Join Maria Fernandez for a week of Cuban Culture

This unique cultural journey will focus on the highlights of Havana and the surrounding area. Havana is rich in history and boasts four plazas diverse in architecture and culture. We will visit surrounding areas such as Las Terrazas to study a self sustained community that began with terraced coffee plantations. The trip will also explore the educational systems of Cuba as well as current changes in the economy of Cuba. We will have the opportunity to join Cubans in their social activities and sample aspects of Afro-Cuban culture as expressed in their food, religion, dance and song.

Instructor Contact: Maria Fernandez

Maria Elena Fernandez, M.A. has been teaching Literature, Creative Writing, and Humanities courses at College of the Siskiyous for 20 years. In addition to teaching, she is a published poet and passionate cinephile. She will be overseeing the academic portion of the program and looks forward to sharing this incredible learning adventure with her students.

Your Contact at Kaiser Permanente: Lily Fernandez-Thiede, Email: lily.fernandez-thiede@kp.org or Call: 916-751-6741
Your Contact for Academics: Maria Fernandez, Email: Fernandez@siskiyous.edu or Call: 530-938-5268
Your Contact for College of the Siskiyous registration: Jan Keen, Email: keen@siskiyous.edu or Call: 530-938-5597
Your Contact for Cuba: Paul Bardwil, Email: pbardwil@aol.com or Call: 916-386-1957

Cuba Trip Tentative Schedule:

Day 1. This is primarily a travel day. Bring your snacks and your patience as air schedules are a little inconvenient. Depending on arrival time, we may have an informal walking tour close to our hotel.

Day 2. We will have a morning lecture about Cuba’s history. We will then go on a walking tour of Old Havana. We will visit the four main squares of Havana: the Plaza de Armas, the Parque Central, the Plaza de San Francisco and Plaza Vieja and many sites along the way. We will see the old aqueduct of the city; pass by many of Ernest Hemingway’s watering holes and many forts and small museums along the way. This will give us a good overview of what Old Havana has to offer. After lunch we will visit what is known a New Havana, which consists of the neighborhood of Vedado and the Revolution Square.

Day 3. After breakfast we will depart for Matanzas. Once in Matanzas we will visit a farm in which an agricultural engineer has combined advanced growing techniques with a home built art studio in which he displays art in his farm/ garden. We will have a lecture on how he has combined his two life passions, agriculture and art.

Day 4. Morning lecture on Cuban music and its origins, influences and diversity. In the afternoon we will visit the Bellas Artes museum. Then in the evening we will go see Cuban jazz at a jazz club or other venue.

Day 5. We will visit Las Terrazas, formerly a coffee plantation and currently a combination of a biological preserve and touristic center. This unique community outside of Havana is based on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Day 6. In the morning we will have a lecture on the performing arts. We will visit ISA (the Institute of Superior Arts.) In the afternoon we will have a salsa dance class.

Day 7. Morning lecture on the history of Cuban cinema and its influences. Then in the afternoon we will take in some local culture and catch a movie at a Cuba theatre. Departure dinner.

Day 8. Departure

As legal travel to Cuba is restricted for American citizens, there are a limited number of opportunities for travel. We recommend that you send your deposit as soon as possible to guarantee your space. A non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due no later than April 13, 2015 and the final payment by May 13, 2015.

Please contact Paul Bardwil for specific questions about Cuba travel. Email: pbardwil@aol.com

We will be traveling with a general education license with College of the Siskiyous. Legally you must register and pay school tuition to the college to be considered a legal participant of this program. GEF does not have the authority to enroll students at College of the Siskiyous. The college requires that all participants register and pay with the college for the program all fees associated with college credits only. All trip expenses will be paid directly to GEF.

Program Includes:
* All bus transfers in Cuba
* Hotel accommodations in Cuba
* All lunches
* All breakfasts
* Medical insurance in Cuba
* Visa for travel to Cuba
* A bilingual guide
* Air from NorCal to Cuba
Round-trip

Not included: College of Siskiyous credit fees.

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM: $2,750.00
Deposit Deadline: April 13, 2015
Final Payment: May 13, 2015

CONTACTS:
Academics: Maria Fernandez Fernandez@siskiyous.edu
College of the Siskiyous registration: Jan Keen 530-938-5597
Cuba: Paul Bardwil 916-986-1957 or pbardwil@aol.com
Please choose course:

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS TOUR PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT.

or mental, arising out of or in connection therewith. Participant assumes limitation, injury, accident or death, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, loss directors, successors, agents, airline, motor coach and other components of the tour. This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which Act (“ADA”), cancellation, delay or overbooking, acts or omissions of providers such as hotels, local ground handlers, entertainers or sightseeing services or restaurants including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), cancellation, delay or overbooking, or travel participant negligence, GEF cannot assume and is not to be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages (direct, indirect, consequential or incidental), costs, or expenses including, without limitation, injury, accident or death, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, loss of pay, upset, disappointments, distress, or frustration, whether physical or mental, arising out of or in connection therewith. Participant assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases GEF from, any duty checking and verifying local guides, etc. As a result, GEF will the destination during the length of the proposed travel. GEF recommends that you visit the websites of the Department of Transportation (www.dot.gov), the Federal Aviation Administration (www.faa.gov) and the Transportation Security Administration (www.tsa.gov) for current news and recommendations regarding travel package, all sums paid to GEF for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by GEF to you within 14 days after the cancellation, unless you otherwise advise GEF in writing, after cancellation. The rights and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund by a passenger waives any additional remedies.

BAGGAGE: Please consult with your airline 24 hours before flight as baggage fees and costs change rapidly. GEF is not responsible for damage to baggage. Carriers are not liable for damage to soft baggage. If participant’s luggage weighs more than 50 pounds or has more than one piece of luggage, participant is responsible for additional costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE: The terms and conditions set forth herein are governed by, and are to be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. If any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce or interpret any term or condition of this agreement or to enforce any right and/or legal remedy, such action must be brought in a State or Federal court in the State of California with a venue in El Dorado County.

PERSONAL EXPENSES: Tour Price includes only those services specifically stated in the tour package. Items such as passport, luggage, clothing, food (unless specifically included in tour), room service, telephone calls, purchased services, tipping, additional or over weight baggage, and other items not specifically mentioned in the trip flyer are not included and are the participant’s responsibility.

SELLER OF TRAVEL: GEF is registered as a seller of travel services in the states of California #2079143-40. Registration as a Seller of Travel does not constitute approval of any State or California Only. In the event of the default of GEF, you may be eligible for a refund of up to $15,000 from the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. If you as a travel participant or as the person making payment on behalf of the travel participant (a “California customer”) are located in California at the time of your purchase, you have a right to make a claim against the Fund for a refund of any money paid to GEF that is due because of the bankruptcy, insolvency, cessation of operations, or material failure to provide transportation or travel services sold. The claim must be filed within one year after you become aware of such a claim. For a claim form and additional information, write to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 8474, Northridge, CA 91327. Non-California customers are not covered by California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund and are not eligible to file a claim against that Fund in the event of the default of USA.

TRAVEL DATES/FLIGHT CHANGES/DELAYS: GEF strives to keep your original travel dates. Participant acknowledges that these changes are not refundable and are at the discretion of GEF. Flight times are subject to change. Price Increases could include fuel & baggage surcharges, tax increases, not meeting minimum signature requirements, change of date of trip, and other unforeseeable fees. We will notify you in writing if these fees change and or prices increase.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: If you cancel your reservation, your right to refund is limited, as set forth below. All cancellations and requests for refunds, if applicable, must be submitted in writing and mailed or faxed to GEF office. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FROM VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS. Cancellations occurring after deposit but before 60 days prior to departure will result in loss of the non-refundable deposit, optional insurance costs purchased, and any additional airfare, hotel, minimum, activity or driver coins fees (if any). Cancellations received on between 60-30 days prior to departure and are assessed 50% of trip cost plus optional insurance costs if purchased. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure will receive no refund. The actual fee depends on the date cancellation is received by GEF. Once cancelled, there will be a $30 restatement fee, plus any additional administrative fees, and, only under certain circumstances, a pro-rata share of any funds remaining. For the transportation and air travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to GEF for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by GEF to you within 14 days after the cancellation, unless you otherwise advise GEF in writing, after cancellation. The rights and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund by a passenger waives any additional remedies.

Complete this application and submit with a copy of the picture page of your passport and a $500.00 deposit and mail to: GEF, 8428 Denison Ct, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Full Legal Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________

(Name must match EXACTLY the passport that will be carried while on tour) (Required)

Mother’s Maiden Name: ____________________ Please circle one: Male Female

Mailing Address: __________________________ City: __________ State: __________ Zip Code: __________

Phone Number: ( __________) E-mail: ________________________________ Emergency Contact: __________________________

Do you have any allergies or medical problems?: YES NO Explain: ____________________

Do you have any dietary restrictions?: YES NO Explain: ____________________

Are you currently taking any type of prescription drug?: YES NO (Please bring ample supply as it may not be available in Cuba)

Choose please course: HUM 1010: Humanities Travel Study Culture of Cuba (IMPORTANT: Registration and course fees MUST be paid to College of the Siskiyous.)

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS TOUR PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT.

Travelers Signature: __________________________ Date: __________