



April 24 to May 15, 2013

### Our mandate

- to invite the broadest cross-section of Canadians to see and understand Cuba as no tourist can
- to give participants the opportunity to find out the reality of Cuba for themselves without misconceptions
- to promote cultural and professional exchange between Canada and Cuba
- to learn first-hand, and see, the achievements of the Cuban Revolution
- to understand the heartfelt commitment of the Cuban people in upholding their national sovereignty, self-determination and social system
- to support Cuba against the U.S. blockade of Cuba and its impact on Cubans as well as on Canadians.

### An unforgettable experience

- Witness the colour, vibrancy of 1 million cheering, flag-waving workers march on May 1st, in Havana
- Meet delegates of International Brigades from over 30 nations

- Develop lasting friendships from up to three weeks of doing agricultural or other manual work alongside Cubans
- Fun, dancing, beaches, friendships.

This is a non-profit project of the **Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC)**

Register on line now for the best life experience value at the low bottom line price of \$1175 Cdn plus flight

[www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade)

\*Includes: all taxes, food, lodging, all transportation in Cuba, interpretation and program events.

#### Contact Coordinator:

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#### Travel arrangements:

- Judy Gallant of P & G Travel



### Why a work brigade to Cuba?

- There is no better way to get to know Cuban people than working alongside them, sharing meals and leisure time
- Every year thousands of people from all over the world leave the comfort of their homes to take part in this extraordinary experience
- Canadians have won a warm spot in the hearts of Cubans since the first brigade in 1992
- Hundreds of participants representing the majority of Canadian provinces have visited the beautiful island and its people.

**We work in partnership with the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, based in Havana**

#### What is a Work Brigade?

A Work Brigade consists of a group of people (Brigadistas) travelling to Cuba to volunteer their work alongside Cubans.

Initially inspired by **Che Guevara**, the Brigade is seen as one of the most inspiring gestures of international solidarity. Brigadistas will live in special camps or hotel carrying out agricultural or other productive work.

The Brigade provides a unique opportunity to experience the Cuban Revolution and its accomplishments.

Brigadistas will take part in a full program of activities including visits to social, political and community organizations representing Cuban society. The Brigade program also provides leisure time and excursions to places of interest.

#### Where will we be in Cuba?

Every year we visit a different province. We have worked in many provinces including Granma, Havana and Santa Clara. Santa Clara is the city that Che liberated from the Batista forces. This was the event that

consolidated the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. We fly from Toronto to Havana where we are picked up by buses and taken to where we will be working.

#### What kind of work will we do?

It depends on the specific needs at the time, but it may involve agricultural or construction work. Everyone is encouraged to participate, but only up to the limit of our physical condition. Only approximately one third of our stay will be dedicated to work. The

remaining time is spent experiencing Cuba. See the full program at [www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade)

#### Other activities

In every brigade, one night will be a "Brigadistas Night". That is when we hope to show our Cuban friends some aspects of Canadian culture - food, dance, songs, etc. We all contribute according to our skills. *It is a night to share.*

#### Did you know?

- Cuba is the largest Caribbean island with 11 million people

#### A comment from a Brigadista:

*"I have decided to bring Cuba to my daily life so every day I spend some time thinking about people who are living there (singing, dancing, smiling, struggling, surviving, resisting). The trip to Cuba was a wonderful experience for me because it helped me understand better the revolutionary process. My comprehension of the Cuban reality is much clearer now."*

**Regina Borges, Toronto**

- The U.N. has repeatedly voted against the U.S. blockade by an overwhelming majority
- Canada never broke diplomatic relations with Cuba after the Cuban revolution in 1959
- There are no homeless people in Cuba and the infant mortality rate is below 5 per 1000 live births
- All Cubans have access to free health care and education including university level
- Small farmers have absolute right to their land
- The US blockade of Cuba started in 1962
- More than 85% of Cubans are home owners
- In Cuba there are free elections every two and a half years for local government and every five years for the National Assembly and State Council.
- More than 95% of Cubans vote.

