



JOURNEY -TO- CUBA



THE FLORIDA BAR
INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION

A Cross-Cultural Educational Exchange
February 26 - March 1, 2017

Organized by Cuba Cultural Travel





ITINERARY

(Subject to Change)

DAY 1 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Morning

Participants will fly together from Miami to Havana utilizing one of the recently announced U.S. commercial airfare routes. *Flight schedules and pricing will be provided as soon as information is released.* Flight time is approximately 45 minutes.

Arrive in Havana. Clear immigration and customs and baggage, a process that takes about an hour. You will be greeted by your **Cuban guide** and **CCT escort**, who will guide you to our bus.

We visit the whimsical home of artist **Jose 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.

En route to lunch, we will stop by the **Plaza de la Revolucion**. The center of government, this area contains most of the offices of the main ministries and is often used for large political rallies.

12:00 pm

Lunch tapas and refreshments at **El Litoral**. This restaurant was acquired from the State by a co-op of restaurateurs. Wonderful views of the El Morro and the Bahia de la Habana.

We visit the **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.

Depart for the Hotel Parque Central. Your bags will be left with concierge and will be waiting for you upon check-in.

3:00 pm

CUBA IN TRANSITION: The Rule of Law as part of Cuban Reforms. [CLE credit pending approval.](#)

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. Rafael 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. Rafael has published widely on Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, international security, migration, as well on Cuban culture and civil society.



4:30 pm Hotel Check-in. The five-star **Hotel Parque Central** 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

6:15 pm We meet in the hotel lobby and walk to **Centro Asturianos** for a private musical performance. 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.

8:00 pm Welcome dinner at **La Guarida**. 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.

Optional visit to **Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**. Once an oil factory, this repurposed complex is without doubt the hippest place in Havana. Part Miami Art Basel, part Williamsburg warehouse party, the FAC is taking the Cuban arts scene by storm hosting viewings, performances and exhibitions of cinema, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture, graphic design, photography, and the visual arts.

DAY 2

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Complimentary breakfast served daily in lobby level of hotel between 7:00 and 10:00 am.

10:00 am We visit the Cuban **Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Investment (MINCEX)** – *pending approval*. During our visit, we receive a briefing from MINCEX officials on Cuba’s laws pertinent to foreign investors, the procedures for establishing joint ventures with the Cuban state, as well a summary of the government’s current industry-specific priorities.

12:00 pm Depart for our lecture and lunch at **Nazdarovie** - a new Cuban-Soviet inspired restaurant on the Malécon. We will be greeted by **Gregory Biniowsky**, an attorney from Canada who moved to Cuba over 20 years ago. Gregory opened Nazdarovie as a personal ‘oeuvre 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**. [*CLE credit pending approval.*](#)

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.

3:00 pm

We return to our hotel briefly before departing on an afternoon walking tour of **Havana Vieja, a UNESCO World Heritage site**. Our Cuban guide will explain the history of the city as we view prominent buildings and plazas that played a prominent role in the development of Havana as one of the most important cities in the New World. *Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!*

We first 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.

We continue to **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.



Last, we visit the **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.

Remainder of the afternoon free to continue exploring Havana Vieja or return to the hotel to enjoy a poolside cocktail at the roof top bar.

Dinner on your own. Suitable recommendations will be provided.

Optional visit to a **Cuban baseball game**, schedule pending.

DAY 3

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:15 am

Depart for our briefing at the **U.S. Embassy** in Havana – *pending approval*. Each participant must present his/her passport for entry. Notepads are permitted in the meeting room; bags and electronics will be checked in the lobby

with our security guards. Please note all U.S. Embassy briefings are informative and candid, with time for unscripted questions. In order to be able to offer this courtesy, [our briefing is completely off the record](#). Business casual dress is recommended; gym and beach clothing is regarded as not-appropriate attire.

10:30 am Optional tour of the **Havana Club Rum Museum** or **Partagas Cigar Factory**.

For those interested, we visit to the collaborative artist studio: **The Merger**. Consisting of works from artists Mario Miguel Gonzalez (Mayito), Niels Moleiro Luis, and Alain Pino. The Merger recreates ubiquitous and mundane objects on a grand scale, presenting palatable socio-political metaphors to their viewers.

12:30 pm Lunch at **Paladar Rio Mar** located at **La Puntilla** in **Miramar**. Enjoy views of the bay gentle ocean breezes from the terrace. The food is upscale and contemporary with European influence.

Return to hotel.

4:00 pm **CUBA'S EMERGING PRIVATE SECTOR: The rules and regulations for private enterprises in Cuba.** **Lecture** by **Deus Expertos Contables**. [CLE credit pending approval](#).

Deus Expertos Contables has assisted an emerging class of self-employed Cuban professionals to develop business plans, market their services and navigate the evolving system of regulations, contracts and licenses necessary to operate a legal private enterprise in Cuba. After studying Business Administration and receiving her MBA from the Mississippi University of Madrid, **Marta Elisa Rodriguez** founded *Deus Expertos Contables* in 2013 sensing an emerging need for accounting, tax and financial services in the burgeoning private sector of her native Havana. Marta and her partner **Irina Garcia**, Cuban attorney and graduate of the University of Havana law school, will discuss and answer questions related to the status of private business regulation and taxation in today's Cuban private sector. *This meeting will take place in a hotel conference room.*

6:00 pm We enjoy an unforgettable private performance by the **Orchestra Sinfonica Juvenil** (Havana Youth Orchestra). This group of supremely talented music students represents the finest artists of their generation. The 16-member orchestra, led by Director Jose Antonio Mendez, will perform a medley of international classical favorites as well as several Cuban compositions.

7:30 pm Farewell dinner at **Paladar San Cristobal**. During his landmark visit, President Obama and his family dined at this popular Paladar named after its internationally recognized chef and owner, Carlos Cristobal. The food is Cuban-Creole. Following our meal, we enjoy a casual rum tasting.

Optional visit to the **Tropicana Night Club**.





DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Morning

Morning free, with the option to depart early for airport to catch first possible departure.

Optional visit to the Havana **Arts & Crafts Market**.

Hotel check-out and depart for the airport.

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

- ✓ **PASSPORT**
- ✓ **VISA**
- ✓ **PLANE TICKET**
- ✓ **OFAC LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION**

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

Note about Purchasing Art in Cuba: The U.S. Government allows US travelers to bring back an unlimited amount of Cuban art and informational materials such as books and CDs. If you feel you might be interested in purchasing art during your stay in Cuba you should carry additional money to pay on the spot.

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* 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

4 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: \$2,335

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$3,085

CUSTOM DESIGNED PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Itinerary design and coordination
- Compliance with US Treasury Department
- 5 Star Hotel Parque Central Havana (standard room)
- All ground transportation
- Full time private tour escort
- Daily breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as listed in itinerary (including tips)
- Entrance fees to museums etc.
- Bottled water on bus and in room
- Cuban Insurance (health and evacuation)
- Gratuities for restaurants, porters
- Departure tax

EXCLUDES

- Cuban Tourist Card/Visa
- Airfare to/from Cuba
- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance