

# Cuba: Past, Present and Future Cuba Study Tour

March 18 - March 28, 2016

**Trip Cost: \$3200.** 

## **Tour Leaders:**

Bob Lossmann @ (847) 543-2436 or E-mail @ rlossmann@clcillinois.edu Nick Schevera @ (847) 543-2959 or E-mail @ nschevera@clcillinois.edu

#### Includes

- Airfare
- Hotels
- Guided tours and activities
- Entrance fees as indicated
- Meals as indicated

#### Not included

• College of Lake County tuition (3 credit course)

Because of State Department Regulations for Educational tours to Cuba, all participants must be enrolled students in either Hum 122 and /or Art 121. (Mandatory). All participants must be able to do a moderate level of walking and be able to walk at least one mile unassisted.

- Airport/Cruise Taxes
- Additional meals or excursions
- Gratuities
- Beverage package

The focus of the course is study the Art, Culture, and Humanities of Cuba. Cuba will be our "Place as Text" and we will use the cultural venues of Cuba to generate our discussions of the difference and similarities to our American experience. We will discuss the events that led to the revolution and the effects of the last 50 years on present Cuban society. Our visits will be followed with group discussion of our course topics: Art, Dance, Theatre, Literature, Music, History, and Philosophy.

## Day 1 (March 18, Friday) Havana:

Depart Chicago at 7:30am, arriving Cancun Mexico 1:30pm. Afternoon flight to Havana. Dinner and Overnight Havana

## Day 2 (March 19, Saturday) Havana:

Morning tour of Havana Viejo. Lunch and afternoon visit to Hemingway's house Finca Vijia, and the fishing village of Cojimar, they are the most important places to visit if in search of the famous American writer's imprint in Cuba. Lunch at Las Terrazas de Cojimar Restaurant. Visit to Taller de Experimental Grafica. Evening at Casa de la Música, a highly regarded club that presents the best salsa bands in Cuba. There will be a presentation of the city's best salsa dancers.

## Day 3 (March 20, Sunday) Havana:

Breakfast in the hotel and departure for of the colonial district with entrance to Museo de Bellas Artes. Wilfredo Lam paintings, the most important Cuban painter of the 19th and 20th can be seen in the museum. Lunch at Aljibe Restaurant, After lunch take the bay ferry to Regla for visiting the Museo Municipal de Regla, and Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla, you can see an African dance demonstration that tells the tale of the Virgin of regal. Return to the hotel by bus Evening free for optional activities.

#### Day 4 (March 21 Monday) Havana:

Join the cruise this morning. Leave a visit to the Historic military fortress located on the other side of the Havana harbor, for the spectacular views of the city. We will drive back and commence our walking tour of historic Old Havana. Along the way we will find ourselves at the famous "watering hole" where Hemingway enjoyed his Mojitos - don't forget to sign your autograph here to leave your mark. We continue our tour by bus, where we will have a photo opportunity at the Capitol building known for its collection of classic cars that congregate in front, the Museum of the Revolution, Central Park, the Great Theatre of Havana and Revolution Square.

# Day 5 (March 22, Tuesday) Havana:

Havana tour to be announced and free time

## Day 6 (March 23 Wednesday) Maria La Gorda:

Today you can choose to visit the beach at Maria la Gorda or join and optional excursion to visit the lush natural beauty of stunning Guanahacabibes National Park. We leave Maria la Gorda and travel by air-conditioned bus to the Visitor Center in Guanahacabibes National Park, which is part of the UNESCO Peninsula de Guanahacabibes biosphere reserve. The reserve's submerged coastline features a variety of landscapes, including mangrove swamps and low-scrub-thicket vegetation. The area is home to unique flora and fauna: 172 species of bird (including the Tocororo, the national bird of Cuba, and the restless Zunzuncito, considered the world's smallest bird), 700 plant species, 18 types of mammal, 35 kinds of reptiles, 19 different amphibians, 86 types of butterfly and 16 varieties of orchid. We'll visit the lagoon of Caleta Larga, where a large population of American alligators resides alongside the Cuban Jicotea and the Cuban Jicotea, a turtle, and myriad waterfowl. The cliffs and bluffs here are magnificent, as are the beaches, which are perfect for swimming and snorkeling. Sea turtles, including loggerhead and green turtles, lay their eggs here in the summer on the Peninsula's beaches, the only place in mainland Cuba where they do.

This tour includes an opportunity to visit with the volunteers who monitor and study the sea turtles and their nests - you'll be able to speak with the volunteers and find out more about their efforts to protect all three species of these incredible reptiles. We'll also visit the Roncali Lighthouse at Cape San Antonio, an architectural jewel built in 1849 and Cuba's most westernmost point, a perfect spot to watch the sunset. This excursion includes beach time and a traditional Cuban lunch of chicken salad, grilled pork chops, grilled fish fillet, rice with seafood, morro rice, salad and homemade dessert.

#### Day 8 (March 24 Thursday) Cienfuegos:

From the Boulevard to Marti Park we'll see the Triumph Arch, Bar Meson El Palatino, the oldest building in the city; La Casa del Dundador, residence of Don Luis de Clouet; the old Mayors Office, San Lorenzo School, the Pure Conception Church, and the theatre Tomas Terry built in 1890, now a national monument. By bus, we'll then take in the views of the Cienfuegos Promenade by Jagua Bay to reach Palacio de Valle where we'll be welcomed with a cocktail and learn about the palace, built in 1913 and considered an architectural jewel.

#### Day 8 (March 25 Friday) Montego Bay:

Our tour starts with a short drive into Montego Bay from Rose Hall to Greenwood and the historical Greenwood Great House. During this guided tour we will learn about the history and the life of its former owners. The house is full of interesting antiques and rare items. It is listed as the finest antique museum in the Caribbean and definitely the most interesting Great House in Jamaica. We finish the tour with a refreshing drink, and a quiet moment to reflect on all the history the house has to offer. We then continue on to Falmouth, Jamaica, noted for being one of the Caribbean's best preserved Georgian towns. We will stop at places like Baptist Manse, Water Square, and the Parish Church, which date back to the 1790s.

Day 9 (March 26, Saturday) Santiago de Cuba:

One of the most interesting and historically significant places in Cuba is Santiago de Cuba.

Founded by Spanish conquistador Diego Velazquez de Cuellar in 1514, Santiago was the capital

of the Spanish colony of Cuba from 1522 until 1589. Today, Santiago remains the most

important urban area outside of Havana, and is home to the birth of most forms of Cuba's long-

lasting and globally renowned music. Visitors from around the world come to enjoy the music

originating in Santiago.

Of more political importance, Santiago is known for being the Cradle of the Revolution. It was

here, in 1953, Fidel Castro led an ill-prepared attack on Batistas Barracks at Moncada. And

finally, a few years later after successfully toppling Batista and his dictatorship, Castro gave his

victory speech in Parque Cespedes in Santiago. The region is well known for many other things.

There are the ruins of French coffee plantations to the east of the city in the mountains that are

recognized by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage site. The famed Cuban cigar has deep-rooted

tradition in Santiago, as does the production of rum. Both a cigar factory, and rum distillery can

be found in Santiago. This region has the largest concentration of Afro-Cubans and is the center

for Afro-Cuban culture. No doubt this has influenced the proliferation of music from the area

over the centuries. Several music venues are to be found here, showcasing the diverse range and

forms of Cuban music

We will stop at El Morro Castle a UNESCO world heritage site and Santa Ifigenia Cemetary to

witness the changing of the guard outside of Jose Marti's mausoleum and tour the cemetery

where such notable figures are laying at rest such as Emilio Bacardi from the rum empire and

Compay Segundo of the Buena Vista Social Club fame. After you come back to the ship, feel

free to head back out and explore the city by foot at your own leisure to some of this morning's

visits or to happen upon new gems.

Day 10 (March 27, Sunday): At Sea

Day 11 (March 28, Monday)

Transfer to Havana Airport for return flight through Cancun to Chicago

Day	Port	Arrival	Departure
Monday	Havana	9:30	
Tuesday	Havana		17:00
Wednesday	Maria La Gorda	8:00	15:00
Thursday	Cienfuegos	8:00	15:00
Friday	Montego Bay	8:00	20:00
Saturday	Santiago de Cuba	8:00	16:00
Sunday	At Sea		
Monday	Havana	9:30	