



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Cuba: Art, Culture & History In Support of the Cuban People

March 23 – 29, 2025



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ENGAGE with some of Cuba's leading creative talents in exclusive gatherings, including discussions at the homes and studios of artists and a phenomenal evening of art and music at Havana's Fábrica de Arte Cubano

GAIN exclusive access to a private rehearsal at a famous dance company, watching as Cuba's leading contemporary dancers showcase their talent and training

DELIGHT in a private, curator-led tour at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks

CELEBRATE at exclusive receptions, including a cocktail reception with dinner in the company of the President of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and an after-hours tour and reception at the dazzling Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana

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

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

ENJOY an exclusive tour with workers at a privately owned local workshop where Havana's iconic vintage cars are repaired and refurbished

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside for a behind-the-scenes tour of a 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*



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Dear National Trust Traveler,

In March 2025, you're invited on an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime journey to Cuba. Just 90 miles from Florida yet seemingly worlds away, this Caribbean nation weaves a spell with its tropical beauty, faded grandeur, and irrepressible spirit. Travel with National Trust on a six-night, behind-the-scenes journey based in the enchanting city of Havana. Experience a country that has captured the global imagination—a nation frozen in time yet filled with infectious energy, exceptional hospitality, brilliant pastel hues, salsa rhythms, and groundbreaking art.

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 joy in seeing Cuban artists pursue their dreams and welcome you into their homes to see their creative works.

From Havana, we'll traverse the countryside, where the Viñales Valley's spectacular *mogotes* (limestone hills) create an otherworldly landscape. Discover Ernest Hemingway's Cuba at his rustic villa, Finca Vigía, along with the charming fishing village of Cojimar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*, which will transport you into the pages of his novels. On an exclusive tour of a tobacco *hacienda*, local farmers will share an insightful look at the cultivation of Cuba's most famous crop.

Your home base will be the boutique La Reserva Vedado hotel, nestled in Havana's historic Vedado district. As the sun sets over Havana each evening, dine at *paladares* (restaurants inside local homes). We hope you can join this unforgettable cultural adventure in March 2025, as Cuba's warm citizens welcome you to Havana.



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.

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Plaza de la Catedral, Havana



SUNDAY, MARCH 23: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

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 that will be 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

MONDAY, MARCH 24: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Join a local architectural historian for a lecture on the history of the city's remarkably well-preserved buildings. Then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed Old Havana and four of its expansive plazas: Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco, and Plaza de la Catedral. Each plaza features distinctive architecture, 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

TUESDAY, MARCH 25: 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: 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.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 27: 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 Cojimar, 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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28: 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 Márquez. 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

SATURDAY, MARCH 29: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home. B

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

Front cover: Old Havana

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ACCOMMODATIONS

LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA

The history of this boutique hotel is intimately related to the neighborhood; its spirit reflects the Cuban soul. Live the vibrant experience of Havana in the splendor of a restored historic home, where art and design are the signs of identity. Free Wi-Fi is offered and savor authentic *mojitos* and Cuban cuisine in the bar and restaurant.



La Reserva Vedado, Havana



Restaurant, La Reserva Vedado, Havana

PROGRAM RATES

\$5,499 per person, double rate in Standard Room
\$6,899 single rate in Standard Room

\$6,299 per person, double rate in Junior Suite
\$8,899 single rate in Junior Suite

\$6,599 per person, double rate in Deluxe Suite
\$9,299 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
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage 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.



Viñales Valley

RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your cabin, 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"**



Havana Harbor, Havana