

**2010 Women's Research Delegation, March 13-23**  
**organized by Marazul Charters, Inc.**  
***Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Social Welfare***  
**US Women & Cuba Collaboration, program consultant**

December 2009

Queridas Hermanas,

Thank you for your interest in the March 2010 Research Program organized by Marazul Charters with the US Women and Cuba Collaboration acting as a program consultant. To organize our program in Cuba, Marazul is working with ICAP, the Cuban friendship association and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). The Research Program theme is **Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Social Welfare**; this will be a 10-day delegation for 20-25 women.

Details follow to help you make a final commitment to this delegation's professional exchanges and opportunities for empirical research into the realities of Cuban women's lives. An exciting trip has been planned to explore the enormous gains in the status of Cuban women as a result of the Cuban Revolution, gains that women across the world might benefit from understanding and using as strategic models about community and nation building. These models extend the definition of basic human rights to include rights to racial justice and social welfare such as health care, housing, employment, education and food. In this delegation, we will research and develop strategies for taking these models into own professional lives, and also investigate shared leadership strategies for US and Cuban women across borders.

**Legal trip:** Based on our experience and knowledge of Cuba, we have chosen to work once again with Marazul Charters and we are serving as a program consultant for this delegation. Marazul Charters has a long history of arranging travel programs in Cuba and is licensed as a Travel Service Provider (TSP) by the U.S. Treasury Department. Per US government guidelines for legal travel to Cuba under the Treasury Department's General License for research, this delegation is designed for full-time professionals who are conducting full-time research in their fields. (See links following for more information, as well as the Travel page under Web Resources on our website, [www.womenandcuba.org](http://www.womenandcuba.org). Finally, contact us or Marazul with any remaining questions you have.) While in Cuba, our research program will be coordinated by Cuba's international solidarity organization, ICAP, and by the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC, an organization that represents 85% of Cuban women and girls 14 years and older.

**The overview:** The mission of the **US Women and Cuba Collaboration** is to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial US-Cuba relations; our work is rooted in the concept of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and women's rights. Research programs organized by Marazul with program consultation by the US Women and Cuba Collaboration are much more than relatively short visits to the amazing island of Cuba; they are also a commitment to continued work for just and peaceful relations between Cuba and the US. Delegation members become part of a growing network of women around the globe who are organizing against the devastating consequences of the economic blockade by the US against Cuba. While in Cuba we will discuss strategies for passing on—once we are home—the education and experiences of our time with the people of Cuba.

**Applications:** Due by January 15, 2010. Detailed information below. (Final payment is due Feb 15, 2010.)

**Cost:** Estimated cost of this research program departing from either Miami, FL or Cancun, Mexico, is \$2000 USD.

**Program cost includes:**

- Your roundtrip airfare from (your choice of) departure city Miami or Cancun to Havana
- Economy lodging in Havana and Santa Clara (assumes double occupancy; single occupancy may be available for an additional price)
- Breakfast daily, usually also lunch or dinner (other meals will be at your own expense)
- Transportation to and from site visits and meetings
- Bi-lingual guides and translators
- Health insurance while in Cuba
- US Women and Cuba Study Guide
- Cuban Visa

**This cost does not include:**

- Your roundtrip airfare from home city to departure city (Miami, FL OR Cancun, Mexico) which you need to arrange individually AFTER Marazul has CONFIRMED your flights to/from Havana
- Cuban Departure tax (\$25 CUC/about \$30 USD per person payable in Havana)
- Tipping (more information about this in study guide)
- Optional travel insurance (offered by Marazul and other travel insurers)
- Some meals
- Bottled water and alcoholic drinks
- Optional activities, gifts, etc

We estimate an average of \$40/day to cover the expenses not included.

**Tentative itinerary overview:** Our final program will be confirmed when we arrive in Havana—and then it will still be subject to possible changes to take advantage of best opportunities.

**Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> Havana**

Arrive in Havana, group checks into hotel, recommendations for dinner on your own.

**Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> Havana**

Delegation orientation, Old Havana tour, Flora Fong Artist's Studios, Jamel Alley, Museum of the Revolution.

Welcome Dinner, Catherine Murphy screens her Cuban Literacy Project film.

Breakfast and dinner included.

**Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> Havana to Santa Clara**

Meet with Women's Studies professors at University of Havana.

Meet with the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and have lunch at Casa de la Amistad.

Visit to CENESEX, the National Center for Sex Education.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

**Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup> Santa Clara**

Depart for Santa Clara.

Che Guevara memorial and tomb.

Welcome and Lunch at ICAP guest house.

Visit local School of Social Work or FMC House for the Women and Family Orientation.

Evening meeting of a local Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR).

Breakfast and lunch included.

**Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana**

Visit Natural and Traditional Medicine Clinic in Santa Clara; visit Women's Agricultural Co-op near Matanzas.

Dinner en route or in Havana

Breakfast and dinner included.

**Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup> Havana**

All day visit to La Guinera, including study of some of their many projects such as health care, child and elder care, housing development and neighbourhood planning, the JoJo White Community Center, and environmental skills training.

Evening meeting with mothers/families of the Cuba Five.

Breakfast and lunch included.

**Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> Havana**

Meeting with leaders from the Women's Federation (FMC) to talk about the organization and women's roles and work in Cuban Society. Half-day Symposium on our delegation themes of Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Social Welfare.

Meeting with leaders of the Cuban Artists and Writers Union (UNEAC) about race in Cuba.

Breakfast and lunch included.

**Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> Havana**

Cultural tour (Jose Fuster or other artists studios, Estela Bravo filmmakers, National Museum of Fine Art Museum).

Breakfast included.

**Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> Havana**

Visit a senior communitarian project (or Saturday, if available).

Free time for individual activities.

Meeting to evaluate delegation and discuss commitments of participants to disseminate Cuba information and form post-trip plans to continue work to end the US blockade of Cuba.

Breakfast included.

**Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Havana**

Visit to the Latin American Medical School—ELAM—the largest medical school in the world.

Free afternoon.

Farewell dinner for group at a restaurant.

Breakfast and dinner included.

**Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> Leave Cuba**

Return to US

**Please fill out all forms and return them as directed before January 15, 2010.**

1. Return the 6-page Marazul Charters Travel Application Form and your resume or CV, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$200 made payable to Marazul Charters, Inc. Please e-mail or fax your Application Form and resume/CV to Marazul, and also mail the original copies of these forms, with your original signatures, to Marazul at the address below. Your deposit (and your final payment) may be made either by credit card (see Marazul Application Form for information) or by certified check sent to: Marazul Charters Inc, 4100 Park Avenue, Weehawken, NJ, 07086.
2. Return the Delegation Questionnaire by email to [2010delegation@gmail.com](mailto:2010delegation@gmail.com)

Following Marazul's receipt of your registration materials and your non-refundable \$200 deposit (by January 15), Marazul Charters will send you an acceptance letter plus an invoice for the balance of your payment, and the US Women and Cuba Collaboration will send you an e-mail with further information. Lastly, following Marazul's receipt of your final payment by February 15, 2010, you will receive our Cuba Study Guide and any

final delegation and travel information from Marazul including a packet with your Cuban visa and land and air vouchers.

Please contact Marazul Charters about any connecting flight questions and other individual arrangements (such as single rooms) you may wish to make for the delegation. And contact us for any other questions you have at [2010delegation@gmail.com](mailto:2010delegation@gmail.com) . We look forward to meeting you and investigating **Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice, and Social Welfare** in Cuba!

En hermandad y solidaridad,

US Women and Cuba Collaboration Delegation Coordinators  
Cindy, Diana, Jan, Kamilah and Victoria