

**Cultural and Educational Trip to Cuba**

**December 13-20, 2019**

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**Friday, Dec 13**

**Arrival to Havana on various flights and into different terminals**.

3:00 pm **Settle in to the historic Hotel Capri**, which was one of the first hotel casinos built by the American mafia in Cuba. Owned by mobster Santo Trafficante and managed by George Raft, the hotel was at a time one of the largest casinos in Havana. Located blocks from the University of Havana, Coppelia ice cream, and the Havana seawall, the recent remodeling provides first class amenities, while leaving the history and original charm of this art deco hotel.

7:00 pm **Orientation meeting and welcome drinks** **at the Hotel Capri.** At hotel conference room

7:45 pm              **Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal overlooking the Straits of Florida at the Hotel Nacional**. Tasty Cuban food served family style with a great view of the Havana sea wall and the old Spanish fortress.

**Saturday, Dec 14**

10 am **Guided walking tour of Old Havana.** Wander throughthe **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. See 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**, surrounded by sumptuous houses of the Havana aristocracy from the 18th and 19th centuries. Visit **Plaza de la Catedral** and the Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana.

12:30 pm **Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar**. Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek Magazine’s top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012.

2:00 pm **Visit the Taller Experimental de Gráfica**. Fifty years after its founding, the Graphic Experimental Workshop is an active center of artistic creation. Among its associates are plastic artists, graphic designers, photographers and students of visual arts, whose point of convergence is the interest in 19th century printmaking techniques.

3:15 pm **Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula**, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment, and restoration programs in Havana. Professor Coyula worked at the Cuban Ministry of Construction from 1971 to 1990, first as a researcher and later as a specialist in the department of International Relations. From 1990 until his retirement in 2012, he worked at the Group for Integrated Development of the Capital (GDIC), the leading government think tank that advises the Havana government on issues of urban development. At Altimira Conference Room

5:30 pm **Private musical performance by songwriter Frank Delgado,** Cuba’s most renowned troubadour. Enjoy tapas and classic Cuban cocktails while discussing the politics of the *nueva trova* movement. At Café Madrigal, owned by film director Rafael Rosales.

7:00 pm **Dinner at Río Mar**, located in Miramar (just west of Havana). This privately owned paladar, known for its locally sourced seafood, has a terrace overlooking the Almendares river.

**Sunday, Dec 15**

9:30 am **Discussion with political scientist Rafael M. Hernández,** the Chief Editor of Temas, Cuba’s leading magazine in the social sciences. Professor Hernández has taught at the University of Havana and has published on Cuba / US relations, inter-American relations, international security, migration, and Cuban culture. At the Hotel Capri

11 am **Tour of the Vedado neighborhood in Havana with architect Pedro Vazquez**. Stops include:

* **The Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón ,** one of the world’s most significant cities of the dead, notable as much for the storied histories of its permanent residents as the architectural and artistic achievements created to celebrate their lives.
* **University of Havana**: the country’s oldest and most prestigious university.
* **Revolution Square**, the most important political meeting place of the capital

1:00 pm **Lunch at El Aljibe**, our only visit to a government-run restaurant, this one famous for its rice, black beans, and baked chicken.

3:00 pm **Visit the home of Afro-Cuban activists, La Reina y la Real**, a prominent female hip hop/jazz duo. The group’s music and community activism focus on breaking down gender and racial stereotypes in Cuban society. The duo will welcome us to their modest home in Luyano, share their music, and discuss the challenges young Afro-Cuban women currently face.

5:30 pm **Discussion with Marta Nunez**, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at the University of Havana. She has focused much of her work on the sociology of gender in Cuba. Professor Nunez will talk about her recent research on how current economic reforms are affecting women in Cuba. At the hotel Capri.

*Evening free*

**Monday, December 16**

9:30 am **Depart for** **Cienfuegos**, one of Cuba’s only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country’s largest Bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes and is deeply steeped in music, art, and culture.

1 pm **Lunch at El Lagarto**, a paladar located on the Bay of Cienfuegos. The restaurant is known for its phenomenal view and locally sourced fruits and vegetables.

3 pm **Enjoy a music** **performance at UNEAC**, the National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba, followed by an **interactive discussion** with Cuban musicians, writers, photographers, and artists.

4:30 pm Continue on to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site, known for its cobble stone streets, pastel colored homes, and significance as the historic center of Cuba’s sugar industry.

6 pm **Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as “casas particulares,” or “private homes.”** Since the 1990s, Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, it’s a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.

Evening Enjoy a home-cooked meal provided by your hosts.

**Tuesday, Dec 17**

10 am **City tour** **with a Nancy Benitez**, local architect, historian, and restoration specialist, who will provide an overview of the city’s history from an architectural, economic, and infrastructural point of view.

* **Visit the 18th century home of Carlos Mata**, Trinidad’s award-winning “painter of the night.” who collects and restores antiques. Our host, Amaya Mata, who along with her father restored this house to its original grandeur, will discuss the history of her family’s deep roots in the city.
* **Visit to the Museum of Colonial Architecture**, housed in the former home of the sugar barons of the Sánchez Iznaga family.

12:30 pm **Enjoy lunch at Paladar San Jose**, an historic restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

*Afternoon free to explore Trinidad or the nearby Playa Ancon.*

7:30 pm **Trinidad farewell dinner** **at Los Conspiradores paladar**, located at the foot of the main plaza and the lively Casa de la Musica.

**Wednesday, December 18**

9:30 am Check-out and depart for Havana. **Enjoy a boxed lunch of sandwiches en route.**

2:30 pm Check-in at Hotel Capri.

5:30 pm **Visit** **the home and studio of a family of artists.** A few years ago, Professor Edel Bordón and his family embarked on a journey to establish an artcollective in their apartment building. Spearheaded by his wife, professor and sculptor Yamilé Pardo, the family created the **AltaMira art space.** Professor Bordon, who’s taught at the country’s most renowned art institutes for over 40-years, will discuss art education in Cuba.

7:30 pm **Dinner at Paladar San Cristobal**. Located in the heart of Central Havana, this paladar has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine. The restaurant is adorned with photos of Barack and Michelle Obama, who visited the paladar during their historic trip to Havana.

10 pm **Enjoy classic Cuban cocktails and experience some of Cuba’s most talented jazz artists** at the famed **La Zorra Y El Cuervo jazz club.** Enter through the old style, red British phone booth and descend into the underground club renowned for its Latin and Afro-Cuban music.

**Thursday, December 19**

9:15 am **Discussion with** **Professor** **Norma Guillard**, director of ARAAC (the Cuban branch of La Articulacion Regional de Afrodescendientes de Latinoamerica y el Caribe), an activist group that works for racial equality. Professor Guillard is a psychiatrist and was a leader in the literacy campaigns of the 1960s.At the Hotel Nacional – Sala Vedado

11:30 am **Meeting with the Director of ELAM, the Latin American Medical School**, where Cuba trains thousands of doctors from all over the world. We’ll meet with several of the medical students from the US to learn about their medical education in Cuba and the impact the ideals of the school will have after they return home.

1 pm **Lunch at Havana’s 21 restaurant.**

2:30 pm **Visit to the Museum of the Revolution**, which holds hundreds of artifacts from pre- and post-revolutionary times, and highlights the tense relationship between the U.S. and Cuba.

4 pm **Discussion with local historian Ciro Bianchi** aboutthe post-Revolution period in Cuba. Bianchi is one of the central architects of literary history in the country. At the Hotel Capri

7:30 pm **Farewell dinner at Paladar La Esperanza,**, located in the luxurious Miramar neighborhood.

**Friday, December 20**

TBD Check-out and depart for airport. (flight information pending)