



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



New Year's in Cuba
Art, Culture & History
Featuring the Havana Art Biennial

December 28, 2024 – January 3, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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

ENJOY special access to the **Havana Art Biennial** and experience its extraordinary exhibitions, performances, and installations alongside curators and artists

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

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside for a **behind-the-scenes tour of a tobacco hacienda led by its farmers** and a private demonstration of the rolling and drying processes

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*



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Dear National Trust Traveler,

Visiting Cuba can be a transformative and moving experience. **Ring in 2025 with the National Trust in Havana on a thrilling New Year's journey.** On this exclusive program in support of the Cuban people, take an inspiring look at contemporary Cuban life that few visitors will witness, all during a festive time of year. With expert guides, learn about Cuba's complex history, shaped by colonialism, revolution, and the intermingling influences of Indigenous, European, and African cultures.

You'll never forget counting down to the New Year in the authentically Cuban way. Feel the excitement and camaraderie as large family gatherings spill onto sidewalks. Savor a traditional New Year's feast of roast pork, congri rice, and yuca. You will also **enjoy special access to the eagerly anticipated Havana Art Biennial**, which transforms the city's streets and public spaces into open-air galleries, bringing artistic innovation from around the globe to the local community.

Throughout this journey, connect with diverse local personalities—including a former ambassador who witnessed the revolution—at private receptions and thought-provoking discussions. An emerging private sector now gives Cubans once unimaginable opportunities, and you will take inspiration from the country's new generation of ambitious business owners.

Go behind the scenes at landmarks where pivotal history unfolded, including Old Havana's UNESCO-listed, centuries-old plazas featuring the Havana Cathedral, one of the oldest churches in the Americas. Take a guided inside look at Havana's recently restored Capitolio, the former seat of the Cuban Congress built in 1926.

On a beautiful excursion to Cuba's countryside, meet farmers for a private tour of a *hacienda* producing one of the country's most lucrative and famous crops: tobacco. Transport yourself to the pages of Ernest Hemingway's novels, visiting his beautifully preserved home outside Havana where he wrote such classics as *The Old Man and the Sea*.

We are proud to support Cuba's privately owned businesses throughout this program, including accommodations at a boutique hotel and most meals at *paladares* (small, private, family-run restaurants). **Reserve your place on this program today by calling National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.** We hope you join us for this unforgettable Cuban New Year's experience filled with history, art, family, and folklore.



Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours



Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

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 Featuring the Havana Art Biennial

December 28, 2024 – January 3, 2025



Fábrica de Arte Cubano, Havana

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Welcome to Havana! Upon arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to **Paseo 206**, a boutique hotel and your home for six nights. Celebrate your arrival in Havana with a reception and dinner at a beautiful private home. D

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29: HAVANA

Join an independent curator for a private morning tour of the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana** (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum. Encounter the complex, colorful works of the country's leading modern and contemporary artists, including Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol; and the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, enjoy guided access to the **Havana Art Biennial**. Since its 1984 inception, this Biennial has become a cornerstone for artists from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, shining a light on non-Western perspectives and contemporary issues. Experience Havana's public spaces and lively streets transformed into open-air galleries, including the waterfront Malecón and the plazas of Old Havana. Meet curators and artists as you delve into extraordinary exhibitions, engaging performances, and interactive art installations.

Dinner is at **El Cocinero**, a former cooking oil factory transformed into a chic restaurant and bar with delicious food and world-class daiquiris.

Next door, join a curator for a private tour of what *Time* magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places," the **Fábrica de Arte Cubano** (FAC), a spellbinding, multilevel cultural space that defies categorization. Is it a performance venue? An art gallery? It's both and so much more. You'll have an exclusive look at its spectacular exhibits and installations with an opportunity to purchase artwork. B,L,D

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA

Join a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for an eye-opening morning discussion. Then join your guide at the recently restored **Capitolio**, the National Capitol Building, designed to resemble the U.S. Capitol with a larger dome. After undergoing a massive restoration project, it reopened in 2018 and now houses the National Assembly of People's Power.

After lunch, head outside the capital to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to **Finca Vigía** (Lookout Farm), the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. He wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea* in its breezy rooms and shady porticos. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces and see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar* on the property.

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. Later, you may attend an evening of musical performances. B,L,D

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Participate in a morning lecture and discussion with a local architectural historian, then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed **Old Havana**, including four of its expansive plazas and the 18th-century **Havana Cathedral** (Catedral de San Cristóbal), one of the oldest cathedrals in the Americas.

After lunch, embark on a **motor coach tour through Havana's neighborhoods** like Miramar and Vedado. Delve into the city's glamorous 1950s history, viewing the grand houses and social clubs still visible along the tree-lined manicured avenues. Dinner is at one of Havana's finest *paladars*. **You may ring in the New Year at one of the city's famed music venues.** B,L,D



Finca Vigía, San Francisco de Paula, photo by Jay Hunt



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

Travel outside of Havana to the western province of **Pinar del Río**, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas* and the Viñales Valley's UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides.

Meet with a local farmer for a private tour of a tobacco hacienda and enjoy an engaging private demonstration of the drying and rolling processes. Then transfer to **lunch at a privately owned organic farm** with a lovely scenic view.

Before returning to Havana, **visit the studio of a local painter** who has charted the history of his community through his work. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own. B,L

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2: HAVANA

Delight in a behind-the-scenes morning rehearsal of the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to chat with the performers.

Then transfer to the 122-acre **Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón**, often called an open-air museum or "Cuba's largest sculpture park." Join your guide to learn about Cuba's past through this remarkable green space's elaborate sculptures, monuments, and mausoleums.

This evening, explore the renowned 1930 **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**, 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 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.

You will also enjoy a moving exclusive performance from **Vocal Leo**, an acclaimed choir, followed by a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's oldest *paladares*. B,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and join an arranged transfer to the airport for your 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.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

PASEO 206

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection, this boutique hotel is a romantic jewel nestled among the tree-lined streets of Vedado, the economic and cultural heart of La Havana. This family home dating back to 1933 has undergone a careful restoration that has maintained the soul of the structure, preserving the original architectural elements. The cozy and comfortable rooms and suites all offer free Wi-Fi, 24-hour room service, Hermès bathroom amenities, Marshall speakers, and hypoallergenic king-sized beds with luxurious Frette linens.



Restaurant, Paseo 206

PROGRAM RATES

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

\$6,499 per person, double rate in Junior Room
\$9,199 single rate in Junior Room

\$7,499 per person, double rate in Master Suite
\$10,499 single rate in Master Suite

\$7,999 per person, double rate in Rooftop Suite
\$10,999 single rate in Rooftop 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 portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare (which includes the Cuban departure tax); Cuban visa (approx. \$100, subject to change); limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than what is 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 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."**



Havana Art Biennial along the Malecón

