



ISA – Institute of Superior Art

## ART & CULTURAL STUDY TOUR

“A People to People Exchange”

Friday

Depart for Miami

Day 1

Delegates will independently depart today for Miami, Florida. The program officially begins at the briefing in Cuba so note that no event or official gathering will take place in the U.S. this evening.

Upon arrival in Miami, please make your way to the **Miami International Airport Hotel (located in concourse E within the airport itself)**. The hotel is just a short walk from luggage claim (2nd floor). Check-in begins at 3:00 pm so access to rooms prior to that is subject to availability.

For questions, you can call the hotel directly after arrival. They can be reached at:

**Miami International Airport Hotel**  
Central Terminal Concourse E  
2nd floor  
Miami, Florida 33266  
Telephone: 1-305-871-4100

Lunch and dinner are by individual arrangement today for those arriving earlier in the day time.

**Saturday**

**Departure**

**Day 2**

**This morning please plan to meet by 4:45 am in the hotel lobby to meet your delegation leader.** Check in will be in concourse G adjacent to the Dunkin Donuts. Lines queue up according to the flight, not just those flying with the charter company, so make sure you get in the correct line!

Due to the early hour of our departure from the hotel, breakfast could not be provided by the hotel. However, there are many dining options at the airport after you check in, but before you clear security and head to your gate.

**Departure is scheduled this morning on XAEL Charter service (operated by World Atlantic) at approximately 9:00 am** (check-in begins as early as 5:00).

***WELCOME TO CUBA!!***

Upon arrival at the Havana International Airport, you will need to make your way through passport control where they will take your photo (be prepared to remove any hats, scarves or glasses) and check your paperwork for entry into Cuba. Make your way to baggage claim and from there exit through customs to where your national guide will be waiting for the delegation.

Enjoy some sites of the city in a panoramic bus tour of Havana en-route to lunch. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

Early this afternoon the delegation will transfer to your hotel for check in at the **Quinta Avenida Hotel** in Miramar. Check in and settle into your rooms before meeting in the hotel conference center for your welcome briefing.

Your delegation leader will have some time to address the delegation and facilitate group introductions

Enjoy a welcome dinner at Paladar La Guarida, known for the movie location setting of the film "Fresa y Chocolate". This paladar is known as one of Havana's best.

**Sunday**

**Havana**

**Day 3**

**Please Note:** Breakfast will be provided daily during your stay in Cuba.

This morning enjoy a 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 out by the City Historian's Office for the rehabilitation of Old Havana.

Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

This afternoon meet with **Dr. Rosa Lopez Ocegüera**, professor of (CEHSEU) Center of Hemispherical Studies and on the United States. Rosa is a brilliant woman and multi-talented and is excited to share information about Cuba with the delegation. Her lecture today will focus on "Cuba's Health diplomacy", which touches the situation in Cuba in the world of healthcare. She is excited to hear your questions and discuss any additional items you may have for her after her presentation.

Professional program focus:

- Cuban health programs in Venezuela, Haiti, Guatemala and Bolivia
- The "Milagro Mission" which has treated more than 3 million people in the restoration of their vision
- The "More Doctors" program on the way to Brazil
- Cuban nurses mission programs to Guatemala

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

This evening enjoy a musical performance by Buena Vista Social Club musicians at El Tablao de Pancho.

Monday

Havana

Day 4

This morning the delegation will have a welcome orientation to Cuba on behalf of the staff at the **Cuban Institute of Friendship with People** in conjunction with our local team at the Casa de la Amistad. This mandatory meeting focuses on Cuban/U.S. relations, and is a required component of all visits to Cuba.

You will meet with the staff from the **Literacy Museum**, tracing Cuba's achievements in the Great Literacy Campaign. The Cuban Literary Campaign was a year-long effort to abolish illiteracy in Cuba after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. This campaign became the world's most ambitious literacy campaign.

Cuba has one of the highest ranking educational systems in Latin America. In spite of limited resources, a lack of instructional materials and technology, Cuba has established a literacy rate of 97%. What is the secret behind their success?

Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

This morning we will visit the National School of Arts, ISA. Lecture on the role of arts, emphasis: music & performing arts in Cuban culture and society; higher education training for artists. Meet with fine arts students and faculty about their art, work and life in Cuba

Later the delegation will stop at the **Centro Cultural Antiguos Almacenes** to visit and talk with private sector owners of more than 300 different booths selling art, handicrafts, clothing, and a variety of Cuban products.

This evening enjoy a **neighborhood street party** with all the residents of the block participating. It's a great opportunity to interact with the locals.

Gifts: The delegation should collaborate to bring some rum, chips, crackers, sodas to contribute to the party. These can be purchased at the hotel or any local store. Also some gifts for children will be very much appreciated however we don't have quantities, ages or genders to share. We recommend small items that are easy to carry. Appropriate items could be school or art supplies, books and notebook paper/journals, stickers, children or teen magazines, matchbox cars, dolls, card or board games, etc.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

**Tuesday**

**Havana**

**Day 5**

Depart Havana for the approximate two hour ride toward Pinar del Rio. Visit "El Patio de Pelegrin" located in the Puerta de Golpe town. Visit the diverse children's arts, drawings, handicrafts workshops. Join the children and parents in some of their music and dance activities. Visit the city orchard and meet the workers that provide food for the community.

**Donations:** The project is in desperate need of art supplies (especially paints of any quality and brushes of all sizes). They also can use fabrics for sewing and seeds for their garden. They do not need school supplies like crayons/colored pencils.

Lunch will be provided at one of the restaurants within **Las Terrazas**, which is located in a mountain area of the Candelaria municipality. Declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1985 and with an extraordinarily beautiful landscape, it will provide a great photo opportunity.

During your educational visit in **Las Terrazas Community Project**, you will receive an explanation of their local community project developed for the restoration of the area in the heart of the Sierra del Rosario. Visit the restored ruins of Buena Vista (old coffee plantation of the French immigrants) with the house, the remains of the slave barracks and the area used to process coffee beans.

**Note: Bring your swimsuit and a towel with you today!**

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense) this evening after your return to Havana.

Wednesday

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.

This afternoon visit the **Museo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum)**. The Fine Arts Museum is dedicated exclusively to Cuban art collections beginning in the mid-16th century. Spanning the 17th and 19th centuries, it has galleries devoted to landscape, religious subjects and the Costumbrismo narrative scenes of Cuban life. Other galleries are devoted to more current work, and are recognized for the extensive collection of Hyperrealism and the latest generation of Cuban artists whose works all reflect the strong symbolic imagery prevalent in recent decades.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

Thursday

Havana

Day 7

Today the delegation will also visit **Convento de Nuestra Señora de Belén**. A special visit has been arranged to the restored 18th century convent in the middle of Old Havana. They have a health clinic and pharmacy, physical therapy for the elderly, services for disabled youth, an eye care center and glasses for all ages, meals for those in need, support for single mothers, occupational training and they are working on some limited housing as well (under construction). Mass and other religious services are held at the convent and there is a full schedule of crafts, musicals and other activities for the seniors. During hurricane season the center also functions as an emergency shelter. They have on onsite (albeit small) daycare as well for the workers and a select few local families with the greatest need.

**Donations:** The center is in desperate need of adult diapers and pain killers. Children's toys or books (Spanish language or picture) are of course welcome although it is unlikely you will have the chance to spend time with the pre-school aged children

Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

This afternoon the delegation will 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.

After dinner this evening at the TocoRoro Restaurant, the delegation will go down to 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. This ceremony takes place every evening at the 18th century San Carlos de La Cabaña fortress.

Evening show at Havana's famous "Jazz Café.

Friday

Havana

Day 8

This morning depart for a visit to the city of 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 sailors. 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 will be provided at a local restaurant.



Dance School

This afternoon the delegation will visit the **Educa a Tu Hijo (Educate your Child) Program** to meet with the staff of the program. 70% of Cuban children under 6 years of age participate in the Educate Your Child program. The program purpose is to achieve

the maximum possible level of development for each child in the areas of emotional communication, intelligence, language, motor development, the formation of habits, health and nutrition. The main way to achieve that goal is to empower families to become agents that stimulate the development of their children.

The program is run by teams of developers and implementers. The promoters (mainly teachers, educators and health professionals) serve as liaison between the community and the local coordinating group. Its role is to educate the community, mobilize resources, train and provide guidance implementing pedagogical plans established by the groups that coordinate the program locally.

The program works with two age groups: the group of 0-2 years and that of 2-6 years. The first receives individualized care by implementers through home visits once or twice a week. These sessions consist of demonstrations performed by the executors of stimulating activities, and serve as examples to parents. The structure of the group and other methodological aspects may vary according to local needs.

Children in the age group 2-6 years participate with their parents or caregivers in group sessions held once or twice a week at a community space (parks, cultural centers and sports centers). The sessions can be maintained distributed by age groups. At least one family member responsible for the education of the child participates in group sessions and at home, which seek to involve families while providing guidance and training to help them develop the knowledge and skills favor the development of their children.



**Stilt Walkers Old Havana**

This evening farewell reception at the Santa Isabel Hotel terrace in Old Havana. The stilt walkers dance group will entertain you as you follow them dancing in the streets to your farewell dinner.

Share your memories of Cuba with other delegates at a farewell dinner at Café Del Oriente Restaurant in the historic center.

Saturday

Havana

Day 9

### DEPARTURE DAY

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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