



Treasures  
of

A PEOPLE-TO-  
PEOPLE  
EDUCATIONAL  
EXCHANGE

Cuba

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**The Association**  
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*Traveling Aggies*

**JAN. 27-FEB. 8, 2016**



Classic cars in Havana

## Discover the history and heritage of Cuba through the Cuban people, the true treasures of Cuba.

Meet musicians, dancers and other members of the country's vibrant arts community, and engage in meaningful dialogues with local scholars, members of the clergy and health-care professionals to get a well-rounded perspective of Cuban life. From Santiago de Cuba on the eastern tip of the island to the capital of Havana on the western end, explore all aspects of life on this wonderful island. This People-to-People educational exchange program is authorized by a U.S. Department of the Treasury general license.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ A uniquely designed itinerary provides exceptional opportunities to experience the **Cuban culture, history and people in eight exciting cities:** Havana, Santa Clara, Camagüey, Santiago, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Remedios and Bayamo.
- ▶ Immerse yourself in the arts during visits to **art, dance and music studios**, and talk with artists, dancers and musicians about their craft and their lives in Cuba.
- ▶ Savor authentic flavors of Cuban cuisine at both **state restaurants and paladars**, privately owned and operated restaurants.
- ▶ Learn about contemporary and historic Cuba during **insightful discussions led by local experts**.
- ▶ Visit the **home of Ernest Hemingway**.



Trinidad

## | UNESCO |

The following UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this program: **Old Havana and Its Fortification System; Trinidad; San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago; the Urban Historic Center of Cienfuegos and the Historic Center of Camagüey. La Tumba Francesa**, a musical style brought to the island by Haitian slaves in the late 18th century, has been inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage list and also is featured on this program.



## Howdy, Aqs!

We are pleased to invite you on a Cuban journey of discovery. For more than five decades, travel to this vibrant Caribbean nation has been strictly regulated, but recent events have made it easier for U.S. citizens to experience life on this beautiful island.

Meticulously planned by travel experts to comply with U.S. regulations, this journey puts you in contact with ordinary Cubans who are doing extraordinary things. Learn directly from them about their culture, their history and their heritage. During your trip, you'll savor the flavors of authentic Cuban cuisine, admire the work of Cuban artists, listen to the infectious rhythms of Cuban music and much more!

Join us on this spectacular people-to-people educational exchange program, authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department's Cuban Assets Control Regulations. Space on this amazing 12-night journey is limited to 20 travelers. Be sure to make your reservations today.

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director, Travel Programs

The Association of Former Students

*Operated in accordance with regulations issued by the  
Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department.  
This exclusive program, developed by AHI International Corp., opens the door  
to a neighbor country long closed to American travelers. It is designed to  
promote People-to-People contact and cultural exchange.*



Museo de la Revolución

DAY ONE

MIAMI

Check in to the Crowne Plaza Miami International Airport in Miami, Florida.

*(Accommodations in Miami are included. Transportation to Miami is not included.)*

DAY TWO

D

HAVANA

Depart for Havana, Cuba.

**Excursion: Cuba's Revolutionary History.**

Begin your exploration of Cuba with a visit to the Museo de la Revolución, which houses Cuba's most complete exposition of its revolutionary history.

Check in to the Hotel Meliá Cohiba.

**Educational Focus: The Cuban Economy.**

A University of Havana professor leads a discussion about Cuba's economy.

Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at La Moraleja, a privately owned and operated restaurant called a paladar. During a period of reform in the 1990s, many Cubans were allowed to open their own restaurants. Each paladar, Spanish for palate, offers a unique setting and menu.

DAY THREE

B I L I D

HAVANA

**Excursion: Cigars and the Arts.** Visit a cigar factory to learn about Cuba's most famous industry and watch the process of cigar making. Meet and talk with some of the workers who make cigars. Visit a contemporary dance studio, watch the Cuban dancers rehearse and speak with them about their profession.



Trinidad

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at La Ferminia.

**Excursion: Hemingway House and Afro-Cuban Dance.** Visit Finca Vigía, home of author Ernest Hemingway, to learn about his life and work in Cuba. Next, learn about Afro-Cuban dance from various local dancers born and raised in Havana. Dancing has been a part of their lives since their childhood, and they now teach tango and salsa. You may even try a few steps yourself!

**Local Flavor:** Experience a meal at Café del Oriente, one of the best state-run restaurants in the country.

DAY FOUR

B I L I D

HAVANA

**Excursion: Havana, Old and New.** Discover Habana Vieja, Old Havana. Explore the Plaza de Armas, the city's oldest square, and the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, home of the Spanish colonial governors. Walk to the Plaza de la Catedral and the historic Plaza de San Francisco to see the 19th-century Fountain of Lions. Visit the Convento de Belén to meet with members and learn about their community project.

**Educational Focus: Urban Planning and the Architectural Challenges in Havana.** Join Cuban architect Miguel Coyula for an in-depth discussion about Havana's decaying neighborhoods and the families living there.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at the San Felipe Hotel.

**Excursion: La Quinta Santavenia.** Visit a private religious home for senior citizens. Meet and speak with the nuns who operate the home, and share experiences and participate in activities with the residents. The home also is an excellent example of Cuban neoclassical architecture.



Havana restaurant

**Local Flavor:** Dinner this evening is at El Aljibe, one of the most popular restaurants in Havana.

DAY FIVE

B I L I D

## HAVANA | SANTA CLARA

**Excursion: *Cuban Judaism and the Fine Arts*.** Visit a Jewish community center to learn about Judaism in Cuba. Continue to the National Museum of Fine Arts to view the Cuban Collection.

**Educational Focus: *Contemporary Arts in Cuba*.** Wilfredo Benítez, a director of the Ludwig Foundation, leads a discussion about art and artists in Cuba today. The Ludwig Foundation is a nongovernmental, nonprofit institute created to promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at La Barraca at the Hotel Nacional.

Depart for Santa Clara, where you will check in to the Hotel Los Caneyes.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a barbecue dinner and a Cuban music performance.

DAY SIX

B I L I D

## TRINIDAD | CIENFUEGOS |

### SANTA CLARA

**Excursion: *Trinidad*.** Visit the Plaza Mayor in the center of old Trinidad. The plaza is home to Cuba's largest church, the Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad, and the Museo de Arquitectura Colonial. Pass by the nearby Museo Romántico de Artes Decorativas, which is in a colonial mansion. Visit a Santería temple, meet the local santero, or priest, and learn about Santería and its role in Cuban culture. Get a



## The Cuban Soundtrack

The infectious rhythms of Cuban music delight people around the world. The combination of its Spanish and West African influences have created delicious sounds that will compel you to dance. Hidden for decades, Cuban music came to the forefront in the 1990s with the release of "The Buena Vista Social Club," an album by some of Cuba's most famous musicians and the subsequent documentary about them. European music, both secular and religious, and dance first arrived in Cuba in the 16th century with Spanish colonists. African slaves also brought their musical traditions, preserved through *cabildos*, councils formed to support the different African ethnic groups brought to the island. These *cabildos* provided the means for slaves to continue their religious traditions, including music and dance. Over the next few hundred years, these diverse sounds emerged into the lively music we know today. Son, rumba, mambo and chachachá all are products of this musical union. Rumba rhythms, for example, have roots in the percussive elements of *santería*, the religion that developed when Yoruba slaves masked their traditional beliefs in the guise of Roman Catholicism. The most important genre, however, is son; a product of the Cuban street culture of the late 19th century, it was the precursor to most other types of Cuban music.

glimpse of local life during a visit to a family who has restored a architecturally significant home.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a buffet lunch at the Plaza Mayor.

**Excursion: *Cienfuegos*.** Return to Santa Clara via Cienfuegos. Enjoy a tour of this historic seaside town.



Morro Fortress



Cuban schoolchildren



**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Santa Clara.

#### DAY SEVEN

#### B I L I D

##### REMEDIOS | CAMAGÜEY

**Excursion: *Che Guevara and Remedios.***

Visit the mausoleum of Che Guevara, the famous revolutionary. In historic Remedios, the eighth-oldest city in Cuba, see the 13 gold altars in the Iglesia Mayor, and visit a workshop to see memorabilia from the city's annual Christmas celebration, which is the country's oldest festival. Meet students and teachers at an elementary school.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at Hotel Mascotte in Plaza Mayor.

Continue to Camagüey. Upon arrival, check in to the Gran Hotel.

**Excursion: *Inside an Artists' Studio.***

This evening, take a walking tour of Plaza Agramonte, and meet artists Ilena Sanchez and Joel Joyer at their studio.

**Local Flavor:** Continue to a restaurant in the plaza for dinner.

#### DAY EIGHT

#### B I L I D

##### CAMAGÜEY

**Excursion: *Camagüey.*** Visit the Bicentina de la Torre Academy of the Arts for a question-and-answer session with students

and instructors. Meet the students of Endendace Contemporary Dance School.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at El Paso in the Plaza del Carmen.

**Excursion: *Art, History and Classic Cars in Camagüey.*** Visit with a local artist in her studio. Meet the town historian to learn about Camagüey's past. Get a closer look at some of the antique cars that can be seen all over Cuba. Meet the owners and learn about the challenges they face in keeping these iconic cars operating. After dinner, enjoy a ride around town.

**Local Flavor:** Savor a delicious dinner at Restaurant 1800.

#### DAY NINE

#### B I L I D

##### BAYAMO | SANTIAGO DE CUBA

**Excursion: *Bayamo.*** Visit Bayamo, a city known for its reliance on old-fashioned transportation. Most of the residents eschew cars and buses in favor of an unusual system of public transportation: the horse-drawn carriage. The city also has a high number of bicycle taxis. Upon arrival, take a short tour.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the main square.

**Excursion: *El Cobre.*** Visit the La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, a basilica in the village of El Cobre. See the basilica with the statue of Our Lady of Charity, the patroness of Cuba.

Upon arrival in Santiago de Cuba, check in to the Hotel Meliá Santiago.

Dinner tonight is served at the hotel.



Santiago de Cuba

## DAY TEN

## B I L I D

### SANTIAGO DE CUBA

**Excursion: Cuba's Health Care System and Higher Education.** Visit to a health clinic to learn about Cuba's health care system from the doctors and nurses who work there. At the Universidad de Santiago, meet professors and students to learn more about university life.

**Local Flavor:** Take a break for lunch at a restaurant in Santiago.

**Excursion: Old Santiago and Chamber Music.** Explore old Santiago on a walking tour. Enjoy a performance of chamber music by Camerata Vocal Música Áurea choir at Capilla San Basilio el Magno.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

## DAY ELEVEN

## B I L I D

### SANTIAGO DE CUBA

**Educational Focus: Cuba-U.S. Relations.** Join a local expert for a talk about contemporary Cuba and Cuba-U.S. relations.

**Educational Focus: Afro-Cuban Religion and Morro Fortress.** Learn about Afro-Cuban religion and the relationship between religion and the state. Continue to Morro Fortress, built in 1638 to protect the island and Spanish interests from the pirates that sailed the Caribbean Sea.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Santiago.

**Excursion: La Tumba Francesa.** Meet the members of Tumba Francesa La Caridad de Oriente, a musical troupe that has been entertaining audiences for 140 years, and enjoy an exclusive performance. The group's music features African drums and French patois vocals that is typical of the Tumba Francesa style.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a festive Farewell Dinner.

## DAY TWELVE

## B I L I D

### SANTIAGO DE CUBA | HAVANA

Transfer to the airport in Santiago for a flight to Havana.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Havana.

**Excursion: Maria Cienfuegos Art Studio.** Visit the five artists that have their own studios within the Maria Cienfuegos Art Studio. See and learn about their work.

Transfer to the Hotel Meliá Cohiba.

Dinner is served at the hotel.

## DAY THIRTEEN

## B

### IN TRANSIT

This afternoon, depart for Havana José Martí International Airport for the return flight to Miami.

**Note:** This itinerary is subject to change. If an event must be canceled, it will be replaced with another People-to-People event. During the walking tours, the sidewalks and other surfaces may be narrow, uneven or made of cobblestones.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.





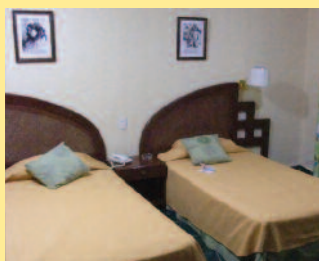
## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Meliá Cohiba | Havana



Just steps from the Malecón, the Meliá Cohiba overlooks Havana Bay. The hotel is centrally located near the Plaza of the Revolution and Old Havana. It has an outdoor pool and a gym. There are six restaurants and seven bars, including a nightclub with live music and a cigar bar. Wi-Fi is available.

### Hotel Los Caneyes | Santa Clara



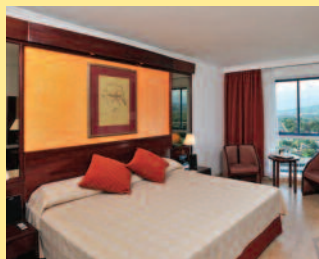
The Hotel Los Caneyes is in the historic city of Santa Clara in central Cuba. When you are not exploring the city and other attractions in the region, enjoy a dip in the outdoor pool or treat yourself to a spa service. Stay in charming and comfortably outfitted thatched-roof cottages. Internet access is available.

### Gran Hotel Camagüey | Camagüey



The Gran Hotel Camagüey has been welcoming guests since 1939 and counts Ernest Hemingway as one of its guests. The hotel is close to Camagüey's historic attractions, and it has a pool and poolside bar. Meet friends for drinks at the Piano Bar. This comfortable hotel is your base as you explore the city of Camagüey. Internet access is available.

### Hotel Meliá Santiago | Santiago



Admire views of the Sierra Maestra mountains and the city from Bello Bar, the rooftop lounge. This first-class hotel is located near the city's top attractions. The hotel has seven restaurants, two lounges, three pools, a fitness center and a spa. Enjoy nightly entertainment in the lounges and the Santiago Café nightclub. Wi-Fi is available.



## Reserve your trip to Cuba, today!

Trip #:2-22780W

Send to: The Association of Former Students  
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Traveling Aggies

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Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

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This is a round-trip, air-inclusive program between Miami, FL, and Havana, Cuba, on specially arranged charter flights.

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☐ I/we reserve the Land & Air Program and request round-trip flight(s) to and from Miami, FL, to depart from:

Departure City

☐ Please contact me/us to discuss connecting domestic air flight options.

### Single Accommodations

☐ I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$695 (limited availability).

☐ I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by December 13, 2015 (45 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

☐ Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

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**ITINERARY PARTICIPATION**-The general license for this program, administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), requires that people-to-people educational exchange travelers participate in a full-time schedule of activities that will result in meaningful interaction with the Cuban people, and imposes on AHI the obligation to ensure that participation. By registering for this program, you certify that you will adhere without deviation to the program itinerary. OFAC may require you to provide a report about the educational exchange activities, and requires that you maintain copies of your records relating to this Exchange for a period of five years.

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# AIR | LAND PROGRAM

**Jan. 27-Feb. 8, 2016**

**Special Price**

**\$6,695**

Price includes round-trip charter air service from Miami, FL, to Havana, Cuba.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and include round-trip charter air service from Miami to Cuba. Single accommodations are an additional \$695 (limited availability).

## *Color, rhythm & melody*

Isolated from the rest of the world for almost 60 years, Cuban artists have nurtured self-expression with little outside influence. A mix of Spanish and African roots has blossomed into Cuba's own forms of painting, music and dance. Among the most famous creations of this artistic incubator are salsa dancing and music. The irresistible salsa beat makes this the staple of most Cuban nightclubs.



## *Treasured tobacco*

Native Cubans cultivated tobacco long before Europeans arrived. The Taíno people smoked it through hollowed wooden tubes called cohibas. Today Havana factories turn out famous cigar brands, such as Cohiba, Montecristo and Romeo y Julieta. Locals lack the money for these pricey smokes and instead buy more economical cigars at local shops.



# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- **One night** in Miami, Florida, at the first-class **Crowne Plaza Miami International Airport**.
- **Four nights** in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class **Hotel Meliá Cohiba**.
- **Two nights** in Santa Clara at the first-class **Hotel Los Caneyes**.
- **Two nights** in Camagüey at the first-class **Gran Hotel Camagüey**.
- **Three nights** in Santiago at the first-class **Hotel Meliá Santiago**.

## MEALS

- Enjoy all meals in Cuba; tea or coffee with all meals, plus a local beverage with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** while dining at specially selected state-run and privately owned restaurants.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Chartered round-trip flights from Miami to Havana, and the flight from Santiago de Cuba to Havana.
- All deluxe motor coach transfers in Cuba and baggage handling on these transfers.

## ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Interact with locals during **daily People-to-People exchanges**.
- **All excursions** in the itinerary are included.
- Learn about Cuban culture, history and more during **informative educational discussions with local experts**.
- Travel with an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your journey.
- Enjoy open and frank conversations with locals with the help of **English-speaking guides and translators**.
- Welcome and Farewell dinners.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.

## PRE-DEPARTURE BENEFITS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



## *Simple and delicious*

Cuban food is country food, made from basic ingredients such as roast chicken or pork, with white rice and black beans on the side. Sofrito, a paste of garlic, peppers, onions and lime, adds some kick.



## *Cuban spirit*

Some three quarters of Cuban citizens profess some form of religious belief. Many Cubans practice Santería — spirit worship originally brought to Cuba by slaves — and other Afro-Cuban religions that blend native African beliefs with Catholicism.



**The Association**  
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Cathedral, Havana

Camagüey