

Learn Spanish and immerse yourself in the richness of Cuban culture, history and geography in the beautiful city of Sancti Spiritus.

Earn university credit (if desired) while living an amazing experience.



APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER,
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS
(maximum one typed page total)

- 1) Why are you interested in this program?
- 2) What skills, qualities, or past experiences would you bring to this program?
- 3) How would you cope with the demands of working and living with a group in a cross-cultural and unfamiliar environment?
- 4) Are you interested in receiving university credit for your participation in this program?
(Additional U of A course fees will apply).

Date of Application:

Final application deadline is March 31, 2010. However, applications will be reviewed and accepted on a first come first serve basis. Space is limited. Upon acceptance, a non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is required by April 20, 2010.



Please send completed applications to:

by email: theurbanfarmer@shaw.ca


by mail: **The Urban Farmer**
10926 93 Street, Edmonton, AB
Canada T5H 1Z2

**PERMACULTURE
Cuba!**

**SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
AGRICULTURE**

MAY 2 - JUNE 20, 2010

Be part of the thriving permaculture movement in the heart of Cuba.



Work side by side with urban farmers and permaculture practitioners.

Join with a team of Cubans and Canadians to create and implement a permaculture design project.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



Cuba's quest for a sustainable future began in earnest with the collapse of the Eastern Block in the late 1980's. Faced with food shortages and the lack of petrochemical imports, the looming crisis sent Cuba firmly down the path towards an organic and localized food model including the development of the urban agriculture movement providing thousands of Cubans with the opportunity to turn vacant urban land into productive organic micro-farms. With the initial support of volunteer Australian permaculture teachers, organizations like the Antonio Nunes Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Man (FANJ) have trained hundreds of Cubans in permaculture methods and have created countless permaculture projects in both urban and rural areas.



The purpose of this program is to offer Canadians the unique opportunity to have an immersion experience in the urban agriculture and permaculture movements in Cuba. The emphasis is on partnership building and working and learning side by side with Cuban practitioners.

Prior to travel to Cuba, participants will receive orientation materials and on-line orientation sessions. Upon arrival to Cuba, the program will begin with a three day in country orientation at a retreat centre in Varadero. Participants will then travel overland to the beautiful and historic city of Sancti Spiritus where the program will be based.

The first three weeks in Sancti Spiritus will include rotating placements in many of the local small urban farms or "organoponicos" scattered throughout the city. Most sites include diverse food production (vegetables, fruits, and small livestock) and other features such as rain water harvesting systems, vermi-composting, natural building and on-site food sales. Participants will actively engage in all aspects of these operations. Having developed an understanding of the local urban agriculture systems, participants will spend the next three weeks working with a group of Cubans to develop and implement a permaculture design for a new site within Sancti Spiritus.

Integrated throughout the stay in Sancti Spiritus will be: weekly Spanish classes; field trips to cultural, historical and ecological sites near Sancti Spiritus; visits to rural permaculture projects; workshops, meetings and discussions on a variety of permaculture, sustainable agriculture and other themes; gatherings with local producers and permaculture promoters; and participation in cultural activities such as local festivals and the local vibrant music scene. At the end of the program, participants will undertake an evaluation process and a "re-entry" process in preparation for return home.

Participants will stay in shared rooms at the FANJ office or in local "Casa Particulares" (B & B's). Each Canadian will be asked to bring a second hand bicycle to Cuba which will be their transportation within Sancti Spiritus and which can be donated to the project at the end of the program.

It is important to understand that this program is based on an experiential adult education model in which participants will play a significant role in determining their own learning outcomes. Participants must be prepared for learning and living within a group context and for working in a cross-cultural and Spanish speaking environment (translation will be provided on some occasions). While prior Spanish language is not a requirement, participants must have a commitment to work towards basic Spanish comprehension. The program will also involve physical work and living in the warm temperatures and humidity of a tropical environment in spring.

PROGRAM INFORMATION



May 2 – June 20, 2010

(7 WEEKS) [DATES TO BE CONFIRMED]

\$3250.00



INCLUDED:

- Program orientations and preparations in Canada and in Cuba
- Ground transportation in Cuba
- Food and accommodation in Cuba
- Special Cuban visa for "volunteer cooperation"
- Donation in support of the work of the Cuban host organization
- Material costs for a permaculture installation project

NOT INCLUDED:

Flight, passport, medical insurance, spending money while in Cuba, University of Alberta course fees (if applicable).



A PARTNERSHIP OF

The Urban Farmer



Established by Ron Berezan in Edmonton, The Urban Farmer has been teaching and promoting permaculture, organic gardening and urban agriculture since 2004. Ron has also worked for several years with NGOs promoting community development work in Latin America and has lead and managed many delegations to Central America. Ron has been building connections with Cuban permaculture and organic agriculture organizations for the past three years and has taken groups of Canadian organic farmers and permaculture enthusiasts on educational trips to Cuba.

The University of Alberta



For almost a century, the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta (www.extension.ualberta.ca <<http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/>>) has served as a bridge between community and university. The Faculty provides lifelong learning activities that encourage and promote critical thinking, community service, leadership, and discovery. Graduate degree and non-degree programming is offered to learners in Canada and abroad, in both face-to-face and on-line formats. Students interested in gaining university graduate level credits (3) for this experiential learning and study abroad experience should contact: Dr. Mary Beckie, mary.beckie@ualberta.ca.

The Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Man



Founded by the renowned Cuban anthropologist, naturalist, environmentalist and explorer Antonio Nunez Jimenez, the foundation has become a leading player in the search for and implementation of sustainable alternatives for Cuban society. They have accomplished tremendous success in bringing the ecological design insights of permaculture to a widespread movement in Cuba's cities and rural areas. Their programs include training and capacity building of local permaculture and organic agriculture leaders, development of recycling and composting programs and support for the national movement of home gardeners and urban farmers.