Dear Duke Alumni and Friends,

Duke Alumni Travel has offered rewarding people-to-people exchanges to Cuba since 2012. In October 2018, 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
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6: U.S. DEPARTURE / HAVANA
Arrive independently in Havana, where you will be met upon arrival at the José Martí Airport and transferred to the Saratoga Hotel, located in the heart of the city and overlooking the steps of the Capitolio. Participate in a dialog 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 7: HAVANA
Join an architectural historian for a conversation on Cuban architecture and historic restoration. Continue on a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which 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 (a privately owned restaurant) near the cathedral. In the late afternoon, meet one of Havana’s leading artists over cocktails. Dinner 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 evening visit to Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city’s liveliest multi-disciplinary performing and visual arts space, will be offered.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8: HAVANA / VIÑALES
Embark on a morning 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 we will 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 the hotel.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9: HAVANA
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company, accompanied by the artist and the dancer. In the afternoon, see the city’s most iconic plaza, Plaza de la Catedral, and climb the tower to his study. We 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 Gran Teatro de la Havana, before a walking tour of the city’s historic center. Participate in a dialog on Cuba’s history and future of Cuban agriculture by a former director of the Ministry of Agriculture, followed by lunch. Drive to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Vitoria to learn about "Gender, Race, and Inequalities in Cuba Today" at a presentation of Finca La Yoandra, a unique urban farm, to learn about "Gender, Race, and Inequalities in Cuba Today" at a presentation of Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists. The former deputy director of the museum will guide our group. After dinner, attend a private performance in one of Havana’s famous paladares.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10: HAVANA
Depart Havana independently for the airport or the cruise ship, or join an optional excursion to Vinales, Trinidad, or Bayamo to explore the real Cuba. Afterwards, depart Havana independently for the airport or the cruise ship.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11: HAVANA
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company, accompanied by the artist and the dancer. In the afternoon, see the city’s most iconic plaza, Plaza de la Catedral, and climb the tower to his study. We 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 Gran Teatro de la Havana.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12: HAVANA
Join an architectural historian for a conversation on Cuban architecture and historic restoration. Continue on a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which 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 (a privately owned restaurant) near the cathedral. In the late afternoon, meet one of Havana’s leading artists over cocktails. Dinner 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 evening visit to Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city’s liveliest multi-disciplinary performing and visual arts space, will be offered.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13:
Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9: HAVANA
This morning visit a cigar factory on a guided tour. Then see the National Museum of Fine Arts, where we trace Cuba’s history through the works of its greatest artists. The former deputy director of the museum will guide our group. After lunch, stroll along Calle Obispo, Havana’s main shopping street. Conclude with a visit to a local design shop, and speak to the owners 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 famed music venues including the famous Tropicana. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10: 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 small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to Finca Vigía, 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 Cojímar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea. B,L

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11: HAVANA
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, located near the Plaza de la Revolución. 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. Visit Nostalgicar, a renowned classic car workshop, where some of the city’s finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished. Enjoy the sunset this evening at the landmark Hotel Nacional, where we will enjoy a cocktail on the terrace overlooking the Malecón, Havana’s iconic waterfront. B,L
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12: HAVANA
Learn about “Gender, Race, and Inequalities in Cuba Today” at a presentation 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 winning of independence to the triumph of 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 a for a private concert by an internationally acclaimed choir. Celebrate our week in Havana at a farewell dinner at one of the city’s top paladares.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13: HAVANA / U.S. RETURN
Depart the hotel this morning for the flight 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.

PROGRAM RATE per person $5,499
SINGLE RATE $6,799

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; wine with welcome and farewell 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 porterage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: Airfare (domestic or international); Cuban visa; Cuban departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than noted; personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, etc.; travel insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included. Please contact Arrangements Abroad for the most up-to-date information on travel to Cuba.
Havana: An Insider’s View
October 6–13, 2018

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