

CUBA & its People

HAVANA



SPONSORED BY

AIR INCLUSIVE
from Miami, FL



The University of
North Carolina
General Alumni Association
March 1-8, 2024



Cuba & its People



Top: Cathedral, Havana

Cover: Plaza de la Catedral, Havana

Mail panel: Cuban art | Capitol and Grand Theater, Havana

Inspiring Moments



- **Uncover Cuba's heart and soul** alongside its charismatic people.
- Learn about the lives and experiences of Cubans during meaningful **encounters and conversations**.
- **Interact with Cuba's varied arts community** during visits with artists, dancers, craftsmen and musicians.
- **Talk with small business owners and local artists**, learning about the path toward entrepreneurship in Cuba.
- Ride in an independently owned **1950s convertible** through Habana Vieja.
- Venture beyond Havana to **visit a rural community** and learn about farming from locals.
- Enjoy a journey to **Matanzas** for insight into the island's remarkable Afro-Cuban culture.
- Experience Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

From vintage cars to culture-soaked streets, infectious music to welcoming smiles, Cuba is a feast for the senses. Stay for seven nights in a privately owned boutique hotel located in Havana's vibrant Vedado neighborhood. With your small group, limited to 12 travelers, experience authentic connections to Cuba's community and witness firsthand the rapid changes occurring across the island.

AHI's thoughtfully designed People-to-People program delivers a full schedule of activities that provide meaningful interactions between you and Cuban residents. Meet and engage with independent, small business owners, community leaders, artists, dancers and other residents who share their personal stories and perspectives on their island's ever-changing landscape. Plus, local experts share professional insights into their country and expert-led excursions offer genuine exposure to Cuba's history, heritage and culture. From historic Havana to Matanzas, get ready to engage with the real Cuba.

AHI's expert guides and network of locals are ready to share their passion for their country with you. Space is limited so we encourage you to book this experience today!

This exclusive program, developed by AHI Travel, is operated in accordance with a People-to-People general license established by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Yours at Carolina,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug".

Douglas S. Dibbert '70

President

The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

Tour participants who are not members of the General Alumni Association must join the Association (\$50 for singles, \$60 for couples) to participate. Please contact the Tar Heels Travel Office at 877-962-3980 to join.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Old Havana and its Fortification System



Cannons at fortification, Havana

La Cabaña Fortress, Havana





Historic Havana

Day 1 | Miami, Florida | Havana, Cuba

Depart Miami for Havana. Upon arrival, check in to the Claxon Hotel.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Dinner at a local *paladar*, a privately owned and operated restaurant. Meet and mingle with locals on your first night in Cuba.

Day 2 | Havana

Enrichment: *Havana's Urban Planning & Architectural Challenges.*

Enigmatic Old Havana. Enjoy your first look at this UNESCO World Heritage destination and its four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza Vieja. These vibrant plazas teem with local life, from men playing dominos to colorful flea markets and children playing soccer. Chat with *habaneros*, resident vendors, before continuing to Dador, an independently owned clothing store founded by Cuban women where we will learn about their experiences with starting and owning a female-led business in Cuba.

Enrichment: *U.S. & Cuban Relations.*

Day 3 | Havana

Havana by Car. Hop aboard a classic convertible for a ride through Havana's historic quarter. Enjoy interacting with your friendly driver. If you wish, peek beneath the hood and learn how these cars are maintained, including the challenges of getting access to necessities.

Contemporary Art. Join Wilfredo Benítez of the Ludwig Foundation to explore Cuban art collections at the National Museum of Fine Arts.

Enrichment: *Cuba's Justice System.*

Day 4 | Havana

Enrichment: *Empowering Cuban Women.*

Jewish Center & Cuban Dance. Visit the Sephardic Hebrew Center where a member of Havana's Jewish Community provides a tour. Continue to a contemporary dance studio for a look into Cuba's infectious dance scene. Meet some dancers and learn about their lives and commitments to their art and training.

La Finca Vigia. After lunch, head outside of Havana to visit Ernest Hemingway's modest home where he wrote "The Old Man and the Sea" and other famous books.

Later today, visit the Ludwig Foundation, a nonprofit cultural institution that is dedicated to protecting and promoting Cuban artists.

Founders and owners of Dador





La Finca Vigia museum, Ernest Hemingway's home

Meet independent local artists and learn about their desires to pursue artistic ventures. Sit down to dinner at the Hotel Nacional.

Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

Matanzas. Cuba underwent a long period of slavery from 1511 until 1886. Today, Afro-Cuban roots remain profound across the island, especially in Matanzas. Tour the San Severino Museum, a castle built by slave labor to protect the city against attacks. This symbolic museum has many objects and photos illustrating slavery times. Learn about the history of the slave trade and how Afro-Cuban culture is celebrated through art, music, language and other expressions. Also visit the Sugar Mill Triunvirato, the site of the 1843 Rebellion of the Triunvirato. Cap off your excursion to Matanzas with a fun performance by a local choir!

Share your insights and thoughts of the day over a delicious lunch at a *paladar*.

Enrichment: *The Cuban Revolution & Race.*

Day 6 | Havana

Norma Guillard. This Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana shares stories about her work. Watch “Maestra,” a documentary about female volunteers who taught more than 700,000 Cubans to read and write during the Cuban Literacy Campaign.

Local Market & Street Scenes. Stop at an *agromercado*, a street market selling fruits, vegetables and varieties of meats and beans. This is a great way to witness daily life in Cuba! Next, explore the charismatic and lively Callejón de Hamel. This paint-splashed, music-filled alley is a central part of Afro-Cuban culture, a fusion of African and European religious practices.

Inside an Art Studio. Tour Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban painter and sculptor Jose Fuster, and talk with an artist about

Cuban dancers



Cuban musicians





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Claxon Hotel, a privately owned boutique hotel.

Flights & Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Round-trip flights between Miami and Cuba and all deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus a local beverage with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 12 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into Cuba's history, heritage and culture.
- **Engaging excursions** provide meaningful connections with small business owners and individual Cuban residents who share their personal stories and unique perspectives.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Cuban visa.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

his work and the opportunities for local artists. Enjoy lunch at Casa Fuster.

La Casa de la Cultura & Afro-Cuban Dance.

La Casa de la Cultura promotes art, culture and literature within Cuba and offers workshops on music, dance, theater and other artistic areas. Visit the center and engage with the staff and children. Next, enjoy an intimate gathering with local dancers who share their passions for teaching tango and salsa. You can try a few steps yourself if you wish!

Day 7 | Cuban Countryside | Havana

Rural Cuba. Travel to the island's countryside, where identity is firmly planted in agriculture. Take in views of untamed beauty, passing tobacco and sugarcane fields, valleys and villages. Visit a small community and meet with farmers and others to learn about their day-to-day lives in rural Cuba.

Relax with your fellow travelers over a lunch of locally sourced produce.

Enrichment: *Rhythms of Cuban Music.*

Raise a toast to your Cuban adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a family-owned paladar.

Day 8 | Havana | Miami, Florida

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Miami, Florida.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change. If an event must be canceled, it will be replaced with another People-to-People event.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches

Agromercado



Accommodations



The Claxon Hotel | Havana



Located in the neighborhood of El Vedado, the privately owned Claxon Hotel boasts character, charm and sophistication. Enjoy the hotel's signature décor where each guest room is dedicated to a famous American classic car from the 1950s. After a day of incredible sightseeing, unwind in the property's expansive gathering spaces, surrounded by lush vegetation.



Matanzas



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **877-962-3980** or
visit **norcar.ahitravel.com**.

Air-Inclusive Program

Travel dates †

March 1-8, 2024

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

March 1-8, 2024

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Pricing

Category	Full Price	Special Price*
Standard	\$5,945	\$5,695
Junior Suite	\$6,145	\$5,895
Deluxe Suite	\$6,645	\$6,395

***Special Price includes \$250 special savings.
Special Price valid if booked
by the date found on the address panel.**

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and include round-trip air service between Miami and Cuba.

Single accommodations are not available on this program.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1824A?schoold=114>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

Explore Cuban culture through interaction with local Cuban residents, artists and artisans, musicians, writers and entrepreneurs, which will directly benefit the Cuban people.

This exclusive program, developed by AHI Travel, is operated in accordance with a People-to-People general license established by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control pursuant to 31 CFR section 515.565.



Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban artist and sculptor Jose Fuster

AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Passenger Service Representative offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.





The University of North Carolina
General Alumni Association
George Watts Hill Alumni Center, CB# 9180
Post Office Box 660
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660

CUBA24 72

SMALL GROUP
Limited to
12 guests!



877-962-3980
norcar.ahitravel.com

Discover the culture, spirit and people of Cuba!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel