



Historic Center of Old Havana

## Architectural Study Tour Program

Friday

Miami-Havana

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.

Accommodations will be at a hotel located in the historic center of Havana, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982.

Welcome dinner at **La Torre Restaurant** overlooking the city of Havana.

Saturday

Havana

Day 2

Morning presentation and discussion by Cuban architects about the rehabilitation project of the historic center with explanation of the singular management model and social programs.

Visit the scale model of the historic center for an orientation.

Lunch at **La Imprenta** Restaurant located in the historic center.

Afternoon walking tour of the historic center of Old Havana, a village founded in 1519 and declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1982. There will be an explanation of the projects carried by the City's Historian's Office for its integral rehabilitation.

Dinner at **Paladar L'Atelier**. New privately owned restaurant.

Sunday

Havana

Day 3

Morning depart on a tour through the former Las Murallas neighborhood and the modern part of the city to appreciate the emblematic examples of the main architectural styles; Centro Habana, Vedado, Miramar and Cubanacan.

Lunch at **El Tocatoro Restaurant**.

Continue your tour of Casablanca on the other side of the bay and to the fortified Morro and La Cabaña, two great examples of military architecture corresponding to two different periods in the development of the defensive system of the city, whose fortresses are included in the declaration of the World Heritage Site.

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

Evening dinner at **La Divina Pastora Restaurant**. You will enjoy a beautiful view of the Havana water front.

Nearby you will join the Cannon Blast ceremony, a tradition evoking the announcement of the closing of the gates of the city and of the channel at the entrance of the bay, which takes place every evening at the 18th century San Carlos de La Cabaña fortress. It includes a visit to the weapons museum and the chapel.

Monday

Havana

Day 4

Morning meeting with architects to discuss architectural studies in the country.

Guided visit to the San Geronimo College, place where the first university of the city and the country was founded in the former building in 1728 and which is today a faculty belonging to the University of Havana. A new degree is now offered for the preservation and management of the historical and cultural heritage.

Lunch at **El Aljibe Restaurant**, for a typical Cuban chicken lunch. Invited guest from the architectural school will join us.

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. The Cuban Capital harbors the largest collection of colonial- era Spanish architecture in our hemisphere.

Tuesday

Havana

Day 5

Morning visit to the neighborhoods east of the city: Camilo Cienfuegos and Villa Panamericana with stops at the sports facilities built for the Pan-American Games held in 1991. Continue to a visit of Alamar, an apartment complex town with Soviet-like architecture. It will include a visit to the new dwellings built by the Office of the Historian in order to relocate families on the social project. An architect from the Master Plan will guide the visit.

Lunch will be served at the **Templete Restaurant** located in the historic center.

This afternoon a special visit has been arranged to the restored 18th-century Convento de Neustra Señora de Belén (convent of our Lady of Bethlehem) in Old Havana is headquarters of the cities Historian's extensive social welfare assistance for the inhabitants of Old Havana. This includes a health clinic and pharmacy, physical therapy for the elderly, services for disabled youth, eye care and glasses for all ages, meals for those in need, support for single mothers, occupational training and, soon to come, housing for the elderly. Mass and other religious services are held at the convent, and there is a full schedule of crafts, musicals and activities for senior citizens. In hurricane season the convent also functions as an emergency shelter for the neighborhood. This social welfare work has received international recognition and support, particularly from Spain.

Wednesday

Havana-Cojimar-Havana

Day 6

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 **La Terraza Restaurant**, a place related to the life of the famous writer and to Gregorio Fuentes, the captain of his fishing boat.

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".

Thursday

Havana-Regla-Havana

Day 7

Morning depart for Regla. Visit the church of Nuestra Señora de Regla, one of Cuba's most frequented pilgrimage churches. The most impressive is the statute of the Virgin of Regla who is black and cradles a white infant in her arms. She is the patron and protector of sailor's. She is considered the equivalent of Yemaya, the goddess of the sea in the Yoruba religion. Visit the Municipal Museum of Regla. There will be a ritual dance of Santeria the religion brought to Cuba by African slaves.

Lunch at **La Dominica Restaurant**.

Afternoon visit 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.

Friday

Havana

Day 8

This morning we depart for a visit to the Cuban National Museum of Fine Arts.

Continue your visit to two cultural community projects: Hammel Alley in Centro Habana, led by the Cuban painter and muralist Salvador Gonzalez where he recreates religious syncretism and Santeria. Then to the Fuster Project in Jaimanitas, a small coastal neighborhood west of Havana, led by the famous Cuban painter and ceramist Jose Fuster.

You will be the guests for lunch at **Fuster's Paladar**.

After lunch return to Havana and continue to a visit of a local Farmer's Market. Evening farewell dinner at Café del Oriente Restaurant in the historic center.

Saturday

Havana-Miami

Day 9

Today you bid farewell to Cuba, "The Pearl of the Antilles" Transfer to the airport for departure. Our guide and local airport representative will be available to help you with the check-in procedures.



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