

CubA
ArtE
Edu

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The Art of Gardening, Landscapes and Organic Farming in Cuba

December 6-11, 2018

Our program will explore more than gardens. Landscapes, cityscapes, as well as culture, organic food production and wildlife are central to this learning experience. Our journey will start with a conference about organic agriculture in Cuba followed by visits to gardens in Havana, Soroa, Las Terrazas and the Valley of Viñales.

In Havana we will visit the Organopónico Garden of Alamar, a cooperative farm, focusing on agricultural production and services that contributes to the needs of people, offering a wide range of vegetables, ornamental and medicinal plants. Also in Havana is the must see National Botanical Garden with special collections in the approximately 600 hectares that are home to about 4,000 identified species and almost 150,000 specimens.

When visiting the gardens of the Pinar del Rio province we will explore Soroa's Botanical Garden and its Orchids Nursery displaying a collection of 25,000 orchid species from different parts of the world, including around 100 Cuban species. This tour will be continued with a visit to Las Terrazas, considered to be the first Cuban echo museum. The Conservation Award granted by UNESCO was presented to Las Terrazas.

To conclude our journey, we will visit the Viñales Valley in the Sierra de los Organos, an outstanding landscape encircled by mountains and dotted with spectacular dome-like limestone outcrops (mogotes) that rise as high as 300 m. In the Valley we will visit an organic farm for lunch and will learn about their practices in food production and community development, followed by a visit to the Viñales Village.

The program includes a guided walking tour of Old Havana. Founded in 1519, UNESCO declared Old Havana Universal Patrimony of Humanity. Delegates will learn about Old Havana as a unique urban sustainable development project that integrates community and economic development with art.



Itinerary

DAY 1 – WELCOME TO CUBA

Our flight from Tampa to Havana will take one hour. Once in Havana we will be on our way a panoramic tour of the city and lunch. After lunch we will have some time to visit El Nacional Hotel, Historic Patrimony site built in 1930, before we do check-in at the B&B and enjoy a welcome dinner in the evening.

DAY 2 - OLD HAVANA

Our second day in Havana will start with a visit to Old Havana. Founded in 1519, UNESCO declared Old Havana Universal Patrimony of Humanity. You will learn about Old Havana as a unique urban sustainability development project that integrates community and economic development with art. Through a guided walking tour we will visit Cathedral, Arms, San Francisco and Old Squares exploring secluded urban gardens in this colonial jewel. After Lunch we will participate in a conversation about organic agriculture in Cuba with a Cuban expert.

DAY 3 – HAVANA GARDENS

Our day will start with a visit to the Alamar Organoponico Gardens, one of Havana's most successful urban gardens and about a half-hour bus ride from Old Havana. The 27-acre food garden has 160 cooperative owners and is run by agronomist, Miguel Salcines. The more than 200 organic farms in Havana, which cover over 80,000 acres, were borne of necessity. The Cuban economy collapsed in the early 1990s after support from the Soviet Union ended, and the farms that emerged to feed its citizens resorted to more primitive agricultural models, which are more sustainable than Western industrialized practices and are now considered progressive. After lunch our next stop will be the National Botanical Garden (Jardín Botánico Nacional) on the outskirts of Havana. The garden began to be built in 1968, and although it was officially inaugurated in January 1989, it opened to the public on March 24, 1984 thanks to the direct participation of workers, students and professors of the University of Havana, and students of technical institutes, who worked intensively for many months.

DAY 4 - VALLEY OF VIÑALES AND ORGANIC FARMING

This is the day when we travel to the amazing Valley of Viñales in the Pinar del Rio province. The valley was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 because of the area's natural beauty and the inhabitants' use of traditional agricultural techniques. In Viñales we will visit Los Jazmines Hotel and its Valley Balcony to get a wide view of the valley. After lunch at Finca Paradiso (an organic farm-restaurant) we will have a walking tour of the valley and some time in the town of Viñales (population, about 10,000) and peruse the shops and activity on either side of the busy, two-lane highway that runs through town.

DAY 5 - SOROA GARDENS

This day will be the day for orchids at Orchid Nursery Botanical Gardens, part of the Soroa Botanical Garden, with more than 25,000 orchid species from different parts of the world, including around 100 Cuban species. The garden also has 6,000 species of other ornamental plants, trees, and flowers that represent the national flora of several countries. With around three hundred species, including a number of endemics, Cuban orchids form an important component of the broader Caribbean flora, and have connections both with those of Meso-America and North America.

DAY 6 – DEPARTURE

In the morning during breakfast we will have a final meeting to debrief experiences and learning and plan for checkout and transfer to the Jose Marti International Airport for departure.

What is included?

- Pre-travel orientation
- Travel Guide with tips for a safe and fun trip
- Emailed Cuba Info Bytes about sites to be visited
- Admission fees to sites in the itinerary
- All in-Cuba ground transportation and airport transfers in AC bus
- Five nights at a B&B in Havana
- Daily breakfast and 2 dinners
- Conference by an organic agriculture Cuban expert
- Guided walking visit to Old Havana
- Experienced bilingual Program Leader
- License to travel to Cuba
- Gratuities for servers in included meals, B&B staff and driver

*SGC will credit up to \$450 for your flight for 2 from TPA to HAV

What is not included? (Estimates)

- *Round trip airfare to Havana from Tampa (\$225)
- Cuban visa (\$50)
- 6 lunches and 3 dinners (\$180)
- Airfare for connecting flight to and from Tampa
- Trip interruption and cancellation insurance

Program Package Limited to 6 Participants	
SGL Room - 4 ROOMS	SGL Room (pp.) - 2 ROOMS
\$2325	\$2120
Registration Deadline July 1, 2018	

Payments

- Registration completed by July 1, 2018 with 50% deposit
- Balance payment by October 22, 2018

For a Registration Packet

Please contact **CubArtEdu** visiting www.cubartedu.com or call Dr. Pedro Schuck at 978-998-0039.

