

# Professional Research Program to Cuba for Educators

-- Can School Lunch be Revolutionized?

February 15—February 25, 2013

*How is Cuba doing Farm to School?*

*“Every school has a farm relationship.”*  
Official, Cuban Department of Agriculture

Farm to School in the U.S. is broadly defined as a program that connects schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers.



On this professional research trip you will learn how ordinary Cubans are engaging in Farm to School during visits with local communities and schools, labor collectives and cooperative farms. You will meet with students, teachers and sustainable agricultural workers and be able to compare and contrast your own experiences with Farm to School in the United States to the Cuban model.

## **Possible Trip Highlights:**

- ✓ Visit urban farms and meet with children and teachers from neighboring schools
- ✓ Meet with Cuban professionals to discuss techniques used in permaculture, farmers markets, and urban gardens
- ✓ Dialogue with Cuban citizens about campaigns in Cuba that promote sustainable development at the national and local levels
- ✓ Discuss methods for incorporating fresh fruits and vegetables, farm tours, and garden education in school experiences with Cuban students and faculty
- ✓ Meet with teachers and school officials to learn about means of producing free, nutritious school meals
- ✓ Dialogue about the impact of U.S. policy on the everyday lives of Cuban citizens

For more information about legal travel to Cuba on this professional research program, please contact Marazul Charters, Inc., a licensed travel service provider. This professional research program is for educators who want to conduct professional research in education areas, including Farm to School and other agricultural programs. Full-time professionals conducting a full work schedule of noncommercial, academic research that has a substantial likelihood of public dissemination and is in the traveler's professional area are authorized to travel to Cuba under a general license.

**For more information about this professional research program, please contact Marazul Charters:**

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At its core, Farm to School is about establishing relationships between local foods and school children. Farm to School programs include (but are not limited to):

- Including local products in school meals-breakfast, lunch, afterschool snacks-and in taste tests, educational tools and classrooms snacks.
- Introducing food-related curriculum development and experiential learning opportunities through school gardens, farm tours, farmer in the classroom sessions, chefs in the classroom, culinary education, educational sessions for parents and community members and visits to farmers' markets.
- Creating, Growing, Maintaining, and Harvesting from Edible School Gardens

The National Farm to School Network aims to enable every child to have access to nutritious food while simultaneously benefiting communities and local farmers.

[www.farmentoschool.org](http://www.farmentoschool.org)