National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Cuba: Art, Culture & History

In Support of the Cuban People

with Jennifer Dasal, Lecturer

October 19 – 25, 2024

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

EMBARK on a once-in-a-lifetime, behind-the-scenes journey to Cuba, witnessing aspects of contemporary Cuban life few travelers will ever see

JOIN experts for privately guided inside looks at some of Havana's beautifully preserved historic landmarks, including an exploration of the UNESCO-listed Old City with an architectural historian

TRAVEL in the company of *ArtCurious* podcast creator/host **Jennifer Dasal**, who will share her insights on how Cuba's cultural traditions have influenced its contemporary artists

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will share profound insights on Cuban politics

GATHER at exclusive receptions, including a cocktail reception with a sumptuous dinner in the company of the President of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba

ATTEND an after-hours tour and reception at the dazzling Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana

TAKE a private tour of the splendidly renovated Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the ornately designed, Neo-Baroque-style home to the Cuban National Ballet Company

ENJOY behind-the-scenes tours and meetings with workers at privately owned companies, including a local workshop for Havana's classic vehicles

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside for a behind-the-scenes tour of a beautiful tobacco *hacienda* led by its farmers

DELVE into the life of Ernest Hemingway at Finca Vigía, the house where he lived for 20 years, with a glimpse of his famous fishing boat *Pilar*

ENGAGE with Cuba's leading creators in exclusive gatherings, with intimate discussions at the homes and studios of artists

GAIN access to a private rehearsal at a famous dance company, and a phenomenal evening of art and music at Havana's Fábrica de Arte Cubano

DELIGHT in a private, curator-led tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks and international masterpieces

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National Trust Tours

Dear National Trust Traveler,

You're invited on an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime journey to Cuba this October. Experience a country that has captured the global imagination—a nation frozen in time yet filled with infectious energy, exceptional hospitality, delicious cuisine, brilliant pastel hues, salsa rhythms, and groundbreaking art.

On a behind-the-scenes program based in Havana, go behind the scenes of leading museums and historic treasures guided by Cuban scholars, who will illuminate the country's history and distinctive mix of African, Indigenous, Spanish, and French influences over four centuries. You'll be inspired by Cuba's marvelously preserved historic architecture spanning from Baroque cathedrals to gleaming Art Nouveau confections. Join an architectural historian as you stroll through Havana's UNESCO-listed historical center, following cobblestoned pathways into the roots of this city founded in 1519.

You will also witness aspects of modern Cuba that few visitors see. Attend private receptions with local luminaries and engage with workers at privately owned businesses for enlightening talks about the state of the nation. You'll find the real joy in seeing Cuban artists pursue their dreams and welcome you into their homes to see their creative works. Accompanying you is lecturer **Jennifer Dasal**, an art historian and museum curator known for her acclaimed *ArtCurious* podcast. Her insights on Cuba's contemporary art will enhance your appreciation of the country's dynamic cultural landscape.

Venture into Cuba's UNESCO-recognized Viñales Valley, with its striking limestone hills known as *mogotes*. Indulge in an exclusive lunch at an organic farm and join local farmers here to learn the secrets of how they cultivate one of Cuba's most cherished crops, tobacco. Go behind the scenes of Ernest Hemingway's Cuba, including the villa where he wrote some of his famous novels and the village that inspired *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Our accommodations are at a charming boutique hotel in central Havana. We hope that you will join this incredible inside look at Cuba, exploring iconic landmarks from the distant past while connecting with the warm, creative personalities shaping Cuba's future.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

TRAVELING WITH YOU

Jennifer Dasal is an art historian and the creator and host of the acclaimed *ArtCurious* podcast (2016–23), which introduced listeners worldwide to "the unexpected, the slightly odd, and the strangely wonderful in art history." In September 2020, Dasal's first book, *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History*, was released by Penguin Books. Dasal is the former curator of modern and contemporary art at the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA), where she worked for 13 years. She earned a B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, both in art history. She also completed Ph.D. coursework in art history at Pennsylvania State University.

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Havana

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Welcome to Havana! Upon your independent arrival in Havana, you will be greeted at the José Martí International Airport and transferred to La Reserva Vedado, the boutique hotel and our home for six nights. This evening, gather for our welcome dinner at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant in the proprietor's home, largely staffed by family members. D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. At a morning lecture, a local architectural historian will prepare you for a walking tour of Old Havana (Havana Vieja), offering insights into the history of the city's remarkably well-preserved buildings.

Then embark on an expert-led walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprised of 900 historic buildings that perfectly showcase the city's Caribbean, Spanish, French, and British heritage. Your exploration will focus on four of Old Havana's expansive plazas: Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco, and Plaza de la Catedral. Each plaza features a window into the Old World, including centuries-old cathedrals and colorful colonial houses adorned with arcades and balconies.

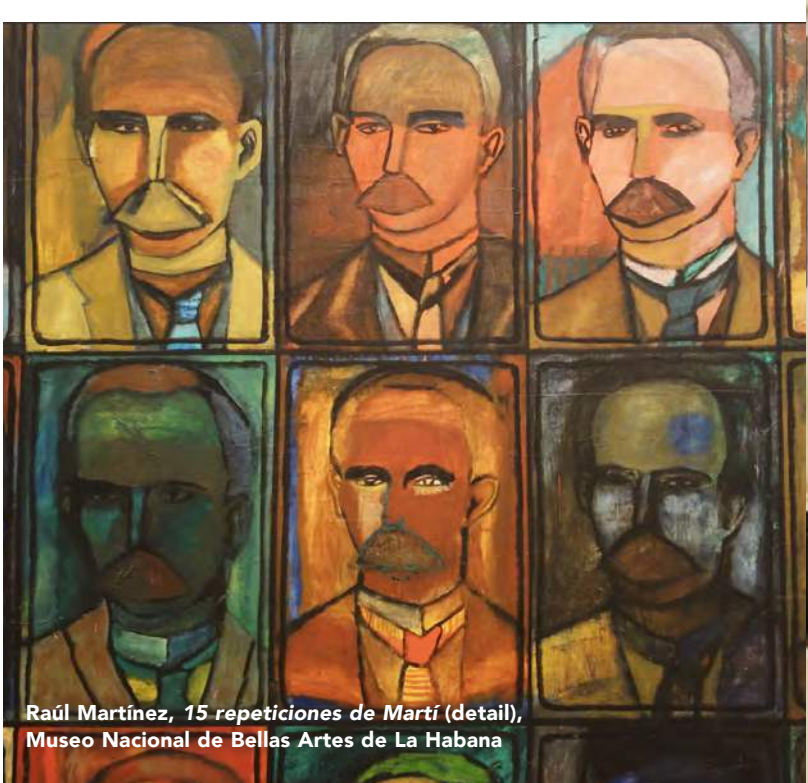
Following lunch at a *paladar*, take a private tour inside the splendidly renovated, Neo-Baroque Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the incredibly ornate home of the Cuban National Ballet. Then explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner is at El Cocinero, followed by an evening of entertainment next door at Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city's liveliest multidisciplinary performing and visual arts space. B,L,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

As a marked change of pace from Havana, set forth on a morning ride aboard a motor coach through the countryside, arriving in the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas*. Admire the unique topography and natural beauty of the Viñales Valley. The most striking sights are the region's UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides. Meet with farmers for a private tour of their tobacco *hacienda* to learn about the drying and rolling processes, followed by lunch at a privately owned organic farm. Before returning to Havana, visit the studio of a local painter who has charted the history of his community through his work. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own. B,L

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22: HAVANA

Take an inside look at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum, with a private morning tour of its Cuban art collection at the Palacio de Bellas Artes. In the company of an independent curator, trace Cuba's history, from the 17th century to the present, through the works of its greatest artists. Highlights include the modern paintings of Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol, as well as the avant-garde canvases of 20th-century painter Amelia Peláez, and works by the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam, who was influenced by Picasso.


Raúl Martínez, *15 repeticiones de Martí* (detail), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana

After lunch, walk down Calle Obispo, Havana's main shopping street; explore a local design shop; and speak to the owners about small business practices in Cuba. In the early evening, drive to The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, one of only a few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include local Cuban artists. This evening, you may opt to attend a performance at one of Havana's famed music venues, including the legendary Tropicana. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / COJÍMAR / HAVANA

Head outside of the capital to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula. Here, take an inside look at Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm), Ernest Hemingway's residence for two decades. Initially rented for Hemingway's partner Martha Gellhorn in 1939, Finca Vigía soon became the writer's property after their relationship ended. Hemingway lived at the seaside villa with his last wife Mary, who lovingly tended to the home. His classic works, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*, were written here in its breezy rooms and shady porticos. With its pastel walls, dark wood furnishings, and high ceilings, Finca Vigía exudes an airy timelessness. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces; see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar*; and climb the tower to his study.

Our excursion concludes with a brief visit to the village of Cojímar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. After lunch, return to Havana and gather for a lecture on the island's current realities by a former ambassador who was once Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the early evening, attend a private after-hours tour and reception at the Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana, housed in the 18th-century Casa Aguilera, followed by dinner at a local *paladar*. B,L,R,D

Finca Vigía, San Francisco de Paula

Hotel Nacional de Cuba, Havana

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, visit the Colón Cemetery with a local guide. With its ornate tombstones commemorating Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Following lunch on your own, visit a private classic car workshop, NostalgiCar, where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished.

Next, explore the renowned Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Designed by the acclaimed New York firm of McKim, Mead & White, this 1930 architectural masterpiece features a medley of styles, including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish, and Art Deco. Stop in its storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many famous guests, including Buster Keaton, Rita Hayworth, Nat King Cole, Sir Winston Churchill, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Gabriel García Marquez. Enjoy a *mojito* on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor before dinner. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's excellent *paladares*. B,D

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

La Reserva Vedado, Havana

LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA

Immerse yourself in the essence of Cuba at this boutique hotel. Housed in a beautifully restored historic residence, it blends the grandeur of Havana with contemporary art and design. Enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi and indulge in the flavors of Cuba with authentic *mojitos* and local cuisine at the in-house bar and restaurant.

PROGRAM RATES

$4,999 per person, double rate in Standard Room
$6,299 single rate in Standard Room

$5,799 per person, double rate in Junior Suite
$8,199 single rate in Junior Suite

$6,499 per person, double rate in Deluxe Suite
$9,099 single rate in Deluxe Suite

RATES INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE: National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/ or call 1-800-937-1387.

Old Havana

RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785.**
A deposit of $1,000 per person
(of which $500 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.

You will be traveling to Cuba and agree to
fully participate in this program under the
general license category of travel
"In Support of the Cuban People."

Find us on Facebook

Havana Harbor

Front cover: Havana. Highlights page: Viñales Valley.

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