

Aerospace Medical Association

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"Opening the Doors to Aerospace Medicine"

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August 29, 2016

Dear AsMA Member:

The Aerospace Medical Association is organizing a delegation to visit Cuba for the purpose of researching medical practices in the Cuban aviation system. As President of Aerospace Medical Association, I am honored to have been selected to lead this delegation and invite you to join in this unique opportunity.

The goals of the delegation and initial topics of discussion for the meetings and site visits have been preliminarily identified as the following:

- Observe the practice of aerospace medicine in Cuba
- Training and appointment of aviation medical examiners for aircrew and Air Traffic Controllers
- Review the organization and regulation of AMEs
- Discuss occupational and preventive medicine in Cuba particularly within the aviation industry
- Study travel health surveillance as it applies to airports, aircrew, and passengers including inbound and outbound health screening
- Medical support for sick and/or disabled passengers arriving/departing Cuba
- Management of in-flight medical events in Cuban aircraft and in over-flights requiring assistance on landing
- The management of aerospace medicine in Cuba
- Briefing from the Department of Transport as governmental agency with overall responsibility for aviation
- Briefing from the Department of Health as the governmental agency responsible for clinical services
- Observe clinical facilities at the airport and hospitals

Delegates will participate in professional meetings and site visits each day; the interests and composition of the team will determine the final meetings and topics for discussion. Please see the attached Preliminary Schedule of Activities.

Although the US and Cuba are moving rapidly towards normalizing relations, travel to Cuba remains restricted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Treasury Department. This delegation will be travelling under OFAC regulation 31 CFR §515.564 General license for professional research. This license supports our access to the highest level professionals in Cuba.

For those interested in sharing your experience in Cuba, a parallel program of people to people activities will be developed for guests accompanying you on this enriching program. Guests will experience the

culture and lifestyle of Cuba, through interactions with the people of Havana. Please see the attached Guest Itinerary.

Travel arrangements will be arranged through our cooperation with Professionals Abroad, a division of Academic Travel Abroad. The 60-year-old organization handles the logistical arrangements for prestigious organizations, such as National Geographic, The Smithsonian, The American Museum of Natural History and many top professional associations and universities. Academic Travel Abroad is licensed by the OFAC as a Travel Services Provider for US travel to Cuba.

This delegation will convene in Miami, Florida on February 6, 2017 at which time we will depart for Cuba. We will return to the United States on February 11, 2017. An extension itinerary is attached for those wishing to extend their stay. Please see the attached Extension Itinerary.

The estimated cost per delegation member is \$4,895. This cost includes round-trip international air arrangements between Miami and Havana; group transportation, Cuban Visa and license to travel to Cuba for US Citizens; meeting planning, accommodations in double-occupancy rooms, most meals, and essentially all other costs associated with participation. For accompanying guests, the estimated cost is \$4,895 and also includes round-trip international air arrangements between Miami and Havana; Cuban Visa and license to travel to Cuba for US Citizens; group transportation, meetings, accommodations in double-occupancy rooms, most meals, and essentially all other costs associated with participation.

For U.S. citizens, expenses associated with this program may be tax deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. You should consult with a tax advisor to determine if tax deductibility is applicable to you.

Due to the extensive planning and communication involved in coordinating a program of this nature, please respond with your intentions regarding this invitation as soon as possible. Please RSVP to Professionals Abroad at 1-877-298-9677 or click [here](#) to be directed to your enrollment website. You can also visit www.professionalsabroad.org and search for Aerospace Medical Association. A \$500 deposit is required to reserve your place on the team. In the event that you are unable to accept this invitation, an alternate delegate candidate will be invited. You may also recommend a colleague as your alternate for the program. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your participation.

If you have questions regarding the delegation, contact our Program Representative at Professionals Abroad, at 1-877-298-9677. For additional program details, to RSVP, or to recommend a colleague to be invited please visit www.professionalsabroad.org.

I believe that this opportunity will be both personally and professionally rewarding and I am pleased to be involved in this exciting opportunity. I encourage you strongly to consider participating in the Aerospace Medical Association Delegation to Cuba.

Sincerely,

David Gradwell, BSc, PhD, MBChB, FRCP, FRCP Edin, FFOM(Hon), DAvMed, FRAeS
President



ACADEMIC TRAVEL ABROAD, INC.
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Aerospace Medical Association: Guest Program

Discovering Havana

February 6 - 11, 2017

www.professionalsabroad.org



Please note that this program of cultural activities for accompanying guests has been developed to parallel the schedule of activities developed for the professional delegation. The final program may be adjusted to reflect changes in the professionals' schedule, weather events and facility availability.

February 6, 2017

Depart from Miami International Airport on a charter flight to Havana. Before lunch, visit El Morro Castle, built in 1589 to protect the bay. Check in to the Meliá Cohiba, and gather for an informational briefing and introduction, followed by a welcome dinner in Old Havana a *paladar*, or privately owned restaurant. (*Dinner*)

February 7, 2017

Enjoy a day at leisure. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a *paladar*, or privately owned restaurant. (*Breakfast, Dinner*)

February 8, 2017

Enjoy a day at leisure. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant. (*Breakfast, Dinner*)

February 9, 2017

Enjoy a day at leisure. (*Breakfast*)

February 10, 2017

Enjoy a day at leisure. This evening, gather for a farewell reception and final dinner in Havana. (*Breakfast, Dinner*)

February 11, 2017

Transfer from José Martí International Airport, Havana, Cuba to Miami International Airport. (*Breakfast*)

*** Please note that this is a preliminary itinerary, final schedule of meetings will be based on input from program participants.*



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Aerospace Medical Association

Delegation to Cuba
February 6 – 11, 2017

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Please note that the itinerary below is not an exact representation of the final program. The time, order, location, and content of the professional meetings are subject to availability of and confirmation by the hosts, as well as the relevant background and expertise of the traveling participants.

February 6, 2017

Depart the Miami International Airport, U.S. for Jose Marti International Airport, Havana, Cuba. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, stopping at El Morro Castle for a panoramic view of Havana. Check in to the Meliá Cohiba, and gather for an informational briefing and introduction, followed by a welcome dinner in Old Havana a *paladar*, or privately owned restaurant. (*Dinner*)

February 7, 2017

Begin the morning with a meeting at the Cuban Ministry of Health. Discuss the agencies role in providing clinical services for the aviation industry. Learn about the organization and regulation of aviation medical examiners. Following lunch at Casa de la Amistad, meet with a representative of the North American Division of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the People. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant. (*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*)

February 8, 2017

This morning, visit the Cuban Aeronautics Ministry to discuss the training and appointment of aviation medical examiners for aircrew and air traffic controllers. Learn about this agency's role in managing aviation medicine. Following lunch as a group, visit a hospital to observe the medical support offered to sick or disabled passengers arriving and departing Cuba. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant. (*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*)

February 9, 2017

After breakfast, enjoy a panel discussion with representatives from the Meteorology Institute and Disaster Medicine Institute to learn about the coordinated action that takes place in Cuba when dealing with medical emergencies. After lunch, meet with representatives of the Civil Aviation Institute of Cuba to discuss occupational and preventative medicine in Cuba and, more specifically, in the aviation industry. Learn about the management of in-flight medical events. Dinner will be at leisure. (*Breakfast, Lunch*)

February 10, 2017

This morning, visit the Havana International Airport to meet with representatives from the medical services department. Discuss the practice of travel health surveillance and medical screening at Cuban airports. End the day with a guided tour of the Aeronautical Museum of Cuba. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner at La Barraca at Hotel Nacional, followed by a cabaret show at the Buena Vista Social Club. (*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*)

February 11, 2017

Transfer from Jose Marti International Airport, Havana, Cuba to Miami International Airport. (*Breakfast*)

*** Please note that this is a preliminary itinerary, final schedule of meetings will be based on input from program participants*



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Aerospace Medical Association

Delegation to Cuba - Extension

February 11 - 14, 2017
www.professionalsabroad.org



Please note that the itinerary below is not an exact representation of the final program. The time, order, location, and content of the professional meetings are subject to availability of and confirmation by the hosts, as well as the relevant background and expertise of the traveling participants.

February 11, 2017

This morning, depart the hotel in Havana to make your way to Matanzas. Just outside of Matanzas, visit Finca Coincidencias, a ceramics workshop and farm in the outskirts of Matanzas. Interchange with the Correa family to learn about the workshop before enjoying lunch at the farm. Following lunch, embark on a walking tour of Matanzas with an architectural expert, stopping at Teatro Sauto and San Carlos Cathedral. End the tour at Ediciones Vigía, a workshop that produces hand crafted books, where you will meet with local artists demonstrating the extensive process. Then, drive to the beach-side town of Varadero and check-in to your hotel, the Meliá Varadero. Enjoy dinner tonight at your hotel. *(Breakfast, Dinner)*

February 12, 2017

Today, visit the town of Cárdenas, a small town southeast of Varadero. Learn about the former sugar port's history and involvement in the Revolution. Visit the Elian Gonzalez Museum, accompanied by lawyers, to discuss the history of the legal aspects of the case, and the local impact in Elian's home town, as well as the rest of Cuba. Return to Varadero for lunch before visiting the Castle of San Severino in Matanzas. The castle holds the Museum of the Slave Trade, which was opened by UNESCO as a part of the "Route of the Slave" project. With the help of a local guide, view the museum exhibits and learn about the importance of this area in defining the history of slave trade in the

Caribbean. This evening, enjoy a Rumba performance by a local Afro-Cuban group, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the dancers. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

February 13, 2017

Following breakfast this morning, depart Varadero for Havana. Stop in the Matanzas neighborhood of Pueblo Nuevo to visit the sociocultural community project, AfroAtenas. Meet with local artists to learn about the local development initiative to have this neighborhood become the hub of Matanzas art and creativity. Enjoy lunch in Matanzas before returning to Havana. En route, stop at Guanabacoa, a small neighborhood in eastern Havana. There, visit the Guanabacoa Museum and Community Center to learn about the neighborhood's roots in Afro-Cuban culture and the Santería religion from some of the members of the community. Later, check-in to your hotel, the Meliá Cohiba, in Havana and enjoy dinner on your own. Take the opportunity to visit a paladar, or privately owned restaurant that Cubans have been able to set up as one of the first opportunities for private enterprise. *(Breakfast)*

February 14, 2017

Check out of the Meliá Cohiba and transfer to the airport for your return charter flight to Miami. *(Breakfast)*