



JOURNEY -TO- CUBA



A Cross-Cultural
Educational Exchange
January 19-23, 2018

Organized by Cuba Cultural Travel





ITINERARY

(Subject to Change)

DAY 1 **FRIDAY, JANUARY 19**

Morning Participants will fly to Cuba utilizing new U.S. commercial airfare routes into Havana International Airport (HAV).

Afternoon Arrive HAV. Clear immigration and customs and baggage, a process that takes about 1 hour. You will be greeted by your CCT Escort and local Cuban guide, who will assist you to our bus.

Welcome lunch at **La Foresta** in the upscale Havana suburb of **Siboney**.

In route to our hotel, we see the **Plaza de la Revolucion**, one of Havana's most active public squares, and the **University of Havana**, one of the first universities founded in the Americas.

5:00 pm Check into **Hotel Parque Central**. This five-star hotel is considered the finest hotel in Havana and perfectly located in the central part of Havana. All rooms include a safe deposit box free of charge.

Hotel Parque Central

Neptuno, esquina Prado y Zulueta
Havana, Cuba
Tel. 53 7 860 6627

After check-in, you may explore the historic area surrounding the hotel. Stroll down the tree lined **Paseo de Marti (el Prado)**, a tree lined pedestrian promenade leading to the sea. This area includes the home of Cuba's former president **Jose Miguel Gomez** and the lavish **Palacio de los Matrimonios**. See the massive renovation project of the **Capitolio** and continue to the **Parque de la Fraternidad**. This is "Old Taxi" central; here you will find all make and models of American cars from the 50's. It is a great opportunity to mingle and converse with taxi drivers and engage in their favorite subject; their cars.

6:45 pm Meet in hotel lobby and walk a few steps from the hotel to **Centro Asturianos** for a private musical performance and welcome dinner. The band leader is **Professor Alberto Faya** has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world since 1973. He has won national awards in music and musicology. He will be joined by several young musicians who will treat us to a lively journey through the history of Cuban music.

8:30 pm Welcome dinner at **Al Carbon** by **Chef Ivan Justo**.



DAY 2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Complimentary breakfast is served daily at the restaurant on the lobby level from 7am to 10 am.

- 9:00 am** **CUBA IN TRANSITION: The Rule of Law as part of Cuban Reforms.** *CLE credit pending approval*
Lecture by Rafael M. Hernandez. Rafael is a historian, author, and editor of *Temas*, a Cuban quarterly in the field of social sciences and humanities. *Temas* is considered the leading intellectual publication in Cuba and an important source of independent thought. Rafael has taught as a visiting professor at Harvard, Columbia, the University of Texas, the University of Puerto Rico; CIDE and ITAM in Mexico, and served as visiting scholar at the Wilson Center (Washington, DC) and other US and Latin American academic institutions. Rafael has published widely on Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, international security, human rights, migration, as well on Cuban culture and civil society.
This meeting will take place in a hotel conference room.
- 11:00 am** Depart for a walking tour of **Havana Vieja**. Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!
- We start at **Plaza De Armas**, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.
- We continue to **Plaza de la Catedral** before visiting **Plaza Vieja**. Learn about the massive historic preservation program which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.
- 12:30 pm** Group lunch at **Paladar Los Mercaderes**. This impeccably restored mansion is a welcome retreat from the bustling streets of the old city. We enjoy delightful tapas and a selection of seasonal specialties.
- After lunch, we visit the **Plaza de San Francisco**, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque **Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco** dating from 1719.
- 3:00 pm** Return to hotel.
- 4:00 pm** **ECONOMIC REFORM AND THE NEW CUBAN ECONOMY.** *CLE credit pending approval*
Lecture by Economics professor Juan Alejandro Triana, faculty member of the Department of Economics at the Instituto Politecnico Jose Echevarria. His research and publications have focused on micro-financing in Cuba, private sector regulation, as well as US-Cuba economic relations. Professor Triana will discuss various topics related to Cuba's evolving economic policies and the rapidly changing business landscape. Professor Triana will cover the some of the practical challenges that economic reforms are presenting to a society that until recently had no private commercial activity.
This lecture will take place in a hotel conference room.
- 7:00 pm** Enjoy an unforgettable private performance by the **Orchestra Sinfonica Juvenil** (Havana Youth Orchestra). This group of supremely talented music students represents the finest artists of their generation. The 16 member orchestra, led by Director Jose Antonio Mendez, will perform a medley of international classical favorites as well as several Cuban compositions.

8:30 pm We visit the **Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**, and enjoy dinner at **Tierra “Arte Culinaria”** in FAC’s **VIP Lounge**. Once an old cooking oil factory, this repurposed complex is without doubt the hippest place in Havana. Part Miami Art Basel, part Williamsburg warehouse party, the FAC is taking the Cuban arts scene by storm hosting viewings, performances and exhibitions of cinema, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture, graphic design, photography, and the visual arts.

DAY 3

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

9:00 am **THE CUBAN COURT SYSTEM & INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION** *CLE credit pending approval*

Presentation by attorney, professor and judge, **Narciso Cobo Roura**.

Dr. Cobo is a former member of Cuba’s **Supreme Court** and acting vice president of the **Cuban Court of International Commercial Arbitration**. In his lecture, Dr. Cobo will introduce the Cuban legal system, describe the organization of courts and law collectives, and detail commitments to arbitration under Cuba’s new foreign investment law. *This lecture will take place in a hotel conference room.*

11:00 am Visit the **Museum of Cuban Art** with art historian **Aylet Ojeda**. The museum is dedicated exclusively to Cuban Art from the earliest days of colonialism to the latest generation of Cuban artists.

12:30 pm Arrive for our lecture and lunch at **Nazdarovie** - a new Cuban-Soviet inspired restaurant on the Malécon. We will be greeted by **Gregory Biniowsky**, an attorney from Canada who moved to Cuba over 20 years ago. Gregory opened Nazdarovie as a personal ‘oeuvre de coeur’ & as a way to pay homage to the Soviet women who settled and established families in Cuba. They have created a space of nostalgia and memories for the thousands of Cubans who spent ‘the best years of their youth’ studying at universities in the USSR - a nostalgia which transcends politics and ideology.

Lecture by Havana-based Canadian attorney **Gregory Biniowsky**. *CLE credit pending approval*

Gregory is a Canadian lawyer and political scientist who has lived in Cuba for more than 20 years, and has a diverse background involving a multitude of for-profit and nonprofit endeavors, including teaching at the University of Havana, doing consulting work for foreign companies exploring or setting up ventures in Cuba, and working as a consultant for the Canadian Embassy in Havana and the United Nations in Havana. Gregory presently works for the Canadian based international law firm *Gowlings Lafleur Henderson LLP*, focusing on offering strategic advice, business intelligence, and venture options to prospective investors and companies, from around the world, who looking at the Cuban market. Gregory is also the founding partner of *Havanada Consulting Inc.*, which is a non-profit consulting firm, specializing on giving advice to philanthropists, charitable foundations, and development NGOs who want to undertake or fund non-profit projects in Cuba. Gregory will share his personal insights into Cuban society, the evolving political landscape and the fast changing business and investment environment.



3:00 pm After lunch, we visit the whimsical fishing village of **Jáimanitas**, home of artist **José Fuster**, who has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the neighborhood. Jáimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster and his neighbors have decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.

TRACK A: HAVANA ART STUDIO TOUR. We visit Cuba's most contemporary **private art studios** in Western Havana including the **cooperative 3/31** featuring contemporary visual arts in three different mediums (photography, painting, and drawing) and the collaborative artist studio: **The Merger**. The Merger recreates ubiquitous and mundane objects on a grand scale, presenting palatable socio-political metaphors to their viewers.

TRACK B: MODERN ARCHITECTURE TOUR. Bus tour of **Modern Architecture** in Western Havana. Few people realize the important place Havana holds as a treasure trove of 20th Century architecture. Our tour will highlight some of the best examples to be found in this incredibly diverse area of the city where some of its most fascinating buildings were built using different architectural styles.

5:30 pm Before returning to our hotel, we visit the iconic **Hotel Nacional de Cuba** overlooking the Straits of Florida and the *Malecón*. When the Nacional opened in 1930, Cuba was a prime travel destination many illustrious guests including Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Marlon Brando, and Ernest Hemingway.

Evening *Dinner on your own. Recommendations will be provided.*

DAY 4 MONDAY, JANUARY 22

9:30 am We depart for **Finca Vigía**, Ernest Hemingway's home in **San Francisco de Paula**. The home contains original furniture, artwork, personal memorabilia & other objects collected by the author. Of special importance is the author's library containing thousands of irreplaceable letters & telegrams, photographs, scrapbooks, manuscripts, & galley proofs.

11:00 am We continue to the picturesque fishing village of **Cojímar**. Ernest Hemingway loved this little seaside town. He kept his boat, El Pilar, in harbor of Cojímar, and he used this village setting for his story *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

12:00 pm Lunch at **Paladar Ajiaco** in **Cojímar**.

Remainder of afternoon free.

Optional visit to Havana's best beach, **Playa Santa Maria**, in **Playas del Este**.

Optional tour of the Havana Club **Museum of Rum**, or visit the Havana **Arts & Craft Market**.





7:30 pm Farewell dinner the famous **La Guarida** restaurant. One of the best restaurants in Havana and famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film “Strawberry and Chocolate.” It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the 1920’s.

Optional visit to the famous **Tropicana Night Club** (*Cabaret Show*).

DAY 5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Morning Optional visit to a **Cigar Factory** and/or the Havana **Arts & Crafts Market**.

Depending on departure time, hotel check-out and board bus for airport.

BE SURE TO COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS FROM THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN YOUR ROOM

- ✓ **PASSPORT**
- ✓ **VISA**
- ✓ **PLANE TICKET**
- ✓ **OFAC LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION**

Cuba: The U.S. Government allows US travelers to bring back an unlimited amount of Cuban art and informational materials such as books and CDs. If you feel you might be interested in purchasing art during your stay in Cuba you should carry additional money to pay on the spot. Your hotel rooms includes a safe deposit box in which you can keep your valuables safe. Acquiring additional money via an ATM machine in Cuba is not possible.

Some of the more established artists could possibly have U.S. bank accounts in which the payment can be wired. The art can normally be brought home and payment sent at a future date. Our first recommendation is that you bring additional cash.

ITINERARIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE © 2017 CUBA CULTURAL TRAVEL

* Please note: This is a “working” itinerary. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the final itinerary. All venues and artist’s studios are subject to final confirmations. Be assured any changes made will be done to enhance the total program as well as to promote smooth operation of the tour.



TRIP COST

5 DAYS AND 4 NIGHTS

OPTION 1: HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: \$3,110

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$4,110

OPTION 2: CASA PARTICULAR (B&B)

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: \$2,410 *(couples only - one large bed)*

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$2,810

CUSTOM DESIGNED PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Itinerary design and coordination
- Compliance with US Treasury Department
- 5 Star Hotel Parque Central Havana (standard room) or Upscale B&B
- All ground transportation
- Full time private tour escort
- Daily breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as listed in itinerary (including tips)
- Entrance fees to museums etc.
- Bottled water on bus and in room
- Gratuities for restaurants, porters

EXCLUDES

- Airfare to/from Cuba and associated fees
- Cuban Tourist Card/Visa (available thru CCT for \$60)
- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance