

# CUBA & its People

HAVANA



SPONSORED BY

**AIR INCLUSIVE**  
from Miami, FL

**UCLA** Alumni

January 3 – January 10, 2025

## Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

From vintage cars to culture-soaked streets, infectious music to welcoming smiles, Cuba is a scintillating feast for the senses! Stay for seven nights in a boutique hotel located in Havana's beautiful Miramar neighborhood. With your small group, limited to 24 travelers, experience authentic connections to Cuba's community and witness firsthand the rapid changes occurring across the island.

Our thoughtfully designed People-to-People program delivers a full schedule of activities that provide meaningful interactions between our travelers and Cuban residents. Meet and engage with independent, small business owners, community leaders, artists, dancers and other residents who share their personal stories and perspectives on their island's ever-changing landscape. Plus, local experts share professional insights into their country and expert-led excursions offer genuine exposure to Cuba's history, heritage and culture. From historic Havana to Matanzas, get ready to engage with the real Cuba!

Our expert guides and network of 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.

Regards from Westwood,



Christel Aragon  
Director, Alumni Travel

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors. Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members as well as anyone who has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support Fund in the past year.

### UNESCO World Heritage

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



Cannons at fortification, Havana

UCLA travelers in Cuba





# Cuba & its People



Top: Cathedral, Havana

Cover: Plaza de la Catedral, Havana

Mail panel: Cuban art | Capitol and Grand Theater, Havana

## Inspiring Moments



- **Uncover Cuba's heart and soul** alongside its charismatic people.
- Learn about the lives and experiences of Cubans during meaningful **encounters and conversations**.
- **Interact with Cuba's varied arts community** during visits with artists, dancers, singers and musicians.
- **Talk with small business owners and local artists**, learning about the path toward entrepreneurship in Cuba.
- Ride in an independently owned, **1950s convertible** along Havana's evocative Malecón sea drive.
- Venture beyond Havana to visit a **model socialist community** and learn about their conservation efforts.
- Journey to **Matanzas** to experience this hidden gem and enjoy a concert.
- Experience Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



Historic Havana

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

Depart Miami for Havana. 🚗 Arrive, transfer 🚗 and check in to the Casa Italia hotel.

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

**Enrichment: *The Cuban Economy.***

**Enigmatic Old Havana.** Enjoy your first look at UNESCO-inscribed La Habana Vieja, Old Havana, and its four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza Vieja. These vibrant plazas teem with local life, from men playing dominoes to colorful flea markets and children playing soccer. Chat with the local vendors, before continuing to Dador, an independently owned clothing store founded by Cuban women to learn about their experiences with starting and owning a female-led business in Cuba.

**Enrichment: *Cuban Health Care.***

### Day 3 | Havana

**Vintage Car Ride.** Thrill to a drive in a classic convertible along Havana's 4.3-mile Malecón sea drive. Peek beneath the hood and chat with your friendly driver about the challenges and ingenuity required to maintain their cars.

**Contemporary Art.** Join Wilfredo Benítez of the Ludwig Foundation for a discussion on contemporary Cuban artists and their work. Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts to view Cuban impressionist, Greek and Roman art.

### Day 4 | Havana

**Enrichment: *Empowering Cuban Women.***

**Jewish Center & Cuban Dance.** Visit the Sephardic Hebrew Center where a member of Havana's Jewish Community provides a tour. Continue to Malpaso, a contemporary dance studio, to meet dancers and learn about their commitment to their art and training.

**La Finca Vigia.** Head outside of Havana to visit Ernest Hemingway's modest home where he wrote "The Old Man and the Sea."

Later today, visit the Ludwig Foundation, a nonprofit cultural institution that is dedicated to protecting and promoting Cuban artists. Meet independent local artists and learn about their desires to pursue artistic ventures.

Then, visit the historic Hotel Nacional for a tour of the property followed by dinner at a *paladar*.

Founders and owners of Dador





*La Finca Vigia museum, Ernest Hemingway's home*

## Day 5 | Matanzas | Havana

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**Matanzas.** Travel to Matanzas today. En route, cross the longest, highest bridge across Cuba and soak up breathtaking views of the canyon and lush Yumuri valley. In Matanzas, explore the cultural riches of this “City of Bridges,” known for the numerous bridges that cross the Yumuri, San Juan and Canimar rivers.

Take a panoramic tour of the city, See colonial architecture, pass by the neoclassical Sauto Theater and drive through the historic French quarter. Take a guided walking tour around the city center and La Libertad Park, and enjoy a fascinating visit to the preserved 19th-century, French-style Pharmaceutical Museum.

Cap off your tour to Matanzas by enjoying a lively performance by a local choir and engaging with choir members.

Share your insights and thoughts of the day over a delicious lunch at a *paladar*.

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

## Day 6 | Havana

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**Norma Guillard.** A Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana, Guillard 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. Guillard has also written articles about sexuality and feminism. Engage in discussion, with questions, about these important topics in Cuba today.

**Local Market & Street Scenes.** Stop at an *agromercado*, a bustling street market offering a rich array of produce, meats and grains. This is a great way to witness daily life in Cuba!

**Inside an Art Studio.** Tour Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban painter and sculptor, Jose Fuster, to view his vibrant mosaics. Hear about his work and the obstacles and opportunities for Cuban artists. Indulge in an enriching group lunch here.

*Cuban dancers*



*Cuban musicians*





## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Boutique Casa Italia.

### 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 24 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.

## La Casa de la Cultura & Afro-Cuban Dance.

La Casa de la Cultura promotes art, culture and literature within Cuba and offers workshops on music, dance, theater and other artistic areas. Visit the center and engage with the staff and children. Next, enjoy an intimate gathering with local dancers who share their passions for teaching tango and salsa. You can try a few steps yourself if you wish!

### Day 7 | Cuban Countryside | Havana

**Rural Cuba.** Travel to the island's countryside, where identity is firmly planted in agriculture. Take in views of untamed beauty, passing tobacco and sugarcane fields, valleys and villages. 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, organic vegetables.

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

Raise a toast to your Cuban adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a family-owned *paladar*.

### 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

Agromercado



## Accommodations



### Boutique Casa Italia | Havana



The Boutique Casa Italia is an elegant colonial-era hotel located in the beautiful Miramar neighborhood on Fifth Avenue, or Las Americas Avenue. Features include Italian-inspired design, a lovely garden and a relaxing pool area. Discover the hotel's authentic fusion of Italian elegance and Cuban charm along with exceptional hospitality. Enjoy the proximity to Havana's Habana Vieja, Old Town, just a short drive away.



### Matanzas



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey, visit  
**[ucla.ahitravel.com/destinations/  
1876A?schoolId=170](https://ucla.ahitravel.com/destinations/1876A?schoolId=170)**  
or contact UCLA Alumni Travel at  
**310-206-0613 | [travel@alumni.ucla.edu](mailto:travel@alumni.ucla.edu)**

## Air-Inclusive Program

### Travel dates †

**January 03 – January 10, 2025**

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

### Tour dates\*

**January 03 – January 10, 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	\$5,545	\$4,795
Deluxe	\$5,745	\$4,995
Junior Suite	\$6,245	\$5,495

**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 an additional \$1,195 (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ucla.ahitravel.com/destinations/1876A?schoolId=170>. 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 the Cuban people.

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Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban artist and sculptor Jose Fuster

## 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.



**UCLA Alumni**

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CUBA25 2

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**[alumni.ucla.edu/travel](http://alumni.ucla.edu/travel)**

**SMALL  
GROUP**  
Maximum of  
24 Travelers



**Discover the culture, spirit and people of Cuba!**

**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.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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