

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

CUBA

A Close Look at Havana



February 4 to 11, 2017



Dear Friends,

Colorful art and architecture, a fascinating history, and warm and welcoming people make Cuba an extraordinary destination. Next February, join the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for a week in this captivating Caribbean nation.

Begin in the Cuban capital, where accommodations are at the elegant Hotel Saratoga in the heart of atmospheric Old Havana. Meet leading artists in their studios and homes, and at a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. During a special after-hours visit to the Ceramics Museum, admire the beautiful craftsmanship on display. Travel east of Havana to see Ernest Hemingway's evocative country retreat, Finca La Vigía. Other highlights on this journey include a full-day excursion to western Cuba and the Pinar del Río province, where we will tour an orchid farm, walk on a trail in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, and have lunch at a colonial coffee plantation. There will also be opportunities to savor Cuban cuisine during meals at *paladares*—privately owned restaurants sometimes located in the owners' homes—and at a unique “field-to-table” restaurant.

We hope to welcome you on this educational adventure.



Street entertainers, Havana

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hutch Livingston".

Adele “Hutch” Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA

CUBA

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Photo by Jordan McAllister

Gran Teatro Nacional and a colorful array of vintage cars, Havana

February 4
Saturday

USA

/

HAVANA

Depart the United States for Havana. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, transfer to the Hotel Saratoga for check-in. An early evening introductory lecture is followed by our welcome dinner at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant that is sometimes in the proprietor's home.

February 5
Sunday

HAVANA

This morning join an architectural historian for a lecture. Continue on 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. Lunch is at a nearby restaurant. Discover the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. In the late afternoon visit the Residence of the British Ambassador in Havana. This important house is located in Vedado on the Paseo, one of Havana's most fashionable avenues in its day. The mansion, with Palladian styling, was built for banker Pablo González de Mendoza in 1918 and has a dramatic indoor swimming pool. Dinner is at a *paladar*.

February 6
Monday

HAVANA

This morning embark on an Art Deco architectural tour of Havana, beginning at the Bacardi Building, a masterpiece of the Art Deco style. Our exploration of the city's great buildings continues with architectural achievements from before and after the revolution, including the Lopez Serrano Building, Havana's first skyscraper; and the Catalina Lasa House, with its interiors by René Lalique. Conclude at the Hotel Nacional, designed by McKim, Mead & White and opened in 1930, and enjoy a drink and lunch nearby on the terrace. In the early evening, drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts where we will attend a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's president will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists.

February 7
Tuesday

HAVANA

Gather this morning for a lecture on the island's current realities by a former Ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs. Afterwards, drive to Cuba's leading art school, the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), where we will have the opportunity to interact with professors and students and view their artwork. Lunch is free to discover Havana's culinary offerings. In the early evening, we have been invited to a private after-hours tour and reception at the Ceramics Museum, followed by dinner at a *paladar*.

February 8
Wednesday

HAVANA

Following a morning lecture, enjoy a curatorial tour of the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then drive to the hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula to visit Finca La Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. View the rooms of the house through open windows and see his fishing boat, the *Pilar*. Continue with a brief visit to the village of Cojímar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. Visit Finca La Yoandra, a unique urban farm that has become a model of Cuban agriculture with lunch at its "field-to-table" restaurant, Divino. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. This evening is free, perhaps to sample local cuisine at one of Havana's fine restaurants or *paladares*.



The Bacardi Building (left) and Finca la Yoandra (right)



Orchid farm, Soroa (left) and Old Havana (right)

February 9
Thursday

HAVANA / PINAR DEL RIO / HAVANA

During a full-day excursion to western Cuba and the Pinar del Río province, pass land used to cultivate crops including sugar cane and tobacco. Our westernmost destination is Soroa, where we will tour an impressive orchid farm that is run by the University of Pinar del Río. During a trail walk in Las Terrazas within the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, observe many species unique to the area. Learn about conservation practices in this important example of a sustainable community, one of Cuba's nine UNESCO World Heritage sites. Lunch is at a colonial coffee plantation before returning to Havana, where our guide can assist in arranging dinner reservations or evening activities.

February 10
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 visit the 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. Lunch is on your own. In the late afternoon, a private concert is arranged at the Church of San Francisco de Paula, with an opportunity to chat with the performers, followed by our farewell dinner.

February 11
Saturday

HAVANA / USA

Transfer to the airport for flights home.



Colón Cemetery, Havana

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM RATE \$5,890 per person, double occupancy SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1,295 (limited availability)

Rate Includes

- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Buffet breakfast daily, four lunches, five dinners. Bottled water and coffee / tea with all meals. Local wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Escorted sightseeing via private motorcoach as per itinerary, including services of a bilingual national guide throughout the program
- Airport / hotel / airport group transfers for all participants
- Basic gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges
- Pre-departure material, including reading list and luggage tags

Not Included in Rate 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; personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, etc.; travel insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

A NOTE ON AIR TRAVEL TO CUBA At the time of brochure printing in April 2016, commercial flight schedules between the US and Cuba had not been confirmed. Please contact our office for the most up to date information on air travel to Cuba.

AIRFARE Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with travel arrangements for a processing fee of \$40 per person.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE \$1,500 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces and 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. PLEASE NOTE: The Cuban health insurance coverage is limited to travelers under 80 years of age.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION/EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary and faculty leadership are subject to change at the discretion of AAA and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). All prices quoted are based on a minimum of 20 passengers, prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Individual deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of VMFA is limited to educational sponsorship of the program (The Program) described on the website and in the trip brochure. 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. 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. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. AAA and VMFA are 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. AAA reserves 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 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, 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 trip payment to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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California Seller of Travel #2059789-40

While we make every effort to maintain the accuracy of our advertised price, due to rapidly changing market conditions in Cuba, prices are subject to change. Arrangements Abroad reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes.



Academic Arrangements Abroad

On the cover: Plaza de la Catedral, Havana.

CUBA WITH VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

RESERVATION APPLICATION | FEBRUARY 4 to 11, 2017

To reserve a place on this trip, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,500 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, New York 10018-3721.

PLEASE NOTE: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will be traveling to Cuba under a General License as defined by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). These regulations, which have been recently updated, require that program participants a) travel to and from Cuba with the group; b) participate fully in all program activities; and c) abide by the terms of the U.S. Embargo. Participants will receive a full explanation of these requirements upon registration, and will be asked to read and sign a form explaining in detail travel regulations under the new guidelines.

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 Single (at a supplement of \$1,295) I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Credit card (for deposit only; final payment must be made by check.)

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD	3- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE
CREDIT CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE

Each participant must sign below.

I/We confirm that I/we will fully participate in the 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.

I/We agree to the balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED	DATE
SIGNATURE REQUIRED	DATE

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