



HARVARD

Alumni Association

EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAM OCTOBER 15-19, 2020

This four-day trip focuses on Havana—the cultural, political, and economic center of Cuba where significant changes are expected as Raul Castro steps down from power.

While staying at the wonderful Parque Central, and enjoying meals at the city's finest restaurants and private homes, our exclusive program features engaging lectures, private performances, artistic demonstrations and interpretations, and informal conversations with local Cubans.

From the waves crashing against the Malecon, to the Afro-Caribbean beat, to the iconic '50s cars, Cuba is a feast for the senses, as well as a challenge for the intellect. Now is the time to experience Cuba as it is today—there simply could not be a more exciting time to visit this “time-capsule” nation before its landscape changes forever.

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.

GROUP SIZE: Up to 35 guests

PRICING: \$3,995 per person double occupancy / \$4,735 per person single occupancy

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 HAVANA, CUBA

Independent arrivals in Havana, Cuba.

In Havana, your first stop will be at the Plaza de La Revolucion, the most politically important square in Cuba.

Next visit 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 Ernest Hemingway's home, which was inhabited by the writer 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.

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

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner 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 (L, D)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 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.

Stop in to attend a rehearsal of the Camerata Romeu, an all-women group of musicians who play stringed instruments. Founded in 1993 by director Zenaida Romeu, Camerata Romeu plays music from Cuba as well as from all over the world. Composers chosen range from Leo Brouwer and Esteban Salas to Bach and Mozart.

Enjoy lunch at La Moneda Cubana.

After lunch, 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.

Dinner this evening is at the home of artist Sandra Ramos who graduated from the Higher Institute of Arts of Cuba in 1993. Her works focus on the recovery of a social and individual memory, linked to the difficulties of daily life in Cuba. She is an outspoken critic of the political manipulation of Cuba's history and uses her art to express this.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 HAVANA

This morning, enjoy a round-table discussion on "the Cuban Economy" by Professor Jorge Mario Sanchez. Dr. Sanchez is a macro-economist and professor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana. He has also been a visiting professor at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

After the discussion, walk a short distance to the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). Lucila Hernandez, a contemporary art curator, will accompany the tour.

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 NostalgCar, a classic car mechanic shop. Meet with the owner of the shop who will talk about his business.

From the shop, drive in the classic cars to Vivero Alamar to look at one of Havana's many urban gardens. Coordinating this visit is Miguel Angelo Salcines, farm manager, and Eudes Rodriguez. The effects of the Special Period and consequent food shortages have had greatest repercussions in the city of Havana. With approximately 2.5 million people, Havana has about one fifth of Cuba's total population. While Havana's urban agriculture has taken on many forms, ranging from private gardens (huertos privados) to state-owned research gardens (organoponicos).

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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

HAVANA

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

End the afternoon with a private Salsa class. Salsa has its origins in Cuba where the blending of African drum rhythms and Spanish guitar evolved into a variety of Latin American music: Son, Danzón, the rhythms of Carnival, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Salsa and even Tango came out of Cuba. The Salsa movements originate from the Cuban Son dancing of the 1920s. Today's Salsa dancing is a rich blend of Latin-American and Western influences.

Enjoy 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 drawn from ordinary life in Cuba.

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.

Enjoy a farewell 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* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

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