

## Why Cuba?

1. Cuban Christians have been, and still are, monitored and oppressed by the government. Although the government does not officially restrict the practice of religion, donations are restricted to state approved sources.
2. Evangelical Protestant churches (5% of the population) work under the radar in low visibility settings.
3. Religious citizens are prevented from joining the Communist Party and Cuba has been officially declared a secular state.
4. 60% of the population identifies as Roman Catholic however it is estimated only 2% - 5% of this number attend mass regularly.
5. The Cuban communist party not allowing religious affiliation or church membership.
6. The communist promotion of atheism and the combination of Catholicism and Yoruba or Santeria religion, (not unlike voodoo).

Despite recent events regarding Cuba and the current administration, Christians are no longer restricted from traveling to Cuba to share the light of Jesus.

## How do we get there?

We will be partnering with Praying Pelicans Missions for this trip. They have extensive on the ground connections with local churches in Havana, and were one of the first to establish trips to the island. A Praying Pelican staff representative will be with our group 24 hours a day during our trip. In areas that Spanish speaking is a required element, Praying Pelican will have a local translator that will serve as an assistant trip leader. Generally speaking there will be a language barrier, but only at times, and will not conflict with what we are accomplishing on the ground.

## What will we be doing?

This entirely depends on who is going! This trip will be semi-tailored towards the strengths of its participants. Generally speaking this could fall into one or more of three categories:

**Relational:** This could include designing a VBS for children, visiting cancer and children's hospitals, visiting with shut-ins and the very elderly, meeting with other Cuban Christians on how they connect with each other and operate with a communist government. Bible studies, learning how to make local crafts with other women and children.

**Construction:** For those willing and able, construction projects are identified by local pastors within the community. Supplies are purchased on the ground, and a portion of your mission trip expense is used to fund these projects.

**Medical:** For those with current or prior medical backgrounds, assisting doctors with taking blood pressure and checking vision.

Is it safe? Cuba is well policed and crime is incredibly rare.

**Where will we stay?** In or near Havana. Basic air conditioned hotel accommodations are included, two to a room with twin beds.

**What is needed to get there?** A passport that is valid for at least six months beyond our departure date. Visas are required for entry into Cuba and are issued through the airline.

## What do we do for food and fun?

- With the exception of departure and arrival hours, three meals will be provided. Traditional local cuisine is prepared daily with a few American style dishes too. The pressed, grilled Cubano sandwich is a classic lunch item, and rice and beans is a dinner-time staple. Pork, chicken, fish, salad, plantains and fresh fruit are also common menu items. Purified drinking water is also provided at all times and at worksites.
- Typically two afternoons and evenings are reserved for beaches, nature walks, and exploring Havana is a must!
- Havana is typically dry in March with lows in the upper 70s and highs in the mid 80s.

## How much will it cost?

- Exact pricing will not be available until closer till flights are booked, but a best faith estimate would be in the \$1500 - \$1800 range. We will have a more precise figure once we determine our exact worksites and needs. Here's what it will include:
- Flight, baggage charges, visa fees, and airport transfer
- Hotel accommodations and transportation to work and recreation sites each day
- Three meals a day in Cuba
- Onsite construction or relational related funds required onsite

## What is not included?

Anything not mentioned above, such as spending money, personal insurance, recreation activities, snacks, offering money etc. It is important to remember that credit and debit cards are NOT accepted in Cuba, and that it is cash only.

## Who will be leading this trip?

Sam Wright and Brian Henry. There will also be a representative from Praying Pelican Missions with our group 24 hours a day.

## What is the timeline for sign up and reservations?

Please make your check for \$100 payable to FCC with "Cuba 2019" in the memo. Return to Sam Wright or the church office along with your name, email address and cell phone number.

## Reservations will be accepted until we reach capacity for this trip or October 15, whichever comes first.

10/15/2018 – Additional \$500 is due for flights

11/15/2018 – Monthly team prep meetings begin in November

1/9/2019 – Balance of your trip cost is due

## What happens if I need to cancel?

- Cancellations are not a problem, but there are some important dates to be aware of
- Cancel prior to 10/15/2018 - 100% refund of any deposit
- Cancel after 10/15/2018, but before 1/9/2019 - 100% refund of any deposit less \$600
- After 1/9/2019 there are no refunds

## Questions?

Contact Sam Wright at [wright@kenoshafcc.com](mailto:wright@kenoshafcc.com) or 262.857.4743 x116

*Sam Wright & Brian Henry*

Open to all those age 50+

# CUBA

March 9-15, 2019

 SERVE **TEAMS**