

# THE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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## Discovering the roots of Cuban Culture and Cuisine by wandering around the towns and countryside of eastern Cuba.

October 14-26, 2022 delegation

Tentative dates: October 14-26, 2022 (depending on flight availability, this could change by a day or two).

We will hike the hills and visit the neighbors from Santiago to Guantánamo to Maisí with Baracoa in between!

This Friendship Association delegation will encompass nature, the environment, conservation, culture, cuisine and care for our friends in Cuba.

We will meet with biologists, naturalists, conservationists, architects, social workers, historians, artists, artisans, and a multitude of Cubans eager to share their lives and work with us, and to learn about our lives and work.



*Hiking Patana-Caleta trail (Maisí)*

We will stay in private homes, eat in privately owned restaurants or with our hosts, and visit independent initiatives. We will visit the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site; Yumurí Canyon Protected Area for a swim and boat ride; Maisí-Caleta Ecological Reserve in Maisí; climb the Yunque mountain (or at least go to the waterfalls on the way up!); visit the small but fascinating Taino Archaeological Museum “Cueva del Paraiso”; the Stone Zoo in Yateras; the Gran Piedra Protected Area Biosphere and Isabelica coffee plantation ruins, and other smaller natural wonders. Alternative, less strenuous outings will be available parallel to these mentioned.

We will meet with established and well-known artists as well as young, emerging artists and musicians. There will be new taste sensations as Baracoa’s cuisine is closer to Caribbean than the rest of the country which is Spanish influenced. Independent restaurants offering unique dishes such as tetí, bacán, conch and fish in coconut sauce will compete for our attention. We will learn about the music of the Salsa, Bachata, Kiribá and Ningón...

And yes, we will visit Havana and explore this fascinating capital city of Cuba.

### **Purpose and goals**

This delegation is in support of the Cuban people as permitted by the U.S. Treasury Department, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). We have an intense itinerary with a strong focus on meaningful interaction with our Cuban counterparts through formal and informal meetings. Each participant is obligated to keep records for possible review by the US Treasury Dept.

Our goal is to help you understand more about conservation in Cuba, especially with regard to the environment, endangered species, birds, and nature in general, while offering support to Cuban civil society. Another goal is to assist our independent Cuban naturalist colleagues in their work; the delegation will bring optics, feeders, books, and educational materials to Cuba. It’s good opportunity to brush up your Spanish.

### **Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds (final payment by August 12, 2022)**

**Cost:** \$3,500 (per person, double occupancy). Add \$400 for single supplement (if available). Includes airfare from an airport in Florida to an airport in Cuba (to be determined), health insurance in Cuba, all group meals in Cuba, all ground transportation, all B&Bs, entrance fees, and tour guides. Does not include travel to Florida airport, Florida motels, visas, extra suitcases and overweight, travel insurance, and all tips. Since people’s drinking habits vary greatly, participants are responsible for their own drinks, except bottled water. \$500 non-refundable deposit due with application.

\$1,500 due June 1, 2022.

\$1,500 due August 12, 2022 (Or \$1,900 for single occupancy if available).

Email or snail mail a COLOR copy of your signed passport (photo and signature pages), [application form](#) and [release from liability](#)

Don't forget to send (unless you already have) your deposit check to  
The Friendship Association  
7265 A1A South, D1  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Or Zelle to: [aimisoledad@gmail.com](mailto:aimisoledad@gmail.com) or to 904-808 2030

All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If **you** cancel before one month from departure, you will receive a refund of 50% of the payment you have made so far (excluding the non-refundable deposit of \$500). If you cancel after the last payment date you will lose your entire amount. Leaving a delegation in progress, for any reason whatsoever, will not result in a refund, and no refunds can be made for any unused portions of the trip.

We reserve the right to cancel any delegation for good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the participants, major political shifts from either or both governments, or international health crises. If canceled prior to departure, you will be eligible for a full refund except for money already dispersed that may be non-refundable. The Friendship Association cannot be responsible for missed connections to and from Cuba for any reason.

Because of the Coronavirus, there may be unexpected changes in dates. Please be patient.



*Photo Jehovanny Rodriguez*



## Tentative Itinerary

**Oct. 14, Day 1:** Find your way to designated airport (**Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando or Miami**).

Once in Cuba, our Cuban guide, **Maikel Cañizares**, and our Cuban driver, **Ronel**, will meet us with a comfortable, medium-sized, air-conditioned bus. We will head for Sancti Spiritus and spend the night at the **Alturas de Banao**, a nature reserve located in the mountains of Guamuhaia, just outside of Sancti Spiritus.

**Oct. 15, Day 2:** Breakfast in Banao, and morning hike to the waterfalls. Leave in the afternoon for **Santiago de Cuba**. Two nights at **Gran Piedra**.



*La Gran Piedra - Santiago de Cuba*

**Oct. 16, Day 3:** Gran Piedra. Climb the great rock. Hiking and visiting the mountain inhabitants. Visit **La Isabelica** coffee plantation museum (UNESCO World Heritage site) and the delightful botanical garden.

**Oct. 17, Day 4:** Breakfast, check out and drive to **Guantanamo**. Lunch with **Jorge Nuñez**, president of UNEAC, and noted Art critic. Afternoon visit to the **Stone Zoo** and then continue on to **Baracoa**. Check in to B&Bs and have dinner together at **El Buen Sabor**.

**Oct. 18, Day 5:** Walking tour of Baracoa with art historian, **Rosendo Romero** and architect **José Enrique Floirián**: visit artists' studios, historic buildings, and enjoy the **Malecón**. Lunch at **Marco Polo** restaurant. Afternoon visit **Taino Museum El Paraiso**.

**Oct. 19, Day 6:** Excursion to **Alejandro de Humboldt National Park** (UNESCO WORLD Heritage Site) and **Taco Bay**, one of the most exquisite coves in all of Cuba. Possible excursion to **Farallones de Moa**. Dinner in town at a private "paladar".

**Oct. 20, Day 7:** Excursion to **Yumurí**. Brief stop on the way to visit a **Cacao plantation** and learn about this amazing fruit. Be prepared to swim and hike in the canyon. Lunch with **Mirleidi** in Yumurí. Evening free for exploring musical offerings.

**Oct. 21, Day 8:** Hike the **Yunque** or stop at the waterfalls. Be fit or be tired! Picnic lunch! Dinner at home in Baracoa. Celebration of The WEEK OF CUBAN CULTURE.

**Oct. 22, Day 9:** Excursion to **Maisí**, hike the **Patana-Caleta Protected Area**. Local cultural events in the evening.

**Oct. 23, Day 10:** Leave for **Havana** with our comfortable bus. Overnight in **Bayamo**.

**Oct. 24, Day 11:** **Havana** check into to B&Bs. Evening dinner in Old Havana.

**Oct. 25, Day 12:** A Whirlwind tour of the major plazas of Old Havana with **Ruben Javier** and an afternoon visit to the **National Museum of Cuban Art**.

**Oct. 26, Day 13:** Departure.

For more information about this adventure, contact Soledad Pagliuca:  
[aimisoledad@gmail.com](mailto:aimisoledad@gmail.com) or  
904 808-2030 (after Aug. 4).



*Cuban Pygmy Owl (Glaucidium siju)*