

May 19-27, 2012 Study Tour

## **Voyages with a Vision III: Reality Tour to CUBA**

### **FOCUS: SUSTAINABILITY** **Environmental, Economic, and Equity**

## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

2-1-12

In its 2006 Sustainability Index Report, the World Wildlife Fund, utilizing a combination of the United Nations Human Development Index (a measure of how well a nation is meeting its nutrition, water, health care, and education needs, etc.) and the Ecological Footprint (natural resource use per capita) determined that *there is only one nation in the world currently living sustainably -- and that nation is CUBA.*

From an economic and business perspective, this is an exciting time to travel to Cuba as it embraces a limited amount of market reforms under the new president, Raul Castro. Private economic activity has been allowed in certain sectors of the economy, as farmers have been permitted to work small plots of fallow public land, a limited number of traders can operate privately, used cars can be sold, and access to certain previously restricted consumer goods - cell phones, computers, home appliances - has been expanded. Most significantly, in late 2011, the Cuban Government announced that it would allow the donation, sale, and purchase of homes for the first time since the early days of the revolution. The challenge facing Cuba is whether it can navigate market reforms while maintaining its commitment to environmental and social sustainability.

Our research tour will focus on the questions: *How did Cuba, a small island nation of 11,000,000 people, struggling with issues of poverty, the U.S. embargo, and devastating annual hurricanes, achieve its sustainability distinction? And what can environmentalists in the U.S. learn from Cuba's struggles and successes.*

#### **I. Introduction**

Faculty: Donna Anderson, Economics, [danderson3@uwlax.edu](mailto:danderson3@uwlax.edu)

#### **II. Name, Major, and email address** so I have a list of potentially interested students.

#### **III. Partner/Licensed Travel Provider**

We are partnering with **Global Exchange** (GX - <http://www.globalexchange.org/>), an international nonprofit human rights organization working for global, political, economic, environmental and social justice. One way it pursues these goals is through Reality Tours which educate the public about international issues through socially responsible travel. GX is a licensed travel provider to Cuba and has organized Cuba Reality Tours, exploring every aspect of Cuban life, for over ten thousand U.S. citizens, for the last twenty years. (See [20 Years of Cuba Reality Tours!](#)) Their Cuba programs

concentrate on four thematic areas: *Healthcare and Education; Art and Culture; Economics and Politics; Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development; Architecture and Urban Development*. More information on GX's study tours to Cuba can be found at [http://globalexchange.org/tours/by-country?field\\_country\\_nid=134](http://globalexchange.org/tours/by-country?field_country_nid=134) and (<http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/americas/cuba/sustainable/>)

#### **IV. Itinerary of Travel**

##### ***Saturday, May 19***

Arrive in Cancun. Depart for Havana at 10:30 pm on Aeromexico Airlines

**Please note** that students will be responsible for arriving in Cancun. We will meet at the airport 3 hours before the Havana departure.

##### ***Sunday, May 20***

Early Morning: Arrive Havana at 12:40 am. Transfer to hotel.

Late Morning: Orientation Meeting

*Lunch at hotel*

Afternoon: City Tour of Havana and Old Havana, art galleries and book fair, Plaza of the Revolution and Cemetery. (Bicycle, Walking and Bus)

*Welcome dinner with Cuban hosts, guests.*

Evening: Optional cultural activities, Salsa Club, etc.

##### ***Monday, May 21***

Morning: Visit scale model of City of Havana. Continuation of city tour of Havana, with noted Cuban urbanist, focusing on sites of sustainable development (recycling, farmers' markets, urban gardens).

*Lunch in Old Havana*

Afternoon: Museum of the Revolution. Cigar factory tour.

*Dinner at Paladar*

Evening: Panel discussion on Cuba's environmental policy and practice with representatives of CITMA involved in coastal and wetlands, forest, and urban sustainable development

##### ***Tuesday, May 22***

Morning: Meet with scientists and engineers of Cuba Solar, Cuba Energia, and PAEME renewable energy technical-vocational school.

*Lunch in Western Havana*

Afternoon: Meet with young environmental staff at the Foundation for Nature and Humanity. Some site visits to their permaculture work in schools.

*Dinner at Hotel*

Evening: Panel discussion on Cuba's economic and social welfare policies, historically, and in terms of recently announced changes

##### ***Wednesday, May 23***

All day: Visit to Las Terrazas intentional sustainable community in Pinar del Rio province

*Lunch at organic garden and restaurant in Las Terrazas; talk by Tito Nunez*

Afternoon: Hike in Biosphere Reserve, Sierra de los Rosario. Swim in river

Evening: Meeting with CDR, a Cuban neighborhood association, talk on the role they play in the implementation of Cuba's social and environmental policies and programs/Cultural activity with CDR

*Overnight in Pinar del Rio, if possible, at Casa Particular*

### ***Thursday, May 24***

Morning: Visit tobacco farm, cooperative organic farm and renewable energy installation on school or clinic

#### *Lunch at organic farm*

Afternoon: Visit to “La Carrete” Community Project (environmental education project with/for special needs children...)

#### *Return to Havana. Dinner at hotel*

Evening: Optional Cultural activities/Salsa Club

### ***Friday, May 25***

Morning: Meeting with students and professors of business/economics/sustainability at the University of Havana

#### *Lunch in Central Havana*

Afternoon: Visit Ministry of Tourism to discuss how to promote environmentally responsible tourism

Visit to MINVEC to discuss foreign investment opportunities

#### *Farewell dinner with Cuban hosts and guests.*

Evening: Optional cultural activities (music, dancing)

### ***Saturday, May 26***

Morning: Swimming and snorkeling on beaches just east of Havana (public beach) or other free time activities

#### *Lunch: At the beach*

Afternoon: Free time in Havana

Re-entry and evaluation meeting

*Evening: Dinner in Old Havana. Optional Cultural Activities*

### ***Sunday, May 27***

Depart for US via Cancun

*Possible additional activities: Baseball game; Casa Africa La Comenita performance*

## **V. Important Dates**

**March 1, 2012** Application and \$250 down payment due to Donna Anderson. Check is to be made out to UWL.

**March 14, 2012** Students must request enrollment into D2L course by 4pm to qualify for undergraduate research grant submission. Email request to: [stdtresearch@uwlax.edu](mailto:stdtresearch@uwlax.edu)

**March 21, 2012** Undergraduate Research Grant Proposals Due by 4pm. Submit proposals on D2L.

**May 1 and May 6, 2012 (TENTATIVE):** Pre-tour meeting with students of 1.5 hours each for orientation on Cuban culture, the economy, and sustainability. Readings from Global Exchange’s *Cuba: Current Issues Reader and Resource Guide* will be discussed.

**???** UW-L Office of International Education Orientation Session.

## VI. Tentative, Preliminary Costs

**NOTE:** This is for 10-14 students. If we have 15 or more students, GX fee drops from \$2490 to \$2290.

<b>Environmental Protection &amp; Sustainable Development in Cuba 10 students</b>		
<b>GX Study Tour Expenses *</b>		\$2490
<b>UW-L and UW System Expenses</b>		
UW-L Office of International Education		\$150
UWS Health insurance		19
Emergency contingency fund (per UWS Board of Regents)		50
<b>BUS 400 1 credit</b>		\$175
<b>LESS: Academic Initiative Stipend (AIS) (You must apply: deadline 4-1-12)</b>		-\$300
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM FEE</b>		<b>\$2584</b>
<b>PLUS: Airfare</b> Roundtrip: Cancun-Cuba=\$350; Milwaukee-Cuba=?		\$700
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3284</b>
<b>LESS: CBA Scholarship</b>		-\$1000
<b>TOTAL with Scholarship</b>		<b>\$2284</b>
<b>Miscellaneous student expenses (not included in program fee)</b>		
Meals not included in program fee (approx 1meal/day)	\$150	
Personal Spending	500	
Visa	25	
Passport	160	
Required Health Insurance	27	
Tips	100	
	<b>Total estimated student expenses</b>	<b>\$962</b>

**\* The price includes:**

- All confirmations in the program.
- Double room accommodations
- Ground transportation during program
- 1 full time Global Exchange tour facilitator and translator
- Preparatory reading materials.
- Admission, honoraria and donations to all scheduled and program activities.
- 2 meals a day (for full day programs)
- \$35 Global Exchange annual membership
  - Single rooms are available for an additional \$300.

**\* The price does not include the following:<sup>a</sup>**

- Expenses of a purely personal nature<sup>b</sup>
- Room service charges.

- Gratuities to the waitstaff,
- Gratuities for guide and driver (\$40)<sup>b</sup>
- Travel Insurance
- Bottled water, extra beverages<sup>b</sup>
- One dinner or lunch per day<sup>b</sup>
- Round trip airfare from Wisconsin or Minnesota to Cancun (I flew from Milwaukee to Cancun through Houston this past July)
- Round trip airfare from Cancun to Havana (\$350 on Aeromexico)
- Cuban visa (\$25) and required Cuban health insurance (\$27)
- Passport (\$160)

<sup>a</sup> Each participant is responsible for these charges.

<sup>b</sup> FROM GX: “We normally suggest that participants bring around \$50 - 100 per day for their personal and non-included expenses (third meal, bottled water, individual excursions, etc...) Of that, we normally ask student participants to put aside \$20 each for the driver and for the guide as a tip to be collected at the end.”

## VII. Options for course credit

**BUS 400:** Foreign Study Tour. 1 credit. This course and accompanying tour will give students an opportunity to gain an in-depth knowledge of a foreign city and/or region. The class will prepare students for international travel in general, and for the experience of visiting selected cities/areas. To be taken concurrently with INS 226.

**Independent study**, through either Economics (ECO 499) or through another department with the approval of that department. 1-3 credits. Note that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> credits will increase the cost by \$175/credit.

## VIII. Health and medical preparation information

U.S. State Department and Centers for Disease Control recommend that travelers be up-to-date with routine shots, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc, for travel to Cuba.

Health care is free to residents in Cuba but there are nominal charges for tourists. There is a new regulation regarding the required purchase of Cuban health insurance for US citizens and this should cover you for any medical emergency. **Global Exchange obtains the medical insurance for us.** The health system is good, so you will be well taken care of in case of an emergency.

## IX. Passports and Visas

Everyone must have a passport so if you don't have one yet or need to renew it, please do so immediately. **Global Exchange obtains the visas for its clients; however you must have your passport before they can apply for your visa.**

We will need letters from UW-L verifying that we are associated with a university and on an educational tour.

## **X. Additional Information on Cuba**

### ***Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know*, by Julia Sweig.**

Julia Sweig is a senior fellow for Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC. Although the book is written before the Sixth Party Conference of last month, it is an excellent, easy to read, overview of Cuban history and political/economic issues.

### ***The Lonely Planet Guide to Cuba***

This guide contains a lot of factual information about Cuban history and culture as well as travel and logistical information.

As you are aware, there are major economic policy changes going on in Cuba at this time. The Cuban government just held its first Party Congress in 17 years to discuss this. GX is beginning to receive analytical articles on these changes and we're hoping for a presentation on this subject during our research tour in Cuba. GX will send us more information.

## **XI. QUESTIONS?**

Thank you! If you have questions, please contact Donna Anderson, [danderson3@uwlax.edu](mailto:danderson3@uwlax.edu), (608) 785-6864. If you would like an electronic version of this document, visit [www.uwlax.edu/faculty/anderson](http://www.uwlax.edu/faculty/anderson) and click on CUBA MAY WEEK STUDY TOUR.