

Baseball in Cuba

“A People to People Exchange”



Friday

Depart for Miami

Day 1

Participants 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 independently to the **Miami Airport Hilton**. The Hilton Miami Airport hotel is just a ten-minute shuttle bus ride from Miami International Airport (MIA). Use the complimentary shuttle service to and from airport terminals. Check-in begins at 3pm so access to rooms prior to that is subject to availability after arrival.

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

Miami Airport Hilton Hotel
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, Florida 33126
Telephone: 1-305-262-1000

Lunch and dinner are by individual arrangement today.

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 El Templete Restaurant.

Early this afternoon the delegation will transfer to your hotel, check in and settle into your rooms before meeting in the hotel conference center for your welcome briefing.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at Paladar La California, 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 at a local restaurant.

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: Early dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: Attend a baseball game.

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 US visits to Cuba. (Duration 45 minutes)

Continue on a 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 his famous novel "The Old Man and the Sea."

Lunch will be provided at the La Terraza Restaurant, a place related to the life of the famous writer, Ernest Hemingway, and to Gregorio Fuentes, the captain of his fishing boat.



Afternoon meeting with representatives from I.N.D.E.R. - **Instituto Nacional de Deportes, Educación Física y Recreación** - National Institute of Sports, Physical

Dinner: On your own.

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

Tuesday**Havana****Day 5**

Morning meeting with representatives of the Baseball Federation of Cuba. Lecture on the Cuban National Baseball System, its structure and history.

Lunch: at a local restaurant.

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 famous Cuban painter and ceramist Jose Fuster.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Attend a baseball game.

Wednesday**Havana****Day 6**

Morning visit to a cigar factory.

Continue on a visit the **Centro Cultural Antiguos Almacenes** (local market) to visit and talk with private sector owners of more than 300 different booths selling art, handicrafts, clothing, and a variety of Cuban products.

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon visit to a Sports School "Manuel Fajardo".

Evening: Performance at Jazz Café.

Thursday**Havana****Day 7**

Morning visit Ciudad Deportiva (Sport's City), exchange with escolares, teachers and trainers. Observe a training classes. Continue on a visit of the Children's Academy of Baseball. Excellent opportunity to make donations of baseball equipment to children baseball players.

Lunch on your own.

This afternoon 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.

Friday

Havana

Day 8

Morning visit to a sports equipment factory.

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon meeting with sports journalists that cover sports news.

Evening: Farewell dinner at Café del Oriente Restaurant.

Saturday

Havana-Miami

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 assist you with the check-in procedures.

Notice:

Unanticipated changes, scheduling conflicts, delays, weather, or circumstances beyond our control could result in program adjustments. If substitution for a scheduled program activity is required, we will make every effort to feature comparable events to retain the content and quality of the program.

