



HARVARD
Alumni Association

EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA
A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAM
APRIL 2-7, 2017

As diplomatic and economic ties between the United States and Cuba are reformed over the next few years, the landscape of Cuba will dramatically change. Experience Cuba as it is today to learn about its history, culture, and modern-day life before they are affected by changing international relations.

The Harvard Alumni Association is operating this educational program under a general license authorized 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 Harvard University intends to fully comply with all requirements of the general license. Travelers must participate in all group activities.

Please note that we fully expect this program to change so that we can accommodate the schedules of the people meeting with the group. The below program includes examples of speakers and visits, but there may be other guests and visits added as we develop the program. We will have an updated itinerary in early 2017.

GROUP SIZE: To be announced

PRICING: To be announced

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

INDEPENDENT ARRIVALS IN MIAMI

As of August 2016, it is not known if this program will use charter flights to and from Havana or rely on scheduled commercial flights.

Since it is possible that flight to Havana may depart early in the morning on April 2, we suggest you arrive in Miami no later than Saturday, April 1, 2017. You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to Miami and for your own hotel reservations on April 1. 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

HAVANA, CUBA

Depart Miami on a charter flight to Havana.

In Havana, your first stop will be at the iconic Hotel Nacional, which opened in 1930 when Cuba was a prime travel destination for Americans. Enjoy a traditional Cuban lunch at La Barraca Restaurant located on the hotel grounds.

After lunch, visit the Presidential Palace, now 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. The Granma Memorial, which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956, is across the street.

Then transfer to the Hotel Parque Central to check in and meet for introductory comments and a lecture by your Harvard study leader.

Enjoy dinner at L'Atelier, one of Havana's wonderful paladares where chef Neuris has

won accolades for her traditional Cuban cuisine.

Overnight: *Hotel Parque Central (L, D)*

MONDAY, APRIL 3

HAVANA

This morning, begin exploring Old Havana by foot. Many of Havana's 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. Over 300 landmark buildings have been refurbished, from colonial fortresses to famous nightspots of the city's swinging era just before the Cuban revolution. End the morning at the Plaza Vieja, a beautiful example of successful restoration.

Lunch is at a local restaurant and will be accompanied by local music.

This afternoon, continue exploring Havana with Ayleen Robaiyna, an architectural historian, on a city orientation tour by bus. Explore the city garden of El Vedado; drive along La Rampa, which climbs past the offices of Cubana; and climb up the steps of the University of Havana to view the campus. Close by are 1950s office buildings and famous hotels, like the former Havana Hilton and the Riviera Hotel.

During the tour, stop at the 331 ArtSpace studio to view the works of three emerging artists: Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mujica, and Alex Hernandez.

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

Overnight: *Hotel Parque Central (B, L)*

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

HAVANA

This morning attend a lecture and discussion on US/Cuban Relations led by Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana.

Following the lecture, watch a dance rehearsal of the Danza Contemporanea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rhythms of Cuban rumba and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

Next, visit a community project called Artecorte, which is run by Gilberto Valladares (Papito). Papito's interest in the barber trade led him to start an unusual collection of hairdressing artifacts, which are exhibited at his private salon as a sort of "interactive museum." Since 2002, Papito has also been running a community project, actively restoring the neighborhood with cooperation from the city, as well as opening a school for barbers. Here, learn about Papito's community work, see what a rations store looks like, and visit a senior center.

Enjoy lunch at El Figaro, a paladar located in the heart of the ArteCorte community.

This afternoon, attend a reception at the Ludwig Foundation, an organization committed to the promotion of art in Cuba. One of the foundation's officers will address the group and guests will then have an opportunity to mingle with several young Cuban artists who will be on hand to discuss their work.

Dinner is at Café Oriente, an elegant government-run restaurant located in the heart of old Havana.

Overnight: *Hotel Parque Central (B, L, D)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

HAVANA

This morning meet with Dr. Norma Guillard, who is featured in the documentary film *La Maestra*. The film tells the stories of women literacy workers who went across the island to teach and found themselves deeply transformed in the process. Dr. Guillard is now a social psychologist and works on the issues of gender, race, sexual orientation, and issues of diversity & identity in a Cuban and Caribbean context.

Continue on to visit Nostalgicar, a classic car mechanic shop. Here you will meet with the

owner of the shop who will talk about his business.

From the shop, drive in the classic cars to a private lunch at the home and studio of artist Jose Fuster, who has turned his neighborhood into an enormous piece of mosaic art. Fuster is dedicated to his vast array of artwork, from ceramics evoking the nation's African roots to whimsical paintings of every-day Cuban life.

After lunch, drive to the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), a center of advanced studies in the fields of theatre, dance, music, visual arts, and communication art.

End the day at Ernest Hemingway's home, which was inhabited by Hemingway from 1939 to 1960. The house is just as Hemingway left it, with the books on the tables and many of his favorite photographs on display. While it is not possible to go inside the house, the windows are left open for a view of the interior.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: *Hotel Parque Central (B, L)*

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

HAVANA

After breakfast, attend a lecture and discussion with Professor 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.

After the lecture, walk a short distance to the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The tour this morning will be accompanied by Lucila Hernandez, a contemporary art curator.

Enjoy lunch at the home of curator Milagros Borges Gomez, where you can also admire the works of several Cuban artists, including Kunta, Ruben Rodriguez, Salvador Corratge, and Orestes Hernandez.

After lunch, visit Havana's art and craft center located in the former Almacenes de San José on the Port of Havana.

This evening, the final lecture and farewell dinner is at La Guarida. This well-known

restaurant served as the setting for the main apartment in the film *Fresa y Chocolate*. Please note that there is no elevator in this building and the restaurant is located on the 3rd floor.

Overnight: *Hotel Parque Central (B, L, D)*

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Depart the hotel this morning for the airport and your return flight to Miami. *(B)*