

Havana

THE AFRO-CUBAN EXPERIENCE

**SMALL
GROUP**

Maximum of
12 Travelers



SPONSORED BY

AIR INCLUSIVE
from Miami, FL



**Carolina
Alumni**
TRAVEL

February 6-13, 2026



Carolina Alumni TRAVEL

Dear Carolina alumni and friends,

Afro-Cuban history is deeply woven into this island's cultural, social and spiritual fabric. Venture to a world closed to Americans for more than 50 years, its secrets whispered through faded postcards and echoes of Hemingway's prose. Stay for seven nights in a privately owned boutique hotel in Havana's heart and explore Cuba's rich heritage with your intimately sized group, limited to 12 travelers.

In enigmatic Cuba, lively squares buzz with daily life, vintage convertibles glide past timeworn façades and rhumba music drifts down cobblestone streets. You'll make authentic connections with Cuba's warm and generous people as you unravel the far-reaching influences of the African diaspora on the island's culture and heritage. Special excursions in Havana, Matanzas, Guanabacoa, Regla and rural Cuba reveal the country's profound Afro-Cuban roots and showcase its eclectic arts and music scene.

This thoughtfully designed People-to-People program delivers an enriching experience where you'll engage in meaningful interactions with entrepreneurs, community leaders, artists and dancers who welcome you into their daily lives. AHI's network of guides and locals are eager to share their personal knowledge and professional insights with you.

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. Space is limited, so we encourage you to book this experience today!

Go Heels and travel the world,

Audrey, Catherine and Douglass

Audrey '13, Catherine '89 and Douglass '04
Carolina Alumni Travel Office

Participation in this tour is a Carolina Alumni member benefit. Join or renew today at alumni.unc.edu/join. The Carolina Alumni Travel Office may be reached at 877-962-3980 or travel@unc.edu.

UNESCO World Heritage

Old Havana and its Fortification System



La Cabaña fortress, Havana harbor





Havana | THE AFRO-CUBAN EXPERIENCE



Inspiring Moments



- Broaden your understanding of the profound influence of **the African diaspora on Cuban life and culture.**
- **Engage in inspiring conversations** with Cuba's passionate entrepreneurs, artists, dancers and activists.
- **Visit female-owned Afro-Cuban businesses** to gain insight into their challenges and determination.
- **Discover the deep Afro-Cuban roots** of Regla, Guanabacoa and Matanzas.
- Gain insight from the residents living in **a self-sustaining rural community.**
- Stroll the **eclectic El Callejón de Hamel** alley, Cuba's Afro-Cuban cultural hub.
- Ride in a **vintage American convertible** along Havana's evocative sea drive.
- Experience historic Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**

Top: Vintage cars, Havana | Above: Cuban musician

Cover: Cuban musician | Mail panel: Old Havana | Cuban dancer



Plaza of the Cathedral, Old Havana

Day 1 | Miami, Florida | Havana, Cuba

Depart Miami for Havana. Arrive, transfer and check in to the Claxon Hotel Boutique.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Dinner to meet with local Cubans on your first night in Cuba!

Day 2 | Havana | Regla | Guanabacoa

Secrets of Old Havana. Join Cuban writer and activist Roberto Zurbarano for a guided walk of La Habana Vieja. Stroll cobblestone streets and Havana's bustling plazas, past colonial-era architecture and colorful buildings adorned with wrought-iron balconies, to learn about Havana's Afro-Cuban history and culture. Visit Beyond Roots, an independently owned shop that offers immersion in Afro-Cuban culture.

Regla & Guanabacoa. Visit Regla, with its long traditions of Santería, Palo Monte and other religions. See the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla church, housing the black Madonna. Continue to Guanabacoa, the cradle of Havana's Afro-Cuban culture. Step inside the house of a Babalawo, known as Ifá, a priest of the Yoruba religion. Learn about the practice and savor an Afro-Cuban lunch in his home.

Enrichment: Cuba and U.S. Relations.

Day 3 | Havana

Cuban Activism. Norma Guillard, a Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana, shares stories about her work in literacy and feminism. View "Maestra," a documentary about the female volunteers who taught over 700,000 Cubans to read and write during the Cuban Literacy Campaign, followed by a discussion with Guillard.

Havana's National Museum of Fine Arts.

Join Wilfredo Benítez, the Ludwig Foundation, on a visit to Cuba's important cultural institution, housing an impressive collection of art. He'll provide commentary on the museum's Cuban collection, spanning colonial-era, 19th-century, modern and revolutionary art.

Enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant.

El Callejón de Hamel. Continue to the artsy, eclectic El Callejón de Hamel, Cuba's oldest community art project. The paint-splattered alleyway, now central to Afro-Cuban culture, brims with rumba drummers and dancers, vibrant murals, sculptures and recycled art.

Enrichment: Cuban Health Care System.

Day 4 | Havana

Enrichment: Empowering Cuban Women.

Jewish Culture & Cuban Dance. Visit the Ashkenazi Community Center to learn about Cuba's Jewish culture. Then, stop at Malpaso,

Beyond Roots, Havana





a contemporary dance studio, to meet and spend time with the dancers, gaining insight into their passion, training and dedication. Relish lunch at a café in Old Havana.

Ludwig Foundation. Gather on the terrace of this nonprofit institution that promotes Cuban culture and artists. Meet, mingle and gain insight from local artists about their desire and commitment to pursue artistic ventures. Savor dinner at a local restaurant.

Women-Owned Shops. Visit some Havana shops created and owned by Cuban women, including Zulu, an Afro-Cuban workshop that crafts leather goods from recycled scraps. Talk with female entrepreneurs to learn about the challenges they face as women. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

The Slave's Route. Venture to this Matanzas, the epicenter of Afro-Cuban legacy, where

slaves were brought to Cuba from Africa from 1511 to 1886. Meet with influential African cultural groups throughout the province to learn about their deep Afro-Cuban heritage.

Then, delight in a small chamber orchestra performance, and enjoy lunch together. Conclude the day with a visit the Sugar Mill Triunvirato Museum, housed in an old sugar mill. See the moving Monument to the Slaves' Rebellion, marking the slave uprising of 1843.

Day 6 | Havana

Enrichment: Race & the Cuban Revolution.
Local Market & Art Studio Visits. Stop at an agromercado, a bustling food and produce

Cuban art



Black Madonna, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla





street market, to witness daily life in Cuba! Then, visit Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban painter and sculptor José Fuster. View the artist's vibrant mosaics and hear about his work, followed by an enriching lunch here.

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.

Cuban Dance. Gather with local dancers, born and raised in Havana, who have been training and dancing since childhood. They'll share their passions for teaching tango and salsa. You may try a few steps yourself!

Day 7 | Rural Cuba | Havana

Rural Cuba. Pass by tobacco and sugarcane fields en route to visit Las Terrazas, a model socialist community. Engage with residents to learn about their self-sustaining lifestyle, talk with a school principal, visit an art studio and savor a lunch of organically grown vegetables.

Enrichment: Rhythms of Cuban Music.

Celebrate your Cuban adventure at tonight's Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

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.

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:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Claxon Hotel Boutique, 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

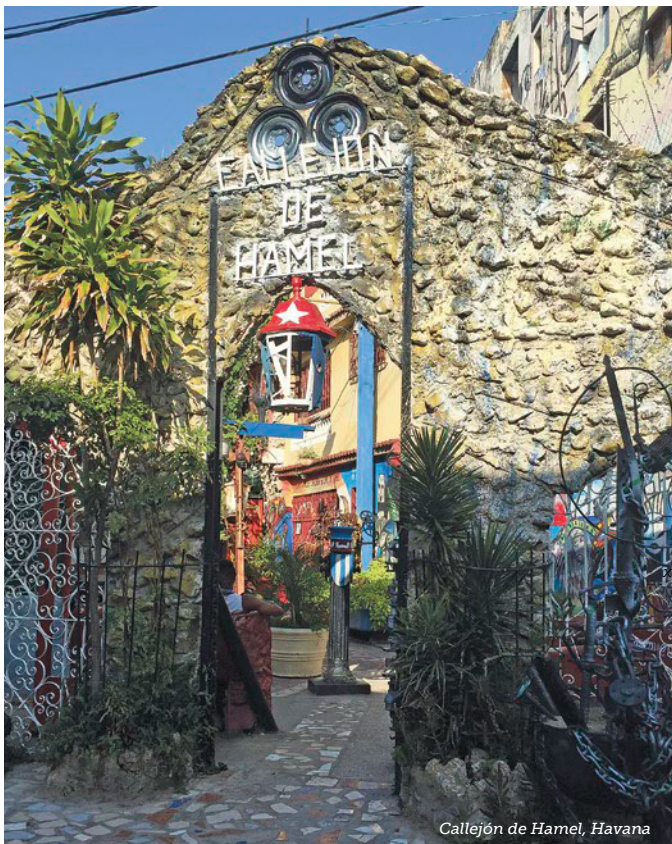
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus beer, wine or a local cocktail with dinner.

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, 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.

Cuban artist





Callejón de Hamel, Havana



Matanzas



Contemporary Cuban dance company

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **February 6-13, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **February 6-13, 2026**

* 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*
Classic	\$5,945	\$5,445
Junior Suite	\$6,245	\$5,745
Superior Paseo	\$6,545	\$6,045
*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 \$750 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 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://norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1974A?schooldId=114 .		

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



The Claxon Hotel Boutique | Havana



Conveniently located in Havana's Vedado neighborhood, the privately owned Claxon Hotel Boutique exudes character, charm and sophistication. The historic hotel's romantic interior features a classic car-inspired decor, modern comforts and attentive service. After a day of enriching adventures, unwind on the scenic rooftop bar overlooking Havana or in the serene tropical garden and patio gathering spaces.



AHI Travel Expertise



- Travel Consultants** assist with the reservation process.
- Travel & Air Coordinators** offer their personalized 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!

877-962-3980

norcar.ahitravel.com



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Uncover Cuba's enduring Afro-Cuban culture and heritage!

Committed to connecting travelers
to the people, places and cultures
of the world for more than 62 years.



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