



# Discover Cuba!

Gardens, Culture, History, Art and Music  
With JC Raulston Arboretum!

November 7-17, 2015



Join **Mark Weathington**, Director and Curator of Collections and friends of the **JC Raulston Arboretum** and a small group of like-minded travelers on a culturally rich garden adventure to Cuba. Visit the National Museum of Fine Art, lush botanical gardens, the colonial towns of Trinidad and Cienfuegos and Hemingway's home. Arrive in Miami one night early and join Mark for an outing to Kampong, Montgomery Botanical Center and Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens! This "people to people" journey has been specially designed for the curious traveler who has an interest in gardens, music, art, history and culture.

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

1 Night Miami  
3 Nights Havana  
2 Nights Trinidad  
2 Nights Havana

## WHERE YOU'LL BE STAYING...

Miami: Crowne Plaza  
Havana: Hotel Nacional  
Trinidad: Las Brisas  
Havana: Hotel Nacional

Questions and Reservations at: **800.723.8454**  
[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



**Earthbound Expeditions Inc.**

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

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“Everything was great. Great guide, great bus, great itinerary, very nice restaurants and we loved riding in the antique cars.”

Nancy Albert



## IT'S INCLUDED

- With **JC Raulston Arboretum** Director and host **Mark Weathington**
- Accompanied by an Earthbound program director
- “People to People” license provided by Earthbound Expeditions
- An expert bilingual Cuban guide
- Accommodations as listed in your itinerary
- Cuban government emergency medical insurance plan up to \$1,000
- All meals (*except one breakfast and one evening meal in Havana*)
- Bottled water daily
- Transport by private motor coach while in Cuba
- Charter flight from Miami
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Airport transfers while in Cuba
- Special insider “people to people” experiences
- Gratuities for your driver and guides
- City and country maps
- Alumni discounts applied towards future trips with Earthbound Expeditions

## TRIP FACTS

9 Days/8 Nights

\$4,195 per person double occupancy (*land and charter air from Miami*)

\$ 590 Single Supplement (*waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found*)

Starting officially in Miami on November 7, 2015 (at 8:00pm)

Returning to Miami Int'l airport on November 15, 2015 (*exact time TBA*)

## PRE TOUR ADD ON: Miami's Botanical Gardens!

\$250.00 Pre tour add-on with your host Mark Weathington begins on the evening of November 6. Arrive one night early and join mark for an outing to the Kampong, Montgomery Botanical Center and Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens. Hotel, Entrances and transport included.

## NOT INCLUDED

- Air from your home to/from Miami
- Cuba visa fee of \$75
- Travel Insurance up and above
- Cuban airport departure tax of \$30



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## YOUR GARDEN JOURNEY BEGINS...

**November 6- Pre Tour Garden Excurions Add On:** Arrive one night early and join mark for an outing to the **Kampong, Montgomery Botanical Center** and **Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens**. Hotel, Entrances and transport included in price of \$250 pp

### Day 1 -November 7, Gather in Miami at 8:00pm

8:00PM: Meet your **JC Raulston Arboretum** host **Mark Weathington** in our private reception room at the Crowne Plaza hotel. *Sleep in Miami*



### Day 2 -November 8, Miami to Havana, Cuba

Early this morning you will depart your hotel for the airport to check in for our charter flight from Miami to Havana, Cuba. Charter flight times are not released until one month prior to departure. Your airline tickets and Cuban visas will be given to you when you check-in for your flight.

After clearing Cuban immigrations and customs, you are welcomed by your Cuban National guide holding a **JC Raulston Arboretum** sign outside the terminal, who will assist with the transfer to Old Havana (Habana Vieja) where we have lunch together in the heart of Old Havana. After lunch, our guide leads us on a stroll through the colorful cobblestone streets of Old Havana. Time permitting we'll stop to pay our respects to the famed musicians at the Buena Vista Social Club. We check into our hotel later this afternoon.

7:00PM: Meet host **Mark Weathington** and Earthbound Expeditions guide and walk to dinner this evening to one of Havana's best known Paladars. *Sleep in Havana (L, D)*

### Day 3 -Markets, Organic Farms & Hemingway Haunts

We'll visit the UBPC Vivero Organopónico Alamar, 15 km (9.3 miles) east of Havana. It's one of the most successful urban organic farms in Cuba raising ornamental plants, medicinal herbs, and millions of seedlings for neighboring residential and collective farms. Established in the early 1990s by a dozen people, today the Alamar cooperative has over 400 members and provides a range of healthy, organic vegetables to nearby communities.

Produce is raised employing the practice of permaculture: no chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, natural biological methods are used to nourish the soil, frustrate pests and conserve water. The result is an increased rate of yield and reduced costs.

After we are off to Finca Vigía [Lookout Farm] where North America's literary giant, Ernest Hemingway, spent twenty-one of his most important and productive years penning building blocks of English literature. Claimed by both the United States and Cuba as their son, it was Hemingway himself who declared the island his true home. Before returning to Havana we stop by the quaint fishing village of Cojimar which served as the setting for [The Old Man and the Sea](#).

*Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)*



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#### Day 4 – Soroa Orchid Botanical Garden & Las Terrazas

After breakfast we drive two hours west to visit the Soroa Orchid Botanical Garden. En-route you'll travel through the lush countryside planted with sugar cane, corn, rice, and taro. With few vestiges of modernization, the region seems set back in time with farming communities still harvesting by hand and using horse and carts to transport goods to free markets. (The horse carts date back to the 15th century when the Spaniards used them to haul sugar cane to the factories).

The Soroa Orchid Botanical Garden is now home to over 700 types of orchids with specimens from all around the world, this garden owes its life to Tomás Felipe Camacho, a well-to-do lawyer and naturalist who dedicated his garden to his daughter in the early 1940s.

Then, it's just a short drive to Las Terrazas. Las Terrazas in Pinar del Rio province is now part of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve, much of it reforested coffee plantation. Upon arrival we'll enjoy a delicious farmers lunch and a lecture on the importance of this UNESCO recognized biosphere.

#### About the Artists of Las Terrazas

Polo Montanez made his living initially as a farmer, but he would entertain his neighborhood at night with songs he wrote about rural life of the tobacco farmer. The Montanez family shows you his home and discusses how he helped his community by giving back financially to Las Terrazas when he became famous. This encounter would benefit travelers in focusing on the local heroes of Cuba, the farmers. Today the farming techniques are the same as they were in the 1960s with everything being done manually. We have requested a visit with artist Lester Campas and his artisans in his studio at Las Terrazas. Mr. Campas is a young artist known for his unique paper recycling process, which he then uses for artistic expressions. Your guide will lead a people to people discussion with Campas and our travelers about recycled art in the US and Cuba. This movement to recycle in Cuba is not new - it was born out of the necessity in the late 1990s during the "special period" when Russia collapsed leaving Cuba without a major donor and trading partner. This afternoon we stop at the private home and studio of famed Cuban artist, Jose Fuster who is known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Mr. Fuster is a ceramicist and painter whose work has contributed to the upgrading of his entire community. Aside from discussing how he makes his art, he talks about how he started giving back to his community.

Return to Havana in the late afternoon: Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)

#### Day 5 –Havana-Cienfuegos-Trinidad

After breakfast, depart for Cienfuegos province, also known as the "Pearl of the South."

In Cienfuegos, you will be able to see remnants of French style architecture built by immigrants from Bordeaux. The majority of the city however, displays 19th-century early Spanish Enlightenment implementation in urban planning and was declared a UNESCO heritage site for that reason. Arrive in the center of Cienfuegos and take a brief city tour to explore Cienfuegos' magnificent wide boulevards and art galleries. A visit to an elementary school is also being arranged for you.

Enjoy lunch at the former Cienfuegos Yacht Club ocean-side restaurant (Club Náutico de Cienfuegos). After lunch, continue your drive on to Trinidad and check-in to your hotel which is located on a beautiful beach. *Sleep in Trinidad (B, L, D)*



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### **Day 6 –Collante National Mountain Park**

After breakfast, you'll take a day trip to historic Trinidad. Your first stop will be at the Topes de Collantes National Park. To get there you'll travel for 45 minutes in an open air Soviet truck into the lush mountains. Upon arrival you'll enjoy a stop at an organic farm, lunch and hear a talk on the biodiversity of this region. There will also be opportunities to take a light hike.

After lunch, return to Trinidad, where you'll have a walking tour of the Old Center. On your walk, you will visit the Museum of Architecture for a guided tour and presentation on Trinidad's architecture and the development of the city. You'll also meet with the Ballet Folklorico for a dance and music performance!

In the late afternoon, return to your hotel. *Sleep in Trinidad (B, L, D)*

### **Day 7 –Return to Havana via the Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens**

Breakfast at the hotel and then depart for the Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, founded 1899 by a land owner from New England and later maintained by Harvard University. The garden harbors a collection of some 2,000 species and is maintained by the Cuban Academy of Science. Continue your drive and arrive in Havana late in the afternoon where you'll check-in to your Hotel. Tonight dinner is on your own. *Sleep in Havana (B, L)*

### **Day 8 –Music, Art and Gardens**

Early birds may wish to soak up the sun and walk along the Malecon before breakfast. Then we are off to the Conservatorio Guillermo Tomas where we'll meet student (and their teachers) and learn about how music is taught and produced in Cuba. You'll also be treated to a lively concert featuring original works by the students.

Enjoy lunch before visiting Cuba's National Art Schools (Escuelas Nacionales de Arte, now known as the Instituto Superior de Arte), whose structures are considered by historians to be one of the most outstanding architectural achievements of the Cuban Revolution. These innovative, organic Catalan-vaulted brick and terra-cotta buildings were built on the site of a former country club in the far western Havana suburb of Cubanacán, which used to be Havana's "Beverly Hills" and was then mainly reserved for Communist Party officials.

The schools were conceived and founded by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in 1961, and they reflect the utopian optimism and revolutionary exuberance of the early years of the Cuban Revolution. Over their years of active use, the schools served as the primary incubator for Cuba's artists, musicians, actors, and dancers. The schools' design fell out of favor by 1965 and were nearly completely decommissioned until preservation efforts were mounted in force in the 1990's. Now tentatively on the list of World Heritage sites, they are in use, though still in various states of disrepair.

Towards the end of the day you'll visit the National Botanical Garden in the outskirts of Havana. A workshop with various Havana Botanical Garden Society members has been arranged following your guided tour of the garden. You will have discussions with Dr. Angela Leyva Sanchez, General Director at NBG and/or Research Director Rosa Rankin.

Tonight enjoy a very special farewell dinner in Havana. *Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)*



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“The trip exceeded our expectations and our expectations were already pretty high. We cannot thank you enough for arranging such a great experience for us.  
We are sold on you and your services.”  
- Steve Weisbrod

### Day 9- Havana – Miami

We transfer to Havana’s Jose Marti Airport where we check in for our flight to Miami. (*Charter flight time TBA*). (B)

*-Itinerary Subject to Change-*



**WHERE YOU’LL BE STAYING: The Hotel Nacional:** The historic \*\*\*\*\* Hotel Nacional is located on the Malecón seafront. The decision to build a luxury hotel was taken in the late 1920s. The American firms McKim, Mead & White and Purdy & Henderson Co., tasked with the planning and construction, completed the palatial edifice in 14 months. Note: The same firm designed Penn Station, Washington Square in NY.

The hotel exhibits an eclectic architectural style, reflecting Art Deco, Arabic references, features of Hispano-Moorish architecture, and both neo-classical and neo-colonial elements. There are even details from the centuries-old Californian style. The resulting unique example of so many schools of architecture is the most unusual and interesting hotel in the Caribbean region.

Among its first illustrious guests were artists, actors, athletes and writers such as Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Mickey Mantle, Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Keaton, Jorge Negrete, Agustín Lara, Rocky Marciano, Tyrone Power, Rómulo Gallegos, Errol Flynn, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando and Ernest Hemingway.

In February 1946, Sir Winston Churchill visited Cuba, staying in the hotel's Republica Suite, and was accorded diplomatic privileges by the Cuban government.

In December 1946 it hosted an infamous mob summit run by Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky and attended by Santo Trafficante, Jr., Frank Costello, Albert Anastasia, Vito Genovese and many others. Francis Ford Coppola memorably dramatized the conference in his film *The Godfather Part II*.



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## THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Cuba is a developing country and still lacks many modern conveniences. It's not unusual to experience short power black-outs or to find that your hot water, internet, TV or phone in your hotel room does not work properly (or at all). Further, the Cuban government and incoming Havana agency has the right to change the itinerary without notice (and often does).

We'll be travelling under a "people to people" license, which means that our days will be filled with many educational experiences. They will begin around 8:30am and end around 5:00pm. This is not a trip for those looking for a leisurely, beach holiday.

Travellers who arrive in Havana with sense of humour, an open mind and are ready to be flexible will absolutely fall in love with the people and culture of Cuba.

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## RESERVATIONS

Earthbound Expeditions has been issued a license by the Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) authorizing us to organize and operate People to People programs to Cuba.

1. A \$500 pp deposit is required to reserve your space. Payment is accepted by check only for journeys to Cuba.
2. Make checks payable to "Earthbound Expeditions" and mail along with Cuba Visa Form to Earthbound Expeditions, PO Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.
3. Once your deposit is received, we will email you a deposit packet and travel insurance quote from iTravelInsured. In order to allow ample time to book your travel insurance and waive pre-existing conditions, please contact our office to let us know you're mailing your deposit.  
1-800-723-8454

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## TRIP REVIEWS

"Enjoyed it all! Visited places I would not have seen or experienced otherwise if by myself." - Elizabeth Arnow

"The guide Ale was the best! He made the trip great. We went to places that we would never find on our own. First class all the way." - Frank Albert

"Each day was great! Even those I was not sure of had several high points...riding back to the hotel in a '56 Chevy!" - Walter Chin



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# CUBAN VISA FORM

Gardens of Cuba with JC Raulston Arboretum  
November 2015

**First Name**

**Middle Name**

**Last Name**

**Mother's Maiden Name**

**Country of Birth**

**Date of Birth**

**Passport #**

**Passport Date of Issue**

**Passport Date of Expiry**

**Nationality**

**Male or Female**

**Address**

**Phone Number**

**Email:**

**Emergency Contact Name & number:**

**Special Requests**

*\* If you were born in Cuba and emigrated to the United States prior to 1974 you must obtain a special visa from the Cuban Interest Section in Washington D.C. Please contact our office for more information.*



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