EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL TOURS IN CUBA

Havana and Pinar del Rio
August 6 - 12, 2017
Join the Auburn University Cuba Delegation
Sunday, August 6 to Saturday, August 12, 2017

Price per person $ 3,250.00-Double Occupancy

Land portion only
($600 Single Occupancy Supplement)

Enrollment limited to 20 delegates. Register Now (deadline by July 6, 2017)

Having heard so much about Cuba, today many travelers want to experience the country. That's why you should join the next Auburn University Outreach delegation. You will experience various facets of Cuban life and culture all in one trip!

Go now and ride in a classic car like the 1956 Chevy, refurbished with a 1980s Russian engine before the Uber arrives. See the decaying colonial architecture before the inevitable facelifts and restoration. In between your interactions with the people of Cuba and educational sessions, visit various universities, community centers, landmarks and experience a tour of an authentic cigar factory - basically taking in “the real Cuba”.

And yes, things are changing fast but don’t worry; there is still time for you. Experience the countryside, where you can see people selling plantains and pineapples at roadside stands, and burros pulling carts along the road. As they say, ‘this is Cuba.’ You should join us on the next Auburn University Outreach delegation to Cuba from Sunday, August 6 through Saturday, August 12. The time is now while the country is still frozen in time, still a very unique place in the world.

Cultural Explorations people-to-people license is issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s, Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC). Pursuant to section 31 C.F.R. § 515.565(b (2) of the Cuban Asset Control Regulations, this license allows U.S. Citizens who book a package.
For airline reservations, you can either send your request by email to:

*Evangelina Irigoyen*, Travel Manager at [evangelina@cultural-explorations.com](mailto:evangelina@cultural-explorations.com)

Or

Book your flights on your own with any commercial airline of your choice that operates flights to Havana (American Airlines, Delta, Alaska Air, JetBlue etc.).

Please note:

All passengers traveling to Cuba from the United States of America are required by law to fill out a justification travel form for the Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”), part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Therefore, in order to complete your own reservation you will be asked to select one of the following general licenses:

1. Family visits
2. Official business of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and certain intergovernmental organizations
3. Journalistic activity
4. Professional research and professional meetings
5. **Educational activities** — option (b)
6. Religious activities
7. Public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions, and exhibitions
8. Support for the Cuban people
9. Humanitarian projects
10. Activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes
11. Exportation, importation, or transmission of information or information materials
12. Certain export transactions that may be considered for authorization under existing regulations and guidelines.

You must select the option under *Educational activities*:

- **515.565 (b) EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES – People to People**

**Important**: Please reserve your return airline flight for **AFTER 2:30 pm** on the day of departure, August 12, in order to arrive with enough time to the Airport in Havana.
Auburn University Cuba - Agenda at a Glance
Sunday, August 6 to Saturday, August 12, 2017

Day 1 – Sunday, August 6, 2017 (D provided)

11:31 am - Depart Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
(Suggested flight: Delta #639)

1:35 pm - Arrive to José Martí International Airport (Terminal 3)

2:00 pm – Panoramic City Bus Excursion (short ride)

3:00 pm – Arrive and check-in to the Hotel Nacional de Cuba and Exchange Your Currency
The Hotel Nacional is considered a symbol of history, culture and Cuban identity. Declared as a National Monument and it was inscribed in the World Memory Register. The guns that made up the old Santa Clara Battery are on exhibition at the garden, where they were declared part of the World Heritage Site. With its privileged location in the middle of Vedado, the center of Havana, it stands on a hill just a few meters from the sea, and offers a great view of the Havana Harbor, the seawall and the city.

7:00 pm – Depart from Lobby for Dinner

7:30 pm - Welcome Dinner at HM7
In a comfortable and elegant atmosphere HM7 combines cuisine with the more unusual dishes of international cuisine. The service, decor, atmosphere, food and drinks are carefully chosen in this exclusive site on Paseo Street. With a privileged view of the city and the sea you have the opportunity to enjoy the sunset, just splendid that height from Habana Mía 7 is located.

Day 2- Monday, August 7, 2017 (B, L & D, provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel
Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel’s restaurants.
9:30 am- Meet at Central Park for Architectural Walking Tour in Old Havana
Learn about the latest trends in Architecture and Construction in La Havana with renowned Architect, Daniel de la Regata.
You will be escorted for a stroll in the streets of Havana, taking in its grand architecture, rich history and lively streets. Find yourself in Plaza de Armas, the social hub of the historic city for more than five centuries. Cafes and restaurants line the streets, interrupted by shady gardens ideal for escaping the heat. Stop into the legendary La Bodeguita del Medio to sip a cool drink like Hemmingway did many times before. The morning walk will continue down the famous Parque central where guests will soak in the ambiance and live music of Old Havana.

• **Visit Café el Escorial**
  In a finely restored colonial mansion with view to one of the Havana Vieja plazas. You will enjoy a selection of different coffees, including the house Daiquiri Coffee.

• **The Chocolate Museum**
  More than a Museum it is a small chocolate factory; that visitors can watch chocolate made at the back of the premises and enjoy the rich, fresh chocolate.

• **Centro Wilfredo LAM**
  This little museum and gallery is dedicated to the memory of Cuba’s most treasured modern artist. Displayed with a sizable collection of Lam’s lithographs and acrylic works, as well as art and sculpture from the artist’s personal collection. (Snack)

12:30 pm- Lunch at Paladar, San Cristobal
Find an exclusive atmosphere inside this splendid edifice from the early 20th century. La Guarida is considered by many to be one of the best paladars in all of Cuba

2:00 pm - Panoramic City Bus Excursion and Stop at the Revolution Square (short ride)
The Revolution Square is a public square in the city of Havana, one of the largest in the world with 72,000 square meters. The Monument to Jose Marti sculpted by Juan Jose Sicre and facing each other, have the Interior Ministry with the famous image of Che Guevara taken by photographer Korda who made a sculptural relief work of Enrique Avila. In 2009 the work (the same artist and technical specifications) opened to Camilo Cienfuegos, another great hero of the Cuban Revolution.

3:00 PM – Depart Hotel for Hemingway Museum – Finca Vigia
Take a trip back in time and walk in the shoes of one of the world’s greatest writers. **Visit Finca Vigia**, the former residence of the American writer, where many of his most famous literary works were written.

4:00 pm - Return to the Hotel
Day 3 - Tuesday, August 8, 2017 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel
Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel’s restaurants.

9:30 am – Depart from Hotel

10:00 am - Revolution Museum
A museum located in the Old Havana section of Cuba. The museum is housed in what was the Presidential Palace of all Cuban presidents from Mario García Menocal to Fulgencio Batista. It became the Museum of the Revolution during the years following the Cuban revolution.

1:00 pm – Lunch at Café Laurent Paladar
You will sense the echoes of the glamorous Havana of the 50’s in this updated art deco penthouse, with panoramic views from the El Vedado neighborhood to the sea. Just steps from the iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba and the Hotel Capri, Café Laurent blends and harmonizes cosmopolitan cuisine with contemporary Cuban fare. Café Laurent puts Havana at your feet.

2:00 pm – Visit the Callejon de Hamel Art Project
Visit Callejon de Hamel, a central part of Afro-Cuban gatherings. The tour will be led by the Cuban painter, sculptor and muralist Salvador Gonzalez, a man whose Afro-Cuban expression is known worldwide. Guests will also be able to view a dancing show from the local culture.

5:00 pm – Return to Hotel
Refresh and unwind before dinner.

6:30 pm – Depart for Dinner via a Classic Car Experience

7:00 pm – Dinner at VIP Havana
Enjoy dinner at one of the newest paladars in Havana that has become known for its excellent food and service.

Day 4 - Wednesday, August 9, 2017 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel
Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel’s restaurants.
9:00 am - 10:00 am – Meeting at Baracoa Room (National Hotel) – Speaker TBD
Visit Palacio de la Artesania
Strategically located on Cuba Street between Cuarteles and Peña Pobre, it looks out onto the bay. Noteworthy in this 18-century mansion is the 32 meter-long continuous balcony on its façade, one of the longest built in Cuba.
At this complex you can experience an interesting pairing among Cuban cigars, coffee, and rum, at the same time that you enjoy live Cuban music and art.

12:30 pm – Lunch at La Moraleja
Nestled in the courtyard of a beautiful house of Vedado Style 40s, which has a special magnetism that can be seen from its broad, fresh entrance, its open air room as well as its fully air conditioning room; with unique cuisine and excellent service.

2:00 pm – Tour of Havana University
La Universidad de la Havana, is a university located in the Vedado district of Havana. Founded in January, 1728, the University of Havana is the oldest University and one of the first to be founded in the Americas. Originally a religious institution, today the university has 15 faculties (colleges) at its Havana campus and distance learning centers throughout Cuba.

3:30 pm – Return to Hotel

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm – Dinner on your own

Optional- Late Evening - The Bar Floridita
Opened in the early 19th century and still preserving much of the atmosphere of the 1940s and 1950s, with the red coats of the bartenders matching the regency style decoration that dates from the 1959. The Nobel-prize winning American writer, Ernest Hemingway frequented this favorite bar. The establishment today contains many noticeable memorabilia of the author, and a life- size bronze statue at the end of the bar, sculpted by the Cuban artist, Jose Villa Soberon.

Day 5-Thursday, August 10, 2017 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel
Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel’s restaurants.

8:30 am - 10:00 am – Meeting at Baracoa Room at the National Hotel -Speaker TBD

10:00 am – Depart from Hotel to Havana Mediterraneo Farm-to-Table Excursion
Visit the farm where the restaurant’s vegetables are grown and meats are raised. Our travelers will be able to hand pick produce which will be brought back to the restaurant
for luncheon preparation. When available, guests can horseback ride through the farm and enjoy the scenery.

12:00 pm - Lunch at Havana Mediterraneo
"Experience one of Cuba's best and most popular restaurants, Mediterraneo Havana. The food is locally sourced at their own farm and incredibly fresh. Mediterraneo Havana is locally and internationally known for its high-quality food, service and atmosphere. Enjoy gourmet pizza, locally caught seafood, and the world-famous pineapple cheesecake. Guests may dine indoors and watch the chef prepare your meal, or enjoy their entree outdoors on the upstairs terrace or lower patio.

2:30 pm- Visit to the National Museum of Fine Arts
There are now two impressive buildings belonging to the Museum, one dedicated to Cuban Arts in the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts) and one dedicated to the Universal Arts, in the Palacio del Centro Asturiano (Palace of the Asturian Center). The Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts) is dedicated exclusively to housing Cuba Art collections. Spanning the 17th and 19th centuries and has rooms devoted to landscape, religious subjects and the Costumbrismo narrative scenes of Cuban life. Gallery devoted to the 1970s is marked by a preponderance of Hyperrealism and the latest generation of Cuban artists whose works all reflect the strong symbolic imagery that has been prevalent in recent decades like René Portocarrero and Wifredo Lam. A modernist sculpture by noted Cuban artist, Rita Lonja stands outside the main entrance.

3:30 pm Return to the Hotel
Refresh and unwind before dinner

7:00 pm – Dinner at Rio Mar
Rio Mar has a whole terrace overlooking where the Rio Almendares flows into the sea. The restaurant’s menu has been very well balanced and presents dishes from the Cuban and International cuisine, with specialty in seafood.

Day 6 –Friday, August 11, 2017 (B, L, D)

7:00 am - Breakfast at your leisure at Hotel

8:00 am – Depart hotel for Full Day Excursion to Pinar de Rio and Viñales
Pinar del Río is one of the provinces of Cuba at the western end of the island. See one of Cuba’s three main mountain ranges, the Cordillera de Guaniguanico, divided into the easterly Sierra del Rosario and the westerly Sierra de los Órganos.
Visit to Viñales National Park
Home to the town of Viñales and surrounding countryside, the Viñales National Park encompasses a beautiful, mogote-studded valley in western Cuba. It’s different from other national parks in that it contains population centers, but it’s still undeniably one of the most scenic places in all of Cuba. **Farmers tend plots of corn and tobacco** in the fields that surround the town of Viñales. This is actually one of the best places in the country to grow tobacco, which will come as no surprise after you see the region’s deep red soil. Because the valley is a national park, the tobacco that’s grown here is organic—locals claim it’s the best in Cuba. Travelers can visit tobacco farms to learn more about the growing, harvesting, and drying process.

10:00 am - Trekking: Coco Solo & Palmarito Mogotes
This walk starts on a spur road just before La Ermita hotel and progresses for 8 km taking in the Valle del Silencio, the Coco Solo and Palmarito mogotes and the Mural de la Prehistoria. There are good views and ample opportunities to discover the local flora and fauna including a visit to a tobacco finca.

**Visit to a working tobacco farm home and its tobacco plantation**
Here you can take a look inside the typical tobacco drying houses, drink an authentic Cuban coffee and watch how the farmers roll the home made cigars, famous for growing the best black tobacco in the world.

1:30 pm – Lunch at Agro-ecologic farm “El Paraiso”

3:30 pm- Visit to Cueva del Indio
The Cueva del Indio is one of 17 reported caves in which you can sail over a small underground river for about 400 meters. It was here that the Guanajatabey Indians built their primitive homes in caves hollowed out of the limestone mogotes, where relics of this nomadic people have been found along with fossils of Pleistocene mammals embedded in the rock. Deep inside the caves, albino fish swim and butterfly bats flit.

5:00 pm - Check-in at La Ermita Hotel
Located in Pinar del Río, Cuba’s most western province, Hotel La Ermita is famous for its views of Viñales Valley and its premier location close to area attractions.

7:00 pm – Dinner at a Local Paladar
Day 7 – Saturday, August 12, 2017 (B provided)

8:00 am - 8:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel

*Before 9:30am - Checkout of Hotel Room

10:00 am – Transfer to José Martí International Airport

12:30 pm – Check in at airport

2:35 pm – Return Flight to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
(Suggested Flight: Delta – flight #648)
Tipping Suggestion

**Bathroom Attendants:** Use small coins (10 centavos, 25 centavos, etc.)

**Bell Hops:** $1 CUC per bag

**Housekeeping:** $1 CUC per day - we recommend tipping on a daily basis

**Musicians:** $1 CUC, if you have enjoyed the performance

**Cuban Bus Driver:** $20 CUC per person

**Cuban Guide:** $30 per person - depending on your satisfaction

**Taxi Driver:** 10% of fare

**Trip Includes**
- 5 night accommodations in Havana/1 night accommodations in Pinar del Rio
- Expert Cuban Guide to highlight all facts
- Cultural Explorations Travel Manager, that will escort the group the entire time
- All tours and entry fees (as listed in the program)
- Daily Breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as identified within program and pre-selected by CE team (including tips)
- Two (2) beverages, per meal
- Two (2) bottles of water, per day
- Private driver/Air conditioned transportation while in Cuba

**Trip Excludes**
- Additional beverages and snacks
- Round Trip Airfare- ATL/HAV/ATL
- Cuban Visa
- Medical Insurance while in Cuba (excluding pre-existing conditions)
- Photography fees at venue which usually an additional $5 CUC
- Tips to Cuban guide and driver
- Miscellaneous tips (entertainment, bathroom attendants, etc.) $1-$2 CUC per person/per day

*All program tours are subject to change*

*All rooms are subject to change*