

# CUBA & its People

HAVANA



**SMALL  
GROUP**

Maximum of  
12 Travelers

SPONSORED BY



**ALUMNI**

University of Illinois Alumni Association

February 26 – March 5, 2027

**AIR INCLUSIVE**  
from Miami, FL

# I ALUMNI

**Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,**

From historic Old Havana to culture-rich Matanzas and the lush, rural countryside, discover Cuba's heart and soul alongside its charismatic people. Stay for seven nights at a first-class boutique hotel in the heart of Havana. With your small group of 12 guests, you'll form authentic connections with the Cuban community and gain insight into the island country's complex history – steeped in struggle, resilience and optimism.

Each day features meaningful encounters with Cuba's warm people. Interact with community leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, dancers and performers who share their personal stories and perspectives on the island's ever-changing landscape with you.

Our thoughtfully crafted, full daily schedule of activities provides immersion in the lives of hardworking Cubans, guided by our AHI's knowledgeable local Travel Director, expert local guides and esteemed lecturers who offer valuable insight and enrichment.

Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve 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.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

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## UNESCO World Heritage

### Old Havana and its Fortification System



*La Cabaña fortress, Havana harbor*



*El Capitolio, Havana*



# Cuba & its People



Top: Cathedral, Havana | Above: Cuban woman with folding fan  
Cover: Plaza de la Catedral, Havana  
Mail panel: Vintage convertibles | El Callejón de Hamel

## Inspiring Moments



- **Uncover Cuba's complex history and culture** alongside its resilient people.
- **Engage in meaningful exchanges with local Cubans** – gaining valuable insight from artists, dancers, cultural groups and entrepreneurs.
- Discover **Old Havana's historic plazas** and the artsy El Callejón de Hamel alley.
- Ride in a **1950s American convertible** along Havana's Malecón sea drive.
- Enjoy a **modern dance performance** at Malpaso and a **chamber choir performance** in culture-rich Matanzas.
- Visit the San Severino Castle and Sugar Mill Museum on **Cuba's Slave Route**.
- Spend a day with the residents of a **self-sustaining rural community**.
- Experience Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



Historic Old Havana

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

Depart Miami for Havana. Arrive, transfer and check in to the Paseo 206.

**Welcome Dinner.** Gather with your fellow travelers for dinner at a privately owned and operated local restaurant. Meet and support local entrepreneurs on your first night in Cuba!

**Day 2 | Havana**

**Enrichment: Havana's Architecture.**

**Old Havana.** Begin your Cuban discovery with a guided walk through La Habana Vieja and its lively four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de la Catedral, teeming with daily life. Step into the Havana Cathedral, consecrated in 1782 and the seat of Havana's archdiocese. During your walk, stop by Dador, an independently owned clothing store founded by three Cuban women. Hear from staff about their creative mission and the challenges and rewards of owning and operating a female-led business in Havana. Stop for lunch at a casual café in Old Havana.

**Enrichment: The Cuban Economy.**

**Day 3 | Havana**

**Norma Guillard.** Meet distinguished Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana, Norma Guillard. Watch "Maestra," a documentary about the female volunteers who taught over 900,000 Cubans to read and write during the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign. Guillard will share stories about her involvement at age 15, as well as her ongoing work and writing in support of Cuban women, followed by an engaging discussion.

**National Museum of Fine Arts.** Join Wilfredo Benítez of the Ludwig Foundation for a tour of this vital cultural institution. He'll offer insightful commentary on specific Cuban works held at the museum, which features a Cuban art, from colonial-era and 19th-century works to modern, revolutionary, and avant-garde art.

Discuss your morning's insights over lunch.

**Vintage Convertible.** Hop into one of Cuba's legendary, classic 1950s American convertibles for a ride along Havana's Malecón sea drive. Peek beneath the hood and chat with your friendly driver to gain insight into their ingenuity and resourcefulness in maintaining the cars.

**Enrichment: The Cuban Health Care System**

**Day 4 | Havana**

**Enrichment: Empowering Cuban Women.**

**Jewish Culture & Cuban Dance.** Visit the Ashkenazi Community Center to gain insight into Cuba's Jewish culture. Stop at Malpaso, a contemporary dance studio, and watch the

Founders and owners of Dador





*La Finca Vigía, Ernest Hemingway's home & museum*

talented company perform a moving dance arrangement for you. Afterward, engage in a Q&A with the dancers to understand their passion, training and dedication to dance.

**La Finca Vigía.** Visit Ernest Hemingway's estate and museum, where the author lived from 1939 to 1960 and wrote the Nobel Prize-winning "The Old Man and the Sea."

**Ludwig Foundation.** Later, gather on the terrace of this nonprofit institution, dedicated to protecting and promoting Cuban artists and culture. Engage in intellectual exchanges with local artists to hear about and view their art. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

#### **Day 5 | Havana | Matanzas**

**Matanzas & The Slave Route.** Journey to the province of Matanzas today, pausing en route to admire sweeping views of the lush Yumurí Valley. Visit San Severino Castle, the 1735 fortress where enslaved African people were brought during the 18th century. Next, stop at the Museo Farmacéutico building in the city center to delight in a performance by an a

*La Libertad Square, Matanzas*



cappella chamber choir, followed by a Q&A session with the singers. Step in briefly to admire the beautifully preserved, original French-style pharmacy, founded in 1882, as you depart.

Savor a delicious farm-to-table lunch nearby.

**Sugar Mill Triunvirato.** Visit the 19th-century sugar plantation and site of the 1843 Slave Rebellion for a tour of the plantation house and exhibits on slavery and the Angola War. View the Monument to the Slave Rebellion. Back in Havana, gather for dinner at the hotel.

#### **Day 6 | Havana**

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

**Agromercado.** Step into the daily lives of local Cubans during an interactive, fun shopping excursion to a bustling local farmers' market.

**El Callejón de Hamel.** Immerse yourself in this eclectic alleyway, brimming with vibrant street art and rumba drumming. Gain insight into Cuba's oldest community art project and the diversity of Cuban religions that have emerged.

**Inside an Art Studio.** Visit Casa Fuster, the studio of Picasso-inspired Cuban painter and sculptor José Fuster. View the artist's vibrant, fantastical mosaics, hear about his work and

*Cuban contemporary dancers*





## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Paseo 206, a privately owned boutique hotel.

### 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 wine, beer or a cocktail with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

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

have lunch in this uniquely creative setting.

**Casa de la Cultura.** Interact with the staff and children at this cultural center, dedicated to preserving Cuba's cultural and artistic heritage through workshops in art, dance and theater.

**Cuban Dance.** Learn basic salsa steps from a dynamic music-and-dance trio, and then practice, accompanied by live Cuban music!

### Day 7 | Havana | Rural Cuba

**Las Terrazas.** Drive to the island's mountain countryside to be awed by Cuba's untamed beauty on a visit to a self-sustaining socialist community. Learn about their reforestation mission and daily lives during visits to a local café, daycare, doctor's office and artist's studio, followed by a lunch including locally grown vegetables and live entertainment.

**Enrichment: *The Rhythms of Cuban Music.***

**Farewell Dinner.** Celebrate your enriching week during dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 8 | Havana | Miami, Florida

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Miami, Florida, and connection to your home city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions. If an event must be canceled, it will be replaced with another People-to-People event.

### Activity Level

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:

- full days of ongoing activities
- walk 1–3 miles daily on flat/uneven terrain, including cobblestones; up and down inclines; up to 100 stairs, often without handrails; stand 1–3 hours
- getting on/off motor coaches, with several steep steps, multiple times daily

Artist, El Callejón de Hamel





*Above: Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban artist and sculptor José Fuster*

*Below: Las Terrazas*



# 2027 | Departure Details

## Program Dates

**Travel dates** † **February 26 – March 5, 2027**

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

**Tour dates\*** **February 26 – March 5, 2027**

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

## Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
Standard	\$6,045	<b>\$5,295</b>
Junior Suite	\$6,245	<b>\$5,495</b>
Master Suite	\$6,545	<b>\$5,795</b>
Rooftop Suite	\$7,045	<b>\$6,295</b>

**\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are not available on this program.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1997A?schoold=69>.

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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Agromercado

# Accommodations



## Paseo 206 | Havana



Conveniently located in Havana's El Vedado neighborhood, the privately owned Paseo 206 boutique hotel features a fusion of Cuban and Italian sophistication, contemporary Cuban artwork, modern comforts, amenities and attentive service. After a day of enriching activities, enjoy an aperitif in the library room or dinner at the popular Eclectico restaurant.



## AHI Travel Expertise

**Travel Consultants** guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

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

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

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



## Book your journey today!

844-414-0369

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

# I

## ALUMNI

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Discover Cuba's enduring culture, rhythms and spirit!

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