Join Gabriela Pisano for a week of general culture of Cuba

This unique cultural journey will focus on the highlights of Havana and the surrounding area. Havana is rich in history and boasts four plazas diverse in architecture and culture. We will visit surrounding areas such as Las Terrazas to study a self-sustained community that began with terraced coffee plantations. The trip will also explore both the medical and educational systems of Cuba as well as current changes in the economy of Cuba. We will have the opportunity to join Cubans in their social activities as well as examine aspects of Afro-Cuban culture as expressed in their food, religion, dance and song.

Instructor contact: Dr. Gabriela Pisano

Dr. Gabriela Pisano is a native Argentinian who worked to create the Medical Spanish Interpreting program at Berkeley City College. She has led study abroad trips to Spain, Mexico as well as Cuba with medical Spanish and culture courses.

Cuba Trip Tentative Schedule:

Day 1. Primarily a travel day. Bring snacks and patience as air schedules are a little complicated. We will be sending exact travel dates, times and schedules in the departure package. We will have an informal walking tour close to our hotel and a welcome dinner.

Day 2. Breakfast in the hotel. Lecture on Cuban history and culture. Now that you have caught up on your rest put on your walking shoes and lets hit Old Havana! We will visit the main squares of Havana, there are 4 of them, we will cover as much of the squares as we can. The plaza de Armas, the parque central, the plaza of San Francisco and many cities along the way. We will see the old aqueduct of the city; we will pass by some of Ernest Hemingway’s watering holes as well as the city museum and other interesting cities. After the tour you will have a good understanding of what Old Havana has to offer, so you can explore on your own later. After lunch we will visit what is known as new Havana which includes Vedado and the revolution square.

Day 3. Breakfast in the hotel. Lecture on the arts. Visit Instituto Superior del Artes (ISA) then we will have lunch. Then we will have a chance to visit artist's homes.

Day 4. Breakfast in the hotel. Today we will have the opportunity to explore the countryside a bit outside of Havana. We will be visiting Las Terrazas this is a unique self-sustained community. There will be a discussion upon arrival of the community as well as visits to: the school, a family doctor, artists homes, lunch and time permitting a few more local sites.

Day 5. Breakfast in the hotel. Lecture on community projects in Cuba. We will visit a mural art wall project called Muraleando. This project began as a community beautification project and turned into an international mural art exposition. Lunch. We will continue in the community project spirit to visit a senior community center as well as an educational activity and resource center, time permitting.

Day 6. Breakfast in the hotel. Depart for a visit to Matanzas. Once in Matanzas we will visit the pharmacy museum and also enjoy a presentation of Santeria dancing. After lunch we will visit an agricultural engineer and see his plantation as well as his wife’s pottery studio. Time permitting we will dip our toes in the ocean. Afternoon return to Havana.

Day 7. Breakfast in the hotel. Lecture on Ernest Hemingway. We will then head for some of Hemingway’s sites to see his finca (farm) from where he wrote some of his novels as well as Cojimar, a small fishing village from where he took the character Old Man and the Sea. Lunch in Cojimar. Afternoon visit to Jibacoa and it’s nearby coast. Return to Havana for departure dinner and Buena Vista Social Club performance.

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As legal travel to Cuba is restricted for American citizens, there are a limited number of opportunities for travel. A non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due no later than March 26, 2016 and the final payment by April 27, 2016. We recommend that you send your $500.00 deposit as soon as possible to guarantee your space.

Please contact Paul Bardwil for specific questions about Cuba travel.

E-mail: pbardwil@aol.com Phone: (916) 225-8207

We will be traveling with a general education license with Berkeley City College. Legally you must register and pay school tuition to the college to be considered a legal participant of this program. GEF does not have the authority to enroll students at Berkeley City College. The college requires that all participants register and pay with the college for the program all fees associated with college credits only. All trip expenses will be paid directly to GEF.

Program Includes:

- All bus transfers in Cuba
- Hotel Accommodations in Cuba
- All lunches
- All breakfasts
- Medical insurance in Cuba
- Visa for travel to Cuba
- A bilingual guide
- Round-trip air from Miami or Fort Lauderdale to Cuba

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM: $2,795.00

Deposit: March 26, 2016
Final Payment: April 27, 2016

Gabriela Pisano
Phone: (510) 981-2917 or gpisano@peralta.edu

CONTACT FOR CUBA:

Paul Bardwil: (916) 225-8207 or pbardwil@aol.com

If deposit is received by 09/07/2015 early bird discount: $2695
This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which GEF, 8428 Denison Ct, Sacramento, CA 95826 agrees to provide scheduled air transportation and related services for the participant on the air transportation portion of the tour. RESPONSIBILITY: Neither GEF, nor its employees, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively “GEF”) owes or operates any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, accommodations, air, land, rail, water or other transportation, food and beverages, medical care, sightseeing services, or restaurants including but not limited to breach of contract, failure to comply with any laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), cancellation, delay or overbooking, or travel participant negligence, GEF cannot assume, and is not to be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages (direct, indirect, consequential or incidental), costs, or expenses including, without limitation, incidental, injury or death, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, loss of pay, upset, disappointments, distress, or frustration, whether physical or mental, arising out of or in connection therewith. Participant assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases GEF from, any duty of checking and verifying information, statistics, facts, medical history, medication, or safety of any nature, that GEF or the destination during the length of the proposed travel. GEF recommends that you visit the websites of the Department of Transportation (www.dot.gov), the Federal Aviation Administration (www.faa.gov) and the Transportation Security Administration (www.tsa.gov) for current news and releases regarding public travel.

GEF reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the trip. GEF reserves the right to change the itinerary, including the number of the trip, or to require any participant to withdraw from the trip if, at GEF’s discretion, the participant is determined to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the trip, group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner. RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit (as noted on reverse) per passenger and a completed and signed Registration Form are required to secure a reservation no later than the first deposit date (as noted on reverse). Complete payment is due 60 days prior to trip departure. If space is not available when your reservation is received, we will retain your payment and place your name on a waiting list until space becomes available, or you request a full refund. If there is no additional space to add you, you will receive a full refund. There is a $75 per-person fee for changing your reservation, if permitted, once deposit has been received by GEF. Checks, money orders, cashier’s checks, American Express, Master Card, Discover Card and Visa may be used for deposits and payments up to 60 days prior to departure so long as there is still space available. Must have a PayPal account to pay by credit card. Reservations received after the final payment date, must pay in full, plus a $100 late fee and any additional air or hotel costs. Late registrations will be confirmed on a space available basis. Once your deposit is received, you will be sent a confirmation billing statement that includes your Traveler ID Number. This number should be written on all payments. FINAL PAYMENT must be received in our 60 days prior to trip departure.

If payment is not received by the final payment date, you will automatically be removed from the trip and there will be a $25 service charge for returned checks. PRICES: The price of this travel is set forth herein and is based on rates in effect at the time of booking, and also reflects a discount for payment by cash, check or money order. Airfares and rates are subject to change. Price increases could include fuel & baggage surcharges, tax increases, not meeting minimum signature requirements, change of date of trip, and other unforeseeable fees. We will notify you in writing if these fees change and or prices change.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: If you cancel your reservation, your right to refund is limited, as set forth below. All cancellations and requests for refunds, if applicable, must be submitted in writing and mailed or faxed to GEF office. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FROM VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS: Cancellations occurring after deposit but before 60 days of departure will receive a 50% refund of their deposit, optional insurance costs if purchased, and any additional airfare, hotel, minimum, activity or motor coach fees (if any). Cancellations received on or between 60-30 days prior to departure and are assessed 50% of trip cost plus optional insurance costs if purchased. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure will receive no refund. The actual fee depends on the date cancellation is received by GEF. Once cancelled, there will be a $30 reinstatement fee, plus any additional airline/hotel fees, and only on a space available basis. Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to GEF for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by GEF to you within 14 days after the cancellation, assuming the abrupt of the reason for the cancellation. This right and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund will be in consideration of that release and waiver.

BAGGAGE: Please consult with your airline 24 hours before flight as baggage fees and costs change rapidly. GEF is not responsible for damage to baggage. Carriers are not liable for damage to soft baggage. If participant’s luggage weighs more than 50 pounds or has more than one piece of luggage, participant is responsible for additional costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE: The terms and conditions set forth here in are governed by, and are to be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. If any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, is brought to enforce or interpret any term or condition or to enforce any right or legal or remedial action, such action must be brought in a State or Federal court in the State of California with a venue in El Dorado County.

PERSONAL EXPENSES: Tour Price includes only those services specifically stated in the tour package. Items such as passport, luggage, clothing, food (unless specifically included in tour), room service, telephone calls, purchased activities, tipping, additional or over weight baggage, and other items not specified in the trip flyer are not included and are the participant’s responsibility.

SELLER OF TRAVEL: GEF is registered as a seller of travel services in the states of California #2079143-40. Registration as a Seller of Travel does not constitute approval by any State. California Customers Only: In the event of the default of GEF, you may be eligible for a refund of up to $15,000 from the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. If you as a travel participant who is making payment on behalf of the travel participant (a “California customer”) are located in California at the time of your purchase, you have a right to make a claim against the Fund for a refund of any money paid to GEF that is due because of the bankruptcy, insolvency, cessation of operations, or material failure to provide transportation or travel services sold. The claim must be filed within one year after you become aware of your loss. For a claim form and additional information, write to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 8474, Northridge, CA 91327. Non-California customers are not covered by California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund and are not eligible to file a claim against that Fund in the event of the default of USA.

TRAVEL DATES/FLIGHT CHANGES/DELAYS: GEF strives to keep your original travel dates. Participant acknowledges that these changes are not grounds for cancellation without penalty. Flight times are not guaranteed and may affect actual length of time in destinations. Any flight information provided prior to departure is considered tentative and is subject to change in accordance with this agreement. Flight delays/ cancellations are unfortunate but are an inherent risk in air travel and beyond the control and responsibility of GEF will work with the airline to re-accommodate group. Flight deviations are not available on group air travel. Participants who deviate from any part of the tour are required to sign a Waiver of Liability Form.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITY: You are responsible for your actions and well-being on the entire tour, beginning and ending with air flights. It is your decision and choice to participate or not to participate in activities. Activities are not mandatory; they are voluntary. Your decision to participate is not actionable against GEF. Further, you are responsible for the consequences of your participation. Participant realizes that there are inherent risks (injury/illness) in travel and fully accepts responsibility for those risks. Inappropriate behavior can be cause for eviction from the program and to be sent home at your expense. Please check travel advisory boards for your particular destination. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of a trip. GEF will provide staffing to guarantee a smooth run trip. GEF cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

DISABLED/HANDICAPPED PARTICIPANTS: If you have a disability that requires accommodation or special assistance, you must notify us in advance. Upon written request, information will be provided to you regarding accessibility to various facilities. GEF does not control the disabled or handicapped accessibility of any portion of the travel package. GEF will attempt to work with vendors and the participant to make reasonable accommodation for disabled participants. Assistance with respect to personal care matters which may included but is not limited to: handling of monies, i.e. payment for various sundry items: cognizance of distance, location and time; hygiene; feeding; administration of medications; and similar matters do not constitute reasonable accommodations, and the disabled participant must provide and be accompanied by an attendant for such personal care matters. All costs in connection with an attendant shall be the responsibility of the disabled participant. Participant must notify GEF of any special needs prior to final payment date. If the participant has a medical condition that causes reasonable doubt that the participant can complete the tour or flight safely, that information must be disclosed to GEF prior to the final payment date. A medical certificate (a written statement from the participant’s physician stating that the participant is capable of completing the tour/flighthours without requiring extraordinary medical assistance during the tour) may be requested. If a medical certificate is requested and not provided, the participant may be prohibited from participating in the trip.

SHARING OF INFORMATION: Because our travel services are offered in conjunction with the services of other companies as airlines, homes and other travel schools, GEF may share your personal information with those companies. We may share the following information: name, address, phone, birth date, gender, school you attend or teach at, unless you otherwise advise GEF in writing, after cancelation. The rights and remedies made available under this contract are in addition to any other rights or remedies available under applicable law. However, we offer refunds under this contract with the express understanding that receipt of that refund will be in consideration of that release and waiver.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT: The terms of this agreement shall serve as a complete release and express assumption of risk for the undersigned trip participant. I/we have read and fully understand the provisions and legal consequences of this voluntary release/assumption of risk, and I/we hereby agree to all of its conditions.

DEPOSIT DEADLINES: The non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due on March 26, 2016 and the final payment is due on April 27, 2016. Please send both to: GEF, 8428 Denison Court, Sacramento, CA 95826.