



OFAC License- CT 2014-313195-1



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL TOURS IN CUBA
Sunday, October 18 - Friday, October 23, 2015 Program





Auburn University Cuba Agenda at a Glance Sunday, October 18 to Friday, October 23, 2015

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Your Auburn University leaders will arrive in Miami on Sunday evening and stay at the Miami Airport, Embassy Suites Hotel. Delegates are urged to spend Sunday night in Miami to avoid the possibility of flight delays by arriving on Monday.

6:00 pm – Drs. Cook, and Elliott will be in the Lounge at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Miami Airport followed by a ‘**Dutch Treat**’ dinner at the hotel. A Cuban Explorations Representative will join us.

Monday, October 19, 2015 (Dinner Provided)

9:00 am – Drs. Cook, and Elliott will have breakfast at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Miami Airport

10:30 am – Group takes the shuttle to the MIA.

2:00 pm – Depart Miami International Airport

Arrive to José Martí International Airport at 3:00 pm

4:30 pm – Check-in at Hotel Nacional and Exchange Your Currency

The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is considered a symbol of history, culture and Cuban identity. The guns that made up the old Santa Clara Battery are on exhibition at the garden, they were declared part of the World Heritage Site. The Hotel Nacional de Cuba was declared a National Monument and it was inscribed in the World Memory Register. With its privileged location in the middle of Vedado, the center of Havana, it stands on a hill just a few meters from the sea, and offers a great view of the Havana Harbor; the seawall and the city.





The Hotel stands out due to its refined elegance and its ancient splendor, which since 1930 has attracted a large number of personalities from the arts, science and politics, such as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, artists Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Johnny Weissmuller, Maria Félix, Jorge Negrete, Rick Cook, and scientist Alexander Fleming.

6:00 pm – Welcome Cocktail Reception at Hotel Nacional

7:00 pm – Welcome Dinner at El Cocinero Paladar

El Cocinero opened in February 2013 and has instantly become a smash hit. Located underneath the imposing brick chimney of the same name (which used to be a vegetable oil factory, it is worth the effort to reach the sunken roof, which has ample space for drinks and food. This place has a renovated industrial space look, good music, nice décor and has attracted a mixed crowd of affluent young Cubans, expatriates as well as families for dinner which is also (for now) served on the roof terrace.



Optional Late Evening

Jazz Night in Havana Jazz Café Club or Zorra y el Cuervo Jazz Café

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel

Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel's restaurants.

8:00 am - 9:30 am – “The Normalization of Relations Between Cuba and United States: The Havana Agenda”

Speaker: Dr. Carlos Alzugaray Treto *(Miembro, Asociación de Escritores, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba) Cuban diplomat and educator.¹ Carlos has studied at the International Division of Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, and at the University of Havana. He has a Bachelor's degrees in Diplomacy and History of Cuba; a Master's degree in Contemporary History and a Ph.D. in Historical Sciences, all from the University of Havana. His Ph.D. dissertation was on the Eisenhower Administration's policy towards the Cuban Revolution 1958-1961.*





9:45am – Depart for a Short Panoramic City Bus Tour

10:30 am - Visit H. Upmann Cigar Factory –

Cuban cigars are well known as the finest in the world. Learn about how the cigars are made and experience them for yourselves.



12:00 pm – Lunch at Café Laurent Paladar

You will sense the echoes of the glamorous Havana of the 50's in this updated art deco penthouse with panoramic views from the El Vedado neighborhood to the sea. Just steps from the iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba and the Hotel Capri, Café Laurent blends and harmonizes cosmopolitan cuisine with contemporary Cuban fare. Café Laurent puts Havana at your feet.



2:00 pm – Walking & Bus tour of the Old City



- ✚ *Centro Habana – Cárdenas street, the former Cuban Telephone Company, Reina street, Aldama Palace, Golden Scepter, José Crusellas' house, Convent and Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Carlos III Avenue, Grand Masonic.*
- ✚ *Plaza Carlos III – Cuba's flashiest shopping mall.*
- ✚ *Plaza de la Revolución – Conceived by French urbanist Jean Claude Forestier in the 1920s, the gigantic Plaza de la Revolución (known as Plaza Cívica until 1959) was part of Havana's 'new city,' which grew up between 1920 and 1959.*
- ✚ *Estadio Latinoamericano – Also known as Latin American Stadium, this is a stadium that is primarily used for baseball.*



- ✦ *Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón – Also known as Christopher Columbus Cemetery, this is one of the great historical cemeteries of the world, and is very important in Latin American history.*
- ✦ *Great Houses of Havana – Casa Lasa y Baró, Manzana de Gómez, Casa Juan Gelats.*
- ✦ *FOCSA Building – The tallest building in Cuba!*
- ✦ *Marianao – Monument to Finlay and surrounding buildings, hospital area.*
- ✦ *Vedado (Central Business District of Havana) – Located at a small coastal neighborhood West of Havana, this tour will be led by the famous Cuban painter and ceramicist José Fuster.*
- ✦ *Cubanacán – Convention Center and former residences of Havana’s upper class, schools of art.*
- ✦ *Parque Almendares – This park runs along the banks of the city's Río Almendares, below the bridge on Calle 23.*

5:00 pm – Return to Hotel

Refresh and unwind before dinner.

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Dinner at VIP Havana

Enjoy dinner at VIP Havana, one of the newest paladars in Havana that has become known for its excellent food and service.

Late Evening

Retire at the hotel and prepare for the next day’s activities.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel

Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel’s restaurants.



8:00 am - 9:30 am – “The Evolution of Architecture and the Arts in Cuba”

Speaker: Rene Caparros Aguilar (Writer and teacher of German Language; is a Member of the Board in charge of public relations and cultural activities. Graduated from the Course for Managers in the Culture, National Qualification Centre, Ministry of Culture, Havana (1994-96); History of Cuban and Universal Arts, History of Cuban and Universal Architecture, Museology, Archeology and Mural Painting; Course “Cuban Cities and Culture”, at the “Juan Marinello Culture Centre” (1999); Course “Events Organisation” (2003). Author of the book “Evolution of the Cuban Architecture from the XVIth to the XXIst Centuries” in bilingual versions in German, Italian, English and French.



9:45 am – Depart Hotel for Hemingway Museum – Finca Vigía, Cojímar, La Terrazas Bar and Restaurant:

Take a trip back in time and walk in the shoes of one of the world’s greatest writers.

- ✚ Visit Finca Vigía, the former residence of the American writer, where many of his most famous literary works were written.
- ✚ Visit Cojímar, a fisherman village Hemingway docked his fishing boat, “El Pilar” and source of inspiration for his famous novel, “The Old Man and the Sea”.
- ✚ Enjoy cocktails at La Terrazas Bar and Restaurant; a place related to the life of the famous writer and to Gregorio Fuentes, the captain of his fishing boat.



12:00 pm – Lunch at La Morelja

Nestled in the courtyard of a beautiful house of Vedado Style 40s, has a special magnetism that can be seen from its broad, fresh entrance, its open air room as well as its fully air conditioning one, its unique cuisine and excellent services.

1:30 pm – Tour of Havana University

La Universidad de la Havana, is a university located in the Vedado district of Havana, Cuba. Founded on January 5, 1728, the University of Havana is oldest University in Cuba, and one of the first to be founded in Americas. Originally a religious institution, today the university has 15 faculties (colleges) at its Havana campus and distance learning centers through Cuba.



3:00 pm – Visit to a Rum Factory



Rum has been produced in Cuba for more than four centuries! Learn about the fascinating history and production, while sampling brands of what's believed to be among the best. Visit the most well-known castle fortress in Cuba that guards the bay of Havana.

4:30 pm –Return to Hotel

Refresh and unwind before dinner.

6:00 pm – Depart for Dinner

7:00 pm - 9:00 – Dinner at El Litoral Paladar

El Litoral on the Malecon is consider by many as probably the best restaurant on the Malecon, if not in the whole Havana. El Litoral translated as “The coastline”, so it would be fitting that the menu consists of numerous seafood dishes and also includes choices for the mat lovers.

Optional Late Evening - The Bar Floridita

Opened in the early 19th century and still preserving much of the atmosphere of the 1940s and 1950s, with the red coats of the bartenders matching the regency style decoration that dates from the 1959. The Nobel prize- winning American writer Ernest Hemingway frequented the bar and made it his favorite. The establishment today contains many noticeable memorabilia of the author, and a life- size bronze statue at the end of the bar, sculpted by the Cuban artist Jose Villa Soberon.



Thursday, October 22, 2015 (B, L, & D Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel

Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel's restaurants.



8:00 am – 10:00 am – “Cuba: How the Past and The Present Will Converge”

Speaker: Hugo Ponce, Director, Cuba National Economist and Accountant Association has given lectures and postgraduate courses in more than ten national and international universities and has represented Cuba in various international events. Currently, he is director of International Relations and Advisor to the President of the National ANE; Secretary of the Association of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean. He received his doctorate in Economics, University of Havana, 1987; Researcher, Academy of Sciences of Cuba, 1987; Professor, University of Havana, 1999; Visiting Professor University "Camilo Cienfuegos"; Matanzas, 2002; Professor, University of Havana, 2007; Professor, Graduate Institute of International Relations, 2014.



10:00 am – Visit the Community Project “Arte y Corte”

Arts Court is a cultural economic project outset grouped uniting barbers, hairdressers, artists and painters in the country that have been linked, in one way or another to the hairdresser. The goal of all of them is to transcend beyond their job cutting hair, based on three grounds: the art, history and craft. The project is supported by the Office of the City Historian of Havana.



Some places to visit in the Hairdresser’s Alley:

- ✚ Plazuela del Lucero
- ✚ Salon de Belleza y Museo Vivo de la Barberia y la Peluqueria Artecorte
- ✚ Escuela Comunitaria de Barberia y Peluqueria
- ✚ Atelier Pedro’s
- ✚ Estudio Galeria del artista de la plastica Roberto Gonzalez

12:30 pm – Lunch at El Figaro Paladar

Located in Barbers Alley, the visitors will find a cuisine that is stylized, glamorous with a cozy environment.



2:00 pm – El Taller Experimental de Gráfica

Founded in 1962, by mural artist Orlando Suarez with the support of Che Guevara, this studio/ workshop is one of the most important graphic arts establishments, preserving the old printmaking techniques and churning out some of the most significant works of graphic art in Havana.



3:00 pm – Visit to Morro Castle

Visit the most well-known castle fortress in Cuba that guards the bay of Havana.

4:15 pm – Tour of Marina District

Learn about the history of this beautiful seaport.

5:00 pm – Return to Hotel

Refresh and unwind before dinner

6:30 pm – Depart for Dinner from Hotel Lobby via Classic Car Ride



7:00 pm – Dinner at Rio Mar

Rio Mar has a whole terrace overlooking where the Rio Almendares flows into the sea. The restaurant's menu has been very well balanced and presents dishes from the Cuban and International cuisine, with specialty in sea food.

9:00 pm – Enjoy your evening at the Hotel Nacional

Friday- October 23, 2015 (B & L Provided)

7:00 am - 7:45 am – Breakfast at Hotel

Join us for breakfast with a refreshing atmosphere at one of the hotel's restaurants. Checkout of Hotel Room by 9:30 am



8:00 am - 9:30 am – “Cuba and the Road Ahead: Capitalism or Socialism?”

Speaker Juan A. Triana Barros, Professor, Havana University & Polytechnic Institute of Havana will discuss the history of Cuba’s socio-economic system and the implications of current reforms. The lecture will focus on how Cuba might continue serving the social demands of its people while developing itself economically in the context of open market relations with the United States and other countries.



Barros’ visit is supported by the Havana-Mobile Society and UA’s Center for Cuba Collaboration and Scholarship.

Barros received a degree in economics in 2011 from the University of Havana, a diploma in foreign trade and international cooperation in 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Cooperation, and a master’s degree in business administration in 2013 from the University of Havana.

He is working on his doctorate in economics at the University of Havana.

10:00 am – Catacombs Tour at the Nacional

12:30 pm – Lunch at La Carbonsita Paladar

This paladar is run by an Italian, Walter. There is a menu, with pizzas and pastas, as well as some meat dishes, but most regulars simply have whatever Walter suggests. His recommendation is invariably uncomplicated, but this is undeniably the best place for pizza and pasta in Havana.



1:30 pm – Transfer to José Martí International Airport

4:00 pm – Return Flight to Miami International Airport

Note: *Flights out of Cuba are subject to delays. Most delegates are booking flights after 8:30 PM back to their home airports*

Price:

Double Occupancy: \$3,445 per person (if you're sharing a room with one other person.)

Single Occupancy: \$3,645 per person (if you are the only person in the hotel room.)



Tipping Suggestions

Bathroom Attendants: Use small coins (10 centavos, 25 centavos, etc.)

Bell Hops: \$1 CUC per bag

Housekeeping: \$1 CUC per day. We recommend tipping on a daily basis

Musicians: \$1 CUC, if you have enjoyed the performance

Optional:

Cuban Bus Driver: \$3 - \$5 CUC per person, per day

Cuban Guide: \$5 - \$8 CUC per person, per day...depending on your satisfactions

Taxi Driver: 10% of fare

Trip Includes

- Land transportation while in Cuba
- Medical Insurance while in Cuba
- Expert Cuban Guide
- Cuba Explorations Guide
- All tours and entry fees (as listed in the program)
- VIP service at airport
- All transportation (unless listed not included)
- Cuban Departure tax of 25 CUC (approx. \$30 USD)
- Round Trip Airfare from Miami to Havana

Trip Excludes

- Additional beverages and snacks
- Photography fees at venue which usually an additional 5 CUC
- Tips to misc. service providers
- Miscellaneous tips (entertainment, bathroom attendants, etc) – 1-2 CUC per person/per day
- Sunday night hotel in Miami

Contact Sheree Wilson in the Center for Governmental Services at 334.844.4781 or au2cuba@auburn.edu for more information and to receive Registration/Visa, Credit Card, and 'Know Before You Go' forms.