



Matanzas, Cuba

Area

On all of our mission trips, we see heart-wrenching poverty and hear unbelievable stories of struggle and survival. Yet in spite of all of the obstacles and hardship and difficulties we encounter in the lives of those we serve, there's one thing we see that always stays the same: God never forgets his people, even when it seems like the rest of the world has. There's no country in the western hemisphere today where that rings truer than Cuba. Since Fidel Castro took power with his Communist regime in 1959, Cuba has been a land trapped in time. The cars driving down the street today look like something you would see in *Leave it to Beaver*, and the government controls everything from food rations to media and until recent years, religious freedom. If you're like many Americans, you might still think that traveling to Cuba is illegal for you.

Yet God has not forgotten Cuba. Even with an alarming lack of Spanish Bibles and other Christian resources, Christianity has not only survived but flourished in spite of persecution and government restrictions. And because America's travel restrictions to Cuba have loosened, a unique window has opened in which some Americans have the freedom to travel to Cuba, and experience its beautiful and mysterious culture, while bringing desperately needed Christian resources to churches who have been praying for years for God to bring help.

We are excited to be giving you the chance to visit a land that very few in our generation have been able to see, while encouraging the faith of those Cubans who have not held out hope that God hears them and sees them.

The Need

Things you may do in Cuba:

- Meet and interact with local Cuban pastors, hearing their stories
- Do a simple work project for our ministry partner (painting a building or a church, for example)
- Interact with Cuban kids with disabilities, playing games and helping with crafts
- Attend a Cuban house church service, share your faith story with them (optional)

Our Partners

Our partners in Cuba are focused on helping the church thrive. They see the church as the hope of change in Cuba, and they're committed to supporting pastors and helping the church thrive. They are connected to many different churches of many different denominations, and our efforts support theirs. They are blessed by Americans coming to Cuba, not for tourism, but to share, relate, and love. The blessing will be mutual, as you'll walk away with new perspective and a new hope.

Sample Itinerary

Saturday – Arrive at Juan Gualberto Gómez Airport (VRA) in Varadero; transport to lodging

Sunday – Attend a local Cuban house church in small groups; free afternoon

Monday–Thursday – Tour local churches, serve on various work projects, and see ministry sites

Friday – Free day in Havana

Saturday – Head to VRA airport for your flight home

Need to Know

- A passport and Cuban visa are required. The cost of the visa is not included in your trip fees, but we will guide you on how to purchase one.
- Trip fees do not include airfare from the U.S. to Cuba; airfare averages from \$400 - \$700. We'd be happy to purchase your plane tickets and visa for an additional fee. Please contact us if you are interested.
- Be up to date on all of your standard vaccines. Hepatitis A vaccine is also recommended.
- Lodging will be at a guest house; you can expect bunk beds in gender-specific rooms (sleeping 4-5 people each)
- Currency is the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). Approx. \$1 = 1 CUC.