



## EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA

A "PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE" TRAVEL PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 3, 2014

*The Harvard Alumni Association is in receipt of a People to People exchange license issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). This program differs from more traditional trips in that every hour must be accounted for. Each day has been structured to provide meaningful interactions with Cuban people or educational or cultural programming. Please note that the Harvard Alumni Association intends to fully comply with all requirements of the license. Travelers must participate in all group activities. Each individual is required to keep a copy of their final program which could be requested by OFAC officials at any point in the next five years.*

*Participants attend a full daily schedule of activities that include lectures, roundtable discussions and break-out sessions, private performances, artistic demonstrations and interpretations, and informal conversations, all delivered by local Cubans. Speakers and guests include professors and students from the University of Havana, docents from museums, artisans and craftsmen of various trades, musicians and dancers, and local residents. Through intriguing and varied interactions with Cuban people, you will come away with a deeper understanding of Cuba's history, where it is today, and where it might be in ten years' time.*

*These Harvard trips to Cuba are offered only to Harvard alumni and not to the general public.*

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## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner*

*Please note the schedule below will likely change as we continue to confirm Cuban guests and speakers for people-to-people exchanges. You will receive an updated schedule closer to departure, along with the necessary license information required for travel to Cuba.*

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 INDEPENDENT ARRIVALS IN MIAMI

Since the flight to Havana departs early in the morning on Wednesday, February 26 you will need to arrive in Miami no later than Tuesday, February 25. You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to Miami and for your own hotel reservations on February 25. We strongly

suggest the *Miami Airport Hotel* as it is located within the airport and will allow you easy access to the charter flight check-in area, but there are several other hotels in the airport vicinity.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM START:

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 DEPART FOR HAVANA

Depart Miami for an early morning charter flight for Havana.

Upon arrival drive to the *Parque Central Hotel* located in Old Havana. Before dinner meet for an introductory tour briefing by an accompanying Harvard staff member.

Tonight enjoy a cocktail reception on the hotel roof-top before dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at the *Hotel Parque Central* (L, D)

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

### HAVANA

#### What to expect in Havana:

*Of all the capital cities in the Caribbean, Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Restoration work in the old part of the city helps reveal the glories of the past. Many of its palaces were converted into museums after the Revolution and more work has been done since the old city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. While much of Cuba's infrastructure has crumbled and its economy has limped along, more than 300 landmark buildings in Old Havana have been refurbished. From fortresses built in the colonial days to famous nightspots and hotels of the city's swinging era just before the Cuban revolution, the key to the renaissance of the old city has been a strategy of restoring old hotels, restaurants and historic sites to attract tourists, then using the revenue from tourism to finance more restoration. Restoration of the historic center is one of the city government's priorities and our time here will allow ample opportunity to evaluate the progress.*

This morning your Cuban guide leads you on an exploration of Havana by foot. Begin by walking from the hotel to the center of old Havana to view a scale-model of Old Havana. The model serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. It is color-coded by age with the historic buildings painted in crimson, pre-Revolution buildings in yellow and the post-revolutionary buildings in ivory. Close by is the Plaza de Armas which was built in 1584 for military exercises. Most mornings used books are sold here, mainly post-revolution editions on Cuban history. Havana's town hall is located on the square now the city museum and gives an overview of its history. Admire the Cathedral of Saint Christopher located on the cobbled Plaza de la Catedral. The cathedral has been described by one Cuban writer as "music set in stone". The square is surrounded by some of Havana's oldest buildings; the wealthiest families built their mansions here.

End the morning at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square. Although the square was in a sad state of repair for many years, that decay is being reversed by the caring restoration of Habana Vieja.

Lunch is in a restaurant with local music.

Then, join a bus program led by a local architectural historian and focusing on Havana's modern architecture movement. The tour will include an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which, when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design. It was owned at the time by Meyer Lansky. The hotel has recently been restored to recapture its 1950s ambience. Drive along La Rampa which climbs past the offices of Cubana, the Hotel Havana Libre and Art-Deco apartment buildings to the Parque Copelia, an entire block of a large, lush park. In the middle of the park, visit a remarkable design icon, an ice-cream parlor designed in 1966, which serves an estimated 30,000 customers a day. Follow Calle L south from La Rampa and arrive at the wide steps which lead to the porticoed, columned façade beyond which lies the University of Havana. Walk through the Colon Cemetery before returning to the hotel.

Dinner is at Café Oriente, a government-run restaurant.

Overnight at the **Hotel Parque Central** (B, L, D)

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

### HAVANA

This morning, watch a rehearsal of the Danza Contemporanea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rippling spines and head rolls of traditional or folkloric, Afro-Cuban dance; the complex rhythms of Cuban rumba; and the twirling hands and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

Continue on to the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The museum's origins date back to 1842 when the San Alejandro Art Academy started its collection, forming the nucleus of the museum founded in 1913. It expanded greatly after Castro took over in 1959, notably with works from the private collections of Julio Lobo and Oscar Cintas. The tour this morning will be accompanied by a contemporary art curator, Lucila Hernandez.

Enjoy lunch at the home of art curator Milagros Borges Gomez to enjoy her lovely home and

admire art works by many different Cuban artists including Kunta, Ruben Rodriguez, Salvador Corratge and Orestes Hernandez.

Continue on to the Felix Varela Cultural Center, which is housed in the beautiful San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminary, located in the heart of old Havana. Here we will meet with Camilo Candia, the acting editor in chief of the magazine *Espacio Laical (Lay Space)*. Both the magazine and its editors have been the target of harsh criticism from the media controlled by exiles and by some opponents of the Cuban government, because of its critical support of the process of reforms being carried out by the Cuban government. Also present will be Guennady Rodriguez who manages a course at the center on teaching entrepreneurial skills to Cubans who are interested in starting their own businesses.

Dinner is on your own. Restaurant recommendations and reservation assistance will be provided.

Overnight at the *Hotel Parque Central* (B, L)

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1

### HAVANA

This morning attend a lecture and discussion on US and Cuban Relations led by Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana. Dr. Rodriguez has written extensively on US-Cuban Relations including an article written for the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University.

After the lecture drive about 20 minutes to visit Ernest Hemingway's home which has been lovingly preserved and recently restored by the Cuban government. The house was designed by Spanish architect Miguel Pascual y Bager in 1922 and was inhabited by Hemingway from 1939 to 1960. Today, it hosts a large collection of over 22,000 items including books, records, furniture, paintings and stuffed animals. The house is just as Hemingway left it, with the books on the tables and many of his favorite photographs on display. Whilst it is not possible to go inside the house, the windows are left open for a decent view of the interior.

Enjoy a private lunch at the home and studio of artist Jose Fuster, who has turned his

neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art. Fuster is dedicated to his creations, a vast array of artwork from ceramics evoking the nation's African roots, as represented in the Santeria religion, to whimsical paintings drawn from ordinary life in Cuba.

Return to Havana and visit to walk from the hotel to the Presidential Palace, a huge ornate building topped by a dome and now known as the home of the Revolutionary Museum. The history of Cuban political development is illustrated here from the slave uprisings to joint missions with the ex-Soviet Union. Although undergoing renovation, the Revolutionary Museum is still open for visits.

This evening visit the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a cultural center that encourages bridges of understanding in Cuba and abroad. After a welcome by a LFC officer, you may interact with several of the foundation artists to ask questions, share opinions and learn more about the foundation's work.

Dinner is at a private restaurant called L'Atelier.

Overnight at the *Hotel Parque Central* (B, L, D)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 2

### HAVANA

This morning attend a lecture and discussion with Ricardo Torres on *The Changing Forces of Cuba's Economic Structure*. Professor Torres is a macro-economist at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and is currently writing his dissertation on the impact of structural change on economic growth in Cuba.

Continue on to an organic farm located to the east of Havana. This farm has been known for its award winning produce. Enjoy a superb lunch at the farm in its newly opened restaurant, El Divino

This afternoon visit the Santovenia Senior Center where we will have a chance to meet with staff and residents. This beautiful building is maintained by the church and is headed by Mother Consuelo Pena who recently moved to Cuba from Mexico. Senior citizens will be one of

the fast-growing sectors of Cuba's population in the coming decades.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at La Guarida. This well-known restaurant served as the setting for the main apartment in the film *Fresa y Chocolate*.

Overnight at the *Hotel Parque Central* (B, L, D)

## MONDAY, MARCH 3 RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Miami.

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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Distant Horizons  
CST# 2046776 / TSP# 070

### PRICING:

\$4,595 per person double occupancy  
\$695 Single supplement

**PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS:** Roundtrip airfare on a flight from Miami to Havana; accommodation as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy (not including overnight in Miami on February 25); all meals as listed in the program; one drink is included with lunch, and one with dinner (bottle of water, a soda or beer or rum-based cocktail); cocktails at the welcome and farewell dinner; bottled water on the bus; sightseeing and excursions as listed; transportation in a deluxe motor-coach with air-conditioning; services of a local Cuban guide; services of a Distant Horizons escort and Harvard study leader(s); Cuban visa; all gratuities; \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

**PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS:** Airfare from home city to Miami; overnight in Miami on February 25; excess baggage charges levied by airlines (strictly enforced in Miami); departure tax of 25 CUCs (approximately \$25) to be paid on departure from Havana; meals and beverages other than specified in the itinerary; personal trip cancellation and baggage insurance; laundry and other items of a personal

nature; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

### RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:

Reservations for the tour require a deposit of \$1,000 per person (payable by check only), an application form signed by the participant and a legible photocopy of the first two pages of the participant's passport. Please fill out and mail or fax the registration form (to 617-496-4011). Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached.

Full balance of the trip cost is due upon receipt of invoice no later than 90 days prior to departure. All payments must be made by check only.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. The following cancellation fee schedule applies. If notification is received by:

- Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a \$250 cancellation charge.
- Notice between 60 days and 45 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
- Notice between 44 days and 31 days prior to departure: a refund less 75% of trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received on or less than 30 days prior to departure date.

No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended.

HAA and Distant Horizons reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour is limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The tour price is based on a number of people traveling together. If bookings

fall below the minimum required, passengers may be advised of additional costs for that departure date.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Participation on a Harvard program requires that passengers be in generally good health. It is essential that persons with any medical issues and/or dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. Any impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed to Harvard prior to booking. We can counsel participants on whether a trip is appropriate for them.

**ABOUT TRAVEL TO CUBA:** Traveling to Cuba offers a unique opportunity to be in a country that has been ruled with tight political control for many years with minimal interaction with others countries. This combined with the current trade embargo has resulted in a lack of many goods and services that might be expected.

We have chosen the hotels based on comfort and reliability but be advised that accommodations in general in Cuba are not up to the same Western standards to which you may be accustomed. The restaurants on this program have been carefully selected and will offer a variety of cuisines including, of course, traditional Cuban cuisine! Again, be warned that service can be slow.

It is not possible to use every US cell phone in Havana but cell phones can be rented at the airport. Additionally, if you bring an unlocked US cell phone you can rent a Cuban SIM card at the airport. Calls with a Cuban cell phone cost about 60 cents a minute to receive or make. Wireless internet service is not wide-spread in Cuba but there are a few internet cafes.

American credit cards are not usable in Cuba. Likewise, dollars are not a permissible usable currency, but it is possible to bring dollars into the country and convert them to Cuban convertible pesos which can then be used everywhere in Cuba.

Even though you are participating in a legal trip to Cuba, you are not authorized to bring back into the U.S. any Cuban merchandise. It may be confiscated, and it is not a question of paying duty. As a result of the Trade Embargo, it is simply illegal to bring back Cuban goods. HOWEVER, please note that original pieces of art, all books and CDs are EXCLUDED from the Trade Embargo. Although you can buy as much original artwork and books as you want and bring it

back to the United States, you may still be subject to the duty that is generally levied on any books exceeding the value of \$400.

More detailed information on Travel in Cuba will be sent to you about 2 months before departure.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for trip cancellation insurance will be provided by the Harvard upon confirmation. The pre-existing medical conditions exclusion is waived if the insurance is purchased within 15 days of initial deposit. Neither the Harvard Alumni Association nor our tour operators, including their representatives, employees and agents, will take responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guests' dependents or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, cancellation or curtailment of the tour, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Nor do they accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL & EVACUATION INSURANCE:**

AS A SERVICE TO TRAVELERS, HARVARD AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE. AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION, THIS POLICY HAS THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS:

\$2,500 Accident/Sickness Medical (\$50 deductible);  
\$1,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment;  
\$50,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation; \$7,500 Repatriation of Remains; Included Emergency Medical Assistance Service; Included Bedside Visitation.

This insurance covers travelers for the Harvard-sponsored program dates, but not for any extensions or independent travel plans. You will receive detailed information on this coverage with your confirmation packet from Harvard. Should you also purchase the Travel Insurance Select offered to you at confirmation, it will provide you with benefits which are additional to those stated above. This insurance is secondary to any insurance the traveler may already have.

**CHANGES IN ITINERARY, PROGRAM AND COSTS:**

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Association and Distant Horizons. We

reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff (including study leader), itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of August 2012 and are subject to change.

**QUESTIONS:** Please call HAA Travels at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806, or email us at [haatravels@harvard.edu](mailto:haatravels@harvard.edu)

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Harvard and Distant Horizons act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Harvard and Distant Horizons nor any of its subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or losses, personal or otherwise resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Harvard and Distant Horizons cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Harvard and Distant Horizons are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these Terms and Conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.