



Call for Participants

XVI 1st of May International Brigade Voluntary Work and Solidarity with Cuba

Dear Friends of Cuba:

The Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and our travel agency Amistur have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the XVI 1st of May International Brigade, marking International Workers Day, which will take place between the 23rd April and 7th May 2023.

As has traditionally been the case, this will include the opportunity to join the historic Cuban May Day parade which will take place in Revolution Square on the 1 May, along with the International Solidarity with Cuba event the following day. In addition, Brigade members will visit places of historic, economic, cultural and social significance, undertake voluntary work, be briefed on current affairs in Cuba, and engage with representatives from different organizations across our society.

Your stay in Cuba will allow you to get to know our people and to gain a deeper knowledge of the Cuban reality at present. This is a time of reforms that are being carried out as part of the updating of our socialist project in the face of adverse circumstances caused by the tightening of the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed on us by successive USA governments for over six decades.

The programme of activities will take place over 14 days in Havana, Artemisa, Villa Clara and Sancti Spíritus. This includes 10 nights in the International Camp Julio Antonio Mella (CIJAM) located in the Caimito municipality, 45 kilometres from Havana. Four nights will be spent in Sancti Spíritus, renowned for having some of the most intact and best-preserved colonial architecture of the American continent.

The overall cost of your stay will be 640.00 Euros. This includes accommodation in shared rooms (of up to four persons in CIJAM and double or triple rooms in Sancti Spíritus); full board and airport transfers. Transport to all of the programmed activities will also be provided.

If the total of participants in the Brigade is ultimately under 100 persons, the cost of participation will rise to 680.00 Euros, rather than 640.00 Euros. Payment can be made by bank transfer or online payment. Due to the restrictions imposed by the US blockade, payment cannot be made in USA dollars.

It is obligatory to travel with travel insurance that covers any medical costs in Cuba. For brigade members who stay at the CIJAM before the 23 April start date, there will be an additional supplement of 15.00 Euros per night, covering accommodation and meals.

The voluntary work will be within agriculture in the vicinity of the CIJAM. The CIJAM was established in 1972 and is set up to cater for communal life and the needs of persons who

visit us from different parts of the world. With your collaboration brigade members are expected to participate in all of the activities scheduled in the programme; abide by the CIJAM rules; and abide by the norms of good conduct; discipline and communal living, as well as public health measures.

Registration for participants will be open until the 31 March 2023. It is obligatory to provide: participants personal information, details of arrival and departure from Cuba (including dates, times and flight numbers). For Brigade members who come to Havana before the formal start date of the Brigade, we will put on a transfer bus to get you to the CIJAM. This will leave the ICAP main office on the 23 April 2023 at 17.00 hrs.

To confirm your participation, please send your information to the following email addresses:

eurocentro@icap.cu director.europa@icap.cu and amiventas@amistur.cu

It will give us great pleasure if you are able to join us for these friendship and solidarity activities.

Fraternally,

Ibis Alvisa González
Director of the brigade
Officer of the Europe Division
Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP)

Programme:

Sunday, 23 April 2023

Arrival of Delegations
17:00 hrs Departure of transfer bus from the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) to the International Camp Julio Antonio Mella (CIJAM) in Caimito (for brigade members who arrive before this date)
Accommodation and Evening Meal.

Monday, 24 April 2023

06:45 hrs Morning call
07:00 hrs Breakfast
09:30 hrs Laying of wreath to Julio Antonio Mella, Official Act of Inauguration of the Brigade.
11:00 hrs Information and Orientation Meeting
12:30 hrs Lunch
15:00 hrs Talk on current economic situation in Cuba, USA policy towards Cuba and the impacts of the blockade in recent years.
17:30 hrs Country specific meetings.
20:00 hrs Dinner and Cuban Evening

Tuesday, 25 April 2023

05:45 hrs Morning Call

06:15 hrs Breakfast
07:00 hrs Departure for voluntary work
12:30 hrs Lunch
15:00 hrs Talk on Cuba's legislative system and updating on recent laws approved by representatives of the Cuban National Assembly and Union of Cuban Jurists.
18:30 hrs Dinner
Free time / music

Wednesday, 26 April 2023

05:45 hrs Morning Call
06:15 hrs Breakfast
07:00 hrs Departure for voluntary work
12:30 hrs Lunch
15:00 hrs Engagement on the media and misinformation war over Cuba, the role of social media in defence of the Revolution.
18:30 hrs Dinner
20.30 hrs Showing of Cuban Film or Documentary.

Thursday, 27 April 2023

05:45 hrs Morning Call
06:15 hrs Breakfast
07:00 hrs Departure for Voluntary Work.
12:30 hrs Lunch
14:00 hrs Departure to visit the Mausoleum of Martyrs, Artemisa.
15:00 hrs Reception on behalf of provincial authorities in the Mausoleum. Discussion on
the providence and the Mausoleum.
17.00 hrs Presentation of Cultural Project with young persons in Artemisa.
Free time in the city
19:00 hrs Departure for CIJAM
20:00 hrs Dinner.
Free time/ music.

Friday, 28 April 2023

07:00 hrs Breakfast
08:30 hrs Departure for Havana
09:30 hrs Visits to places of social interest in sub-groups:
▪ Group 1 Maternal Home Leonor Pérez in Old Havana.
▪ Group 2 Community Project "Cabildo Quisicuba".
▪ Group 3 Physiopediatric Centre "La Castellana".
13:00 hrs Lunch in the Casa de la Amistad (Friendship House)
14:30 hrs Visits to scientific centres in subgroups:
Group 1: Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
Group 2: Finlay Vaccine Institute
Group 3: Cuban Neuroscience Centre
17:30 hrs Return to CIJAM
20:00 hrs Dinner
Free time/ music.

Saturday, 29 April 2023

06.00 hrs Morning Call
07:00 hrs Breakfast

08:00 hrs Departure for Havana
(The Brigade will be divided into subgroups to visit both places in turn)
9:00 hrs Visit to Fidel Castro Centre
11.00 hrs Visit to the Memorial of Protests
13.00 hrs Return to CIJAM
14.00 hrs Lunch
Afternoon free to organise the International Night
20:00 hrs International Night

Sunday, 30 April 2023

Optional Activities with Amistur

08.00 hrs Breakfast
10:00 hrs Showing of Cuban Film, debate.
12: 00 hrs Lunch (for those staying at camp)
Free afternoon
Return of those who took up optional activities
19:00 hrs Dinner
Free evening and rest

Monday, 1 May 2023

03:00 hrs Breakfast
04:00 hrs Departure to Revolution Square.
07:00 hrs Participation in the May Day Parade.
Once the parade finishes, free time in the city.
Optional activities with Amistur
17:00 hrs Return to CIJAM for Brigade members who stayed in the city.
19.00 hrs Dinner.

Tuesday, 2 May 2023

05:30 hrs Morning Call
05:45 hrs Breakfast
07:00 hrs Departure to the Palace of Summits
09.00 hrs Participation in the International Solidarity with Cuba Event.
Lunch in the Palace of Summits
15:00 hrs Free time in the city
19:00 hrs Pick up of brigade members in a certain place in the city and return to CIJAM
20:00 hrs Dinner
21:30 hrs Preparatory Meeting: trip to provinces with regional coordinators
Free evening

Wednesday, 3 May 2023

04:00 hrs Morning Call
05:30 hrs Departure to Sancti Spíritus.
Stop in Santa Clara
Reception in Ernesto Che Guevara Sculpture Complex and visit to
Monument to the Attack on the Armoured Train
13:00 hrs Lunch in Santa Clara.
15:00 hrs Departure to Sancti Spíritus province.
17:00 hrs Reception with provincial authorities in the Monument to Santi-Spiritan
martyrs
Check in and Dinner.
Free evening

Thursday, 4 May 2023

- 07:30 hrs Breakfast
- 08:00 hrs Visit to agricultural cooperatives in subgroups. Tour along areas of the cooperatives and exchange on sustainable agriculture.
- 11.00 hrs Visits in subgroups to three 'MIPYMES' (micro, small and medium enterprises)
to get to know the labour of new economic actors in the programme of modernisation of the Cuban economic model.
- 13.30 hrs Lunch in Hotels
- 15.30 hrs Exchange with representatives of the CTC (a range of trade unions) through visits to factories or businesses representing different unions.
- 19.00 hrs Dinner
- 20:30 hrs Cultural activity in hotels

Friday, 5 May 2023

- 07:30 hrs Breakfast
- 08:30 hrs Departure to city of Trinidad, Heritage of Humanity site.
- 10:00 hrs Reception by municipal authorities.
Tour of the historic centre of the city.
- 12:30 hrs Departure to the Ancón peninsula and lunch in a hotel there.
Free time on the beach.
- 17:00 hrs Return to Sancti Spíritus.
- 19:00 hrs Dinner
- 20.30 hrs Visit to neighbourhoods in transformation and exchange with the CDR (Committees for the Defence of the Revolution), closing activity of the Brigade.

Saturday, 6 May 2023

- 07:00 hrs Breakfast. Check out
- 09:00 hrs City tour along Sancti Spíritus
- 12:00 hrs Lunch in hotels.
- 14:00 hrs Departure to CIJAM.
- 20:00 hrs Dinner in CIJAM.

Sunday, 7 May 2023

- 8.00 hrs Breakfast, end of Brigade.
- 10.00 hrs Transfer to Havana and airport.
Return of Brigade Members to their countries.