



LAW IN CUBA

In cooperation with the **National Union of Jurists (Union Nacional de Juristas de Cuba)**

Saturday

Departure

Day 1

Departure is scheduled this morning on XAEL Charter service (operated by Sky King) at approximately 8:30 am (check-in begins as early as 4:30).

Arrival in Cuba is approximately 45 minutes later as it is a short flight. Delays are common as it takes quite some time to load the excess luggage that many visitors are bringing with them for their families and friends in Cuba. It is common to see car parts, bicycles, flat screen televisions as well as men wearing three or four hats to avoid having to pay any additional baggage fees at the counter. Quite a fun sight and an experience in itself!

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. Check in and settle into your rooms before meeting in the hotel conference center for your welcome briefing.

Late this afternoon the delegation will meet in the hotel for a welcome and overview briefing on Cuba. Time will be included this afternoon to gather and sort professional gifts for your meeting hosts as well as get to know your fellow travelers officially.

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	Departure	Day 2
--------	-----------	-------

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

Enjoy a morning 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 the delegation will 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.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

This evening enjoy a musical performance by Buena Vista Social Club musicians.

Monday	Departure	Day 3
--------	-----------	-------

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.

Late this morning the delegation will meet with the **National Union of Jurists (Union Nacional de Juristas de Cuba)**. The National Union of Cuban Jurists (UNJC) is a professional organization for lawyers (Cuban Bar Association). Membership is voluntary and some 85% of practitioners are members. Headquartered in Havana, the UNJC

comments on proposed legislation, publishes a law review (Revista Cubana de Derecho), and organizes various national and international legal conferences and symposia.

Professional program focus:

- How does the Cuban legal system operate?
- What are the roles of the lawyers and the courts?
- What training and education are required to become a lawyer and maintain credentials?
- How does the Cuban legal system address the need of children?
- How does the Cuban legal system afford access to the underprivileged?
- How does the Cuban legal system reach a balance between punishment and rehabilitation?
- What unique cultural elements are reflected in the aspects of the Cuban legal system?
- What can our respective legal systems learn from each other?

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

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.

Late today 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.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense) this evening.

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.

Overview of the Legal System:

Cuba is governed by the National Assembly of the People, which comprises 614 popularly elected representatives and meets infrequently. Between Assembly sessions, a “Council of State”—consisting of the president, the deputy president, five vice-presidents, one secretary, and 23 others elected by the National Assembly—governs.

Cuba’s constitution, crafted and proposed to the public in 1976, was voted on by 98 percent of the population and approved by 97 percent of the voters. The constitution has since been modified in 1978, 1992, and 2002 by the National Assembly—the only body empowered to do so.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic has constitutional “jurisdiction over the control and preservation of legality by ensuring that the Constitution, the law and other legal regulations are strictly obeyed ... and representing the state in the promotion and exercise of public legal action.” It is subordinate to the National Assembly and Council of State.

Cuba’s judicial system consists of municipal courts and provincial courts, as well as the People’s Supreme Court. The People’s Supreme Court is the court of last resort that hears appeals from the municipal and provincial courts; it can also propose laws and issue regulations. The 41 justices on the Supreme Court are all selected by the National Assembly. Per the constitution, courts are subordinate to the National Assembly and its Council of State; but in the function of administering justice, judges are independent.

In the United States, juries keep our system grounded by infusing practical, common-sense justice into legal proceedings. Although Cuba does not have trial by jury, it employs lay judges to imbue the judicial system with a similar type of common-sense peer justice.

Lay judges serve alongside professional judges at all levels of the Cuban judicial system. Article 124 of the 1992 constitution provides in part that “for administering justice all courts function in a collegiate form and professional and lay judges participate in them with equal rights and duties.”

Lay judges are nominated by workplace collectives and neighborhood associations and then elected by municipal or provincial assemblies for a term of five years, serving a maximum of 30 days per year. Similar to our jurors, lay judges tend to reflect the diversity of the overall population. When they are not serving as lay judges, they work in their regular employment. The professional judges seem to appreciate their lay counterparts.

The Cuban Ministry of Justice is responsible for training lay judges. Their training is centered upon the procedural rules of the court system and familiarization with legal terms, but is intentionally limited so as to preserve the view of the people.

Source: <http://mnbenchbar.com/2012/01/cubas-legal-composite/>

Tuesday

Havana

Day 4

This morning a meeting has been requested with a speaker from the U.S. Department of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba (MINREX)**. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded on December 23, 1959 by decree of the Cuban Revolutionary Government. The new institution substituted the former Ministry of State, created during the first U.S. occupation, and conceived to serve the interests of U.S. Imperialism. That was how the appropriate institution, designed to organically satisfy the dynamics and considerations of the Cuban revolutionary foreign policy emerged.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the mission to carry out the Cuban foreign policy. In order to achieve this objective, the Ministry should contribute to the fulfillment, promotion and defense of the principles, values and interests sustaining the Revolution within the context of the international relations.

The Ministry's performance is based on the guidelines and instructions that emanate from the People's Power National Assembly- as the supreme body of the Cuban Republic -, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. According to what the Constitution establishes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also the governing body of the Cuban foreign policy, and works in close coordination with the rest of the states' organisms.

Cuba's foreign policy adheres to the basic principles of the International Law: respect to the States' sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; peoples' self-determination; the equality of states and peoples; rejection to the interference in the States' internal affairs; the right to international cooperation, equitable and mutual; the pacific relations between the States, and other principles consecrated in the Letter of the United Nations. The internationalism, the anti-imperialism, solidarity and the unity among the Third World countries are also components of that policy.

Cuba condemns all hegemonic, interference and discriminatory practice in the international relations. It also rejects the threat or use of force, the adoption of coercive unilateral measures, the aggression and any form of terrorism, including the terrorism of State. The Cuban Republic's Constitution condemns any type of race, creed or opinion discrimination.

Website: <http://www.cubaminrex.cu/en>

Professional program focus:

- Learn about the Cuban government's policies and the impact of the Helms-Burton restrictions on spending and investment and the growth consequences of repeal.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

This afternoon visit the “**Organizacion Nacional de Bufetes Colectivos**” (National Collective Lawyers' Organization). Your meeting will be with the Director Nuris Pinero Sierra depending on her availability. They will explain how the many branches work. This institution is composed of lawyers who are considered to be highly qualified and experienced in their various branches of law. Their autonomous society enjoys complete independence and the right to practice and defend throughout Cuba.

Main roles:

- Consultations and power to represent and defend the rights of a natural or legal person before the courts, arbitration bodies and administrative agencies in the country, as well as to the organs, agencies, and foreign or international organizations, in pesos Cuban convertible pesos, as applicable.
- Produce and commercialize wholesale specialized publications and materials, in Cuban pesos and convertible pesos at cost, according nomenclature adopted by the Ministry of Domestic Trade .
- Conduct courses, events and seminars of professional in your field, and foreigners in Cuban convertible pesos.
- Produce and commercialize publications and materials retailer specializing in legal, only in fairs organized by the Cuban Book Institute and other international and outside them for lawyers seconded to the National Organization of Collective Law or other lawyers, in pesos Cuban convertible pesos.

Spanish Website: <http://www.onbc.cu/>

Professional program focus:

- Learn about the Cuban government's policies and the impact of the Helms-Burton restrictions on spending and investment and the growth consequences of repeal.
- Access to dispute resolution
- Recoupment of damages
- Cuba's legal system, structure, and framework and application of laws
- Gender equity and social justice in Cuba
- Business law and how it is practiced in a legal environment
- The role and structure of the Judiciary system in Cuba, the legal issues and rights it recognizes, and how it goes about resolving them
- The peoples' access to the Cuban legal system for both Cubans and foreigners, and the lawyer's role in upholding and litigating their clients' rights

- Tort liability under the political system of Cuba, and the concept of making a client whole –whether or not the system, as is, accomplishes it

After dinner this evening at a local 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.

Wednesday

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.

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**, 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 for a swim in the Rio San Juan, part of the Las Terrazas biosphere.

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

Thursday

Havana

Day 6

Spend time this morning Mr. Evelio Ramirez, adviser to the Secretary of the **Cuban Scientific Society of Constitutional Law** & Professor Angel Fernandez Rubio, law professor and deputy of the **Cuban Society of Constitutional Law**.

Professional program focus:

- Learn about the education system (law school, etc.)
- Constitutional law

Lunch will be provided at a local paladar this afternoon.

Continue your exploration of Cuba during a stop at a cultural community project this morning. **Hammel Alley** in Centro Habana, led by the Cuban painter and muralist Salvador Gonzalez is where he recreates religious syncretism and Santeria. Then move onward to enjoy a stop at another cultural community project with the team at **Fuster Project** in Jaimanitas, a small coastal neighborhood west of Havana, led by the famous Cuban painter and ceramist Jose Fuster.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense) this evening.

Friday

Havana

Day 7

This morning the delegation will meet with the **General Assembly** for a seminar on domestic policies as well as 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, and the food rationing system.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

This afternoon a visit will hopefully come together to visit a local court to discuss procedures and an overview of the judicial system in Cuba.

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

Saturday

Depart

Day 8

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.



7816 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012 USA

Phone: 202.722.6882

Fax: 202.722.7073

Email: interplanner@comcast.net

www.interplannercuba.com