

Important Cuba Partnership Information

(Updated 4/2014)

Purpose

The primary purpose of the partnership is construction of Cuban Baptist elderly home in Santiago, Baptist camp construction and construction at the Cuban Baptist Convention office. Teams will also be made up of individuals to provide VBS, Sports Camps and Leadership Training events. Teams will have an opportunity to visit with and get to know Cuban Baptists as well as worship in Cuban Baptist churches. Team members are encouraged to share their faith with people that they meet.

Trip Cost

The basic price of the trip is \$1,600 per person. This includes round-trip airfare, visa, insurance, in-country transportation, lodging, meals, orientation materials, and T-shirt. You will need to take additional \$25 cash with you for airport exit tax, plus some extra money. (Price does not include materials that will be needed for ministry, i.e., VBS materials, building materials, etc. See below). According to U.S. law, you are not allowed to buy anything except books or maps that you can bring back to the U.S. from Cuba.

ADDITIONAL Team Cost

Each team must provide an additional amount of \$2,000 per team. This additional cost could include payment for construction materials, training events, etc. depending on the type of team you are providing. This amount must be received in our office 60 days prior to your departure date. Contact NCBM for more information.

Teams

Teams should be comprised of no more than 14 members, and no less than 7 members. (If your numbers fall outside of these guidelines, please contact NCBM for more information.) Having a Spanish translator on each team will be very helpful. If team does not include a translator, one will be provided for your team, usually a Cuban national. There will be a small additional cost for a translator. Please contact Baptist Men for more information. Construction teams should have at least two members who are strong in construction and/or block laying skills. All construction teams will be involved mostly in block laying. Applicants must be at least 16 years old to participate. Most teams travel to Miami on a Thursday and spend Friday-Friday in Cuba. Some projects are determined on when a team is available to travel to Cuba, based on the Thursday-Friday schedule.

Participation

Those wishing to participate should do the following:

- Complete the online application and send a deposit of \$500 per person, at least 90 days prior to your anticipated departure date. The final payment of \$1,100 per person is due no later than 60 days prior to the date of your departure. If you are a member of a team, you must complete your online application within 90 days prior to your trip. (Once tickets are purchased, they are non-refundable and non-transferable).
- Have a valid passport. Your passport must NOT expire within 6 months of your departure date. If you do not have a valid passport you will need to get one immediately. It usually takes 3-4 weeks to process a new passport.
- You must also have a visa for Cuba and our office will handle this. It usually takes three months to get this visa.
- Submit any necessary funds for materials to our office 60 days prior to your departure date.

Health

Team members must be in good physical health. Anyone with a chronic medical condition should not volunteer for these projects. Many areas of work will be quite hot and dusty. Volunteers will need to make sure the following shots are up to date: Typhoid, Hepatitis A, and Tetanus. Tell who ever administers your shots that you will be traveling to Cuba. (They may suggest other shots. This is up to you.)

Travel

All travel will be arranged by NCBM's Office. All trips will be seven days in duration. No deviations from dates listed may be made. All volunteers must depart from Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh/Durham, or Atlanta. (Travel may be possible from other cities, but may involve an additional cost.)

Living and Working Conditions

Those participating in this effort must be flexible and willing to work as a member of the team. Travel, living, and working conditions may be difficult at times. The work may be strenuous and the climate will be hot. Once applications and deposits have been received, team members will be sent an orientation manual, which will answer many questions about the trip.

Other

Smoking, chewing tobacco, and drinking alcoholic beverages is highly offensive to Cuban Christians. Team members must refrain from these activities while in Cuba. Please pray about taking a team to minister in Cuba.