

# Havana

THE AFRO-CUBAN EXPERIENCE

SMALL  
GROUP  
Limited to  
12 guests!



SPONSORED BY

AIR INCLUSIVE  
from Miami, FL



November 15-22, 2024



## Dear Alumnae and Friends,

From its signature vintage cars and colonial buildings to genuine personal encounters, Cuba leaves visitors with an indelible sense of nostalgia. Stay for seven nights in a privately owned boutique hotel located in Havana's Vedado neighborhood. With your intimately sized group, limited to 12 travelers, make authentic connections with Cuba's community and unravel the far-reaching influences of the African diaspora on the island's culture and people.

Our thoughtfully designed People-to-People program delivers a full schedule of activities that provide meaningful interactions between our travelers and Cuban residents. Special excursions through Havana, Matanzas, Guanabacoa and Regla showcase the country's profound Afro-Cuban roots, plus discover Cuba's unparalleled art scene. Along the way, we'll introduce you to independent business owners, community leaders, dancers and other residents who share with you their way of life and their arts. You'll also meet local experts who offer professional insights into their country.

Our extensive networks of guides and locals are ready to share their passion for their country with you. Space is limited so we encourage you to make your reservations 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.

In the spirit of Sisterhood,

*Valerie L. Anderson*

Valerie Anderson '81, MBA  
Executive Director  
Associate Alumnae of Douglass College  
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### UNESCO World Heritage

#### 1. Old Havana and its Fortification System



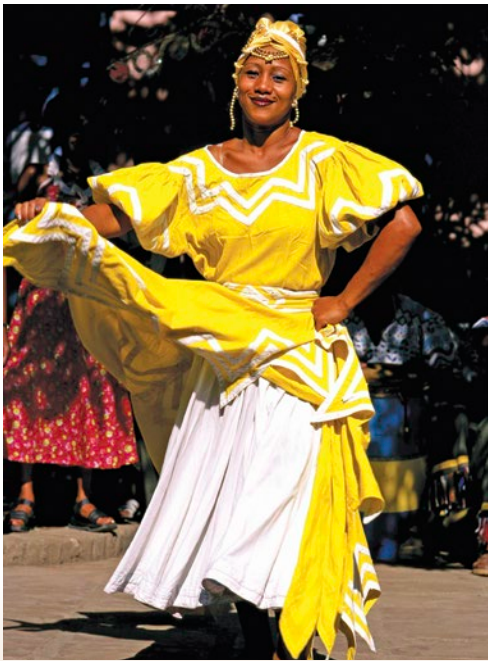
*Cannons at fortification, Havana*



*La Cabaña Fortress,  
Havana*



# Havana | THE AFRO-CUBAN EXPERIENCE



Top: Vintage automobiles, Havana  
Cover: Cuban jazz musician  
Mail panel: Old Havana | Afro-Cuban musician

## Inspiring Moments



- **Broaden your understanding** of the extensive influence of the African diaspora on Cuban life and culture.
- Connect with local experts, community leaders, musicians and artists during **People-to-People visits**.
- Visit independently owned shops and restaurants to have meaningful discussions with **entrepreneurial Afro-Cubans**.
- Discover the deep Afro-Cuban roots of **Matanzas, Guanabacoa and Regla**.
- Venture beyond Havana to **visit a rural community** and learn about farming from residents.
- Encounter Havana's vibrant **street art movement**.
- Ride in an independently owned **1950s convertible** along Havana's Malecón.
- Experience the thrill of Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



Plaza of the Cathedral, Old Havana

### Day 1 | Miami, Florida | Havana, Cuba

Depart Miami for Havana. Upon arrival, check in to the Hotel La Reserva Vedado. 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 while supporting Cuban entrepreneurialism.

### Day 2 | Havana | Regla | Guanabacoa

**Afro-Cuban Havana.** Join Cuban writer and activist Roberto Zurbano for a walking tour of Old Havana as you learn about the engrossing history and culture of the Afro-Cuban people. Meet and talk with the founder of Beyond Roots, an independent shop dedicated to promoting Afro-Cuban culture through educational experiences and workshops. Continue to the municipality of Regla, known for its long traditions of Santería, Palo Monte and other religions. See the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla, which houses the black Madonna and other shrines. Next, visit Guanabacoa, the center of Havana's Afro-Cuban culture, and step inside the house of a Babalawo, a priest of the Ifá oracle. This intimate experience offers firsthand insight into the practice. Afterwards, sit down for a lunch of typical Afro-Cuban dishes in a private home.

**Afro-Cuban Dance.** Enjoy a special gathering with local dancers. Born and raised in Havana, dancing has been a part of their lives since childhood and each has been a part of dance troupes and studios through the years. Listen as they share their passions for teaching tango and salsa. Perhaps try a few steps yourself!

### Day 3 | Havana

**In-Depth Havana.** Start the day at Callejón de Hamel, a colorful alleyway that is a central part of Afro-Cuban culture. This eclectic street is often full of rumba drummers and dancers, vibrant murals and sculptures, and art made from recycled items. Walk along the alleyway and learn about a variety of Afro-Cuban religions practiced in Cuba. Next, join an expert for a tour of Havana's National Museum of Fine Arts and see mixed media, paintings and sculptures by Afro-Cuban artists. After lunch at a *paladar*, climb aboard a classic convertible for a ride through Havana's historic quarter. Chat with your driver and peek under the hood to learn how these well-preserved cars are maintained.

**Enrichment: Cuban Economy.**

### Day 4 | Havana

**Enrichment: Empowering Cuban Women.**

**Jewish Center & Cuban Dance.** Visit the Sephardic Hebrew Center, where a member of

Beyond Roots, Havana





Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban painter and sculptor José Fuster

Havana's Jewish Community welcomes you and provides a tour. Next, visit local dance company Malpaso to watch dancers rehearse and speak to them about their profession and dreams. Later, gather on a terrace overlooking Havana to meet Wilfredo Benítez Munóz, Executive Director of the philanthropic Ludwig Foundation, which promotes contemporary Cuban artists and culture. Meet local artists and learn about their artistic desires.

Visit the historic Hotel Nacional followed by dinner at a local *paladar*.

#### Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

**Matanzas – The Slaves' Route.** Cuba underwent a long period of slavery from 1511 until 1886. Today, Afro-Cuban roots remain profound across the island, especially in Matanzas. Take a guided tour of the San Severino Museum, a castle built by slave labor to protect the city against attacks and learn how Afro-Cuban culture is celebrated in Cuba.

Black Madonna, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla



Also visit the Sugar Mill Triunvirato, the site of the 1843 Rebellion of the Triunvirato. Then, enjoy a performance by a local choir!

**Enrichment: Race & the Cuban Revolution.**

#### Day 6 | Havana

**Insights of 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 & Cuban Dance.** Visit a lively

Cuban art





## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Havana, Cuba, at the deluxe Hotel La Reserva Vedado, 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.

agromercado, open-air street market, and then a contemporary dance studio for a look into Cuba's infectious dance scene. Meet the talented dancers and learn about their lives and commitment to their training.

**Inside an Art Studio.** Cuba's art scene reflects a menagerie of influences. Take a tour of Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban painter and sculptor José Fuster. Talk with the artist about his work and the opportunities for local artists, followed by lunch in his studio.

**Enrichment: Cuba's Health Care System.**

#### Day 7 | Cuban Countryside | Havana

**Rural Cuba.** Travel beyond Havana to the countryside, passing tobacco and sugarcane fields, valleys and villages. Visit a small community and meet with farmers and others to learn about their lives in rural Cuba.

Relax over a lunch of locally sourced produce.

**Enrichment: Rhythms of Cuban Music.**

Celebrate your trip at a Farewell Dinner.

#### 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

Contemporary Cuban dancers



## Accommodations



### Hotel La Reserva Vedado | Havana



Located in the revered neighborhood of El Vedado, this privately owned boutique hotel offers a peaceful tropical garden, contemporary Cuban art throughout and welcoming service. The inviting decor evokes the colonial past of this antiquated mansion and your individually decorated room offers the ideal blend of elegant furnishing and modern comforts.



Matanzas



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **800-323-7373** or  
visit **aadc.ahitravel.com**.

## Air-Inclusive Program

### Travel dates †

**November 15-22, 2024**

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

### Tour dates\*

**November 15-22, 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	\$5,545	\$5,295
Junior Suite	\$5,745	\$5,495
Deluxe Suite	\$5,945	\$5,695

**\*Special Price includes \$250 special savings.**

**Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.**

**Receive Bonus Savings when you Pay in Full at booking.**

**Call for details.**

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

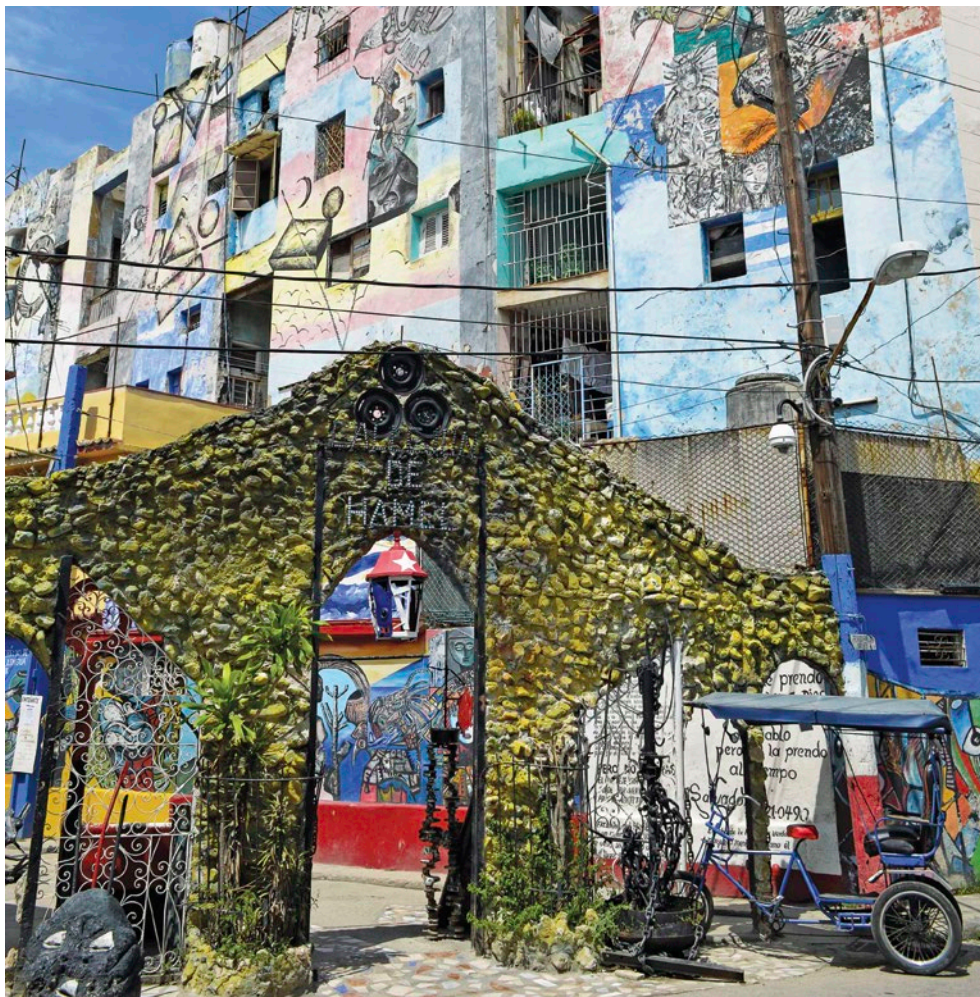
Single accommodations are not available on this program.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://aadc.ahitravel.com/destinations/1825A?schoolId=248>. 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 and support the Cuban people.

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Callejon de Hamel, Havana

## 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.

**Travel Coordinator** 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.



Agromercado



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## Uncover Cuba's vibrant Afro-Cuban culture and history!

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- Safety and security.

