

VMIFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



A Close Look at Cuba Havana & Viñales

February 2-9, 2019



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear Friends,

Colorful art and architecture, a fascinating history, and warm and welcoming people make Cuba an extraordinary destination. Our journey to this captivating Caribbean nation was so popular in 2017 that we have decided to offer it again. Next February, join the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for a week in Cuba.

Begin in Havana, where accommodations are at the elegant Hotel Saratoga. Meet leading artists in their studios and homes, and at a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts. During a special after-hours visit to the Ceramics Museum, admire the beautiful craftsmanship on display. Travel east of Havana to see Ernest Hemingway's evocative country retreat, Finca Vigía. Other highlights on this journey include a full-day excursion to western Cuba and the Pinar del Río province.

There will also be opportunities to savor Cuban cuisine during meals at *paladares*—privately owned restaurants sometimes located in the proprietor's home—and at a unique “field-to-table” restaurant.

We hope to welcome you on this educational adventure.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adele 'Hutch' Livingston".

Adele “Hutch” Livingston

VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

HIGHLIGHTS

STAY at the elegant Hotel Saratoga, a short walk from UNESCO-recognized Old Havana

ENJOY exclusive access and curatorial tours at Cuba's most important museums

ATTEND an informal morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cardenas contemporary dance company

VISIT the homes and studios of artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings

DISCOVER the renovated Gran Teatro de la Havana Alicia Alonso on a private tour



A Close Look at Cuba

Havana & Viñales

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5: HAVANA

On a morning visit to a cigar factory, see Cuba's prized export travel down the production line. Then, continue to the National Museum of Fine Arts, where we trace Cuba's history through the works of its greatest artists. Following lunch walk along 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 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. Optional evening entertainment is available at a number of Havana's music venues, including the famous Tropicana. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6: HAVANA

This morning an Art Deco architectural tour of Havana begins at the Bacardi Building, a masterpiece of the Art Deco style. Exploration of the city's great buildings continues with architectural achievements from before and after the Revolution, including the López Serrano Building and the Catalina Lasa House. We will also visit the renowned Hotel Nacional (1930), which was originally designed by McKim Mead & White. After exploring the history and architecture of the hotel, sip a *mojito* on the terrace overlooking Havana's harbor. Following lunch, visit Nostalgicar, a classic car workshop where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished. In the early evening, enjoy a choral performance, with an opportunity to chat with the performers. B,L

López Serrano Building



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2: DEPARTURE/HAVANA

Arrive independently in Havana. You will be met upon arrival at the José Martí Airport and transferred to the Hotel Saratoga, your home for seven nights. Located in the heart of the city, this historic hotel overlooks the steps of the Capitolio and the Paseo del Prado. In the early evening, gather to meet your VMFA host and hear about your upcoming week in Cuba. Our welcome dinner this evening is at a *paladar*. D

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3: HAVANA

Join an architectural historian for a discussion of the history and current preservation challenges in Havana. Afterwards depart on a 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. Following lunch, take a tour of the splendidly renovated Gran Teatro de la Havana Alicia Alonso before visiting the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists. Dine at El Cocinero, adjacent to Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city's liveliest multi-disciplinary performing and visual arts space. After dinner, enjoy evening entertainment at FAC. B,L,D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4: HAVANA/ VIÑALES

Embark on a morning excursion to the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its lush tobacco plantations. Explore the unique topography and natural beauty of the Viñales Valley, where you'll encounter spectacular caves, underground rivers, and the famous *mogotes*, the iconic hillocks of the region. Tour a tobacco plantation to learn about the drying and rolling processes. Lunch is at an organic farm. Visit a local artists' studio before returning to Havana. B,L



Hotel Saratoga

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7: HAVANA

Drive to Cuba's leading art school, the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), where we will have the opportunity to interact with professors and students and view their artwork. Then visit the home and studio of artist José Fuster in the village of Jaimanitas, where this celebrated ceramist has decorated more than 80 houses with ornate murals and domes to suit the personalities of his neighbors. Among Fuster's creations is an Artists' Wall, composed of dozens of tiles signed and donated by other Cuban artists. Gather this afternoon for a lecture on Cuba's current realities, presented by a former ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs. In the early evening, we have been invited to a private after-hours tour and reception at the Ceramics Museum. B,L,R,D

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8: HAVANA

Attend an informal morning rehearsal of a contemporary dance company. Then visit the Colón Cemetery, whose many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. In the afternoon, experience Cuban life outside of the capital as we head southwards to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula. Visit Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm), the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years, and view the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces. On the grounds, see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar*, and climb the tower to his study. Enjoy a brief visit to the village of Cojímar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. This evening our farewell dinner is at one of Havana's excellent *paladares*. B,D

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9: HAVANA/RETURN

Transfer to the airport for flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at http://arrangementsabroad.com/special_terms.php*

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL SARATOGA

This historic property reopened in 2005 following an extensive refurbishment that preserved the original façade. Renowned in the 1930s for the international artists and socialites who stayed here, today's Saratoga caters to discerning travelers with interests in history and culture as well as Havana's famous nightlife. Ideally located on the Paseo del Prado opposite the impressive Capitolio building, the Saratoga features a rooftop pool, restaurant, and bar with views of the city, as well as a lobby restaurant, mezzanine bar, business center, spa, and fitness center. All rooms have air conditioning, showers, bathtubs, hairdryers, makeup mirrors, safes, minibars, telephones, satellite TVs, and DVD players.

PROGRAM RATE per person \$5,999

SINGLE RATE \$7,799

RATE INCLUDES

- Seven nights accommodations at the Hotel Saratoga
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, R = Reception, D = Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at lunches and dinners
- Airport / hotel transfers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE 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 as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; excess baggage; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; travel insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

A NOTE ON FLIGHTS This travel program requires at least 15 participants in order to operate. Please hold off on booking airline tickets. Once we have 15 participants, we will be in touch with information about suggested flights.



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A CLOSE LOOK AT CUBA: HAVANA & VIÑALES • FEBRUARY 2-9, 2019
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or 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, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

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

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 confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see http://arrangementsabroad.com/special_terms.php 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

All U.S.-Cuban dual citizens should note that Cuba's government treats U.S. citizens born in Cuba as Cuban citizens. Cuban-born travelers do not need a visa, but they must travel with a green card or an American passport as well as a valid Cuban passport or HE-11 Visa. In some cases, a permit may also be required. Please contact our office prior to reservation for additional details.

Travel to Cuba is permitted by the US Department of the Treasury only if the travel falls into one of the 12 categories of licensed activities. The participants on this program will be licensed under a General license for people-to-people activities. To comply with the requirements of the people-to-people license, participants will be asked to certify in writing, that they agree to participate. Also, to enter Cuba, a Cuban visa and Cuban health insurance are required. For more information about the requirements for travel to Cuba, please see: https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/licensing.aspx#c_trav