



Journey to Havana & Mantanzas, Cuba

Auburn University / Harrison School of Pharmacy

A People to People Educational Exchange

TRIP DATES: April 4 - 9, 2016

Sunday, April 3

Participants will fly independently to Miami and congregate at the Crowne Plaza located near the airport at 950 NW Lejeune Road, Miami, FL 33126. 305-446-9000. The cost of this overnight stay is included in the cost of the trip.

Dean Lee Evans, Dr. Rick Cook, and Dr. Ralph Elliott will be hosting a Dutch treat dinner at the hotel at 6 p.m. for early arriving delegates.

Day 1

Monday, April 4

Complimentary breakfast is served in the lobby level restaurant.

9:00 am Meet in lobby of the hotel for our bus transfer to airport. Our flight from Miami to Havana is on ABC Charter flight #AA9476, operated by American Airlines. Check-in is located in Concourse D. Enter through Door 1 and check-in at the AA counter.

ABC Charters has the following luggage policy: All additional luggage fees must be paid in cash at the time of check-in. One carry-on and one personal item at no charge. First checked bag; \$20.00. Each additional checked bag; \$20.00. 70lbs max weight per bag. 44 lbs allowed free; \$2.00 per pound over (including carry-on). No luggage fees apply on your return to Miami. *Please be aware that in the event of a full flight into Havana you may be required to check your carry-on luggage for an additional \$20.00 fee.*

12:00 pm Depart for Havana. Flight time is approximately 1 hour.

1:00 pm Arrive Havana. Clear customs and immigration, a process that takes about 1 hour.

On the way into Havana we will visit the Plaza de la Revolucion, one of Havana's most active public squares. Our bus tour of Havana continues from Miramar along the Malecon to El Morro where we will make a quick stop to see the Havana skyline and harbor.

Tapas and refreshments at El Litoral on the Malecón. This former state run restaurant is now operated by a group of restaurateurs who have updated the space as well as the cuisine.

Tour the iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba overlooking the Straits of Florida and the Malecón. When it opened in 1930, Cuba was a prime travel destination many illustrious guests including Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Marlon Brando, and Ernest Hemingway.

5:00 pm

Check-in to the newly renovated Hotel Capri located in the Vedado neighborhood - home to the most iconic buildings of Havana's modernist movement including the Habana Libre hotel, the Coppelia Ice Cream parlor, the Pabellon Cuba and the Riviera Hotel. Your rooms will have views of the sea.



Hotel Capri
53 7 839 7200 | Calle 21 Entre Calle N y O, La Habana
<http://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-capri-la-habana>

8:00 pm

Dinner at Paladar Atelier, a home restaurant equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, romantic setting. The chef boasts international experience, serving a range of cuisine from traditional Cuban dishes, paella, and seafood.



Day2

Tuesday April 5

Breakfast is served every day in the buffet restaurant from 7:00 am to 10:00 am.

8:30 am -
10am

Meet with representatives of the Cuban State Center for Control of Medicine and Medical Equipment & Devices, an equivalent to the US FDA. Location TBD.

10:15am



Board our bus and depart for our walking tour of Havana Vieja. Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes! We begin at the bustling Parque Central and the Paseo de Marti (Paseo del Prado), a tree lined pedestrian promenade. We will be joined by Architect and University of Havana Professor Maria Elena Martin.

Thanks in part to history and ideology, Cuba -- and especially Havana -- is a treasure trove of architectural styles spanning six centuries. With buildings dating from the 16th through the 19th centuries, Havana is perhaps the most authentic colonial city in the Americas. Since 1982, when the city became a UNESCO World Heritage site, the government has embarked on an ambitious preservation and restoration program concentrated in the Old City. However, a severe lack of funding and materials has hampered efforts. Therefore, the decay and neglect of the past 40 years coupled with the destructive tropical weather continues to claim buildings every year.

Visit the Plaza Vieja. This plaza is the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century. Learn about the massive historic preservation program which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.



We stroll through the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719.

1:00 pm Lunch at Paladar Mercaderes. This beautifully restored mansion in Havana Vieja is a welcome relief from the bustling streets of the city.

Visit the Plaza de Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of military and government influence in Cuba. Today the square is used for more peaceful purposes - selling books. Each day there are a number of book sellers who set up their outdoor shops surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.



Guided tour of the Taquechel Pharmacy Museum. The museum features countless examples of beautifully preserved pharmaceutical products. The pharmacy was founded in 1882 and was later turned into the Pharmaceutical Museum in 1964. The large collection contains well preserved artifacts including porcelain containers, a dispensary table, thousands of labels, books, utensils and more.

Continue to the former residence of the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, a Cuban Baroque mansion and museum that showcases colonial-era art and artifacts.

3:00 pm Visit to the Taller de Grafica Experimental located on the Plaza de la Catedral. The Taller is more than Havana's printmaking workshop. It is a studio, a school and most of all, an art institution that preserves and develops the sophisticated art of print making.

5:00 pm Return to the hotel.

7:30 pm Dinner at the stylish Paladar Río Mar located at La Puntilla in Miramar. Enjoy views of the bay gentle ocean breezes from the terrace. The food is upscale and contemporary with European influence.

Day 3 **Wednesday, April 6**

Morning Visit with professors and students at the University of Havana Pharmacology Department.

NOTE: There are two other Cuban Universities that currently have a pharmaceutical faculty including the University of Las Villas and the Eastern University. The most important is in Havana; the Institute of Pharmacy and Food (Sp. Instituto de Farmacia y Alimentos).

11:00 am



Bus tour of modern architecture in Western Havana. Few people realize the important place Havana holds as a treasure trove of 20th Century architecture. Our guide will highlight some of the best examples to be found in this incredibly diverse area of the city, including the University of Havana, Habana Libre Hotel, Riviera Hotel, Pabellón Cuba, Yara Theater, and Casa de la Amistad (Pedro Baro and Catalina Lasa's former home).

See the Christopher Colon Cemetery, an elaborate necropolis covering nearly 8% of the city.



12:30 pm

Lunch at the whimsical fishing village of Jaimanitas, home of artist José Rodríguez Fuster who has been called the "Picasso of the Caribbean." Fuster has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the neighborhood. Jaimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster and his neighbors have decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.

Meet the scientists and researchers at a biotechnology research facility. Location TBD.

4:00 pm Return to Hotel.

7:30 pm



Dinner at the famous La Guarida Restaurant. One of the best restaurants in Havana and famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film “Strawberry and Chocolate.”

It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the 1920's.

Evening Optional visit to the World Famous Cabaret Tropicana. Transportation provided for 10+ participants, individual pays admission fees.

Day 4 Thursday April 7

9:00 am Meet with a representative of the Cuban Ministry of Health to discuss the Cuban system of developing medicine. This event will take place in the Hotel Business Center.

Possible meeting with a representative from the Cuban pharmaceutical and biotech industry. These agencies are integrated in a single state-run group of companies named BioCubaFarma who report directly to the Cuban Council of Ministers.

1030 am Attend a private dance performance of the Compañía Irene Rodríguez. We will receive a warm welcome by Irene and her company at the Centro Asturiano. Irene is considered by many to be the finest flamenco dancer in Cuba. Irene will introduce the dancers, many of whom speak English; describe the history of her own dance career and formation of her independent dance company; and discuss the cultivation of artistic talent in Cuba, opportunities and challenges of being a professional dancer, and the arts more generally in Cuba.



11:45 am



Visit the Museum of Cuban Art (Museo de Bellas Artes) with curator Aylet Ojeda. The museum is dedicated exclusively to Cuban Art from the earliest days of colonialism to the latest generation of Cuban artists.

Lunch on your own. Suitable recommendations will be provided

Return to the hotel.

6:30 pm

Meet in hotel lobby and walk to Centro Asturianos for a private musical performance and dinner.

Our evening begins with demonstrative lecture on Cuban Music at Bar Asturias by Prof. Alberto Faya who since 1973 has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world. He has obtained national awards in music and musicology. He will be joined by a trio of musicians who will take us on a musical journey thru the history of Cuba.



8:00 pm Dinner at Star Bien in Vedado.

Day 5 Friday, April 8

9:30 am



Lecture by Professor Carlos Alzugaray Treto on U.S./Cuba Relations. Professor Alzugaray was the Former Cuban Ambassador to the European Union and former Director of the Institute of Foreign Relations. Professor Alzugaray will be accompanied by several English speaking students from Institute of Foreign Relations. Professor Alzugaray will then lead a question and answer session with the group and we have time for open dialogue and exchange. This lecture will take place in the hotel business center.

11:00 am

Board our bus and depart for La Finca Vigía. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, today it still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: For Whom the Bell Tolls and The Old Man and the Sea. Please keep in mind that there are restrictions on passage to preserve the house in the intact state that Hemingway left it.



Visit Finca Yoandra, a farm located in the neighborhood of Mantilla that produces more than a 100 varieties of organic fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants. The farm also serves as a community center, providing social programs and leisurely activities for the local elderly. We will get a chance to meet and talk to some of the senior citizens.

1:00 pm

Lunch at the farm's restaurant El Divino.



Drive to the picturesque fishing village of Cojímar. Ernest Hemingway loved this little seaside town. He kept his boat, El Pilar, in the harbor of Cojímar and used this village setting for his story The Old Man and the Sea, which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

Afternoon

Continue to Callejon de Hamel, a street full of shrines, diverse sculptural pieces, and colorful murals. It has been considered a public temple to Santería and African influences in Cuban culture. Much of the artwork there has been created by artist Salvador González Escalona since 1990. Our host and guide will be local scholar Elias Aseff, who will explain the role of African religion and culture in Cuba and the importance of Santeria in everyday life. He will also explain how Afro Cuban religion has influenced the evolution of Cuban culture.



We will visit the home of a Babalao (Yoruba Priestess) who will receive the group and explain via Elias the religious deities and elaborate alters in her home. The home is very large and many visitors pass thru during the day to give offerings.

Visit to the Arts and Crafts market, a great place to interact with local everyday artisans. You'll find just about anything here, a great place to find souvenirs or gifts for your friends and family back home.



4:00 pm

Return to the hotel. Remainder of afternoon on your own.

8:00 pm



Farewell dinner at Paladar San Cristobal. This paladar has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine.

The food is refined and balanced and the nostalgic decor is unforgettable, adorned in unique style of art nouveau.

Day 6 Saturday, April 9

Morning Free

12:30 pm Check out of the hotel and depart for the airport.

3:40 pm Flight departs Havana for Miami on ABC Charter Flight #AA9471 operated by American Airlines.

3:40 pm Arrive Miami. Clear customs and connect with flights home.

* Tips may be given to your Cuban guide and driver at this time. The recommended tip is 5-7CUC per day, per passenger for your guide and 3-5CUC per day, per passenger for your driver.

BE SURE TO COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS FROM THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN YOUR ROOM

- PASSPORT
- VISA
- PLANE TICKET
- OFAC LICENSE AND LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

** Please Note: This is a "Working" Itinerary. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the Final Itinerary. All venues and artist's studios are subject to final confirmations. Be assured that any changes made will be done to enhance the total program, and to promote a smooth operation of the tour.*

Note about Purchasing Art in Cuba: The U.S. Government allows US travelers to bring back an unlimited amount of Cuban art and informational materials such as books and CDs. If you feel you might be interested in purchasing art during your stay in Cuba you should carry additional money to pay on the spot. Your hotel rooms includes a safe deposit box in which you can keep your valuables safe.

Acquiring additional money via an ATM machine in Cuba is not possible. Some of the more established artists could possibly have U.S. bank accounts in which the payment can be wired. The art can normally be brought home and payment sent at a future date. Our first recommendation is that you bring additional cash.