

Duke TRAVELS



Cuba: Art, Culture & History In Support of the Cuban People

with Dr. Prasad Kasibhatla,
Professor in the Division of Environmental Sciences and Policy

March 9 – 15, 2025

duke-travels.com

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT Cuba's **emerging private sector** during your stay, savoring meals at privately owned *paladares* (restaurants) and relaxing at a charming, privately owned boutique hotel in the heart of Havana

HEAR the **fascinating stories of Cuba's entrepreneurs**, including the co-founder of a growing lifestyle brand and the proprietor of a privately owned workshop that refurbishes Havana's famed vintage cars

JOIN a curator for a private tour of what *Time* magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places"—Havana's **Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**, a spellbinding, multilevel showcase of contemporary Cuban art

DELIGHT in a private, curator-led tour at the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana**, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks

CELEBRATE at **exclusive receptions**, including a private event and dinner with the President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and the young artists supported by the organization

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the **former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs**

GAIN behind-the-scenes access to **an exciting rehearsal of a leading dance company**

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside for a **behind-the-scenes tour of a tobacco hacienda led by its farmers**

EXPERIENCE Ernest Hemingway's Cuba at **Finca Vigía**, the house where he lived for 20 years and wrote some of his most important work

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. Prasad Kasibhatla is Professor of Environmental Chemistry and Senior Associate Dean of Research and Doctoral Programs at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. His research and teaching focus on atmospheric chemistry, addressing urban air quality, wildfire impacts, global climate change, sea level rise, and other issues. Dr. Kasibhatla's expertise in pollution's effects on human health and crop yields will provide valuable insights during our explorations of Cuba's cities and agricultural areas. Dr. Kasibhatla's interdisciplinary approach combines physical science with real-world applications. After his undergraduate studies at the University of Mumbai, he received his Master's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Kentucky.

Duke TRAVELS

Dear Duke Travelers,

Visiting Cuba can be a transformative and moving experience. We invite you to join Duke in Havana for an inspiring look at contemporary Cuban life that few visitors will witness. An emerging private sector now provides Cubans with opportunities that were once unimaginable.

On this journey in support of the Cuban people, connect with a diverse range of local personalities, including a former ambassador, entrepreneurs, creators, and dancers. Go behind the scenes at museums and galleries, enjoy private receptions, and venture into the homes of local artists. Discover Cuba's complex history, shaped by colonialism, revolution, and the intermingling influences of Indigenous, European, and African cultures.

On a beautiful excursion to Cuba's countryside, meet farmers for a private tour of a *hacienda* producing one of the country's most lucrative and famous crops: tobacco. Transport yourself to the pages of Ernest Hemingway's novels on a visit to his longtime home.

We are delighted to announce that **Dr. Prasad Kasibhatla**, Professor in the Division of Environmental Sciences and Policy at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, will be your Duke Leader on this journey. With his extensive background in atmospheric chemistry and climate science, Dr. Kasibhatla will deepen your understanding of Cuba's environmental, cultural, and economic challenges in an era of global climate change.

We are proud to support Cuba's privately-owned businesses throughout this program, including accommodations at a boutique hotel and most meals at *paladares* (small, private, family-run restaurants).

Call us at (919) 684-2988 for information or to hold space while you decide and to reserve conveniently over the phone. Travel with Duke in March 2025 on this memorable journey into the heart of Cuba.



Forever Duke,

Beth Ray-Schroeder '83
Senior Director, Duke Travels
Duke Alumni Engagement and Development

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

Cuba: Art, Culture & History In Support of the Cuban People

March 9 – 15, 2025

Plaza de la Catedral, Havana



SUNDAY, MARCH 9: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Upon your independent arrival in Havana, you will be warmly greeted at José Martí International Airport and escorted to **Paseo 206**, a privately owned boutique hotel nestled in a tranquil residential neighborhood. In the evening, gather for a delightful welcome dinner at a *paladar*—an intimate, family-run restaurant within the owner's residence.

D

MONDAY, MARCH 10: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Participate in a morning lecture and discussion with a local architectural historian, then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed **Old Havana**, including four of its expansive plazas and the 18th-century **Havana Cathedral** (Catedral de San Cristóbal), one of the oldest cathedrals in the Americas.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, take a private tour of the splendidly renovated **Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso**, home to the Cuban National Ballet. Explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Later, gather for a rooftop dinner at **El Cocinero**, a former cooking oil factory transformed into a chic restaurant and bar with delicious food and world-class daiquiris.

Next door, join a curator for a private tour of what *Time* magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places," the **Fábrica de Arte Cubano** (FAC), a spellbinding, multilevel cultural space that defies categorization. Is it a performance venue? An art gallery? It's both and so much more. You'll have an exclusive look at its spectacular exhibits and installations with an opportunity to purchase artwork. B,L,D

TUESDAY, MARCH 11: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

As a marked change of pace from Havana, set forth on a morning ride aboard a motor coach through the countryside, arriving in the western province of **Pinar del Río**, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas*. Admire the unique topography and natural beauty of the Viñales Valley. The most striking sights are the region's UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides.

Meet with a local farmer for a **private tour of a tobacco hacienda** and enjoy an engaging private demonstration of the drying and rolling processes. Then transfer to lunch at a privately owned organic farm with a lovely scenic view.

Before returning to Havana, visit **the studio of a local painter** who has charted the history of his community through his work. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own. Your tour director or local guide can share recommendations for privately owned restaurants near the hotel. B,L

Viñales Valley, Pinar del Río



Finca Vigía, San Francisco de Paula, photo by Jay Hunt



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12: HAVANA

This morning, an independent curator will guide you on a private tour of Cuba's largest museum, the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana** (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana). Learn the history behind the complex, colorful works of the country's leading modern and contemporary artists, including Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol; 20th-century painter Amelia Peláez, celebrated for her avant-garde canvases; and the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wifredo Lam, whose abstract, geometrical imagery was influenced by Picasso.

After lunch, walk down **Calle Obispo**, Havana's main shopping street, and explore **Dador**, a privately owned fashion boutique. Speak to one of the owners about the challenges and advantages of operating a small private business in Cuba.

In the early evening, visit the **Ludwig Foundation of Cuba**, one of the few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on the organization's work helping emerging Cuban artists. Make your way to the penthouse terrace for a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. Enjoy your meal in the company of young artists supported by the Foundation, hearing about their lives in Cuba as well as their inspirations and aspirations, with opportunities to purchase their artwork.

This evening, you may opt to attend a performance at one of Havana's famed music venues, such as the lively, legendary Tropicana. B,L,R,D

THURSDAY, MARCH 13: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA

Head outside the capital to the small, hilltop village of **San Francisco de Paula**. Here, take an inside look at Ernest Hemingway's residence for two decades, **Finca Vigía** (Lookout Farm). Initially rented for Hemingway's partner Martha Gellhorn in 1939, Finca Vigía soon became the writer's property after their relationship ended.

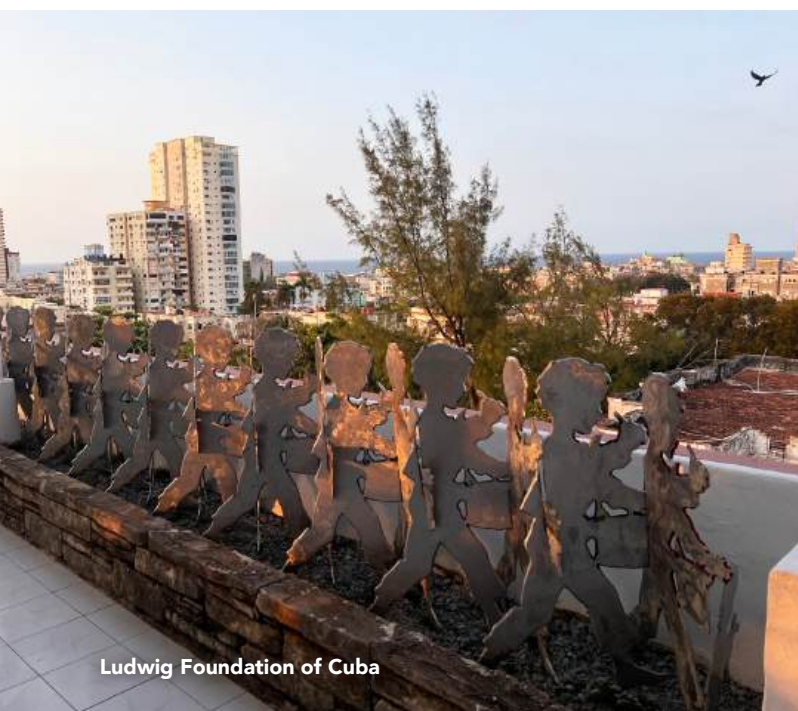
Hemingway lived at the seaside villa with his last wife Mary, who lovingly tended to the home. He wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea* in its breezy rooms and shady porticos. Finca Vigía exudes an airy timelessness, and you will view the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces. Admire their pastel walls, dark wood furnishings, and high ceilings, all beautifully preserved. While exploring the property, see *Pilar*, Hemingway's famous, 38-foot fishing boat.

Savor farm-to-table dining during **lunch at a privately owned organic farm**. This afternoon, return to Havana and **join a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** for an eye-opening lecture and discussion about the island's current realities and potential future. Is Cuba truly on the brink of a major transformation? In the early evening, attend a private after-hours tour and reception at the **Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana**, followed by dinner at a local *paladar*. B,L,R,D

FRIDAY, MARCH 14: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**. Meet the internationally acclaimed choreographer who founded the company and her troupe featuring Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. After their performance, you will have an opportunity to chat with the performers.

Afterwards, step into the 122-acre **Colón Cemetery**, which is more than simply a sprawling burial ground. This remarkable green space is often referred to as an open-air museum or "Cuba's largest sculpture park." With your local guide, learn the stories of Cuba's past through the elaborate sculptures, monuments, and mausoleums. You'll be struck by the artistry of the memorials, with over 500 major mausoleums, chapels, and family vaults showcasing a variety of architectural styles, from Classical Revival to Art Deco.



Ludwig Foundation of Cuba



Following lunch on your own, visit a family-owned private classic car workshop, **Nostalgicar**. At this garage where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished, the proprietor will talk about how he started the business and the challenges of acquiring parts. Enjoy time to take photos of these sparkling, colorful 1950s automobiles.

Next, you'll be transported to Havana's glamorous, pre-Revolution era at the renowned **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**, beautifully perched along the sea. This 1930 masterpiece is the work of McKim, Mead & White—the acclaimed New York architecture firm who designed the lavish Newport mansion, Rosecliff, Columbia University's main campus, and many other important buildings. Admire how the Hotel Nacional blends disparate styles, including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish, and Art Deco.

Stop in the hotel's storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many celebrity guests over the years, including Buster Keaton, Rita Hayworth, Nat King Cole, Sir Winston Churchill, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Gabriel García Márquez. Enjoy a *mojito* on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor and perhaps watch a musical performance. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's exceptional *paladares*. B,D

SATURDAY, MARCH 15: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and take an arranged transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

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

ACCOMMODATIONS

PASEO 206

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection, this boutique hotel is a romantic jewel nestled among the tree-lined streets of Vedado, the economic and cultural heart of La Havana. This family home dating back to 1933 has undergone a careful restoration that has maintained the soul of the structure, preserving the original architectural elements. The cozy and comfortable rooms and suites all offer free Wi-Fi, 24-hour room service, Hermès bathroom amenities, Marshall speakers, and hypoallergenic king-sized beds with luxurious Frette linens.



PROGRAM RATES

\$5,499 per person, double rate in Cozy Room
\$6,799 single rate in Cozy Room

\$6,199 per person, double rate in Junior Room
\$7,699 single rate in Junior Room

\$7,499 per person, double rate in Master Suite
\$10,499 single rate in Master Suite

\$7,799 per person, double rate in Rooftop Suite
\$10,999 single rate in Rooftop Suite

RATES INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; 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 what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



DUKE TRAVELS
CUBA: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY - MARCH 9 - 15, 2025
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please contact Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988 or duketravels@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 mail with a check payable to *Arrangements Abroad* to: Duke Travels, Box 90572, Durham, NC 27708-0572. If you mail in your reservation, please give Duke Travels a call, so that space can be held.

 Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print. Class/Parent Year

Class/Parent Year

 Address

 City State Zip

 Telephone (home) (business)

 Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Room category Cozy Room Junior Room Master Suite Rooftop Suite

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

 Name on credit card

 Credit card number

 3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We will be traveling to Cuba and agree to fully participate in this program under the general license category of travel "In Support of the Cuban People." I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

 Signature (required) Date

 Signature (required) Date