

# V M F A

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## THE ART & ARCHITECTURE OF CUBA Havana, Matanzas & Varadero

January 23 to 31, 2015





# VMFA

## VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear Friends,

Cuba, though only 90 miles from the United States, remains a mystery to most Americans. Now, by popular request, VMFA members are once again invited to discover this enigmatic island.

Next January, spend a week in this captivating Caribbean nation to explore The Art & Architecture of Cuba. On a special people-to-people program, we will connect with locals from all walks of life—from diplomats and museum directors to students, printmakers, dancers, and musicians.

Begin in Havana, where we stay at the graceful Hotel Saratoga, in the heart of Old Havana. Meet leading artists on visits to their studios and homes and at a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. Take a curator-led tour of the Cuban art collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts, and admire the beautiful craftsmanship on display at the Ceramics Museum on an after-hours visit. See Ernest Hemingway's evocative country retreat, *Finca La Vigía*, in the hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula and discover the fishing village of Jaimanitas, where artist José Fuster has decorated more than 80 houses with ornate murals and domes. You may also wish to dine in a *paladar*—a privately owned restaurant often located in the owner's home.

Travel beyond Havana to explore the rich cultural heritage of Matanzas, known as the “Athens of Cuba,” where highlights include a private performance in a hilltop chapel and visits to a unique publisher of handmade books and the 19th-century Pharmacy Museum. Enjoy lunch at Xanadu, the former Dupont mansion built in the 1930s. In Cárdenas, meet with local artists in their studios before spending the night in nearby Varadero.

Specially arranged performances of music and dance will enhance our visit, as will lectures on Cuban architecture and politics.

We hope you will join us on this immersion in the many celebrated arts of Cuba.

With kind regards,



Adele “Hutch” Livingston  
Coordinator of Member Travel



*Coco taxis in Havana*

# THE ART & ARCHITECTURE OF CUBA

## Havana, Matanzas & Varadero

January 23 to 31, 2015



*Museo de la Revolución (left), street entertainers (center), and Colón Cemetery (right), Havana*

January 23  
Friday

### MIAMI / HAVANA

Arrive independently at the Miami International Airport Hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and information regarding the flight to Havana.

January 24  
Saturday

### MIAMI / HAVANA

Meet in the hotel lobby in the early morning and proceed to the departure area for a regularly scheduled chartered flight to Havana. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, transfer to the Hotel Saratoga for lunch and check in. In the early evening, attend an introductory lecture on Cuba's current social and political realities by a former ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs. Our welcome dinner is at a lively local restaurant.

January 25  
Sunday

### HAVANA

Join an architectural historian for a morning lecture, followed by a walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. See photography works exhibited at the Fototeca de Cuba before lunch near the cathedral. Afternoon visits are arranged in the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. The evening is at leisure. You may wish to dine at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant often located in the owner's home.

January 26  
Monday

### HAVANA

After a morning lecture, tour Havana's modern and art deco architecture, including 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. Continue with a visit to Taller Grafico, the print workshop located at Plaza de la Catedral. Founded in 1962 by mural artist Orlando Suárez with the support of Che Guevara, this studio/workshop is one of the most important graphic arts establishments today, preserving the old printmaking techniques. Lunch is at leisure. In the afternoon, visit the Wilfredo Lam Center and then walk to the Ceramics Museum for a private after-hours tour, reception, and classical guitar presentation. Dinner will be in a nearby restaurant.



January 27  
Tuesday

## HAVANA

Today begins with a curatorial tour focusing on the Cuban art collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then visit the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Cuba's leading art school, where a guided visit is planned. There will also be a chance to meet with professors and students and view their artwork. Lunch is at artist Jose Fuster's home and studio in the village of Jaimanitas where he has decorated more than 80 houses with ornate murals and domes. Among the creations are a chess park with giant boards and tables, and an Artists' Wall composed of tiles signed and donated by other Cuban artists. On the way back to the hotel, stop at the Jewish Community Center in the Vedado neighborhood, to meet with their representatives. This 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.

January 28  
Wednesday

## HAVANA / MATANZAS / CARDENAS / VARADERO

Depart for Matanzas, stopping en route at the Bacunayagua Bridge, the highest in Cuba, with panoramic views of the nearby valley. Upon arrival in Matanzas, visit Ediciones Vigía, where handmade books are created. Continue to Cárdenas to meet local artists and visit their studios. A late lunch is arranged at Xanadu, the beautifully restored former mansion built by the French American millionaire Irénée Dupont de Nemours in 1930. Overnight accommodations and dinner are at the Melia Paradisus in Varadero.

January 29  
Thursday

## VARADERO / MATANZAS / HAVANA

This morning meet local ceramists at their workshop, Taller de Cerámica. After lunch at the hotel, return to Matanzas for a private concert at the Ermita de Monserrate hilltop chapel. There will be time to meet the performers following the concert. Continue downtown to the main square, Parque de la Libertad, surrounded by many historical buildings, and visit the perfectly preserved, 19th-century Pharmacy Museum. Meet a reknown local sculptor in his studio before returning to Havana for an evening at leisure.

January 30  
Friday

## HAVANA

Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, located adjacent to the Plaza de la Revolución. Then drive to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula to visit Finca La Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. We will view the rooms through open windows and see his fishing boat, the *Pilar*. Lunch is at leisure. In the late afternoon meet artist Damian Aquiles at his home and studio. Continue to the 18th-century Iglesia de Paula to attend a private performance with an opportunity to talk to the musicians, followed by our farewell dinner.

January 31  
Saturday

## HAVANA / MIAMI

After breakfast depart for the airport and the flight to Miami, arriving in the early afternoon.



*Pharmacy Museum in Matanzas (left), Havana (center), and Finca La Vigía (right)*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

### PROGRAM RATE \$5,495 per person, double occupancy SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$595

- Overnight accommodation, double occupancy at the Miami International Airport Hotel (breakfast not included)
- Seven nights hotel accommodation in Cuba, as per itinerary
- Round-trip airfare via regularly scheduled chartered flights: Miami / Havana / Miami
- Buffet breakfast daily, five lunches, and five dinners. Bottled water, local beer, soft drinks and coffee/tea with all meals. Wine with welcome and farewell dinners
- Transportation via private motorcoach as per itinerary, including services of bilingual national guide
- Airport / hotel group transfers
- Taxes, service and portorage; gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Cuban visa fee (excluding Cuban-born travelers), Cuban Departure tax and limited Cuban health insurance policy (for travelers under age 80)
- Pre-departure material, including reading list

**Not Included in Rate** Airfare between home city and Miami; passport fees; beverages other than as indicated above; personal items and expenses; trip cancellation insurance; excess baggage; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**AIRFARE** Roundtrip air travel between Miami and Havana is via a regularly scheduled chartered flight. Business Class is not available. Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements between your home city and Miami, for a processing fee of \$40. Domestic airfare will be quoted on an individual basis and is payable by credit card only. Frequent flyer mileage cannot be accepted in conjunction with this program.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE** \$5,495 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application.

**HEALTH** This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs without handrails at locations that are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

**INSURANCE** TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. As a service to its travelers, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts automatically provides all participants with basic medical, accident, and evacuation coverage under a group travel insurance policy. An additional limited policy, valid in Cuba only, is extended to all travelers age 80 and under as required by the Cuban government and is included in the cost of the program. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation / interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

**CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS** The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. **Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.**

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE** The participation of VMFA is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, VMFA and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or VMFA and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or VMFA. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. VMFA and AAA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or VMFA to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$500 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; VMFA shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor VMFA shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or VMFA, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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Academic Arrangements Abroad

## Current Restrictions on Travel & American Travelers to Cuba

There are substantial restrictions on travel to Cuba from the United States and for all Americans citizens and American residents. These restrictions apply regardless of where you are traveling from on your way to Cuba or where you travel to following a visit to Cuba. The restrictions include persons who are citizens of other countries as well. Only those who are authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, known as "OFAC", may legally travel from the United States to Cuba. There are specially licensed air carriers (CSTs) that provide charter services for authorized individuals between Cuba and the U.S. Further, air arrangements and arrangements for travel and stays within Cuba can only be made through a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP). Academic Arrangements Abroad is a licensed Travel Service Provider and is authorized to make all travel arrangements to and from Cuba, as well as travel arrangements within Cuba for individuals who possess the following licenses:

Please note that this summary of OFAC travel restrictions is for informational purposes only. For the official requirements please see:

[http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba\\_tr\\_app.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_tr_app.pdf)

For your program, you will be traveling under a **Specific License**. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has been granted a Specific License for educational exchanges not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program but which promote people-to-people contact. Its members travel under this license and must have a copy of the license in their possession at all times while traveling to and from Cuba.

**Specific Licenses:** Applications must be submitted to OFAC for a Specific License, either by an individual or institution. OFAC will consider issuing a Specific License for the following:

- **Educational exchanges not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program to promote people-to-people contact.**
- Educational: An applicant must be traveling for certain clearly defined educational activities, including: participation in a structured educational program that includes at least 10 weeks in Cuba; independent research for writing a Master's thesis, doctoral dissertation or similar document; participation in a formal course of study or teaching at a Cuban academic institution or sponsoring a Cuban scholar in the United States.
- Persons traveling for religious activities.
- Persons traveling for certain humanitarian projects.
- Persons traveling for free-lance journalism.
- Persons traveling for professional research or to attend a professional meeting that do not meet the requirements of the relevant general license.
- Amateur or semi-professional athletes traveling to participate in a competition held under the auspices of an international sports Federation or for participation in certain public performances or exhibitions.
- Persons traveling for the purposes related to exportation, importation or transmission of information or informational material.
- Persons visiting close relatives who are neither Cuban national or U.S. government employees assigned to the U.S. Interest Section.

For complete information, please see the OFAC website:

<http://www.treasury.gov/services/Pages/Cuba-Travel-Licenses.aspx>

By participating on this program, you agree to the following restrictions of the Specific License and OFAC regulations on travel to Cuba:

- To travel to and from Cuba with the group
- To participate fully in all program activities
- To abide by the terms of the U.S. Embargo

After reserving your place on the program, you will be informed of exactly what you must bring with you in order to enter Cuba and re-enter the United States according to OFAC.

<http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/pages/cuba.aspx>

# CUBA WITH VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## RESERVATION APPLICATION | JANUARY 23 TO 31, 2015

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with payment in full of \$5,495 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

I/We are traveling to Cuba under a specific OFAC People-to-People license number CT-2014-309391-1.

### FIRST PARTICIPANT

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT		MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
HOME ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE (HOME)	(BUSINESS)	
FAX	E-MAIL	
PASSPORT NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE <i>(must be valid for six months after entry into Cuba)</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	
DATE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F GENDER	PLACE OF BIRTH

### SECOND PARTICIPANT

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT		MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
HOME ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE (HOME)	(BUSINESS)	
FAX	E-MAIL	
PASSPORT NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE <i>(must be valid for six months after entry into Cuba)</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	
DATE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F GENDER	PLACE OF BIRTH

### Accommodations

Hotel Room Preference  Double  Twin (limited availability)  Single *(at a supplement of \$595)*

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

### Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check for payment in full (\$5,495 per person) and single supplement (if applicable) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*

*Each participant must sign below.*

I/We confirm that I/we will fully participate in the licensed cultural exchange activities of this People-to-People Program.

I/We confirm that I/we have fully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program, including the page on Cuba Travel Restrictions.

I/We agree to full payment by check with this reservation form.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad (an OFAC licensed Travel Service Provider) at  
Telephone: 212.514.8921 or 800.221.1944 | Fax: 212.344.7493 | E-mail: [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com)