

Rick Bonfim Ministries

CUBA Trip Information

RBM CUBA TRIP 2019

April 9 – 16, 2019

October 15 – 22, 2019

COST: \$2500 from US city of departure

Rick Bonfim Ministries is traveling going under the sponsorship and invitation of **Bishop Ricardo Pereira**, who is the leader of the Methodist Church in Cuba. We will be housed in a hotel or Methodist guesthouse. Room mates have been assigned. Couples will stay together.

SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES ON THE TRIP:

Mornings: The team will have worship, Bible study and prayer together.

Afternoons: The team will have some outings and also have some time to rest.

Evenings: We will divide our group into 4 or 5 preaching/ministry teams. Pastors will be assigned to preach each evening.....be ready!

PURPOSE OF THE TRIP:

An opportunity to share the love of Jesus with hundreds of souls in Cuba through the Word, prayer, and service. This trip will be an empowering, equipping experience with the Holy Spirit. It is a time of training as to how to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a time to disciple and feed the hungry souls in Cuba who are longing for more of God's Word. It will be a relationship-building opportunity as we seek to uplift and encourage our Cuban brothers and sisters who serve the Lord in a communist society which is hostile to the gospel.

LOVE OFFERING:

We need to bring a generous offering to our brothers and sisters in Cuba. We cannot go empty handed! We need to prepare this offering at least one week before we depart.

1) Please go to your church and those who are praying for you and ask them to help you raise this offering. (Everyone who gives will receive a tax-credit from RBM).

2) As you raise offering money for Cuba, send it to the office of RBM designated for the offering. Make the check out to Rick Bonfim Ministries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Do I need any shots or vaccinations in order to go on this trip?

Answer: No

2) Where will the group meet up at the Tampa or Miami Airport?

Answer: We will meet near the gate of departure. The group manager will direct you to a specific place to meet right before the trip.

3) What exactly is included in the trip cost?

Answer: The trip cost includes all of the following:

- Airfare from U.S. Departure city to Cuba.
- The cost of your visa into Cuba (about \$100)
- All meals from the time you get to Cuba until the time you leave Cuba (except for snacks and treats you may want to buy for yourself. We may go out for one nice lunch – you will need to set apart \$12 or 10 CUC for that).
- All transportation costs in Cuba
- All lodging costs in Cuba
- Staff and translators who help us with every detail of the trip while in Cuba

You are responsible to cover the following:

- Airfare from your home city to and from U.S. Departure city
- All transportation costs to your city of departure (i.e. airfare, car expenses, etc.)
- Your domestic baggage fee if you have a connecting flight to Tampa or Miami (usually \$25)
- Baggage fee for the charter flight from the US to Cuba (**Typical fee** is \$20 for up to 44 pounds and \$2 per pound over 44 pounds)
- All airport meals in the US
- All personal shopping expenses
- All offering contributions to churches in Cuba or the Bishop's ministry in Cuba
- Personal miscellaneous expenses
- \$30 airport charge upon departure from Cuba

4) How much luggage can I take?

The charter typically allows a suitcase of 44 pounds for \$20 plus a carry-on bag weighing no more than 20 pounds. Anything over 44 pounds will cost \$2 per pound TRY to travel LIGHT.

5) Do I need a visa to enter Cuba?

Answer: Yes. The cost of the visa, about \$100, was calculated into the cost of your plane ticket. The visa is being prepared, and I will have your visa either at the Airport or upon entry at the airport in Cuba.

6) How much money should I plan to take for my personal needs and offerings in the churches we visit?

Answer: Plan to take \$150 to \$200 personal spending and offering money.

The Cuban government charges every traveler an airport tax which is collected upon departure from Cuba. **Plan to bring \$30 specifically marked and separated for the tax and give it to the group manager.**

7) What is the currency of Cuba?

Answer: The Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC is the currency we will use in Cuba. At the current time, one US dollar (\$1) = approximately 1 CUC (\$1 = .96852 CUC)

Small items which you might want to purchase in Cuba (souvenirs or a Coke) are very inexpensive in Cuba. Offerings in the churches are to be given in dollars or CUC's.

8) How will US dollars be converted into CUC's?

Answer: The group manager will collect your money and will go to the bank once we reach Cuba to sell your dollars for CUC's.

9) Can I use a credit card or debit card in Cuba?

Answer: In the past, no US-issued credit or debit cards are accepted in Cuba. No ATM's are available to Americans. Plan to bring all you will need in the form of CASH. The government is changing these rules but do not count on credit cards working in Cuba.

10) What will the weather be like in Cuba?

Answer: The average daytime temperature is 75- 90 degrees. Nighttime temperatures are 65- 75 degrees.

11) What should I plan to wear while in Cuba?

Answer: FIRST OF ALL – PLAN TO PACK AS LIGHTLY AS YOU CAN!

During the day for Bible study and outings: T-shirts, jeans, capris, casual comfortable clothing.

Church Services : Women: Skirts and nice tops; Shoes or nice sandals, no flip flops. Dress nicely for church.

Men: Khakis or nice pants. Polo shirts or short sleeve dress shirts.

Please leave all fancy jewelry at home. Dress simply and modestly.

Bring one light jacket or sweater in case it becomes cool. You will need it on the plane.

Bring something for swimming, as one afternoon we might have an outing to the beach.

12) Do I need to bring towels, washcloths, or bed linens along with me?

Answer: No, but if you would like bring a pillow. Pillows are generally not very comfortable in Cuba.

13) What is the electricity like in Cuba?

Answer: Electricity in Cuba is 110V, AC 60Hz - just like the US – meaning that you do not need to bring a CONVERTER (converts from 220 to 110). However, you WILL need an ADAPTER to fit some of the outlets in Cuba. There are two configurations of outlets in Cuba: One has 2 flat prongs (like ours in the US) and the other has two round pins.

You will need a non-polarized adapter if the prongs on your electrical device are two different sizes or if you have a polarized plug with 3 prongs. Cuban outlets may only accommodate same-sized prongs with 2 holes.

We suggest that you make a trip to RADIO SHACK and find adapter made for the Caribbean area which includes Cuba.

14) What kinds of electronic items can I bring into Cuba?

Answer: **DO NOT BRING computers.** YOU MAY BRING your cell phone for use in the US airport. If you use your phone or Pad as a camera or if you have your Bible on your Phone, you are welcome to use it for those purposes in Cuba but do not plan to make or receive calls or texts while in Cuba.

YOU MAY BRING a small camera for taking photos. YOU MAY BRING hairdryers, curling irons, razors, etc.

Please know that Rick Bonfim Ministries cannot assume any responsibility for any lost, damaged or stolen items.

15) Can I bring food on this trip?

Answer: As with all international travel, you cannot bring fresh fruit or vegetables. However, it is advisable to bring some snacks such as trail mix, nuts, protein bars, granola bars, and dried fruit. The diet served in Cuba is quite bland and repetitive – a LOT of rice. You might want to bring some hot sauce or favorite snacks to spice things up a bit.

16) Will I be able to call home while I am on the trip, or use the internet for e-mail?

Answer: Do not plan on it. Internet is not readily available (although that is gradually changing). US-based cell phones do not work in Cuba, even for texting. **Basically, plan to go “dark” for the days that we are in Cuba.** Most people in Cuba do not have regular computer, phone, or internet service.

IF you feel you must have telephone connection within Cuba, you will need to look into an international satellite phone (usually very expensive - based in Europe) which can transmit calls into Cuba. This will be your responsibility. There is also a phone at a local hotel where you can make a call to the USA for about \$5 a minute. This is a good option for simply letting your family know you are fine or communicating brief information home.

Upon arrival, we will e-mail or call the office of RBM from the Bishop's office and the US staff will call or e-mail all of your families to let them know we have arrived safely. If there is an emergency, your family can call the office of RBM and the staff can get a message to us through the Bishop's office. Give your family the phone number of RBM: 706-353-1546 and the e-mail: rbm@latterain.com. As a back-up please also give the number of John Dunn: 706-255-3601 and the e-mail rbmbooks@latterain.com.

17) What about the security of my passport?

Answer: A lost passport can ruin the trip for you and seriously inconvenience the group. Therefore, you MUST take these precautions:

- 1) Make 2 photocopies of your passport. It costs more, but make a color photocopy if at all possible. Place one copy in your checked bag and one in your carry-on bag apart from where you are carrying your passport.

2) Follow the directions of the group leader as to how to handle your passport while we are traveling. It is critical to the success of the trip that it be handled securely at all times.

3) Bring the following numbers and web sites with you and also give them to a family member:

Lost Passport number: 877-487-2778

Overseas Citizen Services – US number: 888-407-4747

Overseas Citizen Services – Outside the US: 202-501-4444

www.travel.state.gov/passport www.travel.state.gov/travel

18) Should I bring any medicine or medical supplies?

Answer: Yes – if you are taking prescription or over the counter medication, bring it in the bottle or package which clearly shows what the medication is.

19) Should I bring items to donate?

Answer: If you would like to bring a Spanish Bible to donate to Cuban believers, please purchase a Reina Valera 1960. Most Christian bookstores that sell Spanish Bibles will have one.

20) Do I need to purchase medical insurance for this trip?

Answer: The government of Cuba requires all travelers into the country to obtain a temporary medical insurance policy for the duration of their trip in Cuba. This insurance has already been included in the purchase of your ticket to Cuba.

21) Will there be translators who will help us during the church services and when the Bishop is speaking to us?

Answer: There will be several people from the church who will translate for us. They are awesome, humble young men and women who also act as our guides and help us with all of our needs.

22) Is the water safe to drink?

Answer: We will purchase bottled water to drink. It is readily available in many places. There is a filtered water dispenser at the ministry center.

23) Can I bring my Bible into Cuba?

Answer: Yes. Bring your Bible for daily Bible study, as well as a small notebook and pen.

PACKING LIST

Bible and notebook and pen

Money for Luggage charges (domestic and international)

Money for Airport tax upon leaving Cuba (\$30)

Money for spending (US and Cuba) and offerings in Cuba

Toiletries (shampoo, lotion, soap etc.)

All medicines you need

All personal items you need

Small camera or phone as camera

Alarm Clock
Sun Block
Sunglasses
Pillow
Electrical adapter
Snacks
Clothing for daytime and for church services
Shoes for daytime and for church services
One light jacket or sweater
Swimsuit or shorts for day at the beach

**DO NOT BRING A COMPUTER!! If anything costly is lost or damaged on the trip to Cuba
RBM cannot be held responsible for it.**