



University of Havana

Academic Study Tour Program

Friday

Departure

Day 1

Upon arrival in Havana, you will be met by our ground representative who will help you with immigration and customs formalities. Meet your local English-speaking guide and board your motor coach for transfer to your hotel.

Welcome dinner at **Casa de La Amistad** with officers from ICAP.

Saturday

Havana

Day 2

Morning orientation with ICAP. Depart for city tour of colonial and modern Havana, including a visit to the Capitol, one of Havana's most impressive buildings, with a cupola nearly 300 feet tall, inspired by the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Opened in 1929, it house both the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate. It has now been given to the Academy of Science and the Museum of Natural Sciences.

Lunch at **La Mina Restaurant**.

Continue to a visit of the Museum of the Revolution. You will have time to view various aspects of recent Cuban historical documents, photographs and personal mementos. Continue to a visit of a local Farmer's Market.

Sunday

Havana

Day 3

Morning walking tour of Habana Old Havana. Review the city's architecture and examine the various projects that have been restored.

Lunch at El Templete Restaurant.

This afternoon we'll meet with the professors and students of La Escuela Taller Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos (Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos Workshop School). This unique institution was established in 1992 in a heroic effort to train youth in the arts, crafts and theoretical knowledge to rehabilitate and preserve their architectural heritage. The school teaches young people archeological and restoration skills necessary to sustain the physical heritage and cultural patrimony of Old Havana.

Monday

Santiago de Cuba

Day 4

Morning lecture and discussion conducted by Dr. Rosa Lopez Ocegüera of (CEHSEU) Center of Hemispherical Studies and on the United States. Full-time researcher and professor with CESEU. Head of the U.S. Foreign Policy area research, Political Analyst with the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, New York and the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, DC.

Conference on —Cuba in the international system. This touches the situation in Cuba in the world of the non-aligned Movement, UN, relations with the European Union, Russia, China and Latin America, Rio Group, ALBA, PetroCaribe, & health diplomacy.

Tuesday

Santiago de Cuba

Day 5

This morning after breakfast departs on a tour of Santiago de Cuba, second city of the country. During the first half of the sixteenth century was the capital of Cuba and official residence of the Spanish governors. Famous for its history, hospitality, happy people, traditional rhythms and dances, is a city where people live the full Caribbean flavor. Visit the Antique Car Museum; visit the Prehistoric Valley and Park Baconao, the Siboney Farm and Museum on July 26. Visit the Necropolis of St. Iphigenia where the remains of Jose Marti, Cuba's national hero are interred. Walk through the historic city center, Parque Céspedes, the Cathedral, Casa Diego Velasquez, Calle Padre Pico Street and Plaza Dolores Heredia. Visit to the fortress Castillo San Pedro de la Roca.

Lunch at El Morro Restaurant.

Evening visit to a CDR – Committee for the Defense of the Revolution and join the festivities.

Wednesday

Santiago de Cuba-El Cobre

Day 6

Morning depart for el Cobre Shrine. The Virgin of Charity (La Virgen de la Caridad) is a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary in the mining town of El Cobre, outside Santiago in southwest Cuba. Her shrine is the most important religious site on the entire island. A focus of intense popular devotion—not just for Catholics but also for followers of Santeria and even those who aren't otherwise religious—the beloved Virgin of Charity was declared the patron saint of Cuba by the pope in 1916. Return to Santiago.

Lunch at **Casa de Don Antonio Restaurant**.

Evening at Casa de la Trova Music House. It has become an institution, almost a national monument. Nobody goes to Santiago without visiting this place. Most of the best singers and son groups of the island use to perform here. The Casa de la Trova is constantly mentioned in novels, poems, magazines... And well known for its recordings of life concerts. Opens in the morning and at night and the program it offers is still outstanding. Located in the historical part of the city, some steps away from Céspedes Park.

Thursday

Santiago de Cuba-Camagüey-Trinidad

Day 7

Morning departure for Trinidad via Camaguey, the largest province in the country. The city of Camaguey was one of the first seven towns founded by Diego Velazquez. The city dates back to 1515.

Lunch has been arranged at **La Campana de Toledo Restaurant**.

Continue to Trinidad, Cuba's colonial gem. Founded also by Diego Velazquez in 1508. A city of cobbled streets, roofs of ancient tiles and barred windows. A true living museum declared in 1988 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Transfer to your hotel.

Friday

Trinidad

Day 8

Your city tour of Trinidad will start at the Plaza Mayor, or Main Square. You will experience some of the finest buildings from the colonial era and you will be transported into the 18th and 19th centuries. Visits to the Palacio Brunet, Our Lady of Trinidad Church built in the 19th century. The tour will end at the Municipal Historical Museum, which traces the history of Trinidad from its beginnings in 1514. You are surrounded by a colonial paradise.

Lunch at **Trinidad Colonial Restaurant**

Your visit to Trinidad is not complete without an excursion to nearby Valle de los Ingenios (Valley of the Sugar Mills). Trinidad was at one time the home of 43 sugar mills, primitive factories operated by slave labor for the production of sugar. There will be an explanation about the history of these plantations.

Saturday

Trinidad-Cienfuegos-Havana

Day 9

Morning departure to Cienfuegos —The Pearl of the South. Tree lined streets, whitewashed walls, tiled roofs and a predominant neoclassical architecture with strong French influence.

Lunch at **Palacio Valle Restaurant**, an eclectic building having a remarkable architectural value, was the former residence of a Spanish millionaire Continue on your return to Havana. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.

Sunday

Havana

Day 10

Morning departure to visit the Hemingway Museum located in the Finca Vigia, former residence of the American writer located in the San Francisco de Paula neighborhood on the outskirts of the city. We will tour along the beltway of the city reaching Cojimar, a fisherman's village where Hemingway docked his fishing boat —El Pilar, a source of inspiration for this famous novel —The Old Man and the Sea.

Lunch at **Las Terrazas de Cojimar Restaurant**.

After lunch return to Havana and visit the museum room in the Ambos Mundos Hotel where the writer often stayed and wrote part of his novels. Continue to the two bars associated with his life in Havana. The Floridita where he enjoyed the best Daiquiris and La Bodeguita del Medio where he enjoyed the best —Mojitos

Monday

Havana-Pinar del Rio-Viñales

Day 11

Today you find yourself in a unique contrast of flat top hillocks, rocky heights and magnificent forests. You are in the **Viñales Valley**. The fertile tobacco fields are the most important part of the region. The best tobacco in the world comes from **Vuelta Abajo**, west of the provincial capital. A visit to a tobacco factory has been arranged and a seminar has been set up at a local agricultural production cooperative where you will learn the characteristics of the province. Visit the Cueva del Indio (Indian Cave)

Lunch at **El Ranchon** Restaurant

Transfer to your hotel

Tuesday

Viñales

Day 12

After breakfast depart for a visit to Las Terrazas eco-resort, a rural experience of a sustainable development in the mountain area located within the Sierra del Rosario biosphere reserve in the new Artemisa province. Tour of the area with an explanation of the community project. You will meet the local people involved in the project.

Lunch will be served at **El Romero Eco-Restaurant**.

After lunch visit the Botanical Orchid Garden in Soroa, the former property of lawyer Tomas Felipe Camacho from the Canary Islands who created it to honor his late daughter. This incredible garden with an area of 35000 square meters is home of more than 200,000 orchid specimens and is nowadays a research center dedicated to the preservation of Cuban orchids and the environment.

Wednesday

Viñales-Havana

Day 13

After breakfast return to Havana and transfer to your hotel.

Lunch at **La Dominica Restaurant**.

Afternoon visit to the General Assembly for a seminar on Domestic Policies-Change and Continuity. The round table discussion will cover Role of the National Assembly and of the Communist Party, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the court system, religion and the State, food rationing system.

Thursday

Havana

Day 14

Morning lecture and discussion conducted by Dr. Nestor Garcia Iturbe, Professor, Graduate Institute of International Relations "Raúl Roa García". Senior Researcher at the Institute of History of Cuba. Former Director of International Relations at the University of Havana and Chief of Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and Director of Graduate Education Center of the Ministry of Higher Education. Conference on USA-Cuba Relations.

Friday

Havana

Day 15

Morning lecture on the Cuban government's policies and the impact of the Helms-Burton restrictions on spending and investment and the growth consequences of repeal. Lecture and exchange will be conducted at **MINREX – Ministry of Foreign Affairs – U.S. Department**.

Lunch at **Conde de Villanueva Restaurant**.

After lunch there is time to visit the Crafts Market in the old San Jose warehouse on Port Avenue.

Farewell dinner at **El Aljibe Restaurant** for a typical Cuban dinner.

Saturday

Havana-Miami

Day 16

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return to the U.S. Our local guide and airport representative will assist you in the check-in procedures.



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