



CULTURAL  
EXPLORATIONS



Discover Corps

VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE



## CUBA: Building Bridges



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- Meet local young people and lend a hand with inspiring art projects
- Explore Havana's eclectic mix of architectural styles
- Learn to salsa with a Cuban dance instructor
- Roam the colorful alleyways of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Stroll along the seaside boulevards of Cienfuegos

*with*

**Inman Middle School  
and Grady High School**

*April 5-12, 2020*

# TRIP AT A GLANCE

8 Days / 7 Nights

## PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

## GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 16

## LODGING

Standard

## Havana

**DAY 1** - Arrive and meet the staff and children at Muraleando

**DAY 2** - Begin work at the project, creating art and learning printmaking and salsa

**DAY 3** - Explore Trinidad and Cienfuegos, home to beautiful colonial architecture

## Trinidad & Cienfuegos

**DAY 4** - Continue exploring the quaint plazas and alleyways of Trinidad

## Havana

**DAY 5** - Enjoy the Malecón and continue your time at Muraleando

**DAY 6** - Continue your time at Muraleando and visit Hemingway's house

**DAY 7** - Explore Old Town and say your goodbyes at Muraleando

**DAY 8** - Return home



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# CUBA: BUILDING BRIDGES

## OUR PURPOSE

Explore the beautiful and often-misunderstood island of Cuba, volunteer in community projects in a Havana barrio, and engage in citizen diplomacy as U.S.-Cuba relations continue to thaw. Meet local children as you help out at a thriving arts and culture center, which is helping to revitalize the local neighborhood.

Lawton, a neighborhood just outside Old Havana, was typical among Havana barrios in having suffered from the economic hardships of the '90s. A lack of resources led to many children dropping out of school, and urban decay had begun to set in. However, the founding of Muraleando, a pioneering community art center, is helping to change all that. Local kids engage in art projects, dance classes and sports programs, and you'll lend a hand and help inspire this new generation.

In your free time, you'll explore the vibrant historic and cultural delights that Cuba has to offer. Learn a few steps at a salsa class, visit the former home of literary legend Ernest Hemingway, and explore the UNESCO-listed streets of Trinidad. In Cienfuegos, enjoy a traditional guitar performance and admire French colonial architecture. Along the way, your interaction with locals will play a crucial part in improving understanding between the U.S. and Cuba.





## HIGHLIGHTS



### MURALEANDO

The bulk of your time in Cuba will be spent at Muraleando, an inspiring community art project in the Havana barrio of Lawton. In the 1990s, Lawton was a down-at-heel area which had suffered from years of economic degradation. This forward-thinking art project, initially based out of an old water tank, got local kids creating art, dance, and music. The outcome is a newly inspired generation, and some beautiful artwork decorating the area.



### CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD

The central Cuban town of Trinidad has earned UNESCO World Heritage status for its beautifully preserved Spanish colonial architecture. Its narrow streets are a maze of pastel-colored 19th-century buildings, which serve as a perfect freeze-frame of the town's sugarcane prosperity. Highlights include the Museo Histórico Municipal, a grand mansion housing exhibits which tell the story of Trinidad's history, and Plaza Mayor, the town's main square and a peaceful and photogenic spot.



### OLD HAVANA

Venture to Old Havana and explore the cobblestone streets and iconic plazas of the Cuban capital's historic district on a walking tour. Stroll along the Malecón, the city's seaside promenade and enjoy views of the imposing Castillo del Morro, a castle named for the biblical Magi. Here you will experience the music the fills the air and truly defines Cuba for so many visitors.



### HEMINGWAY'S HOUSE

The specter of Ernest Hemingway looms large over Havana, at least in the minds of American visitors. The author made his home at Finca Vigía, a hilltop house in San Francisco de Paula, between 1939 and 1960. Today, the house is a fascinating museum, having been left more or less exactly as it was when the Hemingways vacated it – allowing for a unique insight into the life of a literary heavyweight.



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: Arrive, Explore Havana and Get to Know Muraleando

Arriving in Havana, we'll hit the ground running with an exploration of the city's colonial plazas and famous seaside boardwalk, the Malecón. Afterwards, head over to the nearby neighborhood of Lawton to meet with the folks at Muraleando, the community art program. We'll meet some of the children and artists involved, and enjoy dinner with the local community tonight. (L,D)

## DAY 2: Create Artworks and Take a Salsa Class

Today we jump right into the project, which aims to improve the aesthetics of Lawton through inspiring artwork and murals, but also improve community cohesion and provide a creative outlet for youth and adults alike. Our activities will include anything from assisting around the center in painting and creating ceramics to printmaking and salsa dancing classes. We'll have dinner together in the evening with the staff at Muraleando. (B,L,D)

## DAY 3: Explore the Colonial Architecture of Cienfuegos

Hit the road to Cienfuegos, visiting the historic site of the Bay of Pigs invasion along the way. This French colonial town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its beauty and architecture. Enjoy lunch in the city followed by a guided tour along the wide boulevards and seafront promenade, before a private performance from a traditional Cienfuegos guitar ensemble. Enjoy free time in the city followed by a dinner in town. (B,L,D)

## DAY 4: Explore the Colorful Alleyways of Trinidad

An expert local guide will reveal the secrets of Trinidad, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the colorful alleyways, lined with Spanish architecture, where the clip-clop of horses' hooves is still a familiar sound. After lunch on the leafy outdoor patio of a local paladar, return to Cienfuegos for a relaxing evening in town. (B,L,D)

*"We developed genuine connections with people we would have never had a chance to interact with otherwise. The casa particular was an incredible opportunity to hone our Spanish and, for my 8-year old daughter, to be immersed in the language for a week." - Ann L.*





## DAY 5: Visit Ernest Hemingway's Home

Make the return drive back to Havana in the morning. After lunch, we'll head over to the home of one of Cuba's most famous residents – Ernest Hemingway. Enjoy a tour of Hemingway's expansive property in the town of Cojimar and see firsthand the area that inspired some of his most famous novels. (B,L,D)

## DAY 6: Return to Muraleando

Enjoy breakfast at your *casa particular* before spending the morning continuing our project with the community. The goal of these projects is to not only lend a hand in the community, but to also better understand Cuban society and culture. After lunch in the city, enjoy free time to explore the markets of Havana. (B,L,D)

## DAY 7: Say Goodbye to Muraleando, and Explore the Squares of Old Havana

On our final full day in Havana we'll continue our projects alongside the children of Lawton, using everything at our disposal to create art, including old tires and other recycled materials. Saying goodbye to the kids, we'll then head into Old Havana and take a tour of the cobblestone streets and plazas of the city. Enjoy free time to explore cafés and shops before relaxing at one of Havana's classic paladars. We'll then savor a farewell dinner together, reflecting on the memories of the past week. (B,L,D)

## DAY 8: Return Home

Today sadly sees the end of your Cuban adventure. After enjoying breakfast together, we'll say our goodbyes and transfer you back to the airport, for your flight home. (B)

## Standard Lodging

Since 1997, the Cuban Government has permitted Cubans to rent rooms in their homes to tourists, revolutionizing the lives of many. Today, *casas particulares* are essentially family-run bed & breakfasts, welcoming you with trademark Cuban hospitality. Each *casa particular* features double or single occupancy rooms, air conditioning, private or "Jack-and-Jill" style bathrooms, and hot and cold water.



# Cuba: Building Bridges

with Inman Middle and Grady High School

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

April 5-12, 2020

**Price Per Student: \$2,195**

*The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$400 per person.*

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights lodging in *casas particulares*
- All meals throughout the trip (21 total), including drinks
- Pure bottled water while touring
- Bilingual Cuban guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Reliable in-country transportation with experienced drivers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Cuban Visa
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry services, room-service, or phone calls

## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website [www.discovercorps.com](http://www.discovercorps.com) and fill out the online registration form. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off your trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

*For more information, visit [discovercorps.com/family friendly](http://discovercorps.com/family-friendly). More dates available on our website.*

*Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps*

*(B,L,D): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

***Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.***



# Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences for families and friends.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

AUSTRALIA	INDIA
BELIZE	JAPAN
COSTA RICA	KENYA
CHINA	MEXICO
CROATIA	PERU
CUBA	SOUTH AFRICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TANZANIA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	THAILAND
GUATEMALA	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • PURPOSEFUL ITINERARIES • ACCESS & AUTHENTICITY • SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL • TURNKEY SERVICE



**Discover Corps**  
VACATIONS WITH PURPOSE

Visit [discovercorps.com/register](https://discovercorps.com/register) to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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