CUBA
Culture & Politics

Havana, Matanzas & Cardenas
January 19 to 26, 2013
Dear Williams College Traveler,

We are pleased to offer an exploration of the culture and politics of Cuba, led by Professor James Mahon of the Political Science Department. Jim recently took a group of Williams students to Cuba. Now it is your turn.

If the January dates are not possible, we are offering another trip in March, led by Professor Ileana Perez-Velazquez of the Music Department. She is a Cuban-born composer of international repute. That tour will have more of a musical flavor.

Both itineraries will present many opportunities to meet government officials, artists, performers, museum directors, and architects and to enjoy the warm hospitality of the people of this captivating Caribbean nation.

Accommodations are at the elegant Hotel Parque Central in the heart of atmospheric Old Havana, which we will see on a walk with an architectural historian. Our focus will be on the city’s main squares, lined with Baroque and neoclassical buildings.

Visit the small, hilltop village where Hemingway lived for 20 years as well as Cojímar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea. Meet some of Cuba’s leading artists on visits to their studios and homes, and at a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. Take a curatorial tour of the Cuban art collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts and see the beautiful craftsmanship on display at the Ceramics Museum during a private after-hours tour.

Specially arranged performances of music and dance will enhance our visit, as will lectures on Cuban history and Cuban art, and a briefing on Cuban-American relations.

Please join us as we discover the celebrated arts of Cuba.

Sincerely,

Robert Behr
Alumni Travel, Williams College
January 19 MIAMI / HAVANA
Saturday
Depart Miami on a scheduled morning flight to Havana. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, transfer to Havana for lunch near La Cabaña, the fortress overlooking the city. Continue to the Hotel Parque Central for check in. In the early evening, attend an introductory lecture on the Cuban Current Reality, given by a former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Our welcome dinner is at a paladar, a restaurant in a private home that operates with the special permission of the Cuban government.

January 20 HAVANA
Sunday
Join an architectural historian for a morning lecture and walking tour of Old Havana, focusing on the four main squares: the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de la Catedral. Conclude with lunch at a restaurant located near the cathedral. Afternoon visits are arranged in the homes and studios of some of Havana’s leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Then drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts where we will have a presentation on Cuban Art. The Foundation President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists.

January 21 HAVANA
Monday
Following a morning lecture, drive to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula to visit Finca La Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. View the rooms of the house through open windows and see his fishing boat, the Pilar, on the grounds. Continue to the village of Cojímar, the setting for The Old Man and the Sea. Return to Havana for an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening, we have been invited to a private reception at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador to see the garden designed by Roberto Burle Marx.
January 22  HAVANA  
Tuesday  
Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, located adjacent to the Plaza de la Revolución. Then meet with local representatives at an office of the C. D. R. (Committees for Defence of the Revolution). Following lunch, tour the Colón Cemetery whose many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen and novelists. Because of its ornate tombstones the cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. The remainder of the day is at leisure, and you may wish to have dinner this evening at a paladar.

January 23  HAVANA  
Wednesday  
Begin the day at the U.S. Interests Section for a briefing on Cuban–American relations. Continue to the National Museum of Fine Arts, where a curatorial tour will focus on the Cuban art collection. Enjoy lunch in Old Havana before visiting the Museo de la Revolución which documents the founding of the current government. The balance of the day is at leisure.

January 24  HAVANA / MATANZAS / VARADERO  
Thursday  
Depart by private motorcoach for Matanzas, stopping en route at the Bacunayagua Bridge, the highest in Cuba, with panoramic views of the nearby valley. Upon arrival in Matanzas tour the Castle of San Severino, which includes a room on Santeria (an Afro-Cuban religious tradition) and one on slavery as part of UNESCO’s project “The Route of the Slave.” A visit to Ediciones Vigia, where handmade books are created, is followed by lunch at the beautifully restored Hotel Velasco on the main square. Continue to the Pharmacy Museum and attend a private performance before driving to Varadero. A stop will also be made at Xanadu, the former Dupont mansion built in the 1930s. Dinner and overnight accommodations are at the Melía Paradisus.

January 25  VARADERO / CARDENAS / HAVANA  
Friday  
Spend the morning in nearby Cárdenas to meet with local artists before returning to Havana in the early afternoon. Enjoy a private performance this evening prior to our farewell dinner.

January 26  HAVANA / MIAMI  
Saturday  
Depart this morning for the airport for the flight to Miami.

... OR JOIN US IN CUBA THIS SPRING

Celebrate the music of Cuba with Associate Professor of Music, Ileana Perez-Velazquez
The Art & Architecture of Cuba: Havana, Cienfuegos & Trinidad  •  March 16 to 23, 2013

Please note that this preliminary itinerary is subject to change. Additionally, throughout the program we have invited special guests to join the group. Architects, museum directors and students, as well as performing and visual artists will be joining us for visits, at meals and individual/group discussions. You are encouraged to actively engage these individuals in conversation. Translators are always available on request.
CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change conditions. Exchange rates in effect at the discretion of Williams College (WC) and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of WC is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, WC and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or WC and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or WC. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA and WC reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or WC to be in the best interest of the participant’s health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a $500 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; WC shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor WC shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or WC, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM RATE $4,245 per person, double occupancy
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT $575 (limited availability)

Rate Includes
- Seven nights accommodation, double occupancy at the Hotel Parque Central, Havana
- Buffet breakfast daily, six lunches and four dinners. Bottled water, coffee/tea; and local beer and wine with meals
- Transportation via private motorcoach as per itinerary, including services of bilingual national guide
- Airport / hotel group transfers
- Taxes, service and porterage; gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Cuban Departure tax
- Pre-departure material, including reading list

Not Included in Rate Airfare from hometown to Miami; Air Package (r/t airfare Miami-Havana; limited Cuban health insurance policy; Cuban visa); beverages other than bottled water, and local beer and wine with included meals; personal items and expenses; trip cancellation insurance; excess baggage; and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

AIR PACKAGE (between Miami and Havana): The $500 Air Package includes round-trip airfare Miami – Havana – Miami via regularly chartered flights; limited Cuban health insurance policy for travelers under the age of 80; and a Cuban visa (except for Cuban-born travelers)

AFIRE (between hometown and Miami): Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be happy to assist with domestic flight reservations, for a handling fee of $40 per person. Domestic airfare will be quoted on an individual basis and is payable by credit card only.

HEALTH This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs without handrails at locations that are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send a Williams College insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Williams College (WC) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

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Cover photo: Plaza de Armas, Havana, © Stephen Colebourne.
Current Restrictions on Travel & American Travelers to Cuba

There are substantial restrictions on travel to Cuba from the United States and for all Americans citizens and American residents. These restrictions apply regardless of where you are traveling from on your way to Cuba or where you travel to following a visit to Cuba. The restrictions include persons who are citizens of other countries as well. Only those who are authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, known as “OFAC”, may legally travel from the United States to Cuba. There are specially licensed air carriers (CSTs) that provide charter services for authorized individuals between Cuba and the U.S. Further, air arrangements and arrangements for travel and stays within Cuba can only be made through a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP). Academic Arrangements Abroad is a licensed Travel Service Provider and is authorized to make all travel arrangements to and from Cuba, as well as travel arrangements within Cuba for individuals who possess the following licenses:

Please note that this summary of OFAC travel restrictions is for informational purposes only. For the official requirements please see:

http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_tr_app.pdf

Specific Licenses: Applications must be submitted to OFAC for a Specific License, either by an individual or institution. OFAC will consider issuing a Specific License for the following:

- Educational exchanges not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program to promote people-to-people contact.
- Educational: An applicant must be traveling for certain clearly defined educational activities, including: participation in a structured educational program that includes at least 10 weeks in Cuba; independent research for writing a Master’s thesis, doctoral dissertation or similar document; participation in a formal course of study or teaching at a Cuban academic institution or sponsoring a Cuban scholar in the United States.
- Persons traveling for religious activities.
- Persons traveling for certain humanitarian projects.
- Persons traveling for free-lance journalism.
- Persons traveling for professional research or to attend a professional meeting that do not meet the requirements of the relevant general license.
- Amateur or semi-professional athletes traveling to participate in a competition held under the auspices of an international sports Federation or for participation in certain public performances or exhibitions.
- Persons traveling for the purposes related to exportation, importation or transmission of information or informational material.
- Persons visiting close relatives who are neither Cuban national or U.S. government employees assigned to the U.S. Interest Section.

For complete information, please see the OFAC website:

http://www.treasury.gov/services/Pages/Cuba-Travel-Licenses.aspx

By participating on this program, you agree to the following restrictions of the Specific License and OFAC regulations on travel to Cuba:
- To travel to and from Cuba with the group
- To participate fully in all program activities
- To abide by the terms of the U.S. Embargo

After reserving your place on the program, you will be informed of exactly what you must bring with you in order to enter Cuba and re-enter the United States according to OFAC.

http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/pages/cuba.aspx
To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with payment in full of $4,745 per person ($4245 land program plus $500 airfare) of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, New York 10018-3721.

I/We will be traveling to Cuba under a specific OFAC People-to-People license number CT-19264.

**FIRST PARTICIPANT**

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**SECOND PARTICIPANT**

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**Accommodations**

- Hotel Room Preference
  - Double
  - Twin
  - Single (at a supplement of $575) I wish to share a room with

**Form of Payment**

- Enclosed is my check for payment in full $4745 and single supplement, if applicable (payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad).
  - Includes $500 Air Package (United Health Insurance for travelers under the age of 80; and a Cuban visa except for Cuban-born travelers).

Each participant must sign below.

I/We confirm that I/we will fully participate in the licensed cultural exchange activities of this People-to-People Program.

I/We confirm that I/we have fully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this program, including the page on Cuba Travel Restrictions.

I/We agree to full payment by check with this reservation form.

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

**DATE**

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

**DATE**