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Auburn University Travel Abroad
Colleges of Agriculture and Human Sciences
A People to People Educational exchange
Organized by Auburn University & Cuba Cultural Travel
CCT AU Vendor Number #903875769
May 13-23, 2016

Day 0 Thursday May 12 Miami

Participants will fly independently to Miami and congregate at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located near the airport. The hotel is located at 950 NW Le Jeune Road, Miami, FL 33126. Tel. (305) 446-9000

Day 1 Friday May 13 Miami - Santiago de Cuba

6:00 am Meet in the hotel lobby for our bus transfer to airport. Our flight from Miami to Santiago is ABC Charter flight #K88500.

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*. First 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.

8:40 am Charter departure time from Miami Int’l Airport to Santiago de Cuba.

10:00 am 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 Havana.

Lunch in Santiago.

Late Afternoon Visit to the Santiago nutrition center (WFP suggestion).

4:00 pm Check in to Hotel Casagranda.

7:00 pm Dinner at Paladar El Madrileño.

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

Day 2 Saturday May 14 Santiago de Cuba

Complimentary breakfast is served at the restaurant on the hotel lobby level everyday from 7am-10am.

Morning Visit with local farmers (WFP suggestion).
Lunch in Santiago.

**Afternoon**  
Guided city sightseeing 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.

7:30 pm  
Dinner at **Paladar La Cañasta**.

**Day 3**  
**Sunday May 15**  
**Santiago de Cuba**

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.

Lunch in **Cayo Granma**.

**Late Afternoon**  
Return to Santiago.

Dinner on your own.

**Day 4**  
**Monday May 16**  
**Santiago de Cuba - Bayamo - Camaguey**

Hotel check out.

**Morning**  
Possible visit to a WFP sponsored **dairy farm** or the **Polytechnic School of Agriculture**.

Stop at the **La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre Basilica**.

Lunch in **Bayamo** the birthplace of the **Cuban War for Independence**.

**Afternoon**  
Guided walking tour of the historical city center of **Camaguey**.

6:00 pm  
Check in to **Gran Hotel**.

Dinner to be announced.

**Day 5**  
**Tuesday May 17**  
**Camaguey - Sancti Spiritus - Matanzas**

8:30 am  
Hotel Check out and depart for Mantanzas, birthplace of the rumba, danzon and Cuban baseball. We have arranged a series of events and visits that will expose us to some of the country’s finest folk artists.

**Morning**  
**Agro-tourism** visits to be arranged to cattle ranch or other farm.

Visit the **Environmental Education and Urban Sustainability Programs** both serve the local communities aim to contribute to the formation of aesthetic values linked to the harmony between Humans and Nature.

Visit the local office of **Foundation Antonio Nuñez Jiménez of Nature and Humanity**, a cultural and scientific non-governmental institution, dedicated to the research and promotion of programs and projects for the protection of the environment. Permaculture first got into Cuba in 1993 by a group of Australians and New Zealanders during the peak of the Cuban economic crisis. One year after, in November of 1994, thanks to Antonio Núñez Jimenez’s vision, permaculture was hosted by the then Foundation of Nature and Humanity.
1:00 pm En route to we stop for lunch in the city of Sancti Spiritus.

4:00 pm Check-in to Hotel Velasco. POSSIBLE LODGING AT INDIO HATUEY PER Beth & Brenda

Dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 6 Wednesday May 18 Matanzas

9:00 am Visit to CENSa.

Visit to the Museo Farmaceutico, pharmacy dating from 1882 with its original equipment, porcelain jars, recipes and hand written ledgers.

Visit to Teatro Sauto, magnificent neo-classical structure built in 1863 which has seen the likes of Sarah Bernhardt, Enrico Caruso and Anna Pavlova.

Visit to Ediciones Vigia, handmade, limited edition books showcasing some of Cuba’s best known writers and artists. This publishing house was born out of the “special period” in the early 90’s when the scarcity of materials prompted this group to begin producing handmade books in editions of 200 using an old mimeograph machine on whatever paper they could find. But with words by Cuba’s leading poets and writers, and drawings by well known artists, the works from Ediciones Vigia soon became collector’s items.

Visit the farm of Hector Correa, artist know for his monumental ceramic sculptures. We will also be met by artists Pipa Calderon who makes sculptures using sea shells, Manuel Hernandez who paints beautiful scenes of the guajiros, or country folk, on his clay pieces, and sculptor Agustin Drake who, in addition to being an accomplished sculptor, makes uniquely exquisite baskets out of palm leaves.

Lunch at Hector’s.

Afternoon This afternoon the group may split into two groups. OR TRIP TO VERADERO BEACH.

Group 1: Visit to a local agricultural project. Information pending from WFP.

Group 2: Possible visit to School for Studies on Tourism.

5:00 pm Return to the hotel. Dinner on your own.

Day 7 Thursday May 19 Matanzas - Havana

8:00 am Hotel check out and depart for Havana.

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 at the famous El Aljibe. Cuban food at its best; the roasted chicken soaked in orange garlic sauce is a favorite, located in the Havana neighborhood of Miramar, home to many embassies and residences of foreign diplomats.

Afternoon Visit to the Instituto de Investigaciones Fundamentales de Agricultura Tropical “Alejandro de Humboldt” (INIFAT). Founded in 1904 was the first Agronomic Station in Cuba, led in the early years by the American agronomist Franklyn Summer Earle from the Experimental Station of Louisiana.. It is also the oldest agricultural Research Institute of Latin America.

4:00 pm Check-in to the newly renovated Hotel Capri located in the Vedado neighborhood - home to the most iconic buildings of Havana’s modernist movement including the Habana Libre hotel, the Coppelia Ice Cream parlor, the Pabellon Cuba and the Riviera Hotel.

Hotel Capri ★★★★

537 839 7200 Calle 21 Entre Calle N y O, La Habana
http://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-capri-la-habana
7:30 pm Meet in the lobby and walk to our welcome dinner at Café Laurent.

Evening entertainment to be determined. Cultural Calendar pending.

Day 8 Friday May 20 Havana

8:30 am Meet in the hotel lobby and board bus.

9:00 am Visit the headquarters of the UN’s World Food Program to learn about their involvement to bolster the government’s effort to update its economic model and social programmes.

11:30 am Visit to the Asociación Cubana de Técnicos Agrícolas y Forestales (ACTAF) an NGO that implements with the support of international organizations 13 agro ecological projects such as the generation of bio power out of an invasive bush.

1:00 pm Lunch at the whimsical fishing village of Jaimanitas, home of artist José Fuster, who has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the neighborhood. Jaimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster and his neighbors have decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.

Afternoon Visit to the Institute of Hygiene & Nutrition.

5:00 pm Return to the hotel.

7:30 pm Dinner at La Catedral.

Visit the Fabrica de Arte Cuba. This former tramway power plant located in the Vedado neighborhood was built in the beginning of the XX Century and is the most current collaborative art project in Havana. Live music, contemporary art, film and more in this buzz-worthy venue.

Day 9 Saturday May 21 Viñales Valley

8:00 am 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!

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.

POSSIBLE VISIT: Meet Cuba’s newest entrepreneurs, the home owners and proprietors of local Casa Particulares (B&B’s). 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.
4:00 pm  Return to Havana.
Dinner on your own.

Day 10  Sunday May 22  Havana

8:00 am  Meet in hotel lobby and board bus. Depart for a visit to INIFAT. The INIFAT is responsible for the development of a sustainable agricultural program in Cuba focused on Permaculture. The Institute leads the Master Plan for Urban and Sub Urban Agriculture and researches include the conservation, control and improvement of genetic resources and macro organisms based on agro ecological concepts.

9:30 am  Visit 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.

12:30 pm  Lunch at La Moneda.

2:00 pm  After lunch begin 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 Habanaeros always saw it as the main Plaza of the city were 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”.

7:30 pm  Dinner at Havana VIP. We will be joined by a staff member from the United Nations Program for Aid to Development. This UN agency sponsors in Cuba a number of programs related with environmental conservation.

Possible visit to the Escuela Nacional de Ballet on the Prado. Permission pending.

Day 11  Monday May 23  Departure Day

8:30 am  Check in at the US Embassy. Please remember to bring your passport.

9:00 am  Briefing begins.

11:00 am  Check out of the hotel and board bus.

11:30 am  Airport Check in.
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.

2:00 pm  Depart on ABC Charter FLT #AA9477 for Miami.

3:00 pm  Arrive in Miami. Clear customs and connect with flights home. Please allow 2.5 hours to clear customs.

* 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.

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. 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.