JOURNEY TO CUBA

A Cross-Cultural Educational Exchange

March 28 - April 1, 2016

Organized by: Cuba Cultural Travel
SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Travelers arrive in Miami independently and check in to the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel (located 5 minutes from MIA). Free shuttle service to and from the Miami airport every 20 minutes. Look for signs indicating where hotel shuttles pick up passengers in the departure level (2nd floor). Taxis are also available.
950 NW Le Jeune Road, Miami, Florida 33126. Ph. (305) 929-0116. The cost of this overnight stay is included in the cost of the trip.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

DAY 1

9:30 am
Meet in hotel lobby and depart for Miami Airport. Group will be flying on ABC Charters, flight #AA9476, operated by American Airlines. Check-in is located in Concourse D. Enter through Door 1 and check-in at the AA counter. (Flight numbers and times are not yet approved and are subject to change.)

ABC Charters has the following luggage policy: All additional luggage fees must be paid in cash at the time of check-in. One carry-on and one personal item at no charge*. 1st checked bag; $20.00. Each additional checked bag; $20.00. 70 lbs max weight per bag. 44 lbs allowed free; $2.00 per pound over (including carry-on). No luggage fees apply on your return to Miami. *Please be aware that in the event of a full flight into Havana you may be required to check your carry-on luggage for an additional $20.00 fee.

12:00 pm
Depart for Havana. Flight time is 1 hour.

1:00 pm
Arrive in Havana. Clear immigration and customs and baggage, a process that takes about an hour and a half. You will be greeted by your escort who will assist you to your bus.

2:30 pm
Late lunch. TBD

4:30 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
For those who choose, your bags will be dropped off at the hotel and will be waiting in your room upon your return while we depart on foot to 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**.

We 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.

**6:15 pm** Meet in hotel lobby and walk a few steps from the hotel to **Centro Asturianos** for a private musical performance and welcome dinner. **Cocktails at Bar Asturias with a private performance of Cuban music and dance.** 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.

**7:30 pm** We dine at **Las Terrazas** on the 3rd floor of Centro Asturianos.

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**DAY 2**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29**

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

**10:00 am** Meet in the hotel and walk a few steps from the hotel to attend a private dance performance by the **Compañía Irene Rodríguez**. We will receive a warm welcome by choreographer and lead dancer **Irene Rodríguez** and her company at the Centro Asturianos. Irene is considered by many to be the finest flamenco dancer in Cuba.

Continue on foot for **Havana Vieja**. Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!

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.

Visit the **Plaza Vieja**. This plaza is the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century. 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. Our affable host Yamil will entertain us with his charming anecdotes as will the house musicians.

We stroll through **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.
2:00 pm Board our bus and depart for the neighborhood of Playa for our meeting at the Organizacion Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos. This Cuban Law Collective offers various legal assistance and representation to Cuban citizens, legal aliens and Cuban residents living abroad, for the means of arbitration, court hearings, customs, registry and other State institutions. Topics included: the structure of the Cuban legal system, lawyer regulation, dispute-settlement procedures and a description of typical cases handled by the Law Colectivo. Host: Sra. Nuris Pinero Sierra (Director, Bufete de Servicios Especializados).

4:00 pm Return to the hotel.

6:45 pm Group meets in the hotel lobby and departs for dinner.

7:30 pm Dinner at Paladar Río Mar at Puente Hierro.

**DAY 3**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**

9:30 am Lecture by Professor Carlos Alzugaray Treto on U.S./Cuba Relations. Professor Alzugaray was the Former Cuban Ambassador to the European Union and former Director of the Institute of Foreign Relations. Professor Alzugaray will be accompanied by several English speaking students from Institute of Foreign Relations. Professor Alzugaray will then lead a question and answer session with the group and we have time for open dialogue and exchange. This lecture will take place in a conference room in the hotel business center.

11:30 am Walk the Prado for our lecture and lunch at Nazdarovie - a new Cuban-Soviet inspired restaurant on the Malecón. We will be greeted by Gregory Biniowsky, an attorney from Canada who moved to Cuba over 20 years ago. Six months ago Gregory and his Cuban wife Attorney Danelys Coz opened Nazdarovie as a personal ‘œuvre 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.** 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.

1:00 pm

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.

Our guide will be Architect Universo Francisco García Lorenzo. Since 1988, Mr. Garcia has been important architect and restoration designer throughout Cuba. As the director of such high profile restoration projects as the Hotel Nacional, Tarara Beach Resort and more recently the National Art Schools Complex, Mr. Garcia has played an important role in designing or restoring many iconic Havana landmarks. His wide ranging talents include landscape design, interior design, acoustical engineering, conservation and historic preservation.

View the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA). One of the few major architectural projects completed in Cuba in the early 1960s, this remarkable post-revolution campus is the premier school in Cuba for students studying music, visual arts and performing arts. Castro commissioned Cuban architect Ricardo Porro and two Italian architects, Vittorio Garatti and Roberto Gottardi for this tuition-free, educational institute built on a former golf club. “Cuba will count as having the most beautiful academy of arts in the world.” – Fidel Castro (1961).

Visit the whimsical home and studio of artist José Fuster who has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the fishing town of Jaimanitas, in the outskirts of Havana, where he lives. Jaimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster has decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.

3:00 pm

Tour the iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba overlooking the Straits of Florida and the Malecón. When it 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.

4:30 pm

Return to the hotel. Remainder of afternoon free.

7:30 pm

Dinner at Paladar San Cristobal. This cozy paladar has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine. The food is refined and balanced (enjoy dishes like gazpacho, tender lobster, crème caramel) and the nostalgic atmosphere is unforgettable, adorned in a unique style of art nouveau.
**D A Y  4  \n**THURSDAY, MARCH 31

**9:00 am**  **Lecture by University of Havana, School of Law  Professor Professor Armando Castaneda.** Our discussion will include a full range of topics related to the school, including the history of the school, admission requirements, curriculum, teaching methods, the various departments within the school and post graduate opportunities for students. Additionally, Prof. Castaneda will discuss intellectual property law and foreign investment in Cuba. Note: Final half hour will be dedicated to question and answer session. This lecture will take place in a conference room at the Hotel Parque Central.

**11:00 am**  **Visit the Museum of Cuban Art with art historian Ayelet 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**  **Lunch at La Xana.**

**2:00 pm**  **CUBA IN TRANSITION: The Rule of Law as part of Cuban Reforms.**

*Lecture by Rafael M. Hernandez. Rafael is a lawyer, 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. He 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.*

He has published widely on Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, international security, migration, and Cuban culture, civil society, and politics Rafael co-authored “The History of Havana” and has recently returned to Cuba after role as adjunct professor at Columbia University. This meeting will take place in a hotel conference room.

Remainder of afternoon free to explore Havana Vieja or to enjoy the rooftop pool of the hotel.

**7:30 pm**  **Farewell dinner at 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.

*Evening entertainment to be determined.*
FRIDAY, APRIL 1

11:00 am  Hotel check-out and board bus.

11:30 am  Airport check in.

2:00 pm  Flight departs Havana for Miami on ABC Charter Flight #AA9477, operated by American Airlines. Flight duration is 1 hour.

3:00 pm  Arrive in Miami. Clear customs and connect with flights home.

*Tips may be given to your Cuban guide and driver at this time. The recommended tip is minimum 5-7CUC per day, per passenger for your guide and minimum 3-5CUC per day, per passenger for your driver.

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

✓ PASSPORT
✓ VISA
✓ PLANE TICKET
✓ OFAC LICENSE AND LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

*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 that any changes made will be done to enhance the total program, and to promote a smooth operation of the tour.
TRIP COST

5 DAYS AND 4 NIGHTS
(includes 1 night Miami)

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: $3,050
SINGLE OCCUPANCY: $3,400

CUSTOM DESIGNED PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Itinerary design and coordination
- Overnight stay at Miami Crowne Plaza
- Round trip airfare Miami-Havana-Miami ($550)
- Compliance with US Treasury Department
- 5 Star Hotel Parque Central (standard room)
- All ground transportation
- Full time private tour escort
- All meals (as listed in itinerary)
- Entrance fees to museums etc.
- Cuban tourist visa ($65)
- Speaker fees / room rental
- Bottled water on bus and in room
- Cuban Insurance (health and evacuation)
- Gratuities for restaurants, porters
- Departure Tax ($25)

EXCLUDES

- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for tour guide(s)
- Domestic Airfare to and from Miami
TRIP COST

Double room occupancy (per person): $3,050
Single room occupancy: $3,400

INCLUDED

- 1 night accommodation at Crowne Plaza Hotel Miami (standard room) – March 27
- 4 night accommodation at 5 Star Hotel Parque Central Havana (standard room)
- Round Trip Airfare – MIA/HAV/MIA *
- Daily breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as listed in itinerary (4 lunches and 4 dinners, including tips)
- Air conditioned bus throughout the trip equipped with cold water at all times
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Cuba Cultural Travel Escort and local Cuban tour guide
- Cuban Tourist Card/Visa **
- Cuban Airport Departure tax (25 CUC = $25 USD)
- Health insurance and emergency evacuation coverage (excluding pre-existing conditions)
- Compliance with US Treasury Department

NOT INCLUDED

- Airline baggage fees ($20 per bag, $2.00 per pound over 44 pounds)
- Airfare to/from Miami
- Meals other than listed on itinerary or described as on your own
- Gratuities for guide and driver (recommended amount is 5-7CUC per person per day for guide, and 3-5CUC per person per day for driver)
- Individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance

You may contact Laura Adams via email at Laura@CubaCulturalTravel.com or by phone at (760) 645-3269 Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm PST with any questions.

* Charter flight schedule from Miami to Havana will be provided at a later date. Flight schedules cannot be confirmed until 6-8 weeks prior to departure and are subject to change. Please keep this in mind when booking your flights to Miami. Information on accommodations in Miami will be provided in the coming weeks as well as travel tips and emergency contact info. Please note, Cuba Cultural Travel is a licensed Tour Operator and California Seller of Travel. We do not have knowledge of, and are unable to assist with, domestic flights within the United States.

** Cuban born travelers, please contact Cuba Cultural Travel prior to mailing your deposit and reservation form.

A set of customized Travel Tips will be provided at a later date, however, please review the Frequently Asked Questions portion of our website for our general travel tips: www.cubaculturaltravel.com

DEPOSIT DUE DATE: JANUARY 7, 2016
CHECK NO.:

FINAL PAYMENT DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2016
CHECK NO.:

A note from Cuba Cultural Travel: Trips to Cuba require quite a bit of walking on uneven cobblestone streets along with stairs where an elevator is not always available. Participants must be able to walk unassisted. Please keep these physical requirements in mind when making your reservation. If you require mobility assistance, please contact us directly, prior to completing your reservation form, as Cuba is not adequately able to accommodate physically handicapped persons.

Cuba Cultural Travel is licensed by the U.S. Treasury Department to operate People to People tours in Cuba. A letter of authorization will be provided to you with final travel documents.
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