



**NC STATE  
ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION



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

In Support of the Cuban People

**April 26 – May 2, 2025**





## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**EMBARK** on a six-night, behind-the-scenes cultural program based in Havana, a rare opportunity to experience aspects of contemporary Cuba that few visitors see

**CELEBRATE** and mingle with fellow travelers at exclusive receptions, including a cocktail reception with a sumptuous dinner in the company of the President of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba

**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

**PARTICIPATE** in an after-hours tour and reception at the dazzling Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana, with its collection of precious Cuban ceramics housed in an 18th-century heritage building

**MEET** the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will share candid, profound insights on Cuban politics

**DELIGHT** in a private, curator-led tour at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks such as paintings by Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba’s answer to Andy Warhol

**GAIN** exclusive access to a private rehearsal at the famous dance company of acclaimed choreographer Rosario Cárdenas, watching as Cuba’s leading contemporary dancers perfect their craft

**ENJOY** behind-the-scenes tours with workers at privately owned companies, including a local workshop for Havana’s classic cars

**TRAVEL** to the picturesque Cuban countryside and join farmers for a behind-the-scenes tour of their beautiful tobacco *hacienda*

**VISIT** organic farms that demonstrate Cuba’s commitment to sustainable environmental practices in the lovely, UNESCO-listed Viñales Valley, which is dotted with striking karst formations known as *mogotes*

**DELVE** into the life of Ernest Hemingway at Finca Vigía, the house where he lived for 20 years, with a glimpse of his famous fishing boat *Pilar*



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Traveling to Cuba can be aptly described in one word: “life-changing.” This Caribbean island *transforms* you. Enjoy a warm welcome to Havana as you begin a six-night, behind-the-scenes adventure to Cuba in Spring 2025.

Meet the country’s spirited citizens who are quick to smile and share stories, gaining a rare glimpse into contemporary Cuban life that few visitors see. You’ll learn so much about Cuba through moving firsthand accounts from people who’ve spent their lives here. You’ll also connect with some of Cuba’s most fascinating experts, scholars, and artists on private tours, receptions, and meals.

Here, centuries of African, Indigenous, and Spanish cultural influences have merged into a colorful world of art, architecture, dance, music, history, and cuisine. Curators will take you behind the scenes of Havana’s most acclaimed museums, a window into its internationally recognized contemporary art scene. Artists, revered in Cuba, will welcome you into their homes for private looks at their creations, personal invitations you won’t soon forget.

Havana’s carefully preserved historic architecture will inspire you, from Baroque cathedrals to gleaming Art Nouveau confections. Go behind the scenes at the ornate, neo-Baroque home of the Cuban National Ballet. Join an architectural expert as you stroll through Havana’s UNESCO-listed historical center, following cobblestoned pathways into the roots of this capital founded in 1519.

In the rural Viñales Valley, local farmers will share an insightful look at the cultivation of Cuba’s most famous crop—tobacco. Discover Ernest Hemingway’s Cuba at his rustic villa, Finca Vigía, along with the charming fishing village of Cojimar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*, which will transport you into the pages of his novels.

Your accommodations will be at a serene, privately owned boutique hotel in central Havana, the perfect base for our exploration. **To join this once-in-a-lifetime exploration of Cuba**, please contact WolfTreks Travel Director Kathy Hart at 919-515-0508 or hart@ncsu.edu. We hope you can join this inspirational look at a nation that has captured the global imagination.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy Hart'.

Kathy Hart  
WolfTreks Travel Director





# Cuba: Art, Culture & History

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## **SATURDAY, APRIL 26: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA**

Welcome to Havana! Upon your independent arrival in Havana, you will be greeted at the José Martí International Airport and transferred to La Reserva Vedado, a privately owned boutique hotel and our home for six nights. This evening, gather for our welcome dinner at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant in the proprietor's home, largely staffed by family members.

D

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 27: HAVANA**

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. At a morning lecture, a local architectural historian will prepare you for a walking tour of Old Havana (*Havana Vieja*), offering insights into the history of the city's remarkably well-preserved buildings and the evolution of its housing.

Then embark on an expert-led walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing the city's variety of architecture, from 16th-century Baroque to Art Deco and Modern styles. Your exploration will focus on four of Old Havana's expansive plazas: Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco, and Plaza de la Catedral. Each plaza features a window into the Old World, including centuries-old cathedrals and colorful colonial houses adorned with arcades and balconies.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, take a private tour inside the splendidly renovated, Neo-Baroque Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the incredibly ornate home of the Cuban National Ballet. Then explore a gallery featuring artworks by some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner is at El Cocinero, followed by a curator-led private tour of Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city's liveliest multidisciplinary performing and visual arts space, featuring dazzling contemporary art exhibits.

B,L,D

## **MONDAY, APRIL 28: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA**

As a marked change of pace from Havana, set forth on a morning ride aboard a motor coach through the countryside, arriving in the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas*. Admire the unique topography and natural beauty of the Viñales Valley. The most striking sights are the region's UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides. Meet with farmers for a private tour of their tobacco *hacienda* to learn about the drying and rolling processes, followed by lunch at a privately owned organic farm. 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.

B,L

Plaza Vieja, Havana



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



Colón Cemetery, Havana



## TUESDAY, APRIL 29: HAVANA

Take an inside look at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum, with a private morning tour of its Cuban art collection at the Palacio de Bellas Artes. In the company of an independent curator, trace Cuba's history, from the 17th century to the present, through the works of its greatest artists. Highlights include the modern paintings of Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol, as well as the avant-garde canvases of 20th-century painter Amelia Peláez, and works by the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam, who was influenced by Picasso.

After lunch, walk down Calle Obispo, Havana's main shopping street; explore a local design shop; and speak to the owners about small business practices in Cuba. 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. This evening, you may opt to attend a performance at one of Havana's famed music venues, including the legendary Tropicana.

B,L,R,D

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / COJÍMAR / HAVANA

Head outside of 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). Initially rented for Hemingway's partner Martha Gellhorn in 1939, Finca Vigía soon became the writer's property after their relationship ended. Hemingway lived at the seaside villa with his last wife Mary, who lovingly tended to the home. He wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea* among its breezy rooms and shady porticos. With its pastel walls, dark wood furnishings, and high ceilings, Finca Vigía exudes an airy timelessness. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces; see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar*; and climb the tower to his study.

Our excursion concludes with a brief visit to the village of Cojimar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. After lunch, return to Havana and gather for a lecture on the island's current realities by a former ambassador who was once Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the early evening, attend a private after-hours tour at the Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana, housed in the 18th-century Casa Aguilera, followed by dinner at a local *paladar*.

B,L,R,D

## THURSDAY, MAY 1: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, visit the Colón Cemetery with a local guide. With its ornate tombstones commemorating Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Following lunch on your own, visit a private classic car workshop, NostalgicCar, where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished.

Next, explore the renowned Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Designed by the acclaimed New York architecture firm of McKim, Mead & White, this 1930 architectural masterpiece features a medley of styles, including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish, and Art Deco. 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 Marquez. Enjoy a *mojito* on a terrace overlooking Havana’s harbor before dinner. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana’s excellent *paladares*. B,D

**FRIDAY, MAY 2: HAVANA / RETURN**

Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home. B

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

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA**

Set in a beautifully restored historic house, this boutique hotel is closely tied to the history of Havana’s charming Vedado neighborhood. Art and design are important parts of the hotel’s identity, reflecting Cuba’s spirit and soul. Enjoy authentic Cuban *mojitos* and cuisine in the bar and restaurant. You can also connect with the world through the hotel’s free Wi-Fi.



La Reserva Vedado, Havana

**PROGRAM RATE**

<b>\$5,299 per person, double rate in Standard Room</b>
<b><u>\$6,499 single rate in Standard Room</u></b>
<b>\$6,099 per person, double rate in Junior Suite</b>
<b><u>\$8,399 single rate in Junior Suite</u></b>
<b>\$6,399 per person, double rate in Deluxe Suite</b>
<b><u>\$8,799 single rate in Deluxe Suite</u></b>

**RATE INCLUDES**

- 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 portorage 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.



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
CUBA: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY ▪ APRIL 26 – MAY 2, 2025  
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, call WolfTreks Travel Director Kathy Hart at 919-515-0508 or use the online reservation form: <https://alumni.ncsu.edu/engagement/wolftreks-travel/wolftreks-travel-reservation-request-form/>

You may also complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with

Room category ☐ Standard Room ☐ Junior Suite ☐ Deluxe Suite

+

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We 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." I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date



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