

Mass Humanities Traveling Seminar to Cuba
October 26 - November 3, 2012

ITINERARY*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 - MIAMI

Overnight will be in a hotel close to Miami Airport. Program participants make their own way to Miami. There will be a trip briefing at the hotel at 7:00 PM.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 - HAVANA

Morning flight from Miami to Havana. We will arrive in Havana in time for an orientation walk and lunch. After lunch there will be a visit to the Museum of the Revolution where the whole history of the revolution led by Fidel Castro is on display. This will be followed by a presentation by Jorge Mario, Havana University, on "Cuba in Transition". Dinner is in a local restaurant.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - DAY 3 - HAVANA

This morning there will be a tour of Old Havana. This was the core of the city founded in the 16th century by the Spaniards as a stopping point for Spanish galleons traveling between Europe and the New World. A fabulous restoration project is bringing back to glory some of the baroque and neoclassical buildings in this UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon there will be a visit to the Fine Arts Museum of Havana. This houses a fantastic collection of works painted in Cuba. You will admire works from 3 periods: Spanish Colonial, post colonial and modern contemporary art. Afterwards there will be a conversation with Jorge and Tomás Rodríguez about US/Cuba relations. Dinner in a local restaurant

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29 - HAVANA

In the morning there will be a lecture given by Fernando Saez of the Ludwig Foundation on the influence of dance in Cuba. This will be followed by a visit to a rehearsal session by a local dance company. In the afternoon we will drive to the outskirts of Havana to the house of José Fuster, the "Picasso of the Caribbean". Every inch of his house is artistically adorned with his brightly painted sculptures and mosaics! In fact his talent and style spread to other houses next to him to create an eclectic "gaudiesque" neighbourhood known as "Fusterlandia". Dinner is not included tonight.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30 - CIENFUEGOS

We will depart the Atlantic coast this morning and head south to Cienfuegos on the Caribbean side of the Island. On the way we will stop in the town of Santa Clara to admire the mausoleum of Che Guevara. The drive will also be a good opportunity to see the countryside of Cuba. In the afternoon there will be a walking tour of Cienfuegos known as the "Pearl of the South" because of its beauty. Cienfuegos was the center of the sugar trade. The wealth that came from this is exemplified in the wonderful neoclassical buildings that are prevalent in the city. Dinner is included tonight.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 - CIENFUEGOS

This morning we will meet with the local members of the UNEAC (National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba). We will discuss with them the strong influence of the arts in all aspects of Cuban culture from day to day life to politics. Afterwards we will visit the workshops of a couple of these artists. There will be free time in the afternoon to interact with the locals. Dinner is included tonight followed by a musical performance.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - TRINIDAD

Today is a short drive to the beautiful Spanish colonial town of Trinidad. On the way we will stop at some beautiful botanical gardens where an expert will introduce us to the local flora on the island. A walking tour will introduce us to the highlights of this Spanish town founded in the early 16th century. You will admire the cobble stoned streets and pastel colored houses with wrought iron windows. Included will be a visit to local pottery maker Azariel Santander. There will be some free time in the afternoon for the beach. Dinner is included tonight in a local Paladar. The owner will discuss with the group the challenges of owning a private business in Cuba.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 - HAVANA

Today we return to Havana. Before entering the city there will be a stop at Finca Vigía the house where Ernest Hemingway spent many years of his life and where he wrote amongst other works "The Old Man and the Sea". A farewell dinner is included tonight.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Return flight to Miami. Book your flight home from Miami after 5:00 PM.

*This is a representative itinerary. Content is subject to change as this is controlled by the Cuban government.