

Havana

THE AFRO-CUBAN EXPERIENCE

**SMALL
GROUP**
Limited to
12 guests!



SPONSORED BY

AIR INCLUSIVE
from Miami, FL



Michigan State University
Alumni Office

April 11-18, 2025

Other dates available upon request



Dear Spartan Alumni 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.

Go Green!

Regina Cross BS '91
Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program
Michigan State University Alumni Office
888-697-2863

The Michigan State University Alumni Office strongly recommends you purchase travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your email confirmation from the MSU Alumni Office.

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 and daily life 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. ✈️ Arrive, transfer 🚗 and check in to the La Reserva Vedado.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Dinner at a local *paladar*, a privately owned and operated restaurant. Meet, mingle and support local entrepreneurs on your first night in Cuba.

Day 2 | Havana | Regla | Guanabacoa

Afro-Cuban Havana. Join Cuban writer and activist Roberto Zurbano for a walking tour of UNESCO-inscribed La Habana Vieja, Old Havana. Learn about the engrossing history and culture of the Afro-Cuban people. Then, visit Beyond Roots, an independent shop dedicated to promoting Afro-Cuban culture through educational experiences and workshops, to meet and talk with the founder. Continue with a visit to Regla, known for its long traditions of Santería, Palo Monte and other religions. See the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla, an important historical church, 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 Yoruba religion called Ifá. This intimate experience offers firsthand insight into the practice.

Savor a lunch of typical Afro-Cuban dishes.

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. Explore Callejón de Hamel, a colorful alleyway that is a central part of Afro-Cuban culture. This eclectic street features rumba drummers and dancers, vibrant murals and sculptures, and art made from recycled items. As you stroll, 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. Enjoy a group lunch at a *paladar*.

Vintage Car Ride. Thrill to a drive in a classic convertible along Havana's 4.3-mile Malecón sea drive and chat with your friendly driver. Then, visit the famous, historic Hotel Nacional.

Enrichment: *The Cuban Economy.*

Day 4 | Havana

Enrichment: *Empowering Cuban Women.*

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

Beyond Roots, Havana





Las Terrazas

of 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 Munõz, Executive Director of the philanthropic Ludwig Foundation. Learn how it promotes contemporary Cuban artists and culture. Meet independent local artists and learn about their desires to pursue artistic ventures. Savor dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

Matanzas – The Slaves' Route. Cuba underwent a long period of slavery from 1511 until 1886. Today, the Afro-Cuban legacy is particularly strong in Matanzas. Here, visit with African cultural and artistic community groups and individuals with influences throughout the province. Hear a performance by a small chamber orchestra, Camerata Jose White.

Black Madonna, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla



After lunch in Matanzas, visit the Sugar Mill Triunvirato to see the moving, 19th-century Monument to the Slaves' Rebellion.

Enjoy a group dinner this evening at the hotel.

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 and discuss the documentary, "Maestra," about female volunteers who taught more than 700,000 Cubans to read and write during the Cuban Literacy Campaign.

Cuban art





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class 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.
- **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.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Cuban visa.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Shops of Old Havana. Visit shops created, owned and operated by Cuban women, including Ciclo EcoPapel, which recycles old paper goods to make stationary; and Zulu, which crafts and sells leather goods from recycled scraps. Engage in enriching discussions with these female entrepreneurs. Savor lunch at a female-owned café, and later, Cuban cuisine for dinner at a local restaurant.

Enrichment: Cuban Health Care System.

Day 7 | Rural Cuba | Havana

Rural Cuba. Travel to the rural countryside as you take in the untamed views of tobacco and sugarcane fields. Visit Las Terrazas, a model socialist community, to engage with residents and learn about their conservation efforts. Also, visit and talk with the principal at a local school, stop at an artist's studio, and savor lunch of locally grown vegetables.

Enrichment: Rhythms of Cuban Music.

Raise a toast to 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



La Reserva Vedado | Havana



Located in the ideally situated neighborhood of El Vedado, this privately owned boutique hotel offers a peaceful tropical garden, welcoming service and works of contemporary Cuban art in the in-house Art Gallery. The inviting decor evokes the colonial past of this historic 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 **833-303-1333** or
visit **michst.ahitravel.com**.

Air-Inclusive Program

Travel dates †

April 11-18, 2025

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

Tour dates*

April 11-18, 2025

* 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	Early Booking Special Price*
Standard	\$5,745	\$4,995
Junior Suite	\$5,945	\$5,195
Deluxe Suite	\$6,145	\$5,395

Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.

*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

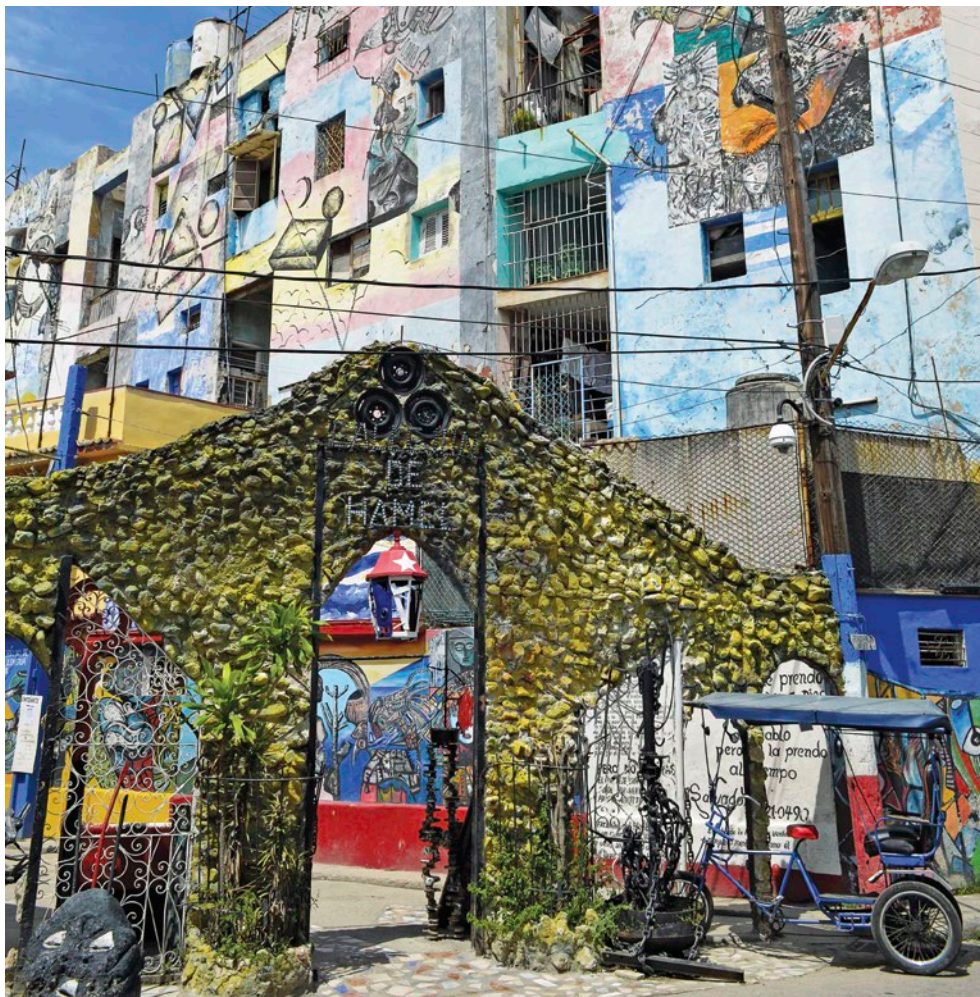
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and include round-trip air service between Miami and Cuba.

Single accommodations are not available on this program.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://michst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1877A?schoold=100>. 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 & Air Coordinators each offer their 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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AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
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- Safety and security.

