

Rick Bonfim Ministries

CUBA Trip Information

RBM CUBA TRIP 2017

COST: \$2500 from US city of departure

\$100 due upon application to hold your spot.

\$900 due by June 7, 2017

\$1500 due by August 2, 2017

Rick Bonfim Ministries is traveling 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. Each team will have a Team Manager and Ministry Leader, and 1 or 2 Pastors. Pastors will be assigned to preach each evening.....be ready!

Team Leaders Responsibilities

Pastors: Each team needs to decide who will preach at each service. Two pastors can share, but keep time in mind. For example, the first pastor gives a 10 minute opening message (Allow 20 minutes with translation). The second pastor gives a 15 minute message (Allow 30 minutes with translation) and moves directly into ALTAR MINISTRY to the people of the congregation.

The **Team Manager:** meets with Raymond at breakfast every morning to review the daily schedule, receive directions about the day, and help make decisions. The Managers will then communicate with and manage their own teams in terms of schedule for pastors at the churches, instructions for the team, what time to leave, gathering everyone into vans, solving problems in the team, etc.

The **Ministry Leader:** Confers with the Preacher as to how he/she wants to conduct ALTAR MINISTRY (altar, prayer tunnel, go into congregation and lay hands, all pray for church pastor, etc.) and directs the TEAM accordingly. The Ministry Leader assumes authority along with the preacher in any way needed to see that the Team functions together in unity to minister to the congregation.

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 U.S. City of Departure?

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. City of Departure to Cuba.
- The cost of your visa into Cuba (\$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 \$15 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. City of Departure.
- 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 U.S. City of Departure
- Baggage fee for the flight from the US to Cuba (**Typical fee** is \$25 for up to 50 lbs. and you are allowed 1 carry on and 1 personal item.)
- 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

4) How much luggage can I take?

Answer: You can check your 1st bag for \$25, and can bring 1 carry on and 1 personal item. Additional charges apply for 2nd check bag or carry on that needs to be checked in.

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 we will have your visa 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 approximately \$250. Below are other expenses to budget for.

-Baggage Fee: \$25

-Dinner Out: \$15 one day we will eat out in the town while we are on an outing.

-Personal Church Offerings: \$80 Each team will visit 7-8 churches and we typically try to give \$10 each at each church visit (in addition to the love offering we raise as a ministry for each church) for their specific need.

-Offering to Staff: Minimum \$20. This will be divided up between our drivers, guides, translators, and servers and kitchen staff who will feed us lunch and dinner at the church each day. We want to make sure we bless them for all their hard work.

-Personal Items: Approximately \$60-\$100

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 = .87 CUC 10% tax and a 3% currency exchange fee.)

Small items which you might want to purchase (souvenirs or a Coke) are very inexpensive in Cuba. It's best to give offerings in the churches in U.S. dollars because they can trade them in for Cuban Pesos. (Exchange rate is roughly 25 peso for every \$1)

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 any 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: Towels and bed linens are provided for you at the hotel. **If you would like bring a pillow. Pillows are generally not very comfortable in Cuba. There are no washcloths available at the hotel, so plan to pack one if you need it.**

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 unless your carrier provides an international plan which includes Cuba. **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.

Upon arrival, we will e-mail or call the office of RBM and the US staff will call or e-mail your **emergency contact** 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.

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. You can also bring and leave clothing, shoes, musical instruments and any other items you wish to donate.

20) How and When do we TIP?

Answer: One morning during our group time together the Group Manager for the trip will announce and collect money to be divided up and given out to our Drivers, Guides, Translators, Servers and Kitchen Staff. This is the best way to give a gift to avoid showing any kind of favoritism to one particular individual. We have a great team of Godly servants that we work with in Cuba and we love and appreciate all they do for us while we are there and want to make sure they all know they are special to us.

Please do not give any individual tips. Work with the group Manager.

21) Am I allowed to make a promise to help with another need?

Answer: NO. When you see the poverty you will be tempted to make promises to pay or fund an additional project/need. However making promises no matter how big or small can do more harm than good. When you see a major need and desire to help, YOU MUST first discuss it with your Team Manager, The Group Manager, and Rick Bonfim. Promises made by emotions have caused problems in the past. Following this protocol and respecting the authority that Rick Bonfim Ministries has put in place on the trip will help and protect everyone that might be involved from doing something that is out of order.

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

Answer: It is a nonrefundable ticket and in the past the airline companies have given a refund if you are unable to go due to a medical reason. If this need arises contact our office for further information.

23) 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.

24) 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.

25) 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 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.