

ISCA announces February 2017 tours of eastern Cuba

Discover the real Cuba, a country unique in culture, history and scenic beauty with ISCA. The tours of southeastern Cuba, in February of 2017, is centered in and around Granma province in eastern Cuba and offers an exciting “edutainment” fun filled 10 day tour with a focus on Cuban agriculture.



Cuba is a Caribbean gem that is safe and naturally enticing for all who desire to find a cultural oasis of warm, generous people. Cuba's riches go beyond its vibrant culture and famous white sand beaches. It offers a rich natural landscape that inspires one with its soulful art, music and hardworking farmers. Learn and experience the innovation and sustainability of Cuba's green community agriculture.

Enjoy a walking tour through the streets of old Pilon; visit a cigar factory; walk through artisanal coffee plantations, watch the coffee beans being roasted, visit a small scale dairy plant, lay back on the white sand beaches; attend a local cabaret; and most importantly, make contact with the warm hearted, welcoming Cuban people. Our agriculture tour maximizes our interaction with the local people so you can learn first-hand about the real Cuba. Join us for this once in a lifetime adventure of discovery and friendship.

For more information, contact Lloyd Dalziel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at ldalziel@isca-aidc.ca or 1-306-955-2291, or David Mackay in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island at mackaypei@gmail.com or 1-902-980-9864

Highlights

- Visit 2 farm sites near historic Holguin and the province of Granma
- Visit 2 small scale artisanal food processing plant
- Relax and swim by the beautiful beaches of southern Cuba in the Pilon area
- Attend a Tropicana cabaret
- Visit a reconstructed revolutionary Camp
- Watch the harvesting of coffee beans and the roasting process
- Visit the Granma Solar Institute and organic development centre
- Experience cultural and art centres as well as musical performances

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive Holguin and attend a presentation on the history, challenges and successes of Cuban agriculture. Free time

Day 2 Tour historic Holguin and visit Brewery Cerveceria Bucanero maker of the famous Cuban beer Cristal.

Day 3 Travel to Pilon through the scenic Sierra Madras. Afternoon free and beaches

Day 4 Morning - Tour of cigar plant. Afternoon - free time

Day 5 Morning - Visit a family homestead. Afternoon - tour Pilón government agriculture centre

Day 6 Free day – Option of a local tour of Pilon and beaches available

Day 7 Tour a local milk processing plant

Day 8 Tour local solar innovation centre

Day 9 Tour of historic revolutionary camp reconstruction in Sierra Madras

Day 10 Travel to Holguin for your return home

Price:

\$2,900.00 with 10% discount for those booking before December 31st. A 50% deposit will be required at time of booking. The price includes all travel in Cuba, meals and accommodations. Participants are responsible for international airfare to Holguin.



A Snapshot of eastern Cuba

Cuba imports 70-80% of food consumed by its population. As a result local organic farming plays a critical role in food security, environmental sustainability, and community health. Community, co-operative and urban agriculture continues to be an important source of food for the residents of Cuba's urban and rural population in eastern Cuba and elsewhere.

The province of Granma, our touring area, takes its name from the yacht Granma, used by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro to land in Cuba with 82 guerrillas on December 2nd, 1956; The American who sold the guerillas the secondhand yacht in Mexico apparently had named it

"Granma" ("Granma", more usually "Grandma", is an affectionate term for a grandmother. The name of the vessel became an icon for Cuban communism. (Source: Wikipedia)

The province is full of reminders of the Cuban Revolution, and of the Cuban Wars of Independence; plaques in the mountain commemorate the 1959 struggle against Fulgencio Batista. Other sites, unmarked, include archaeological digs, the sites of several palenques, and the fortified hamlets of escaped slaves. In 2005 Hurricane Dennis destroyed the site of Castro's headquarters at La Plata. There are numerous abandoned gold, silver, and manganese mine sites.

Miscellaneous

International flights land on **Aeropuerto Frank Pais** about 13km from the Holguin city center.

Fact File

- 10 land days
- Maximum 12 travelers (Single accommodation available at an additional cost)
- Start and finish in Holguin
- All meals included (Alcoholic beverages not included)
- Translation

All travel and accommodations in Cuba included

Activity level - capable of walking 2 km (all specific tour activities optional).

