

**Living with Karst in Cuba:  
Sustainable Development of Natural Resources in Cuba's Karstlands  
December 5 – 16, 2014**

Arranged by:

Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba (SEC)  
Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity (FANJ)  
Cuban Institute for Friendship with the People (ICAP) / AMISTUR  
Marazul Charters, Inc.

Program Consultants: **Eco Cuba Network**

**Guide/Interpreter:** Amircal "Cal" Salermo

**Driver:** Angel Abraham

**Tour Leaders:** Dwight Deal, PhD; Mary Fletcher Deal

**FANJ and SEC Leaders/Delegates:** Angel Graña, Alejandro Romero, Evelio Balado

*Breakfast daily at hotels.*

**Friday, December 5**

3:05 pm CST Depart Cancun Int'l Airport for Havana on Cubana flight #153 (delayed 3 hrs)

8:30 pm EST Late arrival in Havana from Cancun, transfer to the Copacabana Hotel in Miramar

Evening: Dinner at hotel

**Saturday, December 6**

9:15 am *leave from hotel lobby*

9:30 am **Meeting at the Antonio Núñez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Humanity**  
Overview of the history and work of the FANJ and of the Cuban Speleological Society  
Led by director Angel Graña

12:30 pm Lunch at "El Aljibe" Restaurant

Afternoon **City tour by bus and walking tour of Old Havana**

*Return to the hotel*

8:00 pm Welcome Dinner with Cuban guests at "El Tocaroro" Restaurant

**Sunday, December 7**

*hotel check-out*

8:30 am **Departure to "Las Terrazas"** (Artemisa Province), an intentional eco-community in the  
**UNESCO-designated "Sierra Del Rosario" Biosphere Reserve**  
Brief overview w/local guide Aria Gonzalez

12 noon Lunch at "Casa Del Campesino"

Afternoon **Leave Las Terrazas, continuing on to Viñales Valley** in Pinar del Rio  
With stops for an initial orientation to the Cuban Karstlands

5:30 pm **Arrival Viñales Valley, check-in Hotel La Ermita**

7:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Monday, December 8**

9:15 am *leave from hotel lobby*

Morning: **Orientation/Interaction at the "Centro de Entrenamiento Espeleologico"** (National  
Speleological Training School / Institute) -- discussions with speleologists: introduction to  
their programs, the local community, local history, etc.

Mid-day: Lunch at the School

Afternoon: **Initial Visit to "Santo Tomas" Caves ("Gran Caverna de Santo Tomas")**

Evening: Dinner at the hotel

### Tuesday, December 9

8:30 am leave from hotel lobby,  
pick up local guides at the School

**Visit to "Cueva Majagua-Cantera" cave system**

Walk about 2km across tobacco fields

Bag Lunch in cave entrance.

Afternoon: **Group 1 continues into the "La Cueva Dos Anna's" entrance**  
to visit more remote areas of the *Cueva Majagua-Cantera* cave system

**Group 2 visits surface karst features**, springs, and tobacco farms in the valley.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel

### Wednesday, December 10

8:00 am leave from hotel  
return to the School

**Group 1 visits a more remote section of the "Gran Caverna de Santo Tomas"**

9:00 am **Group 2 visits surface features in the Viñales Valley**

Cuevas del Indio (resurgence at the Finca San Vicente)

Cueva de Viñales (the entrance is a nightclub)

Mural de la Prehistoria and Museo de la Prehistoria

1:00 pm Visit and Lunch at "**Finca Wilfredo**"

Afternoon: **Karst-oriented activities in Viñales Valley** with local farmers, walking through the  
Valley, visit with a tobacco farmer, demonstration of how to roll cigars

Evening: Dinner at the hotel

### Thursday, December 11

hotel check-out

8/8:30 am Depart to Havana

11:00 am **Visit the Havana Speleological Society headquarters**, meet with members...

12:30 pm Lunch at "*Ciao Amigo*", Havana's "fast food" buffet restaurant

Afternoon Drive to Varadero in Matanzas Province

Arrival and check-in Hotel Meliá Varadero, an all-inclusive resort – welcome drink

Evening: Dinner at hotel

### Friday, December 12

9:00 am Depart from hotel lobby

Morning: **Visit "Cueva de Bellamar"** -- Presentation/discussion with Central Cuba SEC and FANJ

Mid-day Lunch at the nearby **Jardines de Bellamar**

Afternoon Tour this permaculture farm that also serves as a base for speleologists

7:00 pm Dinner at the hotel

8:00 pm leave from hotel lobby

8:30 pm People-to-People "Block Party" with neighborhood association members

### Saturday, December 13

9:00 am leave from hotel lobby

9:30 am **Visit "Cueva Santa Catalina"**

Mid-day Lunch at the hotel

Afternoon: **Visit "Cueva Ambrosio"**

Evening: Dinner, Int'l Steak House the Hotel, with Cuban guests

Angel Graña, Alejandro Romero, Evelio Balado

### **Sunday, December 14**

Morning: *free for individual research pursuits, discussions with Cuban colleagues*

Noon: *hotel check-out*

*Lunch at the hotel before departing*

Afternoon: *Return to Havana*

*Check-in, Hotel Copacabana*

Evening: *free time in Havana; dinner on your own; Cultural options*

### **Monday, December 15**

9:45 am *leave from hotel lobby*

*Visit Hotel Nacional Museum, Parade of Classic Cars*

Noon *Visit to the home/studios of artist Jose Fuster; lunch there*

2:00 pm **Meeting at ICAP**

3:00 pm *free time for individual research pursuits and/or Old Havana with the guide (w/bus)*

8:00 pm *Farewell Dinner with Cuban hosts and guests at "La Casa Paladar"*

### **Tuesday, December 16**

9:45 am *leave from hotel – transfer to the airport*

**10:30 am Flight check-in at Terminal 3, Jose Marti Airport**

*Lunch/snack at the airport on your own*

1:45 pm EST: *Departure for Cancun*

2:05 pm CST: *Arrival in Cancun*