

Peters Valley School of Craft – Oct 26-Nov 2, 2019



## About Us

Cuba Educational Travel (CET) is a leader in cultural travel to Cuba. CET unlocks the best of Cuba by providing access to the country's top artists, academics, tastemakers, and cultural figures. CET's tailor-made programs enable clients to experience Cuba's vibrant culture and gain a deeper understanding of the island, while ensuring full compliance with all U.S. regulations.

CET has been on the frontlines of cultural collaboration, helping to bring Cubans to the U.S. and Americans to Cuba. From Yoga retreats to concerts to dance performances, CET has wide-ranging experience and contacts. Recent highlights include organizing the Diplo Major Lazer concert in Havana, which drew a crowd of over 500,000 people and bringing Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba, the country's top dance group, to perform at the Latin Grammys.

[www.cubaeducationaltravel.com](http://www.cubaeducationaltravel.com)

## Our Value Proposition

By leveraging this expertise and curated travel capabilities, Cuba Educational Travel offers a product that is unrivaled. Our strong presence on the island and in important cultural circles gives us unparalleled access and knowledge. This combined with the beauty and intrigue of Cuba and its people make for truly unforgettable experiences.



Saturday, October 26

- Midday      Arrival to Havana. (recommended flight information pending)
- 2 pm      **Orientation driving tour of the city.** Visit **Vedado Neighborhood** stopping off at the **Revolution Square**, the gathering place for political demonstrations and the home to many important government offices. **Visit the eastern side of the Bay of Havana**, to explore the surrounding areas of El Morro Castle, La Cabana fortress, and the statue of El Cristo.
- 4 pm      **Check-in at Meliá Cohiba Hotel.** Located in the modern district of Vedado and facing the famous Malecón, it is a leading business and meeting hotel with stunning views of the city and the sea.
- 5:30 pm      **Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula**, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment, and restoration programs in the city. It's bound to leave you with a better understanding of why Havana looks the way it does today and possibilities moving forward.
- 7 pm      **Welcome dinner overlooking the Straits of Florida at the Hotel Nacional.** Tasty Cuban food served family style with a great view of the Havana sea wall and the old Spanish fortress. The setting brings many back to the 1950s, when the mafia held its annual meetings at this historic hotel.

Sunday, October 27

- 9 am      **Walking tour of Old Havana with architect Pedro Vazquez.** Wander through its main plazas and streets and learn about the city history and architecture.
- 10:30 am      **Visit to Escuela-Taller Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos**, a school that teaches the trades and crafts necessary to the restoration of the city's art and architecture. We will be joined by an expert from the technical department who can explain the restoration project taking place in Old Havana.
- 11:30 am      **Visit to La Factoría Gallery** for a discussion with artists and explanation of the gallery's latest edition, followed by a visit to **Fototeca**, the leading photographic guild in Cuba and the most prestigious venue for showcasing work from leading Cuban photographers.
- 1 pm      **Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar.** Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek Magazine's top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. The restaurant's location in the beautiful cathedral square is unbeatable.
- 2:30 pm      **Afternoon workshop at Taller de Gráfica Experimental.** The Taller is Havana's printmaking and lithographic workshop. It is a studio, a school and most of all, an art institution that preserves and develops the sophisticated art of print making with relative freedom of spirit and form.
- 4 pm      Return to hotel.
- 6:30 pm      **Meet with La Reyna y Real**, a female hip hop/jazz duo. The group's music focuses on breaking down stereotypes in Cuban society, including machismo, healthy relationships, gender relations and race. They will share info about their interesting musical journey and insight into the challenges and opportunities young Cubans face.

8 pm **Dinner at Mediterraneo Havana**, a modern, family run paladar in the Vedado neighborhood. This cozy paladar produces much of what it serves at a nearby farm in Guanabacoa Cuba, including the vegetables and dairy products.

Monday, October 28

9 am **Visit to the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)** to meet with students and professors from various departments. English speaking students will lead a tour of the facility, followed by an opportunity to engage in a question and answer session. You will be blown away by the talent at this school, from dance and theatre to painting and music.

11 am **Visit to the home and studio of mosaic artist Fuster**, who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, plastic art and other designs.

12:30 pm **Lunch at El Figaro**. Located in the Barbers Alley, it offers a “hairless” food (so says its slogan) and cuisine that is stylized and has the seal of the Smith family.

2 pm **Tour the Museum of Decorative Arts**. This beautiful building was designed in Paris by architects P. Virad and M. Destuque, inspired by the French Renaissance and was built between 1924 and 1927 in a neo-classical style. The museum features 23 collections and nearly 35,000 pieces in its inventory.

4 pm **Lecture from leading Cuban ceramic artist**.

6 pm **Spend the early evening at Café Madrigal with Frank Delgado**, renowned singer and songwriter, for a discussion about the *nueva trova* movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. **Café Madrigal**, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails. (Heavy appetizers)

8 pm **Dinner reservation at Rio Mar**, which features a terrace overlooking where the Almendares river flows into the sea. (not included – to be paid on the ground) 3ra y Final #11, La Puntilla, Miramar

Tuesday, October 29

9 am **Depart for Cienfuegos**, one of the country’s oldest and most beautiful cities, which is located approximately three and a half hours from Havana. Cienfuegos, referred to as the “Pearl of the South,” is one of Cuba’s only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country’s largest Bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes, and is deeply rich in culture.

12:30 pm **Lunch at las Mamparas**, a family run paladar. Quick and simple, the food is extraordinary and the family that runs it even better.

2 pm **Tour of Cienfuegos by the City Historian’s Office**, including visits to the main square, the beautiful Palacio Del Valle and Punta Gorda.

3:30 pm **Music and discussion** with the local chapter of UNEAC, the National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba, featuring an **opportunity to meet local artists**.

- 5 pm Continue on to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site, known for its cobble stoned streets, pastel colored homes and small-town feel.
- 6:30 pm **Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as “casas particulares,” or “private homes.”** Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, it’s a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.
- 8 pm Enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by your hosts.

Wednesday, October 30

- 9 am **Morning discussion with Nancy Benítez**, a local architect, historian and restoration specialist. Ms. Benítez will provide an overview of the city’s history from an architectural, economic and infrastructural point of view.
- 10 am **Visit to the Museum of Colonial Architecture**, housed in the former home of the sugar barons of the Sánchez Iznaga famiy.
- 11 am **City tour with a local specialist.** Visit to it’s key historical landmarks and learn about the social and cultural life of Trinidad.
- 12:30 pm **Enjoy a hearty meal at Paladar San Jose**, a recently opened restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.
- 2 pm **Tour of Guanuhaya Archaeology Museum**, set in a beautiful colonial home in the main plaza, it has a nice collection of artefacts from the indigenous people to the generations that lived during the colonial times.
- 3 pm **Learn about the city traditions.** Visit an embroidery shop, a cooperative of local women; the jewelry boutique of artist Orbein and the pottery workshop of Chichi. **Discussion with the artists.**

*Late afternoon and evening free to explore the town and head out to the nearby Ancon beach.*

Thursday, October 31

- 8:30 am Check-out of casas particulares.
- 9 am **Visit to the archeological site San Isidro de los Destiladeros**, near the city of Trinidad, it was a typical sugar plantation, operated with slave labor in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Remnants of this thriving and historically underappreciated industrial heritage survive: an impressive owner's house, three-story tower, cistern, main sugar factory, ancillary buildings, and dikes. Almost all are in ruins or in imminent danger of collapse. We will discuss about sugar cane in Cuba and slavery.
- 10:30 am Depart for Havana. **Lunch en route** (included).
- 3:30 pm Arrival to Havana. **Private, guided tour of Christopher Colón Cemetery**, one of the oldest and most prestigious cemeteries in Latin America.

5 pm Check-in at the Hotel Melia Cohiba.

*Evening free*

7:30 pm **Dinner reservation at Vista del Mar paladar**, located in the Miramar neighborhood, it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of an attractive residence that looks out to sea. (not included – to be paid on the ground)

Friday, November 1

9 am **Visit to the Museum of Cuban Art.** We will be accompanied by Nelson Herrera, an art historian, who will provide an overview of Cuban art and artists over the last four centuries.

11 am **Morning photography walk lesson with Pablo Bordon and art lesson with his father Edel**, one of Cuba's leading artists and the Director of the Painting Department at Cuba's most historic art school, San Alejandro Academy. Spearheaded by his wife Yamilé Pardo, the family created the **AltaMira art space**, which features an exhibition and workspace off of the main lobby and collaborations with neighbors.

1 pm **Lunch at Paladar Atelier.** This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, but modern setting.

3 pm **Lecture by Ibrahim Miranda**, painter, engraver and professor, he is one of the most in-demand Cuban artists.

4:15 pm **Enjoy a performance by Habana Compás Dance**, which encompasses the rich rhythm and flow of the island, performing traditional and modern dances born from their Spanish, Cuban and Afro-Cuban heritage.

5:30 pm **Visit to the Muraleando Community Project**, where a group of artists have used new and recycled materials to create beautiful artwork throughout the neighborhood.

8 pm **Private tour La Fábrica de Arte Cubano**, the country's most successful art and music venue. Cuba's top artists and photographers display their work throughout tens of thousands of square feet of wall space.

8:30 pm **Farewell dinner at Tierra**, Havana's newest international dining spot. Located inside a container in the Fábrica de Arte Cubano, the restaurant mirrors the eclectic crowd, serving dishes from around the world.

Saturday, November 2

Morning **Boutique shopping experience.** Visit to local shops and private business in Old Havana.  
*Suggestions:*

- **Zulu:** a small store run by Afro Cuban women who since the special period (1990's) make leather purses that have become very famous amongst Cubans and tourists.
- **Clandestina:** a great little shop selling artisanal pieces such as contemporary posters, T-shirts, homewares and jewelry. This rising small business is owned by graphic artist [Idania del Río](#) and it commercializes and promotes the imagination and creativity of young Cuban designers.

- **Habana 1791:** a restored salon that brings a French perfumery concept to Cuba. Experiment with the locally-inspired fragrances to design your own scent.
- **Piscolabis:** a place where 2 different spaces (Bazar and Café) meet in a unique and cozy environment that exhibits designed pieces, handcrafts, clothing apparel and original souvenirs all made by Cuban artists.

TBD

Check-out and depart for airport. (recommended flight information pending)