



Auburn University Travel Abroad

A People to People Educational exchange
 Organized by Auburn University & Cuba Cultural Travel
 CCT AU Vendor Number #903875769
 May 7 - 18, 2017

Day 1 Sunday May 7 Miami - Santiago de Cuba

Early Morning Meet in the hotel lobby for our bus transfer to airport. FLIGHT INFORMATION PENDING.

NOTE: CCT is awaiting news about non-stop Commercial Flights becoming available from a variety of US Cities including Atlanta. Airfare costs & flight schedules should become known this summer. Airfare will be ADDITIONAL to the cost of trip. We will contact you directly once confirmed flight information becomes available.

Charter departure time from Miami Int'l Airport to Santiago de Cuba TBD. HavanaTur Guide Ismar Martin Negrin will be requested but this cannot be guaranteed.

Morning Arrive in Santiago. Clear immigration and customs and baggage, a process that takes about an hour and a half. Upon arriving in Cuba, a Cuban representative will welcome the group and transfer you to Santiago.

Santiago de Cuba, city, eastern Cuba. The second largest city in the country, it nestles in a valley of the Sierra Maestra that is pierced by a pouch-shaped bay on the Caribbean Sea. The bay's entrance, cutting into high bluffs that rise from the sea, is nearly invisible offshore. The chief bluff, about 200 feet (60 metres) high, is El Morro, crowned by a colonial fortress, Morro Castle. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Lunch in Santiago at **COMPAY GALLO**. *This meal is included.*

Orientation tour of Santiago including **Moncada Barracks, Parque Cespedes, Bacardi Museum** and **Santa Ifigenia** cemetery.

We will see the **Avenida de los Libertadores, Revolution Square**, and **San Juan Hill**, the site of the last battle of the Spanish-American War and the signing of the peace treaty.

4:00 pm Check in to **Hotel Casa Granda**.

7:00 pm Dinner at **Paladar El Madrileño**. *This meal is included.*

9:00 pm OPTIONAL: Enjoy **Casa de la Trova** for Cuban Traditional music and dance.

Day 2 Monday May 8 Santiago de Cuba

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

9:30 am Meet in the hotel lobby and board bus for a visit to **El Morro** castle.

Ferry to **Island Cayo Granma Island** – A small populated key near the jaws of the bay Cayo Granma is a little fantasy island of red roofed wooden houses – many of them still above – that guard a traditional fishing community. This was formerly a vacation retreat for the high society of Santiago prior to the Revolution. The ferry runs every 1 ½ hours.

1:00 pm Lunch in **Cayo Granma**. *This meal is included.*

Late Afternoon Return to Santiago. Free time.

Dinner is included at the hotel. *This meal is included.*

Day 3 **Tuesday May 9** **Santiago de Cuba - Guantánamo - Baracoa**

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

8:00 am Hotel check out. Board Bus. **APPROXIMATE 1 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO GUANTANAMO / 50 MILES / 80KMS**

Morning Tour of the City Center of Guantánamo.

Guantánamo, city, eastern Cuba. It lies in the mountains 21 miles (34 km) north of strategic Guantánamo Bay on the Caribbean Sea. Founded in 1819, the settlement was called Santa Catalina del Saltadero del Guaso until 1843. French refugees from Haiti aided in the colonization of the area, and many cultural characteristics, such as the architecture, show their influence. Catalans were also among the early settlers. Guantánamo is the centre of an agricultural region producing mainly sugarcane and coffee. The city's chief industrial activities are coffee roasting, sugar milling, and the processing of chocolate, liqueurs, and salt. Railroads and highways link it with Santiago de Cuba and with Caimanera, a port on Guantánamo Bay. Pop. (2002) 208,145; 207,857. Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*

Lunch at local cafeteria with locals. (Pay in CUP)

APPROXIMATE 2.25 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO BARACOA / 95 MILES / 155KMS

Baracoa, port city, eastern Cuba. It is situated on the extreme eastern part of the island, along a small semicircular bay on the north (Atlantic) coast. Baracoa is surrounded by rugged mountains, which isolated it from the rest of Cuba until a road was built through the mountains to connect it with Guantánamo in the 1960's. In December 1492 Christopher Columbus stopped at what is now Baracoa. When the conquistador Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar colonized Cuba, he established the island's first Spanish settlement at Baracoa in 1512. It was Cuba's capital from 1518 to 1522. Cacao, coconuts, and bananas are grown in the surrounding area and are exported from the port. The city's industries manufacture chocolate and coconut oil. Pop. (2002) 39,190; (2011 est.) 39,500. Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*

Afternoon Check in to **Hotel Castillo**. Remainder of day free to self-explore the historic town center of Baracoa.

See the **Casa del Chocolate**, local art galleries, historic church, the Malecón, and other attractions around the city center.

Dinner at **La Colonial**. *This meal is included.*

Evening Entertainment: **Casa de la Trova**.

Day 4 **Wednesday May 10** **Baracoa**

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

Morning Visit **Rio Toa**, Cuba's largest river and a **UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve**.

Lunch at **Rio Toa**. *This meal is included.*

Trek along the river and take a boat ride in a **cayuka** (traditional carved boat).

After lunch stop at **Playa Maguana**, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure at the beach or return to town.

Late Afternoon Return to the hotel.

Dinner at **Paladar El Buen Sabor**. *This meal is included.*

Day 5 Thursday May 11

Baracoa – City of Holguin

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

8:00 am Hotel check out and board bus.

APPROXIMATE 5.25 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO HOLGUIN / 215 MILES / 350KMS

Lunch en route at roadside locale, pizza or sandwiches. *Individual pays for this meal.*

Holguín, city, southeastern Cuba. Founded in the early 16th century, it became a centre of insurgency movements and suffered intensely the effects of the Ten Years' War (1868–78) and the 1895–98 struggle for independence. Holguin, located on fertile rolling plains is now an important communications center in Eastern Cuba. Sugar refining, cigar making, meat processing, ceramic making and shoe and furniture making are centered in the city which lies on the country's Central Highway and is served by railroads and airlines. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Afternoon Check in to hotel **Villa Pinares de Mayari** located on edge of a **National Park**. **MOSQUITO REPELLANT A MUST.**

Remainder of day free to explore the natural settings of this mountain retreat, enjoy the waterfall and spot wildlife.

Dinner at the hotel. *This meal is included.*

Day 6 Friday May 12

Holguin - Las Tunas - Camaguey - Ciego de Avila - Cayo Coco

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

9:00 am Hotel check out and board bus.

APPROXIMATE 1.25 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO LAS TUNAS / 48 MILES / 77KMS

Exploration of the city of Las Tunas. The city is principally a commercial and manufacturing centre for a rich agricultural and pastoral hinterland, whose major yields are sugarcane, bananas, oranges, and cattle; beeswax and honey are also produced. Deposits of both iron ore and marble are located in the vicinity. Victoria de las Tunas is on the country's Central Highway and on a major rail line, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Santiago de Cuba. The city has an airport. Pop. (2002) 143,582; (2011 est.) 153,982. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Late morning Depart for Camaguey.

APPROXIMATE 1.75 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO CAMAGUEY / 78 MILES / 126KMS

BiciTaxi Tour of the Historic Old Town Camaguey.

Lunch in the city of Camaguey. *Individual pays for this meal.*

Camaguey was founded in 1514 as Santa María del Puerto del Príncipe (also called Puerto Príncipe), at the site of present-day Nuevitas, but was moved inland in 1528 to the Indian village of Camagüey. The prosperity of the colonial city led to a raid by buccaneers in 1668. Camagüey retains many traces of colonial architecture, and the old part of the city contains narrow irregular streets interrupted by small plazas. Parts of the original cathedral (1617) appear to have survived alterations. In 2008 the city's historic centre was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Afternoon Continue to **Ciego de Avila**. REST STOP.

APPROXIMATE 1.5 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO CIEGO DE AVILA / 68 MILES / 109KMS

Ciego de Ávila is a major commercial, manufacturing, and transportation centre for the surrounding agricultural and pastoral lands, which are known primarily for sugarcane, although tropical fruits, beeswax and honey, molasses, and cattle are also produced. The city contains sawmills, distilleries, bottling plants, and factories producing dried salted beef. Sugar refineries and a thermal power plant are located nearby. Ciego de Ávila lies on the country's Central Highway and on a major railroad; its port, Júcaro, lies 15 miles (24 km) south-southwest on the Caribbean Sea. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Continue to **Cayo de Coco**.

APPROXIMATE 1.5 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO CAYO COCO / 70 MILES / 110KMS

Late Afternoon Check into **Tryp Cayo Coco Resort**. Remainder of afternoon free to enjoy the resort.

Dinner is included at the resort. *This meal is complimentary*

Day 7 **Saturday May 13** **Cayo Coco - Santa Clara - Veradero**

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

10:00 am Hotel Check Out. Bus to **Santa Clara**.

APPROXIMATE 3.15 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO SANTA CLARA / 137 MILES / 220KMS

Visit **Che Guevara's** tomb in **Santa Clara**.

Santa Clara, city, central Cuba. It lies at 367 feet (112 metres) above sea level amid hills of coral rock, about 30 miles (50 km) north-northwest of Sancti Spíritus. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

Lunch in the city of Santa Clara. *Individual pays for this meal.*

Bus to **Veradero**. **APPROXIMATE 3.25 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO VERADERO / 130 MILES / 205KMS**

Afternoon Check in to **Iberostar Laguna Azul** in **Veradero** Beach.

Dinner is included at the resort. *This meal is included.*

Day 8 **Sunday May 14** **Veradero - Havana**

Complimentary **breakfast** is served everyday from 7am-10am.

Late Morning Hotel check out and depart for Havana.

APPROXIMATE 2.25 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO HAVANA / 95 MILES / 150 KMS

En route we stop at the **Puente Bacunayagua** lookout, the highest bridge in Cuba and the **Hermita de Monserate** lookout vista of the Matanzas Valley.

Lunch TBD en route. *Individual pays for this meal.*

5:00pm Check-in to historic **Hotel Habana Libre** located in the **Vedado** neighborhood - home to the most iconic buildings of Havana's modernist movement including the **Hotel Capri**, **Coppelia Ice Cream** parlor, the **Pabellon Cuba** and the **Riviera Hotel**. Steps from the hotel is **Hotel Nacional de Cuba** overlooking the **Malecón** and the Straits of Florida. 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.

Hotel Habana Libre ★★★★★

23 Calle L E 23 Y 25, Vedado - Havana (537) 834-6100.

7:30pm Dinner inside the hotel at **Cafeteria La Rampa**. *This meal is included.*

Day 9 **Monday May 15** **Havana**

Complimentary breakfast is served everyday from 7am-10am.

8:30 am Meet in hotel lobby and board bus. See the **Christopher Colon Cemetery**, an elaborate necropolis covering nearly 8% of the city.

Visit the headquarters of the **UN's World Food Program** in **Miramar** to learn about their involvement to bolster the government's effort to update its economic model and social programs. We will invite interns and members of the organization to join us for our next visit and lunch.

Continue to an **Urban farm** in **Alamar**. Known as "**organoponicos**", these high yield system that produces vegetables and fruits in rows of concrete boxes full of soil, seedling houses, and other areas of support.

12:00 pm Visit the picturesque fishing village of **Cojímar**. Ernest Hemingway loved this little town. He kept his boat, *El Pilar*, in harbor of Cojimar, and he used this village setting for his story *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

1:00 pm Lunch at **Terrazas** in Cojimar. This former fish market turned restaurant was a favorite hang out for *Papa* during his time in Cuba. *This meal is included.*

Tour **La Finca Vigía**. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, today it still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Afternoon Visit to the **Arts & Crafts Market**.

5:00 pm Return to the hotel.

6:15 pm Meet in the hotel lobby and depart for dinner at **Divina Pastora**. *This meal is included.*

Continue to the **cannon blast ceremony** at **La Cabaña Fortress**. The historic castles of El Morro and La Cabaña are two fortresses that comprise the largest and most powerful defensive complex built by the Spanish in the Americas.

10:00 pm Return to hotel.

Day 10 **Tuesday May 16** **Havana - Viñales Valley**

Complimentary breakfast is served everyday from 7am-10am.

8:00 am Hotel check out and early departure to **Viñales Valley**. Considered by many one of the most beautiful landscapes in Cuba, the **Viñales Valley National Monument** holds stunning landscapes and jaw dropping vistas, including the country's famous mogotes, 250-million-year-old loaf-shaped limestone mountains that rise as high as 300 meters. Declared as **Cultural Landscape** by **UNESCO** presents a heterogeneous and endemic flora. This is a photographer's paradise!

APPROXIMATE 3.0 HOUR DRIVE TIME TO VIÑALES / 115 MILES / 185KMS

The valley is home to an original culture, a synthesis of contributions from indigenous peoples, Spanish conquerors and African slaves who once worked the tobacco plantations.

We will visit the head office of the **National Park** to receive a first-hand explanation about the conservation programs especially those aimed to the recuperation of soil, and the endemic vegetation only found in the mogotes.

We will also explore the Viñales Valley on foot. We will meet with rural farmers and sample some of their fresh produce. Traditional methods of agriculture have survived largely unchanged on this plain for several centuries, particularly for growing tobacco. No John Deere tractors here. Because mechanical methods of cultivation and harvesting lower the quality of tobacco, time-honored methods such as animal traction are still used. We will visit the tobacco farms that produce the world's finest cigars and enjoy a cigar rolling demonstration.

Continue to the private farm **Finca Confianza (Paraiso Ecologico)**. We will learn about the production of a multitude of organic fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Lunch will be a community event on the farm where we will be served a large variety of organic fresh vegetables, fruits, chicken and roasted pork. This is a true field to table experience. *This meal is included.*

4:00 pm Check into Casa Particulares (B&B's). Meet Cuba's newest entrepreneurs, the home owners and proprietors of local **Casa Particulares**. These homes have been licensed by the State to accommodate the influx of tourists in places where there is a shortage of hotel rooms. Unique interior decor and resourceful remodel solutions make each home unique as do the vivid, brightly painted exteriors.

Evening Dinner in the home of your Cuban family. Real home-cooked food by the best chefs on the Island... Mamas! This evening you will practice your Spanish and spend time getting to know your extended Cuban family. *This meal is included.*

Day 11 **Wednesday May 17** **Viñales Valley - Havana**

8:00 am Depart Viñales for Havana.

11:00 am Arrive at the **Hotel Parque Central** in Havana Vieja. Some historic sites we explore surrounding this landmark hotel include:

- Havana's **Central Park** and the first monument erected in Cuba (1904), dedicated to National Hero José Martí.
- The **Centro Gallego**, built in 1915 by Belgium architect Paul Belau, today the Great Theatre of Havana, which includes the Garcia Lorca Theatre among other rooms.
- The **Capitolio Nacional**, a fabulous monumental building inspired in the Capitol model and built in 1929 by Cuban and foreign artists.
- The **Bacardi Building**, erected in 1930 and remaining today one of the most fabulous examples of art deco in Cuba.
- The **Sevilla Hotel**, remodeled in 1923 by the American firm of Schultze & Weaver, and the recently restored lavish **Palacio de los Matrimonios**, the former **Casino Espanol of Havana**, built in 1914 by Luis Dediot.
- The **Paseo de Marti (el Prado)**, a tree lined pedestrian promenade leading to the sea. This area includes the home of Cuba's former president **José Miguel Gomez** and the lavish **Palacio de los Matrimonios**.

Walk the Prado to the Malecón This broad esplanade, roadway and seawall stretches for 4 miles along the coast from the mouth of Havana Harbor in Old Havana, along the north side of the Centro Habana neighborhood to the Vedado neighborhood. There is no other place which shows more of the Havana's soul, or attracts more locals and tourists than the Malecón.

Lunch at **Nazdarovie**, a 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. In 2014 Gregory and his Cuban wife Attorney Danelys Coz 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. In 2016 the restaurant was featured on **Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive Ins & Dives**. *This meal is included.*

After lunch we depart for a walking tour of **Havana Vieja**. Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!

Learn about the rich architectural heritage of Havana, and the massive historic preservation program which began under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.

Visit the **Plaza Vieja**. This Plaza and the surrounding colonial mansions were the first urban planned expansion of the original village. The Habaneros always saw it as the main Plaza of the city where royal proclamations were announced until the XIX century.

We stroll through 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 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.

Visit the **Taller de Grafica Experimental** located on the **Plaza de la Catedral**. The Taller is more than Havana's printmaking workshop. It is a studio, a school and most of all, an art institution that preserves and develops the sophisticated art of print making.

Stroll **Obispo Street**, a pedestrian promenade, stopping at some of the most significant buildings such as the Art Deco Style La Moderna Poesia, the Ambos Mundos Hotel, and the banks of the former Havana Wall Street.

Some may choose to visit **La Bodeguita del Medio**, the most famous of Hemingway's haunts. Dancing and fun where Hemingway enjoyed the famous mojito and famously declared "*Mi Daquiri en Floridita y mi Mojito en Bodeguita*".

Late Afternoon **OPTION 1 Salsa Dance Lessons at Casa del Son.** The Cuban people have a strong affinity for dance and music and are known for their famous dance hall culture. This introduction to Cuban rhythm and movement will showcase various dance styles such as **Rumba, Bolero, Habanera, Danzon and Son**. Local musicians will perform live using traditional Cuban instruments as professional dance instructors will demonstrate this exciting art form. There will be Cuban dance partners so don't be shy! This is your chance to try something new and learn about this very important part of Cuban culture.

Late Afternoon **OPTION 2 Tour Museo de la Revolución.** Formerly the *Presidential Palace*, this neoclassical building was designed by the Cuban architect Carlos Maruri and the Belgian architect Paul Belau and was decorated by Tiffany & Co. of New York. The Palace was inaugurated in 1920 by President Mario García Menocal and became the Museum of the Revolution during the years following the Cuban revolution.

6:00 pm Check-in to historic **Hotel Habana Libre**.

7:30pm Meet in the lobby and walk to our farewell dinner at **Café Laurent**. *This meal is included.*

Evening entertainment to be determined. Cultural Calendar pending.

Day 12 **Thursday May 18** **Departure Day**

Morning Free. Flight information to be determined.

There is a cafeteria that serves sandwiches and beverages, a snack shop with many different items and a gift shop where you can use your remaining CUCs while we wait to board the plane.

* Tips will be given to your Cuban guide and driver at this time and are included in the cost of the trip.

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.*

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.

Your hotel rooms includes a safe deposit box in which you can keep your valuables safe. Acquiring additional money via an ATM machine in Cuba is not possible at this time. Some of the more established artists could possibly have U.S. bank accounts in which the payment can be wired. The art can normally be brought home and payment sent at a future date. Our first recommendation is that you bring additional cash.

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