



Cuba 2017



Newsletter #3

July 2017

Dear YASC Cuba 2017 Participants:

This final newsletter is a short one!

We're sure you're all very busy preparing for our imminent trip. We've been equally (maybe a little more!) busy on our end working with the various partners in the US and in Cuba to review final details and ensure a smooth program for all of us. Some of the Arrangements Abroad tour directors are already on the ground, others in New York are coordinating closely with Cuban agencies, the folks at FANJ have procured hundreds of trees among many other preparations,... we're getting there.

This newsletter contains some **contact information**, provides you with an updated **packing list**, a reminder about **arrival in Havana**, and **final project assignments lists**.

We would like to remind you that you are traveling on a people-to-people program and part of an organized tour with a 'strict itinerary of activities focused on engagement and interactions with Cubans'. Although the new regulations have not officially gone into effect, we are already getting reports of U.S. agencies clamping down on individual people-to-people travel. Please carry a hard copy of the authorization letter with you (sent previously and attached here again). It certifies that the Yale Alumni Service Corps/Academic Arrangements Abroad program complies fully with the existing policies as well as the new administration's regulations.

Have a safe journey and see you in Havana in a couple of days!

Najib El-Sayed

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João Aleixo

joao.aleixo@yale.edu

Important next steps

- **Read** all the information in this newsletter as well as [Newsletter 1](#) and [Newsletter 2](#)!
 - **Print** this newsletter (#3) as it contains some critical contact information.
 - **Meet your fellow YASC Cuba 2017 participants.** Check out the final participant directory by following this link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B41V5RcsX7AhR0pUYmZHRkhMeEk>. Please note that the PDF is downloadable so you may want to save a copy on your phone/laptop before heading to Cuba.
 - If you have not done so yet, **Print** the following documents and prepare to **take them with you to Cuba**:
 - The attached 'Authorization letter'
 - A copy of the signed OFAC certification form you sent to Arrangements Abroad
 - A copy of the [itinerary](#)
- Retain those documents for 5 years should you ever be audited.**
- Check out the attached **Packing list**, contributed by a fellow participant.

Logistics for arrival in Havana (A message from Arrangements Abroad)

Once you arrive at the Havana airport on Saturday, July 29, please continue to the arrivals hall and meet the AA representative who will be waiting with a YASC sign for the group outside.



The first group transfer will depart the airport at app. 12:15 pm for lunch and a highlights tour of Havana followed by transfer to your hotel in Varadero.

The second group transfer will depart the airport at app. 2:30 pm for a highlights tour of Havana and transfer to to your hotel in Varadero.

For those who have arranged a private arrival transfer with Arrangements Abroad, their airport assistant Armando will be outside the arrivals hall holding a sign with your name.

If you have arrived in Havana prior official program date, please join the group for lunch on July 29 at El Aljibe at 12:30 pm (Address: Calle 7ma Miramar, Playa, La Habana 10400, Cuba | Phone:53 7 2044233.)

Do not forget to bring all luggage with you. We will assist storing your luggage in a secure place during the meal.

-Grace

Important contact info

Yale Alumni Service Corps

Najib El-Sayed, Volunteer Producer, Cell: (443) 794-1486
João Aleixo, Director, Yale Alumni Service Corps, Cell: 860-944-3633

Arrangements Abroad

Kalea Wiseman, Tour Director, Arrangements Abroad, Cuban Cell: 53 5 448-36-30

Independent transfers (Armando)

cell: +53 5 344 3438 home: +53 7 644 8730

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

Calzada between L & M Streets, Vedado, Havana

Main switchboard (53)(7) 839-4100

Work hours: Mon-Thur 8:00am - 4:30pm and Fri from 8:00am - 3:30pm

(closed on [U.S. and Cuban Holidays](#))

Emergencies/After Hours:

Call the main switchboard at (+53)(7)-831-4100 and dial 1 to speak with the emergency operator

Hotel for the main program

Hotel for main program: Starfish Las Palmas, Varadero

Ave 1ra entre 60 y 64, 42200 Varadero, Cuba

Telephone: (+53 45) 66 70 40 <http://www.starfishresorts.com/en/resort/laspalmas.aspx>

Project assignments

In the previous newsletter, we described our planned projects and activities. Each of you will be able to participate in the general activities as well as your choice of two of the five projects described below. Project 1 through 5 will only take place on the last 2 weekdays (Thursday and

Below are the final lists of the YASC volunteers (in alphabetical order) with their project assignments. We created these assignments based on the projects you selected as part of the registration process, doing our best effort to provide you with the top choices you might have indicated, on a first-come first-served basis. Slots were very limited in 'Arts and crafts' project because of space constraints at the FANJ facility by the Bellamar caves. Similarly, we could only accommodate 10 of you in the 'Art of Photography' workshop, leaving 10 slots for the Cuban children who will be joining us.

Final lists for August 3rd and 4th

Reforestation
Arlis-Mayor, Stephanie
Belew, Ashton
Blango, Giani
Blango, Jalen
Blango, Pyaegbaye
Blango, Samuella
Blango, Teechey
Canilang, William
Cowles, Katelena
Cowles, Celia
Day-Richter, Heather
Day-Richter, Logan
Edersheim, Kathy
El-Sayed, Marc
El-Sayed, Neil
Gilbert, Zanna
Gorla, Raj
Hardy, Janet
Hause, Lara
Hogan, Kelly
Hoover, Wendy
Horner, Daniel
Johnson, Amelia
Johnson, Clara
Little, Peekay
Mayor, Athena

Mayor, Rowland
Parente, Randi
Pathy, Kiran
Pathy, Shailen
Pathy, Shefali
Pathy, Vinod
Perlov, Eugene
Robertson, Kayla
Robertson, Semi
Robinson, Alexia
Sarjant, Alan
Shaiova Perlov, Elijah
Shaiova Perlov, Lauren
Shaiova Perlov, Sonya
Torrance, Emily
Volk, Ken
Yearwood, Emerson

Dry Toilet Painting

Arkell, Sheila
Cowles, Gabriel
Cowles, James
Durham, Miranda
Gaspar, Jay
Graham, Mary Lou
Hazel, Robert
Hymanson, Alan
Johnson, David
Johnson, Maxwell
Lee, Lily
Little, Dwight
Locuratolo, Patty
Ramsey, Mark
Rose, Deborah
Steel, Sebastian
Villazon, Santiago
Weiss, Edward

Environmental Education (Workshop)

Blango, Judy
Cahn, Dominique
Cahn, Jonathan
Fardig, Judith
Fardig, Paul
Givens, Koinonia
Goldberg, Georgia
Harlowe, Jeff
McClellan, Cara
Ramirez, Denise
Rosbach, Bill
Singer, Rhonda
Warren, LaShawn

Photography with Daylene Rodriguez**FULL**

Labrada, Elena (Team coordinator)

Asgari, Maryam
Barber, Hadley
Gamsky, Tara
Hazel, Peter (film)
Letourneau, Amy
Marchiel, Aydin
Perez, Patricia
Possin, Nicole
Samson, Lisa
Stronski, Isabel

Teaching Arts and Crafts**FULL**

Trina Ramsey (Team leader)

Blango, Nontika
Chin, Katherin
Cohan, Mattie
Dal Ponte, Anita
Gaspar, Linden
Lin, Faith
Patel, Janky
Sangruchi, Aric
Sarjant, Debbie