



# North American Educators to Teach English in Cuba

Cuba-Pictures.com, September 21, 2005

URL: <http://www.pr9.net/society/socedu/2565september.html>

*Three groups of Canadian and American volunteers are preparing to fly to Havana to teach English to the Cubans.*

PR9.NET September 21, 2005 - Vancouver, BC - Three groups of Canadian and American volunteers are preparing to fly to Havana to teach English to the Cubans. The 22-day programs are open to working or retired educators willing to pay their own costs, while donating their English as a Second Language (ESL) teaching skills. A knowledge of Spanish is not required.

Three ESL CUBA VOLUNTEER departures are planned: November 12 to December 3, 2005, January 14 to February 4, 2006, and February 18 to March 11, 2006. The program will recommence in the fall of 2006. Registration is limited to 15 teachers per group, although non-volunteer spouses and partners are welcome to come along. An extra week of relaxation or travel in Cuba after the ESL project has finished is easily arranged.

Upon arrival in Cuba, the ESL volunteers are put through an eight-day orientation course which includes sightseeing around Havana, visits to schools and universities, meetings with leading Cuban educators and activists, and cultural events.

Weeks two and three are devoted to morning classroom teaching at the University of Havana's Faculty of Foreign Languages, with Cuban professors on hand to assist. Volunteers with academic backgrounds in such fields as geography, psychology, law, mathematics, and physics will be invited to teach technical English at one of the university's many specialized faculties. In the afternoon, unstructured tutor sessions are held at a community education facility. Volunteers can opt to work only in the morning or afternoon, as desired. Weekends and evenings are free.

Volunteers are encouraged to prepare their own ESL curriculums, in partnership with the Cuban teachers. The idea is to give Cuban students the opportunity to practice conversational English with a native speaker, while receiving help with pronunciation, grammar, idioms, and colloquialisms. The program organizers and previous ESL participants can provide ideas for effective teaching.

The ESL volunteers are accommodated at the three-star Hotel St Johns in Havana's Vedado entertainment district, a short walk from the university along safe streets. International-style buffet breakfasts are included in the program costs. Participants can take lunch at the university's dining hall, and Vedado offers a wide range of private and public restaurants for other meals.

Team members must be flexible and eager to collaborate with their Cuban hosts and volunteer colleagues. The most important qualification, however, is a desire to build understanding between the peoples of Cuba, Canada, and the United States, and a willingness to learn. The ESL volunteers will have an unparalleled opportunity to witness and experience a humanistic society, in contrast to the consumer-driven existence many North Americans endure.

The ESL CUBA VOLUNTEER pilot project in March 2005 was rated a great success by participants. Sandra Moe of Vancouver, BC, had this to say: "I'm writing stories from my journal and find my head filling with memories of all the wonderful experiences that were made possible by your invitation to be a part of this project, by all the effort your group here in Canada and the people in Cuba put into the project, and by the wonderful and delightful people who I met and interacted with on the island."

For information on how you too can become part of one of these unique people-to-people learning experiences, visit <http://www.cubavolunteer.com>

To view photos from all 15 Cuban provinces, plus the city of Havana, see <http://www.cuba-pictures.com>

A comprehensive Cuba links page is available at <http://www.infography.com/content/769817333095.html>

###

## About ESL CUBA VOLUNTEER

Organized by the Vancouver-based nonprofit Cuba Education Tours, ESL CUBA VOLUNTEER is supported by the Cuban Ministry of Higher Education, the Cuban Movement for Peace, the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana, CubaNatura Tours, and the University of Havana. The program is endorsed by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Marcel Hatch  
Program Coordinator  
ESL CUBA VOLUNTEER  
Cuba Education Tours  
2278 East 24th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5N 2V2  
Canada  
Toll Free 877-687-3817  
Tel 604-874-9048  
Fax 604-874-9041

<http://www.cubavolunteer.com>

### **About Cuba-Pictures.com**

David Stanley authored the first two editions of Lonely Planet Cuba. His initial visit was in 1975 when he accompanied one of the first Canadian tour groups to visit Cuba after the revolution. Until 1979 he worked at resorts on Isla de la Juventud, in Havana, and at Varadero, then he left for the South Pacific islands to write a series of travel guidebooks. Moon Handbooks South Pacific, now in its 8th edition, has become the classic guide to Oceania. In the early 1990s Stanley's three editions of Eastern Europe on a Shoestring led Lonely Planet into Europe, and he has since written about Canada for the same company.

**Website:** <http://www.cuba-pictures.com>

---

[PR9.NET - Your Free Press Release Service](#)