



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



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

January 11 – 17, 2025



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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

GAIN exclusive access to a private rehearsal at Cuba's leading contemporary dance company, watching as talented performers perfect their craft

CELEBRATE and mingle with fellow travelers at exclusive receptions, including a cocktail reception and dinner in the company of the President of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba

PARTICIPATE in an after-hours tour and reception at the dazzling Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana, with its collection of precious Cuban ceramics housed in an 18th-century heritage building

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will share candid, profound insights on Cuban politics

TAKE a private tour of Havana's splendidly renovated Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the ornately designed, Neo-Baroque-style home to the Cuban National Ballet Company

ENJOY behind-the-scenes tours with workers at privately owned companies, including a local workshop for Havana's classic cars

TRAVEL to the picturesque Cuban countryside and join farmers for a behind-the-scenes tour of their beautiful tobacco *hacienda*

VENTURE into the Viñales Valley, dotted with striking karst formations known as *mogotes*, and visit organic farms that demonstrate Cuba's commitment to sustainable environmental practices

DELVE into the life of Ernest Hemingway at Finca Vigía, the house where he lived for 20 years, with a glimpse of his famous fishing boat *Pilar*



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Just 90 miles from the U.S. yet seemingly a world away, Cuba will inspire you with its soul-stirring mix of art, architecture, dance, music, history, and cuisine. In January 2025, you're invited to join fellow alumni on a unique cultural journey based in Havana. With local guides at your side, you'll have a rare glimpse into contemporary Cuban life that few visitors see.

Notably, you will experience Cuba through the eyes of its warm and welcoming citizens. During lively meals and elegant private receptions, connect with the country's most fascinating artists, experts, scholars, and cultural leaders, including a former ambassador and Deputy Foreign Minister. Artists will open their homes to you for intimate looks at their creations. Meet tradespeople fueling Cuba's economic renaissance, including skilled workers meticulously restoring Havana's famous vintage cars.

Uncover the secrets of the city's magnificent cathedrals and stately plazas with an architectural historian. On curator-led tours of Havana's most acclaimed museums, discover innovative masterpieces from artists like Raúl Martínez, often referred to as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol. You will also meet the founder and choreographer of Cuba's leading contemporary dance company and have insider access to a private rehearsal.

Venture into the Cuban countryside, where farmers will guide you on a private tour of a lush *hacienda* producing Cuba's most cherished crop: tobacco. Experience Ernest Hemingway's Cuba, with visits to his longtime home and the village where *The Old Man and the Sea* was set.

Along the way, sample the country's delicious cuisine at private, family-owned *paladares*, restaurants based in the proprietors' homes. Rest comfortably at a charming, privately owned boutique hotel in the heart of Havana. Reserve your spot today and share this brochure with loved ones who might be interested in traveling with you.

To secure your place, please contact our tour operator Arrangements Abroad by phone at 212-514-8921 or by email at trips@arrangementsabroad.com.

We hope you savor this exclusive opportunity to experience Cuba, where you'll discover the hospitality, creativity, and resilience of its people.



Sincerely,

Kelly McConnico

Kelly Meachum McConnico ('00)
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Engagement
Wake Forest University
Office of Alumni Engagement

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Fábrica de Arte Cubano, Havana, photo by Robin Thom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Upon your independent arrival in Havana, you will be greeted at the José Martí International Airport and transferred to La Reserva Vedado, a boutique hotel and our home for six nights. This evening, gather for our welcome dinner at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant in the proprietor's home largely staffed by family members. D

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Join a local architectural historian for a lecture on the history of the city's remarkably well-preserved buildings. Then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed Old Havana and four of its expansive plazas: Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco, and Plaza de la Catedral. Each plaza features distinctive architecture, including centuries-old cathedrals and colorful colonial houses adorned with arcades and balconies.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, take a private tour inside the splendidly renovated, Neo-Baroque Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the incredibly ornate home of the Cuban National Ballet. Then explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner is at El Cocinero, followed by an evening of entertainment next door at Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city's liveliest multidisciplinary performing and visual arts space. B,L,D

MONDAY, JANUARY 13: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

Take a morning drive through the countryside to the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas*. Admire 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. Meet with farmers for a private tour of their tobacco *hacienda* to learn about the drying and rolling processes, followed by lunch at a privately owned organic farm. 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. B,L

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14: HAVANA

Take an inside look at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum, with a private morning tour of its Cuban art collection at the Palacio de Bellas Artes. In the company of an independent curator, trace Cuba's history, from the 17th century to the present, through the works of its greatest artists. Highlights include the modern paintings of Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol, as well as the avant-garde canvases of 20th-century painter Amelia Peláez, and works by the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam, who was influenced by Picasso.

Viñales Valley, Pinar del Río





After lunch, walk down Calle Obispo, Havana's main shopping street; explore a local design shop; and speak to the owners about small business practices in Cuba. In the early evening, drive to The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, one of only a few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include local Cuban artists. This evening, you may opt to attend a performance at one of Havana's famed music venues, including the legendary Tropicana. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / COJÍMAR / HAVANA

Head outside of 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* among its breezy rooms and shady porticos. With its pastel walls, dark wood furnishings, and high ceilings, Finca Vigía exudes an airy timelessness. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces; see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar*; and climb the tower to his study.

Our excursion concludes with a brief visit to the village of Cojímar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. After lunch, return to Havana and gather for a lecture on the island's current realities by a former ambassador who was once Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the early evening, attend a private after-hours tour and reception at the Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana, housed in the 18th-century Casa Aguilera, followed by dinner at a local *paladar*. B,L,R,D



THURSDAY, JANUARY 16: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, visit the Colón Cemetery with a local guide. With its ornate tombstones commemorating Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Following lunch on your own, visit a private classic car workshop, Nostalgicar, where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished.

Next, explore the renowned Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Designed by the acclaimed New York firm McKim, Mead & White, this 1930 architectural masterpiece features a medley of styles, including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish, and Art Deco. Stop in its storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many famous guests, 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 before dinner. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's excellent *paladares*. B,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home. B

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

Hotel Nacional de Cuba, Havana



ACCOMMODATIONS

LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA

Set in a lovingly restored historic house, this boutique hotel is your gateway to an authentic Cuban experience. Sip on a classic *mojito* or indulge in delicious Cuban cuisine at the bar and restaurant, all while enjoying the convenience of free Wi-Fi.



Outdoor lounge, La Reserva Vedado



Breakfast, La Reserva Vedado



Old Havana, Havana

PROGRAM RATES

\$4,999 per person, double rate in Standard Room

\$6,299 single rate in Standard Room

\$5,899 per person, double rate in Junior Suite

\$8,299 single rate in Junior Suite

\$6,099 per person, double rate in Deluxe Suite

\$8,599 single rate in Deluxe 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; beer and 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 portorage 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 noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

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

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