



**BOTANICAL BRIDGES
PUENTES BOTÁNICOS
PONTS BOTANIKUES
CUBA 2018**

Havana, April 2 to 5, 2018
<https://botanicalbridges.planta.ngo>





The National Botanic Gardens Network of Cuba is pleased to announce the **2018 Botanical Bridges Congress**, which will be held at the National Botanic Garden in Havana from April 2 to 5, 2018; during the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the garden.

The first **Botanical Bridges Congress** took place in Panama City, in 2016. This was the starting point of **The Caribbean and Central American Botanic Garden Network**. The network aims to foster collaboration 'bridges' among botanic gardens, botanic garden enthusiasts, and research centers interested in the Caribbean and Central American region. The congress promotes the exchange of experiences and innovations in conservation, education and research to solve common challenges faced by Caribbean and Central American botanic gardens and associated research institutions.

The congress includes lectures, oral presentations and workshops relevant to the work of the botanic gardens of the region. During the gathering, there will be a visit to the historical garden 'Quinta de los Molinos' in Old Havana and to the Cienfuegos Botanic Garden, a centennial institution formerly known as 'Soledad' Experimental Station of Harvard University.

The **2018 Botanical Bridges** is organized by the National Botanic Garden with the support of the National Botanic Gardens Network of Cuba, the University of Havana, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, the Cuban Botanical Society, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Planta! - Plantlife Conservation Society, and other national and international institutions.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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VISA, PASSPORT & INVITATION LETTER

All visitors to Cuba require a **passport** and this is shown to the immigration officials upon arrival. The passport must be valid for at least six months past the date you are to leave Cuba.

You may buy a **Tourist Visa** at any tour agency in your country of residency selling tours to Cuba. Otherwise you may buy the visa at your arrival to Havana International Airport.

In case you need a **letter of invitation**, please, email your request to the Organizing Committee at botanicalbridges@planta.ngo



CONGRESS TOPICS

- Collections management, gardening and landscaping
- The role of botanic gardens in plant conservation
- Economic sustainability of botanic gardens and ecotourism
- Research and scientific publications from botanic gardens and associate institutions
- Training, capacity building and education in botanic gardens
- Community outreach and evaluation methods
- Exchange of experiences and sustainability of regional networks
- Botanic Gardens and the 2020 'Aichi' Biodiversity Targets
- Botanic Gardens - natural disasters and climate change challenges
- Contribution of botanic gardens to the spread, monitoring and control of invasive species

CALL FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

The Scientific Committee of 2018 Botanical Bridges is soliciting proposals (less than 250 words) for oral presentations and workshops. Proposals must be submitted via email to botanicalbridges@planta.ngo by **December 15, 2017**.

Space for oral presentations is limited. Proposals received later will be considered only if space is available. Thematic discussion workshops are an important part of the scientific program of the Congress and effective ways to achieve the objectives of the congress. Participants without oral presentations participating in the workshops will be considered on an equal footing. Poster format will not be accepted.

Registration (paid in full by **January 30, 2018**) is mandatory to be included in the Congress program and proceedings.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

April, 2nd

08:00 Registration
 09:30 Welcome
 10:00 Session 1
 13:00 Lunch
 14:30 Guided tour to the
 National Botanic Garden
 20:00 Welcome dinner

April, 3th

9:00 Session 2
 12:30 Lunch
 13:30 Trip to 'Quinta de los Molinos'
 botanic garden &
 Old Havana guided tour

April, 4th

07:00 Trip to Cienfuegos Botanic
 Garden
 12:00 Lunch
 13:00 Field trip to Protected Natural
 Landscape 'Topes de Collantes'
 20:00 Return to Havana

April, 5th

9:00 Session 3
 12:30 Lunch
 13:30 Session 4
 16:00 Closing remarks
 20:00 Farewell dinner with
 Music Concert

POST-CONGRESS PROGRAM

The Post-Congress Field Trip (see pag. 13) is designed to allow delegates time to experience Cuba and to learn about the richest flora of the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot. In addition, several post-congress courses on topics related to horticulture and conservation in botanic gardens are planned and will be announced in future communications and on the website.

LANGUAGES

All activities of the Congress will be in three of the official languages of the Caribbean and Central America: Spanish, English and French.

Simultaneous translation of the three languages will be available during all sessions of the Congress and the excursions.



VENUE

National Botanic Garden, Cuba

The National Botanic Garden (Cuba) is an educational, scientific and recreational institution. The garden was established in 1968 and opened to the public in 1984. It is located 20 km from downtown Havana. Its approximate 550 hectares (~1,200 acres) host a diverse collection of tropical and subtropical plants from around the world. More than a third of the gardens focus on Cuban indigenous plants from a wide range of ecosystems. The garden hosts the Department of Botany of the University of Havana, coordinates the publication of the new 'Flora de la República de Cuba' and it is a leading institution on plant conservation in the country.



Havana city

Havana, Cuba's capital city, is a major port, and leading commercial centre of the country. The city has 2.1 million inhabitants. King Philip II of Spain granted Havana the title of City in 1592 and a royal decree in 1634 recognized its importance by officially designating it the "Key to the New World and Rampart of the West Indies". Present day Havana is the seat of the Cuban government. Havana is the cultural centre of the country featuring museums, galleries and theaters. Music is present everywhere, nearly every restaurant and hotel in town has a nice house band playing old favourites. Havana is quite safe for a large city. There are not major health issues or poisonous animals neither in Havana not in the rest of Cuba.





REGISTRATION FEE & ACCOMMODATION

Registration fee: 360.00 CAD *

Special fee for students is available
(Valid student card should be presented)

This fee includes:

1. Congress box (bag, program & abstract book, t-shirt, notebook, pen)
2. Conference facilities, daily transportation to venue & professional synchronous translation
3. Welcome dinner & cultural entertainment
4. Lunch at congress venue, coffee and tea breaks
5. Visit to 'Quinta de los Molinos' Botanic Garden & guided tour to Havana city
6. Mid-congress field trip to Cienfuegos Botanic Garden & Topes de Collantes (includes take off snack & lunch)
7. Farewell dinner & cultural entertainment

Accompanying person fee: 220.00 CAD *

This fee includes:

1. Congress box (bag, program, t-shirt)
2. Daily transportation to venue
3. Welcome dinner & cultural entertainment
4. Lunch at congress venue
5. Visit to 'Quinta de los Molinos' Botanic Garden & guided tour to Havana city
6. Mid-congress field trip to Cienfuegos Botanic Garden & Topes de Collantes (includes take off snack & lunch)
7. Farewell dinner & cultural entertainment

* **Congress registration requires prepayment by January 15, 2018.** All fees are in Canadian Dollars. **Planta! - Plantlife Conservation Society** is assisting the Organizing Committee with on-line payments. All major credit and debit cards are accepted.

Accommodation

The following prices (x1 PAX) includes:

1. Accommodation (5 nights)
2. Breakfast daily
3. Airport-hotel-airport transfer

Hotel NH Capri (**)**

Single room	2,249.00 CAD
Double room	1,388.00 CAD
Triple room	1,361.00 CAD

Hotel Tryp Habana Libre (**)**

Single room	2,058.00 CAD
Double room	1,279.00 CAD
Triple room	1,252.00 CAD

Hotel Vedado - St. Johnes ()**

Single room	650.00 CAD
Double room	484.00 CAD
Triple room	459.00 CAD

Hotel Colina ()**

Single room	450.00 CAD
Double room	384.00 CAD
Triple room	359.00 CAD

Residence of the National Botanic Garden

Single room	248.00 CAD
Double room (to share)	216.00 CAD
Multiple Room (to share)	192.00 CAD

Note: Transportation to and from the National Botanic Garden is included in the Registration fee. Buses will collect the participants at the Hotel Tryp Habana Libre. Bus schedule will be announced later. Recommended hotels are in central Vedado near to the Hotel Tryp Habana Libre.

More Information: <https://botanicalbridges.planta.ngo>



POST-CONGRESS FIELD TRIP

Program "Cuba – the land of forests" (separate fee and registration)

Minimum: 8 persons
Maximum per group: 12 persons

April 6th - LAS TERRAZAS - VIÑALES VALLEY National Park

- Travel from Havana to Las Terrazas (estimated time 3 hours)
- Visit to 'Orquidiario de Soroa' Botanic Garden
- Lunch at Las Terrazas (Biosphere Reserve 'Sierra del Rosario')
- Travel from Las Terrazas to Viñales Valley (estimated time 2 hours)
- Sightseeing and Dinner at Viñales Valley
- Overnight at Viñales Valley

April 7th - ZAPATA Swamp

- Trip from Viñales to Biosphere Reserve 'Zapata Swamp' (estimated time 4 hours)
- Lunch on the road or Box-Lunch
- Visit to 'Las Salinas'
- Overnight and dinner at Zapata Swamp

April 8th - CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD

- Travel from Zapata Swamp to Cienfuegos city (estimated time 2 hours)
- Sightseeing of Cienfuegos
- Lunch in Cienfuegos
- Travel from Cienfuegos to Trinidad (estimated time 2 hours)
- Sightseeing of Trinidad
- Dinner at 'Cubita' restaurant
- Overnight in Trinidad

April 9th - TOPES DE COLLANTES Natural Protected Landscape

- Travel from Trinidad to Topes de Collantes (estimated time 40 min)
- Safari to 'Covina' Park
- Overnight & dinner at Topes de Collantes

April 10th – TRADITION'S DAY

- Trip to Havana (estimated time 3 hours)
- Lunch on the road
- Visit to the artisan fair at Almacenes San José (Souvenir shopping)
- Havana vintage cars tour (estimated time 1 hour)
- Dinner at 'El Cocinero' restaurant
- Visit to the cultural center 'Fábrica de Arte Cubano'

April 11th - DEPARTURE DAY

- transfer to the Havana International Airport 'José Martí' - times according to flight reservations.

This program include:

- Full transportation on microbus with driver
- Full-time English speaking tour-guide and specialized naturalist guides
- All meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- All tickets to the excursions and cultural centers

Prices will be announced in future communications and on the website:
<https://botanicalbridges.planta.ngo>

DEADLINES

Abstracts submission

December 15, 2017

Registration fee prepayment

January 30, 2018



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CARIBBEAN & CENTRAL AMERICA BOTANICAL GARDENS NETWORK
LA HABANA - CUBA - APRIL 2 - 5, 2018**

