



CULTURAL
EXPLORATIONS
CUBA



**Auburn University Outreach Educational and Cultural
Delegation to Cuba**
Sunday, August 6th – Saturday, August 12th 2017
Enrollment limited to 20 delegates.
Register now: [Register Here](#)





Join the Auburn University Cuba Delegation Sunday to Saturday – August 6 to 12, 2017

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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 on one trip!

Go now and ride in a classic car like the 1956 Chevy, refurbished with a 1980s Russian engine before 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, and 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 go 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.



Auburn University Cuba Agenda at a Glance Sunday to Saturday – August 6 to 12, 2017

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

11:31AM- Depart Atlanta Airport (Suggested flight on Delta # 639)

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

2:00 – Short Panoramic City Bus Excursion

3:00 PM - Check-in at Hotel Nacional and Exchange Your Currency

The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is considered a symbol of history, culture and Cuban identity. The guns that made up the old Santa Clara Battery are on exhibition at the garden and were declared part of the World Heritage Site. The Hotel Nacional de Cuba was declared a National Monument and it was inscribed in the World Memory Register. 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 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 –We will meet at Central Park for an Architectural Walking Tour in Old Havana with renowned Architect Daniel de la Regata.

Learn about the latest trends in Architecture and Construction in La Havana.

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 Parqie 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 a view of 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 is a small chocolate factory, 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. The museum houses a sizable collection of Lam's lithographs and acrylic works, as well as works of 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 – Short Panoramic City Bus Excursion and Stop at the Revolution Square

The Revolution Square is a public square in the city of Havana, one of the largest in the world with 72 thousand square meters. In it we find 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 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 Vigía and Cojímar:

Take a trip back in time and walk in the shoes of one of the world's greatest writers. Finca Vigía is the former residence of the American writer, where many of his most famous literary works were written.



4:00 pm -Return to the hotel.

7:30 pm- Dinner at La Barraca – Hotel Nacional

9:00 pm- Buena Vista Social Club Show

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 Havana, 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 Classic Car

7:00 pm – Dinner at VIP Havana

Enjoy dinner at VIP Havana, 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 – Speaker TBD (National Hotel)

11:00 am - 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, has a special magnetism that can be seen from its broad, fresh entrance, its open air room as well as its fully air conditioning one, its unique cuisine and excellent services.

2:00 pm – Tour of Havana University

La Universidad de la Havana, is a university located in the Vedado district of Havana, Cuba. Founded on January 5, 1728, the University of Havana is oldest University in Cuba, and one of the first to be founded in 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 – 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 the bar and made it his favorite. 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-Speaker TBD (National Hotel)

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 DMI 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 Mediterraneo's 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 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. The most notable works are those of 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 sea food.

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

Breakfast at your leisure at Hotel

8:00 am – Depart hotel for Full Day's excursion to Pinar de Rio Province/Viñales

Pinar del Río is one of the provinces of Cuba. It is at the western end of the island of Cuba. The Pinar del Río province is Cuba's westernmost province and contains 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 8km 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 the Indio is a cave in which you can sail of 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



Checkout of Hotel Room by **9:30 am**

10:00 am – Transfer to José Martí International Airport

12:30 pm – Check in

2:35 pm – Return Flight to Atlanta International Airport (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 satisfactions

Taxi Driver: 10% of fare

Trip Includes

- 5 night accommodation in Havana/1 night accommodation in Pinar del Rio
- Expert Cuban Guide
- Cultural Explorations Travel Manager that will escort the group the entire time while in Cuba.
- All tours and entry fees (as listed in the program)
- Daily Breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as identified within program and preselected by Cultural Explorations (including tips)
- Two (2) beverages per meal
- Two (2) bottles of water per day
- Private driver/Air conditioned transportation while in Cuba
- Cuban Visa

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