Dear Duke Alumni and Friends,

Duke Alumni Travel has offered successful people-to-people exchanges to Cuba since 2012. In October 2019, we are delighted to return to this fascinating island nation, with special entrée to the country's arts community. Please join us to discover Cuba's rich culture and history in Havana and the western province of Pinar del Río.

Spend seven nights in Cuba's capital, where accommodations are at the historic Hotel Saratoga. Connect with locals from all walks of life, including artists, diplomats, entrepreneurs, and museum directors, and stroll through the atmospheric old city. Take a curatorial tour of the Cuban art collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts, visit a classic car workshop, and enjoy a special reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. In the hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula, discover Ernest Hemingway's home, Finca Vigía.

We will also spend a day in the province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco plantations. In the Viñales Valley, encounter spectacular caves, underground rivers, and the famous Mogotes, the iconic hillocks of the region. Highlights in Pinar del Río include a tour of a tobacco plantation and lunch at an organic farm.

Specially arranged performances of music and dance will enhance our journey, as will lectures on Cuban history and art. At the U.S. Embassy in Havana, attend a briefing on Cuban-American relations (pending confirmation). Throughout the week, there will be opportunities to meet with Cubans of diverse backgrounds.

We hope you will join us for this immersion in the many celebrated arts and fascinating history of this Caribbean nation. Since space is limited, we encourage you to send your reservation soon.

Sincerely,
Beth Ray-Schroeder
Director, Alumni Travel
Duke Alumni Association
Dear Duke Alumni and Friends,

We hope you will join us for this immersion in the many celebrated arts and fascinating history of this Caribbean nation. Since space is limited, we encourage you to send your reservation soon.

Throughout the week, there will be opportunities to meet in Havana, attend a briefing on Cuban-American relations (pending our journey, as will lectures on Cuban history and art. At the U.S. Embassy and lunch at an organic farm.

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The Old Man and the Sea

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

STAY at the elegant Hotel Saratoga, located in the heart of Havana

SEE Ernest Hemingway’s house Finca Vigía and visit the village of Cojímar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea

EXPLORE the lush Pinar del Río province

ATTEND an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba

VISIT a classic car workshop where some of Havana’s finest vintage cars are refurbished

ENJOY a private performance in an 18th-century church

Sincerely,

Beth Ray-Schroeder
Director, Alumni Travel

CUBA

Atlantic Ocean

Caribbean Sea

Havana

Viñales

Pinar del Río

Duke Alumni Association

Duke Alumni Travel

October 5–12, 2019

Arts & Culture in Havana & Beyond

Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba

village of Cojímar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea

finest vintage cars are refurbished

a private performance in an 18th-century church

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Director, Alumni Travel
Duke Alumni Association
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA
Arrive independently in Havana. You will be met upon arrival at the José Martí Airport and transferred to the Saratoga Hotel, our home for seven nights. This historic property is located in the heart of the city—overlooking the steps of the Capitolio and the Paseo del Prado. Participate in a dialogue on Cuba’s current reality with a former Cuban ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs. Our welcome dinner is at a lively local restaurant.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6: HAVANA
Join an architectural historian for a conversation on Cuban architecture and historic restoration, followed by a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our tour will focus on the city’s four main squares: the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. Conclude with lunch at a paladar (privately owned restaurant) near the cathedral. In the late afternoon, meet one of Havana’s leading artists over cocktails. Dinner this evening is at the city’s preeminent paladar, La Guarida, where we will discuss the challenges faced by Cuba’s cuentapropistas (entrepreneurs, or, more literally, “do-it-yourselfers”). An optional visit to Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city’s liveliest multi-disciplinary performing and visual arts space, will be offered.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7: HAVANA / VIÑALES
This morning, embark on an excursion to the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco plantations. Explore the unique topography and natural beauty of the Viñales Valley, where you’ll encounter spectacular caves, underground rivers, and the famous Mogotes, the iconic hillocks of the region. Tour a tobacco plantation to learn about the drying and rolling processes. Lunch is at an organic farm. Visit a local artists’ studio before returning to Havana.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8: HAVANA
This morning visit a local cigar factory on a guided tour. At the National Museum of Fine Arts, trace Cuba’s history through the works of its greatest artists. The former deputy director of the museum will guide our group. After lunch, walk down Calle Obispo, Havana’s main shopping street, and conclude with a visit to a local design shop. Speak to the owners, who are all women, about small business practices in Cuba. In the early evening drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists. Optional evening entertainment is available at a number of Havana’s music venues including the famous Tropicana.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9: HAVANA
Drive to the U.S. Embassy for a morning meeting on Cuban-American relations (pending confirmation). Then visit Finca La Yoandra, a unique urban farm, to learn about sustainable practices in Cuba. Gather at the farm for a briefing about the history and future of Cuban agriculture by a former director of the Ministry of Agriculture, followed by lunch. Drive to the hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to Finca Vigia, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. See his famous fishing boat, Pilar, and climb the tower to his study. We conclude our excursion with a brief visit to the village of Cojimar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10: HAVANA
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional. Then visit the Colón Cemetery, whose many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. With such ornate tombstones, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Enjoy lunch with a view at paladar Vistamar. This afternoon visit Nostalgicar, a renowned classic car workshop, where some of the city’s finest vintage automobiles are repaired and refurbished. Watch the sun set at the landmark Hotel Nacional, where we will sip a cocktail on the terrace overlooking the sea.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11: HAVANA
Learn about "Gender, Race and Inequalities in Cuba Today," presented by a professor at the University of Havana. Then visit the Museo de la Revolución, which vividly describes Cuba’s history from colonial times through the Revolution. Following lunch, tour the renovated Gran Teatro de la Habana Alicia Alonso. In the late afternoon, gather at the 18th-century Church of San Francisco de Paula for a private concert by an internationally acclaimed choir. Our farewell dinner is at one of the city’s top paladares.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12: HAVANA / RETURN
Depart the hotel this morning for flights home.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad and Duke Alumni Travel. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Located in atmospheric Old Havana, the historic Hotel Saratoga reopened in 2005 after an extensive refurbishment that preserved the original façade. Renowned in the 1930s for the international artists and socialites who stayed here, today’s Saratoga caters to discerning travelers with interests in history and culture as well as Havana’s famous nightlife. From its prime perch on the Paseo del Prado opposite the incomparable Capitolio building, the Saratoga features a rooftop pool, restaurant, and bar with views of the city, as well as a lobby restaurant, mezzanine bar, business center, spa, and fitness center. All rooms have air conditioning, showers and separate bathtubs, hairdryers, makeup mirrors, safes, minibars, telephones, satellite TVs, and DVD players.

PROGRAM RATE
$5,499 per person double occupancy
$6,899 single rate

RATE INCLUDES
- Seven nights’ accommodations at the Hotel Saratoga
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee / tea with all meals; house wine with dinners
- Jose Martí (Havana) airport / hotel / Jose Martí (Havana) airport group transfers for all participants
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6:  HAVANA

Our welcome dinner is at a lively local restaurant.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8:  HAVANA

See his famous fishing boat, for a visit to Finca Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. In the morning, take a tour of the museum, which Hemingway established to house his personal and political collections and to promote the use of the arts as a form of social change. A former director of the Ministry of Agriculture will guide our group. After lunch, walk up Paseo de Martí to his study. We conclude the day by driving to the U.S. Embassy for a morning meeting on Cuban-American relations.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11:  HAVANA

Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company, Cuba Today. After lunch, walk with the company and a Cuban artist to a local design shop. Speak to the owners, who are all women, about small business practices in Cuba. In the early evening drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts & Culture in Havana & Beyond, a satellite venue that highlights the role of contemporary art in society. The Foundation features changing exhibitions of Cuban and international contemporary art, and is a cultural center for Cuban artists. Optional evening entertainment is available at a number of Havana's many live music venues.

DISCLAIMER:

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad and Duke Alumni Travels. Participants should be in good health and meet any necessary health requirements for travel.

CST #2059789-40

Terms & Conditions

I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)                                                                  Date

Signature (required)                                                                  Date

To reserve a place, please contact Duke Alumni Travels at (919) 684-2988 or travel@daa.duke.edu; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) by fax to (919) 660-0148, or by mail with a check payable to Arrangements Abroad to: Duke Alumni Travels, Box 90572, Durham, NC 27708-0572. If you mail in your reservation, please give Duke Alumni Travels a call, so that space can be held. Review the U.S. State Department’s Travel Advisory for Cuba at travel.state.gov.