LMC Debate Team. With research interests in political economy, behavioral economics, and intercultural communication, Kasey is devastating at pub trivia. When out of the classroom or out of the country-- Kasey is an avid snowboarder, political junkie, sports fan, and jazz consumer. Kasey earned an M.A. in Political Rhetoric from the University of the Pacific in 2009 and is on track for an MBA in Global Business from Saint Mary's College of California in 2015.

Our program will provide historical insight and commentary on contemporary Cuba. We will aslo be accompanied by a well trained English speaking guide, and traveling in an air conditioned bus. This is a moderately strenuous trip with fairly warm, humid weather. As legal travel to Cuba is restricted for American citizens, there are a limited number of opportunities for travel. We recommend that you send your deposit as soon as possible to guarantee your space. A non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is due no later than April 13, 2015 and the final payment by May 13, 2015.

We will be traveling on a general license with Los Medanos College. Legally you must register and pay school tuition to the college to be considered a legal participant of this program. GEF does not have the authority to enroll students at Los Medanos College. The college requires that all participants register and pay with the college for the program all fees associated with college credits only.

Tentative Schedule:

- Day 1. Arrival in Havana, transfer to hotel. Rest, orientation and arrival/welcome dinner .
- Day 2. Morning lecture on Cuba's history and culture . We will then go on a walking tour of Old Havana. We will visit the four main squares of Havana; the Plaza de Armas, the Parque Central, the Plaza de San Francisco and Plaza Vieja and may sites along the way. This will give us a good overview of what Old Havana has to offer. After lunch we will visit what is known as New Havana, which consists of the neighborhood of Vedado and the Revolution Square. Dinner is on your own.
- Day 3. Morning lecture on the changing Cuban economy . A discussion on new categories allowed to do business by the government. We will visit small businesses . Dinner is on your own. The evening will be free for individual research.
- Day 4. We will visit Las Terrazas, formerly a coffee plantation and currently a combination of a biological preserve and touristic center. The unique community outside of Havana is based on environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Day 5. Morning lecture on the educational system of Cuba. Visit to a local school. In the evening we will spend some time walking along the Malecon to get a feel what daily life is like for Cubans. Dinner will be on your own.
- Day 6. Morning lecture on Ernest Hemingway. We will visit hotel Ambos Mundos where Hemingway did much of his early writing as well as the finca vigia which was his privately held farm from where he did a lot of his later writing. Visit to neighborhood garden and agromercado. Lunch will be included. Dinner will be on your own.
- Day 7. Lecture on Santaria and the effect of African religions in Cuba. Lunch. After lunch we will visit Regla (Afro Cuban religion.) Dinner will be on your own.
- Day 8. In the morning we will stop in Matanzas on the way to see some cultural highlights of Matanzas, also known as the Athens of Cuba. We will push on from there to Varadero.
- Day 9. Varadero exploration. Lecture on the effect of Toursim on the Cuban economy/ social issues.
- Day 10. Return to Havana. We will visit a Cuban cigar factory to understand production. We will also visit Hemingway's Port. Lunch is included. Dinner is on your own.
- Day 11. Lecture on Cuban art. Visit to the Instituto Superior de Artes (ISA) This is a free public school for visual and performing arts. Lunch. Dinner on your own.
- Day 12. Lecture on changes in the Cuban Reinvestment Act. Visit to international business area in Miramar. Self directed travel and field study.
- Day 13. Breakfast in hotel. Visit to Santa Maria beach. Farewell dinner.
- Day 14. Check out. Transfer to airport.



Program Includes:

- * All bus transfers in Cuba
- * Hotel accommodations in Cuba
- * All lunches
- * All breakfasts
- * Museum entrance fees
- * Visa for travel to Cuba
- * A bilingual guide
- * Medical insurance in Cuba
- * Air between Miami and Havana
- * Welcome and Departure dinners

Not included: Los Medanos credit fees.

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM:

\$ 3,350.00

Deposit Deadline: April 13, 2015

Final Payment: May 13, 2015

CONTACT FOR CUBA: Paul Bardwil 916-225-8207 or

Email: pbardwil@aol.com

EDUCATION CONTACT: Kasey Gardner

925-473-7833 or Email: kgardner@losmedanos.edu

2015 TOUR PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT FOR GEF – IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT – READ CAREFULLY

This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which GEF, 8428 Denison CT, Sacramento, CA 95826 agrees to provide scheduled airline, motor coach and other components of the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither GEF, nor ITS employees, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "GEF") owns or operates any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, accommodations, air, land, rail, water or other transportation, food service, local guides, etc. As a result, GEF will not be responsible for personal injury or property damage caused by the supplier of these services, and if these services and components are prevented, restricted or interfered with by reason of events or causes beyond GEF control, including, without limitation, acts of civil or military authorities, by reason of statute, rule, or local law, action of federal, state or local government or agency, acts of public enemy, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, riot, embargoes, civil commotion, insurrection, strike or labor unrest, acts of God, attacks by animals, severe weather and climatic conditions, storm, flood, fire, earthquake, power or communication line failure, mechanical or structural failures or difficulties, diseases, sickness, food poisoning, unsafe sanitary conditions, quarantine, accident or illness, acts or omissions of carriers including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), cancellation, delay or overbooking, acts or omissions of other providers such as hotels, local ground handlers, entertainers or sightseeing services or restaurants including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the ADA, cancellation, delay or overbooking, or travel participant negligence, GEF cannot assume and is not to be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages (direct, indirect, consequential or incidental), costs, or expenses including, without limitation, injury, accident or death, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, loss of pay, upset, disappointments, distress, or frustration, whether physical or mental, arising out of or in connection therewith. Participant assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases GEF from, any duty of checking and verifying any and all safety and security conditions of the destination during the length of the proposed travel. GEF recommends that you visit the websites of the Department of Transportation (www.dot.gov), the Federal Aviation Administration (www.faa.gov) and the Transportation Security Administration (www.tsa.gov) for current news and releases regarding public travel.

GEF reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the trip. GEF reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the trip, or to require any participant to withdraw from the trip if, at any time, such action is determined to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the trip, group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit (as noted on reverse) per passenger and a completed and signed Registration Form are required to secure a reservation no later than the first deposit date (as noted on reverse). Complete payment is due 60 days prior to trip departure. If space is not available when your reservation is received, we will retain your payment and place your name on a waiting list until space becomes available, or you request a full refund. If there is no additional space to add you, you will receive a full refund. There is a \$75 per-person fee for changing your reservation, if permitted, once deposit has been received by GEF. Checks, money orders and cashier's checks may be used for deposits up to 60 days prior to departure so long as there is still space available. Reservations received after the final payment date, must pay in full, plus a \$100 late fee and any additional air or hotel costs. Late registrations will be confirmed on a space available basis. Once your deposit is received, you will be sent a confirmation billing statement that includes your Traveler ID Number. This number should be written on all payments.

FINAL PAYMENT must be received in our office 60 days prior to trip departure. If payment is not received by the final payment date, you will automatically be cancelled. There will be a \$25 service charge for returned checks.

PRICES: The price of this travel package is set forth in this invoice based

on rates in effect at the time of booking, and also reflects a discount for payment by cash, check or money order. Airfares and rates are subject to change. Price Increases could include fuel & baggage surcharges, tax increases, not meeting minimum sign up requirements, change of date of trip, and other unforeseeable fees. We will notify you in writing if these fees change and or prices increase.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: If you cancel your reservation, your right to refund is limited, as set forth below. All cancellations and requests for refunds, if applicable, must be submitted in writing and mailed or faxed to GEF office. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FROM VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.** Cancellations occurring after deposit but before 60 days prior to departure will result in loss of the non-refundable deposit, optional insurance costs if purchased, and any additional airline, hotel, minimum, activity or motor coach fees (if any). Cancellations received on or between 60-30 days prior to departure and are assessed 50% of trip cost plus optional insurance costs if purchased. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure will receive no refund. The actual fee depends on the date cancellation is received by GEF. Once cancelled, there will be a \$30 reinstatement fee, plus any additional airline/hotel fees, and only on a space available basis. Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to GEF for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by GEF to you within 14 days after the cancellation, unless you otherwise advise GEF in writing, after cancellation. The rights and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund by a passenger waives any additional remedies.

BAGGAGE: Please consult with your airline 24 hours before flight as baggage fees and costs change rapidly. GEF is not responsible for damage to baggage. Carriers are not liable for damage to soft baggage. If participant's luggage weighs more than 50 pounds or has more than one piece of luggage, participant is responsible for additional costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE: The terms and conditions set forth herein are governed by, and are to be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. If any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce or interpret any term or condition or to enforce any right and/or legal remedy, such action must be brought in a State or Federal court in the State of California with a venue in El Dorado County.

PERSONAL EXPENSES: Tour Price includes only those services specifically stated in the tour package. Items such as passport, luggage, clothing, food (unless specifically included in tour), room service, telephone calls, purchased activities, tipping, additional or over weight baggage, and other items not specifically mentioned in the trip flyer are not included and are the participant's responsibility.

SELLER OF TRAVEL: GEF is registered as a seller of travel services in the states of California #2079143-40. Registration as a Seller of Travel does not constitute approval by any State. California Customers Only: In the event of the default of GEF, you may be eligible for a refund of up to \$15,000 from the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. If you as a travel participant or as the person making payment on behalf of the travel participant (a "California customer") are located in California at the time of your purchase, you have a right to make a claim against the Fund for a refund of any money paid to GEF that is due because of the bankruptcy, insolvency, cessation of operations, or material failure to provide transportation or travel services sold. The claim must be filed within one year after you become aware of your loss. For a claim form and additional information, write to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 8474, Northridge, CA 91327. Non-California customers are not covered by California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund and are not eligible to file a claim against that Fund in the event of the default of USA.

TRAVEL DATES/FLIGHT CHANGES/DELAYS: GEF strives to keep your original travel dates. Participant acknowledges that these changes are not grounds for cancellation without penalty. Flight times are not guaranteed

and may effect actual length of time in destinations. Any flight information provided prior to departure is considered tentative and is subject to change in accordance with this agreement. Flight delays/cancellations are unfortunate but are an inherent risk in air travel and beyond the control and responsibility of GEF will work with the airline to re-accommodate group. Flight deviations are not available on group air travel. Participants who deviate from any part of the tour are required to sign a Waiver of Liability Form.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITY: You are responsible for your actions and well-being on the entire tour, beginning and ending with air flights. It is your decision and choice to participate or not to participate in activities. Activities are not mandatory; they are voluntary. Your decision to participate is not actionable against GEF. Further, you are responsible for the consequences of your participation. Participant realizes that there are inherent risks (injury/health) in travel and fully accepts responsibility for those risks. Inappropriate behavior can be cause for eviction from the program and to be sent home at your expense. Please check travel advisory boards for your particular destination. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of a trip. GEF will provide staffing to guarantee a smoothly run tour. GEF cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

DISABLED/HANDICAPPED PARTICIPANTS: If you have a disability that requires accommodation or special assistance, you must notify us in advance. Upon written request, information will be provided to you regarding accessibility to various facilities. GEF does not control the disabled or handicapped accessibility of any portion of the travel package. GEF will attempt to work with vendors and the participant to attempt to make reasonable accommodation for disabled participants. Assistance with respect to personal care matters which may included but is not limited to: handling of monies, i.e. payment for various sundry items; cognizance of distance, location and time; hygiene; feedings; administration of medications; and similar matters do not constitute reasonable accommodations, and the disabled participant must provide and be accompanied by an attendant for such personal care matters. All costs in connection with an attendant shall be the responsibility of the disabled participant. Participant must notify GEF of any special needs prior to final payment date. If the participant has a medical condition that causes reasonable doubt that the participant can complete the tour or flight safely, that information must be disclosed to GEF prior to the final payment date. A medical certificate (a written statement from the participant's physician stating that the participant is capable of completing the tour/flight safely without requiring extraordinary medical assistance during the tour/flight) may be requested. If a medical certificate is requested and not provided, the participant may be prohibited from participating in the trip.

SHARING OF INFORMATION: Because our travel services are offered in conjunction with the services of other companies such as airlines, homestays and other tour schools, GEF may be sharing your personal information with those companies. We may share the following information: name, address, phone, birth date, gender, school you attend or teach at, and/ or email. GEF may capture the trip on film and digital images and use photos, videos and digital images for its marketing materials. GEF appreciates your participation in our photos, videos, and evaluations, and GEF reserves the right to use these to advertise tours and participant does not expect any compensation.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT: The terms of this agreement shall serve as a complete release and express assumption of risk for the undersigned trip participant. I/we have read and fully understand the provisions and legal consequences of this voluntary release/assumption of risk, and I/we hereby agree to all of its conditions.

DEPOSIT DEADLINES: The non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is due on April 13, 2015 and the final payment is due on May 13, 2015. Please send both to: GEF 8428 Denison Court, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Complete this application and submit with a \$500.00 deposit and mail to: **GEF 8428 Denison Court, Sacramento, CA 95826.**

Full Legal Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ Male Female
(Name must match EXACTLY the passport that will be carried while on tour) (Required)

Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ **Email:** _____ **2nd Email:** _____

Emergency Contact: _____
(Name , Phone & Address)

Do you have any allergies or medical problems?: YES NO **Explain:** _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions?: YES NO **Explain:** _____

Are you currently taking any type of prescribed drugs? YES NO (Please bring ample supply as it may not be available in Cuba)

Please choose course: SPCH 150 Intercultural Communication **(IMPORTANT: Registration and course fees MUST be paid to Los Medanos College.)**

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS TOUR PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT.

Travelers Signature: _____ **Date:** _____