**Boulder-Cuba Sister City Organization www.bouldercuba.org**

**2016 Cuba trip Preliminary information. Subject to change.**

**Please note: October-November charter flight schedules to Cuba have not yet been confirmed. Don’t make any air reservations based on this preliminary information.**

**10 nights in Cuba, flying into Santiago de Cuba in eastern Cuba, returning from Havana**

**2 nights Guantánamo City in a centrally located hotel**

**3 nights Baracoa (private B&Bs)**

**5 nights Havana (3 or 4 star hotel in Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site)**

**Proposed dates: leave Miami Sat Oct 22 return Tues Nov 1; or Oct 29-Nov 8**

**SAMPLE PRELIMINARY ITINERARY**

**Friday Oct 21 or Oct 28:** Evening meeting in Miami.

**Saturday (Oct 22 or Oct 29):** Fly Miami to Santiago de Cuba. Meet guide and comfortable air conditioned bus at airport. Change money from dollars to Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUCs).

Bus tour of important historic sites in Santiago (Moncada Barracks, San Juan Hill etc).

**Late morning drive from Santiago to Guantánamo City (1 ½ hours)**

Lunch at *paladar* (privately owned restaurant) in Guantánamo.

Visit Provincial Music and Art School for an activity with students.

Check in to 3 star hotelin city center.

Evening cultural activity with Jorge Nuñez, President of the Guantánamo Association of Writers and Artists, such as a dance performance or meeting with local visual artists.

**Night 1 Sat Gtmo**

**Sunday (Oct 23 or Oct 30): Drive to Yateras, Boulder’s sister municipality high in the hills of Guantanamo.**

Enjoy traditional music and dance at the Casa de Changüí; visit a policlinic; interact with citizens.

Present a program about Boulder followed by a discussion of sister cities.

Late lunch and hike at Stone Zoo.

Evening cultural activity arranged by ICAP (Cuban Friendship Association).

**Night 2 hotel in Guantanamo**

**Monday (Oct 24 or Oct 31):** Morning discussion with ICAP reps about Guantánamo Bay Naval Base and prison

10:30 begin drive along beautiful south coast to Baracoa (about 4 hours).

Lunch on beach at Imias with time for a dip in the Caribbean.

4:00 pm arrive Baracoa, meet hosts in *casas particulares*(privately owned B&Bs).

Evening: dinner at *El Buen Sabor* with cooking demo of a typical Baracoan speciality.

Free time to listen to music or stroll around town.

**Night 3 Baracoa, staying in casas particulares**

**Tuesday (Oct 25 or Nov 1): Discover Baracoa**

Walking tour of city.

Visit to artist studios.

Interact with children learning to play the guitar.

Climb to Archeology museum/cave.

Talk about natural medicine and visit a *curandera* (traditional healer).

Discover the best food in Cuba at some of the new private restaurants that feature seafood and coconut, Baracoa’s typical culinary ingredients.

Evening free. There are several music/dance venues to enjoy.

**Night 4 Baracoa**

**Wed (Oct 26 or Nov 2): Day trip to Alejandro Humboldt National Park**, another UNESCO World Heritage site, for a hike to observe endemic species, bird watching, or a row boat ride to observe different types of mangroves and perhaps a manatee.

On way home stop at beautiful secluded Maguana Beach for swim and dinner.

**Night 5 Baracoa**

**Thurs (Oct 27 or Nov 3)**

Morning: Drive from Baracoa to Santiago de Cuba (about 5 hours) to catch Thursday evening flight from Santiago to Havana.

**Night 6 Havana. Late check in to 3 or 4 star hotel in Old Havana**

**Friday through Monday-- Havana.** Featured activities might include:

Walking tour of Old Havana

Visit the Museum of the Revolution

Visit the Cuban collection at the Fine Arts Museum

Briefing with a specialist at the newly opened American Embassy

Briefing with a Cuban specialist at the Cuban Friendship Association

Talk with an economist

Optional dance lesson

Meeting with the President of the Cuban Barman’s Association to learn how to make some typical Cuban cocktails

Visit a large organic garden co op

Dine at some of Havana’s new excellent restaurants

Optional day trip to scenic Viñales Valley or the beautiful colonial city of Trinidad

Free day to pursue own interests

**Tuesday Nov 1 or Nov 8: fly Havana to Miami**

**Trip cost per person includes: F**lights to/from Miami and Cuba, Cuban visa, ground and air transportation in Cuba, bilingual Cuban guides within Cuba and two experienced sister city tour leaders, 10 nights in three star hotels in Cuba or in private B&Bs (double occupancy, includes breakfast), Cuban health insurance, some meals, tips for guides and bus driver, pre-trip educational information and reading list. Travelers will be responsible for travel to and from Miami, hotel in Miami, most meals (other than breakfast), drinks, tips at restaurants and hotels, optional activities, and personal expenses.

**The estimated cost is $3700 per person, double occupancy ($300 single supplement) but this is subject to change.**

**This trip is limited to 15 participants.**

**YOUR BOULDER-CUBA SISTER CITY TOUR LEADERS:**

The group will be accompanied by BOCUSCO founder and President, Dr. Spense Havlick and BOCUSCO Treasurer Kate Hennessey. Spense, a specialist in environmental planning and water resource management, is a professor emeritus at the University of Colorado and is a widely sought after consultant, lecturer, and guest scholar nationally and internationally. He has traveled to Cuba many times since his first trip in 2000 that led to the formation of the sister city relationship in 2002. Kate, Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages at Rock Valley College, holds MA degrees in French and Spanish with an area of interest in 19th century Cuban literature. She has guided study tours to Cuba since 1999, and has visited the island so often that she has lost count. Kate edits books on Cuban culture and environment for *Ediciones Nuevos Mundos*. Kate and Spense have worked together for the past 13 years on projects to build a bridge of friendship between Cuba and the United States.

**For more information, please contact us at** **bocusco@yahoo.com** **or call Spense at 303 494 0664 or Kate 303 499 1061.**

**Read what past participants have to say about our trips:**

*“It’s difficult to summarize this 12-day immersion in the Cuban/Latin culture other than to say it was fantastic! We were privileged to travel with a group so well connected in Cuba and with an itinerary full of events to facilitate “people to people” interactions.”*

*“****It was a trip to be long remembered. I can only guess how much effort and time it took for you to put together our terrific trip to Cuba. It was with great skill on your parts.***

***I'm so pleased to have been included and want you to know how thoroughly I enjoyed it all. The programs you selected were great; good variety. Of all, I appreciate the free time that we had to explore on our own. It was a great group too.”***

*“We had such a wonderful time - one of the best trips we've ever
 taken. It was a busy itinerary but, oh, did we learn a lot from this
 trip! A people-to-people it definitely was and more. Spense and Kate,
 our hats off to you both. Your hard work in organizing this
 "expedition" really showed; we were expected everywhere we went and we
 kept to the schedule -- a feat in itself. You gave us a full range of
 experiences from the middle of big cities to rural countryside and
 everything in between.”*