



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

**National Trust Tours**



## **Cuba: Art, Culture & History**

March 31 - April 06, 2027

# Cuba: Art, Culture & History

When you visit Cuba, the experience *transforms* you. On a six-night, behind-the-scenes adventure, gain a rare glimpse into contemporary Cuban life that few visitors see. You'll find a nation frozen in time yet on the brink of change, filled with infectious energy and exceptional hospitality. As you see Cuba from multiple angles, witness how its African, Indigenous, and Spanish cultures have merged into a colorful world of art, architecture, dance, music, history, and cuisine.

Throughout this trip, connect with diverse local personalities, including a former ambassador, at enlightening lectures and discussions; private receptions; visits to private homes, privately owned businesses, and artists' studios; and exclusive meals. With the guidance of scholars, learn more about Cuba's complex history and join curator-led tours of exceptional museums, delving into the imaginations of Cuba's most revered artists. 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. You will also transport yourself to the pages of Ernest Hemingway's novels, visiting his longtime home.



Artwork by Raul Martinez, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana, Havana (top), Fábrica de Arte Cubano (center) and map of the region (above)

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Cuba's emerging private sector during your stay, savoring meals at privately owned *paladares* (restaurants) and relaxing at a charming, privately owned 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
- Celebrate at 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
- 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*



Plaza de la Catedral, Havana

### DAY 1: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Upon your independent arrival in Havana, you will be warmly greeted at José Martí International Airport and escorted to **Paseo 206**, a privately owned boutique hotel nestled in a tranquil residential neighborhood. In the evening, gather for a delightful welcome dinner at a *paladar*—an intimate, family-run restaurant within the owner’s residence. D

### DAY 2: 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.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, take a private tour of the splendidly renovated **Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso**, home to the Cuban National Ballet. Explore the homes and studios of some of Havana’s leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Later, gather for a rooftop dinner 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

### DAY 3: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

Enjoy a morning ride aboard a motor coach through the **Viñales Valley** where you will pass by the region’s UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides. Arrive in the western province of **Pinar del Río**, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas*.

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. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own. Your tour director or local guide can share recommendations for privately owned restaurants near the hotel. B,L



Viñales Valley



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

#### DAY 4: HAVANA

This morning, an independent curator will guide you on a private tour of Cuba's largest museum, the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana** (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana). Learn the history behind the complex, colorful works of the country's leading modern and contemporary artists, including the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist **Wifredo Lam**, whose abstract, geometrical imagery was influenced by Picasso.

After lunch, walk down **Calle Obispo**, Havana's main shopping street, and explore **Dador**, a privately owned fashion boutique. Speak to one of the owners about the challenges and advantages of operating a small private business in Cuba.

In the early evening, visit the **Ludwig Foundation of Cuba**, one of the few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on the organization's work helping emerging Cuban artists. Make your way to the penthouse terrace for a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. Enjoy your meal in the company of young artists supported by the Foundation, hearing about their lives in Cuba.

As an option this evening, attend a performance at one of Havana's famed music venues. B,L,R,D

#### DAY 5: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA

Head outside the capital to the small, hilltop village of **San Francisco de Paula**. Here, take an inside look at Ernest Hemingway's residence for two decades, **Finca Vigía** (Lookout Farm). He wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea* in its breezy rooms and shady porticos. While exploring the property, see Pilar, Hemingway's famous, 38-foot fishing boat.

Savor farm-to-table dining during **lunch at a privately owned organic farm**. This afternoon, return to Havana and **join a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** for an eye-opening lecture and discussion

about the island's current realities and potential future. In the early evening, attend a private after-hours tour and reception at the **Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana**, followed by dinner at a local *paladar*. B,L,D

#### DAY 6: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**. Meet the internationally acclaimed choreographer who founded the company and her troupe featuring Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. After their performance, you will have an opportunity to chat with the performers.

Afterwards, step into the 122-acre **Colón Cemetery**, often called an open-air museum or "Cuba's largest sculpture park." With your local guide, learn the stories of Cuba's past through the elaborate sculptures, monuments, mausoleums, chapels, and family vaults in various architectural styles, from Classical Revival to Art Deco.

Following lunch on your own, visit a family-owned private classic car workshop, **Nostalgicar**. At this garage where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished, the proprietor will talk about how he started the business and the challenges of acquiring parts.



Colón Cemetery, Havana



Old Havana

Next, you'll be transported to Havana's glamorous, pre-Revolution era at the famous seaside **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**, a 1930 masterpiece designed by the acclaimed New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White. Admire how the Hotel Nacional blends disparate styles, including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish, and Art Deco.

Stop in the hotel's storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many celebrity guests over the years, 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. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's exceptional *paladares*. B,D

#### DAY 7: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and take an arranged transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

**DISCLAIMER:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Paseo 206 (or similar)

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.



Paseo 206

### PROGRAM RATE

**\$TBD per person, double rate**

**\$TBD single rate**

#### 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
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- 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.