

Discover CUBA!

A People-to-People Exploration of Cuba

March 30 - April 7, 2018

Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us as we explore Cuba in 2018! On this fascinating program, we will travel on a General License from the U.S. Treasury Dept. to take friends and members of the Planetary Society on a **People-to-People Discovery of Cuba**.

Soak up the sights and sounds of Cuba's historic cities, fascinating natural heritage, unique culture, art and music, as we explore several of Cuba's UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Our journey begins in **Havana—a World Heritage city**—where we will explore the Spanish colonial heritage of Cuba in La Habana Vieja. Havana's old town is rich with memorabilia including wonderful music, museums, and famous fortifications.

Visit the **Planetarium**, commemorated in 2010, for the 400th anniversary of Galileo's astronomical discoveries, and explore the **National Botanic Garden**. See where **Hemingway** lived and wrote, and mingle with the local people along the **Malecon**, Havana's famous seashore.

Travel to scenic **Vinales Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, famous for its beautiful mogotes and picturesque limestone formations.

See the monument to the historic revolutionary **Che Guevara** and meet with amateur astronomers in the island's central city of **Santa Clara**.



Stay in the beautiful **Escambray Mountains**. With a local expert, look for intriguing flora and fauna including the smallest bird in the world (the bee hummingbird).

Wander through history in **Trinidad's** colonial old town. Walk the cobblestone streets while listening to music, viewing local artist's studios, and enjoying the unique charms of the **500-year-old UNESCO** city.

Travel along Cuba's coast to the **UNESCO city of Cienfuegos** "Pearl of the South". It surrounds Cuba's most spectacular natural bay. See and hear music and art thriving with a visit to big band icon **Benny More Art School**, and enjoy a performance by the world renowned **Cienfuegos Choir**.

As we travel around this amazing island, the largest in the Caribbean, we will meet with Cuban naturalists, and local experts. Throughout our journey, we will engage Cubans directly in discussions about their lives and work, culture, and traditions.

Our journey will be a rich expedition of discovery. We hope you will join us for this fascinating visit to Cuba!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nye".

Bill Nye
The Science Guy®
CEO

The logo for The Planetary Society, featuring a stylized planet with a ring and the text "THE PLANETARY SOCIETY" in a bold, sans-serif font.



Discover Cuba Itinerary

Pre Night: Home to Miami

Arrive Miami and spend the night at the group hotel located near the Miami Airport.

Day 1: Miami to Havana, Cuba

9:30 am check-in for our group flight from Miami to Havana, Cuba. Visit the historic Square of the Revolution where Castro addressed the country and see the Jose Marti Memorial. *Habana Libre or similar (4 nights)*. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2: Historic Havana & The Planetarium

Our day begins with a visit to the Havana Planetarium housed in the former Habana Cinema in lively Plaza Vieja. The Planetarium opened in 2010 commemorating the 400th anniversary of Galileo's astronomical discoveries. See the reproduction of the solar system, a simulation of the Big Bang, The Cosmonautics and Space Technique Hall illustrating the relationship of man with space, and a theatre that allows viewing of over 6,000 stars. Spend the afternoon walking through the many plazas and squares of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Accompanied by our local guide, mingle with the local Cuban people. Evening performance (Buena Vista Social Club or similar). (B,L,D)

LEADERSHIP



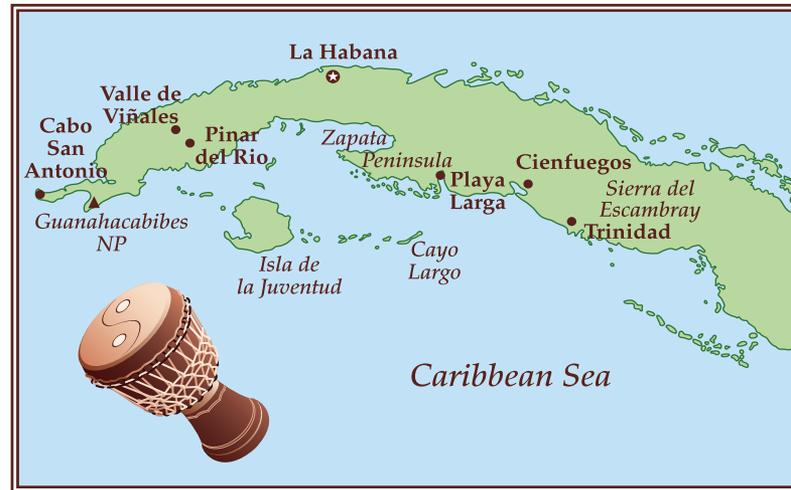
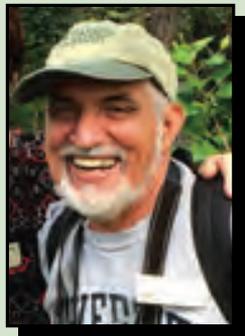
A licensed Cuban guide will accompany the group throughout the tour, in addition to Dr. Lee Harper and Dr. Carlos Sanchez.

Dr. Lee Harper is a tropical ecologist who has conducted research in the Caribbean and in Brazil. He has been leading trips to Cuba for Betchart Expeditions for several years to great acclaim. He

currently works with government agencies doing research along the St. Lawrence Seaway and is a licensed boat captain and sailor.

Dr. Carlos Sanchez is a professor of biology at the University of Havana and a botanist for the National Botanic Garden. Carlos speaks fluent English and enjoys sharing his interest and knowledge of the gardens and natural areas of Cuba.

He has led several Cuba trips for Betchart Expeditions.



Day 3: Vinales Valley

Today we will travel west to explore the Vinales Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its mogotes and picturesque limestone formations dating back to the Jurassic. The valley is surrounded by mountains covered with pine and oak forest. The valley is farmed by traditional agriculture techniques, primarily cultivating tobacco. The culture of the valley is a blend of the indigenous people, Spanish heritage, and black slaves. Return to Havana. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Hemingway, National Botanical Garden & Havana's Museums

Today, visit Finca La Vigia, where Hemingway lived and wrote works including *The Old Man and the Sea*. Continue to the National Botanical Garden for a special tour and lunch. You have free time this afternoon to visit one of Havana's many museums such as the Natural History or Fine Arts Museum. Dine at a palador tonight, followed by the Colonial Cannon Firing Ceremony at the "San Carlos de la Cabana" Fortress. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Havana - Santa Clara - Topes de Collantes

This morning, we depart Havana for the Sierra de Escambray Mountains. Drive through the Cuban countryside with small towns and sugar cane fields. Meet with amateur astronomers and Prof. Rolando Cardenas Ortiz of the Central Unviersity of Las Villas, Santa Clara (if schedules allow). Afternoon scenic mountain drive to Topes de Collantes. *Los Helechos Hotel (2 nights)*. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Parque de Codina

Today we explore *Parque de Codina*, just 3 miles from *Topes de Collantes*. Our mountain adventure begins with a drive in large Soviet-era trucks through this mountainous area. Explore the interpretive trail *Encantos de Codina* with a Cuban naturalist. See a variety of orchids and learn about the medicinal use of many of the plants, as well as picturesque landscapes. Visit the House of Coffee and the Museum of Cuban Art. (B,L,D)

CUBA

ATLANTIC
OCEAN



Day 7: Trinidad & Cienfuegos

This morning we head to the colorful colonial UNESCO city of Trinidad. Walk the cobblestone streets, listening to music, visit art studios, and see the colorful church and cathedral with a local historian. Continue to Cienfuegos along the south coast. *Hotel (2 nights).* (B,L,D)

flights to/from Miami/Home with an overnight in Miami before and after the trip. Rooms at our group hotel near the Miami airport will be offered and will be added to your final invoice.

Cuban Hotels: *The hotels will be the best available in each location and confirmed before the tour.*



Day 8: Cienfuegos

Visit the Benny More Art School to see firsthand how artists and musicians are cultivated in Cuba. This illustrates Cuba's commitment to arts and education. In the afternoon see the central Jose Marti Plaza and visit the Palacio del Valle. There will also be a short performance by the world renowned Cienfuegos Choir (if they are not on tour). (B,L,D)

Day 9: Cienfuegos to Miami

Afternoon transfer to the Cienfuegos airport for our return group flight to Miami. Arrive in the evening. (B)

Note: 3 hour minimum connection required. The optional Post Night Miami group hotel is recommended, with flight departing from Miami for home the following morning.

IMPORTANT: *Flight times are based on 2017 schedules. Updated schedules may not be available until approximately 30 days prior to departure. We recommend booking your*



Reservations

#1493

Yes! I/We want to join the **CUBA Expedition, March 30 - April 7, 2018**, offered by **The Planetary Society and Betchart Expeditions Inc.** Please reserve ____ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account. A copy of the information page of my/our passport is/are enclosed. Yes ____ No ____

Name(s): _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email: _____

Member: ___ Planetary Society ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please Mail To: CUBA 2018
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$4,595 per person twin share + air fare from Miami to Havana, Cuba, with return Cienfuegos to Miami, approximately \$650. This is based on a minimum of 17 paying participants. Single supplement is \$795. There are limited single accommodations available on this expedition.



Expedition Fee Includes: Group airport transfers in Havana and Cienfuegos, transportation by air conditioned motorcoach or vans, accommodations twin share with private bath in Cuban 3-star or 4-star hotels which reflect the culture of the country; all meals from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 9; entrance fees; gratuities to bellboys and waiters; leadership by an excellent naturalist and a biologist from the University of Havana; special meetings with Cuban guests; leadership, administration.

FOR RESERVATIONS

Please mail the completed reservation form with a copy of the information page of your passport and a deposit check for \$1,000 per person to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Road

Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone (800) 252-4910 (USA)

or (408) 252-4910 (International)

Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: betcharttaunya@gmail.com

Final payment is due December 18, 2017

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare and Cuba visa (quoted separately); pre-night in Miami, gratuities to your expedition leader, guide and driver; luggage charges; items of strictly a personal nature (passport, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, laundry, internet, phone, fax, snacks or sodas); tips to hotel staff; personal insurance; foreign airport departure tax.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers fly together from Miami to Havana on group flights March 30 and return together from Cienfuegos to Miami on April 7. All passengers should book independent flights to arrive in Miami by 4:30 pm on March 29, 2018 and to depart Miami after 10:30 pm on April 7 or overnight in Miami. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 100 days before departure less a \$250 handling fee per person. There is no refund after December 18, 2017 unless your place is resold, then a \$250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, entrance fees, or other expedition features.



Responsibility: Marazul Charters Inc. is a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP) and Carrier Service Provider (CSP) for Cuba by the US Treasury Department. The Planetary Society will travel under a General License. Betchart Expeditions Inc. is a licensed TSP and is assisting the Planetary Society in administering this program with services provided by Marazul and Havanatur. Betchart Expeditions Inc. and the Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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