



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



New Year's in Cuba
Art, Culture & History
In Support of the Cuban People

December 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATE **New Year's in Havana** with traditional festivities unlike any other in the world, participating in unique customs, mingling in family gatherings, and savoring authentic Cuban cuisine

SUPPORT Cuba's **emerging private sector** during your stay, savoring meals at privately owned *paladares* (restaurants) and relaxing at a charming boutique hotel in the heart of Havana

JOIN a curator for a private tour of what *Time* magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places"—Havana's **Fábrica de Arte Cubano** (FAC), a spellbinding, multilevel showcase of contemporary Cuban art

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

ATTEND **exclusive receptions**, including a private event with dinner in the company of the President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and the young artists supported by the organization

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

GAIN behind-the-scenes access to **an exciting rehearsal of a leading dance company**, watching as some of Cuba's most skilled contemporary dancers perfect their craft

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

EXPERIENCE Ernest Hemingway's Cuba at **Finca Vigía**, the house where he lived for 20 years and wrote some of his most important work, with a glimpse of his famous fishing boat *Pilar*

Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, Havana



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Dear National Trust Traveler,

Cuba has long been an enigma to Americans. Yet, when guests travel to our Caribbean neighbor just 90 miles from Key West, they're often profoundly moved and even changed by their experiences and the people they meet. Imagine ringing in 2026 amid **Havana's** colorful streets, where energy flows through colonial plazas and the air thrums with possibility.

From **December 28, 2025, to January 3, 2026**, join us for a New Year's journey that will connect you with contemporary Cuban life in a way few visitors ever experience. Feel the collective joy as Havana celebrates the New Year, with families gathering, music filling the streets, and the aroma of traditional feasts welcoming you.

Throughout the six-night program, enjoy private conversations with artists in their homes and studios, discussions with cultural leaders, and visits with curators inside museums and galleries when they are closed to the public. Meet the people shaping Cuba's future, from entrepreneurs launching new ventures to a former ambassador who witnessed the 1950s revolution. Hear their stories firsthand and gain insights reserved for a select few.

Explore the island's complex past, joining experts on guided tours of landmarks from the UNESCO-listed plazas of Old Havana to **Ernest Hemingway's** cherished hilltop villa, **Finca Vigía**. You will deeply understand the layers of influence—Indigenous, African, and European—that define Cuba today.

We are proud to support Cuba's emerging private sector on this journey. Stay in a beautifully restored, privately owned 18th-century mansion in Old Havana and dine at *paladares*, experiencing the ingenuity of privately owned, family-run restaurants. Travel will be under the "In Support of the Cuban People" license.

With limited availability for this special holiday departure, I encourage you to secure your place promptly by calling **National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785**. I hope you join this genuinely moving encounter with the spirit of Cuba, all during the most festive time of year.



Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours



Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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.

New Year's in Cuba Art, Culture & History

December 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA D

AFTERNOON

- **Welcome to Havana:** Upon your independent arrival at José Martí International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to **Estancia Bohemia**, your privately owned boutique hotel in the Old Havana district.

EVENING

- **Gather for a festive welcome dinner at a paladar,** a privately owned restaurant usually located in the proprietor's home.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29: HAVANA B,L,D

MORNING

- **Discussion with a local historian:** Founded in 1519, Havana is one of the Caribbean's most historically significant cities. Participate in a lecture and Q&A with a local historian on Havana's architectural evolution and the complexities of Cuban home ownership.
- **Guided tour of Old Havana:** Walk through the UNESCO-recognized historic center, visiting four of its grand plazas and the 18th-century **Havana Cathedral** (Catedral de San Cristóbal), one of the oldest cathedrals in the Americas.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at a paladar.**
- **Private tour of the Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso:** Go behind the scenes inside the splendidly renovated home to the Cuban National Ballet.
- **Explore artists' homes and studios:** Meet some of Havana's leading artists for insights into their creative processes. There may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings.

EVENING

- **Rooftop dinner at El Cocinero:** Enjoy delicious food and world-class daiquiris at this former cooking oil factory transformed into a chic restaurant and bar.
- **Curator-led private tour of the Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC):** Take an inside look at what *Time* magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places." Housing performance venues and an art gallery, this spellbinding, multilevel space defies categorization.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30: HAVANA / MATANZAS / HAVANA B,L

MORNING

- **Guided excursion to Matanzas:** Journey to this captivating seaside city, renowned as a birthplace of *rumba* and numerous Afro-Cuban folkloric traditions. Matanzas is also known as the "Venice of Cuba" for the 17 bridges and three rivers that traverse its environs.
- **Pause at the Bacunayagua Bridge:** On Cuba's tallest bridge, revel in the panoramic views of the verdant valley below.
- **Guided tour of the Castillo de San Severino:** Join an expert guide for a tour of this 18th-century castle built by African enslaved people. The castle houses objects and photos that offer powerful insights into the reality of enslaved life.
- **An inside look at Ediciones Vigía:** Meet a representative of this artisanal publishing house where skilled craftspeople create handmade books.
- **Meet an artist in his studio.**

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Enjoy a group lunch.**
- **Attend a special performance by the Choir of Matanzas:** Ascend the Monserrate hills to **La Ermita de Monserrate**, a small late 19th-century neoclassical church, for this private concert.
- **Return to Havana** for the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31: HAVANA B,L,R,D

MORNING

- **Attend a private rehearsal with the Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company:** Watch some of Cuba's top contemporary dancers hone their craft and perform. You will have an opportunity to chat and perhaps even have an impromptu dance lesson with the performers.
- **Guided tour of the 122-acre Colón Cemetery:** Discover an exceptional repository of Cuban history and artistry with more than 500 elaborate mausoleums, chapels, and family vaults. Admire intricate funerary sculptures and grand mausoleums that blend Classical Revival, Art Deco, and eclectic architectural styles.

AFTERNOON

- **Enjoy a group lunch.**
- **Special visit to Dador, a privately owned boutique:** Stroll along Calle Obispo, Havana's main shopping street, and visit Dador, where designers craft and sell handmade clothing. Meet one of the shop's owners to discuss the realities of running an independent business in Cuba's shifting economic climate.

EVENING

- **Toast to 2026 at a special New Year's Eve reception and dinner.**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA B,L,R,D

MORNING

- **Guided visit to Ernest Hemingway's residence, Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm):** Head outside the capital to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula. Visit Hemingway's longtime Cuban retreat, where he lived for two decades and wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. View the beautifully preserved rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces. While exploring the property, see *Pilar*, Hemingway's famous, 38-foot fishing boat.

AFTERNOON

- **Enjoy a group lunch.**
- **Attend a Q&A with a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs:** Return to Havana and gather for a lecture on the island's current realities with an insider.



Finca Vigía, San Francisco de Paula



EVENING

- **Cocktail reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba:** Venture to one of the few Cuban NGOs, which supports emerging Cuban artists. After the President shares a presentation on the organization's important work, gather for cocktails and a buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include Cuban artists.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2: HAVANA B,D

MORNING

- **Private tour of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana:** Meet an independent curator for a wide-ranging exploration of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, Cuba's largest museum. Explore its collection of works by leading modern and contemporary Cuban artists, including the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist **Wifredo Lam**, an acolyte of Picasso.

AFTERNOON

- **Enjoy free time with lunch at leisure.**
- **Visit to the Hotel Nacional de Cuba:** Spend time at the glamorous 1930 hotel designed by the acclaimed New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White. Stop in its storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many famous guests, including Nat King Cole, Sir Winston Churchill, and Gabriel García Márquez. Enjoy the hotel's signature mojito on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor.

EVENING

- **Gather for a festive farewell dinner at an excellent Havana paladar.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3: HAVANA / RETURN B

- **Depart the hotel this morning** for the flight home.

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Museum Travel Alliance and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

ESTANCIA BOHEMIA, HAVANA

Built in 1780 as the home of the Conde de Lombillo family, Estancia Bohemia faces Plaza Vieja, a central square in UNESCO-listed Old Havana. This restored mansion retains its original character—wooden ceiling beams, stone archways, and hand-painted frescoes—paired with contemporary comforts including Frette linens, Erbolario bath products, and Nespresso machines. Guest rooms feature handcrafted Sicilian tiles, made by artisans to reflect the building's colonial-era proportions, along with king-size beds dressed in Italian linens.



Estancia Bohemia, Havana

PROGRAM RATES

\$3,999 per person, triple occupancy in Suite

\$6,599 per person, double occupancy in Suite*

\$5,499 per person, double occupancy in Luxury Room*

\$6,999 single rate in Luxury Room

***Suite:** Sleeps three, king bed or twin beds, plus sofa bed. **Luxury room:** Sleeps two, king bed or twin beds, two levels with manageable stairs.

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; beer and 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.



Raúl Martínez, *Isla 70*, 1970, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana

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.



Colón Cemetery, Havana

