

CUBA & its People

HAVANA



**SMALL
GROUP**

Maximum of
12 Travelers

SPONSORED BY

AIR INCLUSIVE
from Miami, FL



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

March 20-27, 2026



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Traveling Bulldogs™

Dear Alumni and Friends,

From vintage cars and culture-soaked streets to infectious music and welcoming smiles, Cuba is a scintillating feast for the senses! Stay for seven nights at a first-class boutique hotel in the heart of Havana. With your small group, limited to 12 travelers, you'll make authentic connections to the Cuban community and gain insight into the country's complex history — steeped in culture, struggle and enduring spirit.

Our thoughtfully designed People-to-People program delivers a full schedule of activities that provide meaningful interactions between our travelers and the Cuban people. You'll meet and engage with small business owners, community leaders, artists, dancers, musicians and philanthropists who will share their personal stories and perspectives on the island's ever-changing landscape. Plus, expert-led excursions offer a genuine immersion in the daily lives of hardworking Cubans. From historic Old Havana to culture-rich Matanzas and the rural countryside, you'll uncover Cuba's heart and soul!

Our expert guides and network of locals are ready to share their professional insights and passion for their country with you. Space is limited, so we encourage you to make your reservations today!

This exclusive program, developed by AHI Travel, is operated in accordance with a People-to-People general license established by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

Leanna Smith '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

UNESCO World Heritage

Old Havana and its Fortification System



La Cabaña fortress, Havana harbor

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.



Cuba & its People



Top: Cathedral, Havana

Cover: Plaza de la Catedral, Havana

Mail panel: Cuban dance company | Colorful Matanzas

Inspiring Moments



- **Uncover Cuba's heart and soul** alongside its charismatic people.
- Engage in inspiring **conversations with Cuban people** while experiencing their daily life and work.
- **Discover Old Havana's lively historic plazas** and Matanzas' bygone beauty and cultural richness.
- Interact with **Cuba's passionate artists, performers and entrepreneurs.**
- Ride in a vintage **American convertible** along Havana's evocative Malecón.
- Stroll the **eclectic El Callejón de Hamel alleyway**, brimming with musicians, artists, rumba and street art.
- Visit and learn from the people living in a **self-sustaining rural community.**
- Experience Old Havana and its Fortification System, a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**



Historic Old Havana

Day 1 | Miami, Florida | Havana, Cuba

Depart Miami for Havana. Arrive, transfer and check in to the Claxon Hotel Boutique.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Dinner at a privately owned and operated local restaurant. Meet, mingle and support local entrepreneurs on your first night in Cuba!

Day 2 | Havana

Enrichment: Havana's Architecture.

Enigmatic Old Havana. Enjoy your first look at La Habana Vieja, Old Havana, and its four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza Vieja. These vibrant plazas teem with local life, from men playing dominoes and children playing soccer to colorful flea markets. Continue to Dador, an independently owned clothing store founded by Cuban women. Learn about their experiences and the challenges they overcame in starting and owning a business in Cuba. Savor Cuban cuisine at lunch in Old Havana.

Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Stop at this historic hotel, built in 1930, to appreciate its Art Deco and Spanish-colonial architecture and tour the property before returning to the hotel.

Enrichment: The Cuban Economy.

Day 3 | Havana

Cuban Activism. Norma Guillard, a Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana, shares stories about her work in literacy and feminism. View "Maestra," a documentary about the female volunteers who taught over 700,000 Cubans to read and write during the Cuban Literacy Campaign,

followed by a discussion and Q&A with Guillard.

Havana's National Museum of Fine Arts.

Join Wilfredo Benítez of the Ludwig Foundation on a visit to Cuba's important cultural institution, housing an impressive collection of Cuban and European art, to gain insight into the museum's Cuban collection, which spans colonial-era, 19th-century, modern and revolutionary art.

Enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant.

Vintage Convertible. Feel the wind in your hair as you take a ride in a classic convertible along Havana's 4.3-mile Malecón sea drive. Peek beneath the hood and chat with your friendly driver about maintaining these vintage cars.

Enrichment: The Cuban Health Care System

Day 4 | Havana

Enrichment: Empowering Cuban Women.

Jewish Culture & Cuban Dance. Visit the Ashkenazi Community Center to learn about Cuba's Jewish culture. Then, stop at Malpaso, a contemporary dance studio to meet and

Founders and owners of Dador





La Finca Vigía, Ernest Hemingway's home & museum

spend time with the dancers, gaining insight into their passion, training and dedication.

La Finca Vigía. Head to the fishing village of Cojimar to visit Ernest Hemingway's modest home from 1939 to 1960, now a museum, where he wrote "The Old Man and the Sea."

Ludwig Foundation. Later, gather on the terrace of this nonprofit institution that protects and promotes Cuban artists and culture, to engage in intellectual exchanges with local artists to gain insight into their passion, desire and commitment to pursue artistic ventures.

Savor dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 | Havana | Matanzas

Matanzas Panoramic Tour. This morning, cross Cuba's longest, highest bridge en route to Matanzas, admiring the breathtaking views of the canyon and lush Yumuri valley below. Discover the cultural riches of this timeworn city as you pass by Spanish-colonial buildings, charming plazas, the neoclassical-style Sauto Theater and the elegant French quarter. Then, enjoy a lively choir performance, interact with

the choir members and have lunch nearby.

Matanzas Walking Tour. Take a guided stroll around the city center and La Libertad Park, a green space dotted with Cuban monuments and statues. Visit the Museo Farmacéutico, a preserved French-style pharmacy, founded in 1882. Marvel at the treasures within, including its collection of French porcelain jars and North American stained-glass medicine bottles.

Back in Havana, share insights of your day over dinner together at a local restaurant.

Day 6 | Havana

Enrichment: Race & the Cuban Revolution.

Cuban Cultural Walking Tour. Begin at an agromercado, a bustling food and produce street market, to witness daily life in Cuba!

El Callejón de Hamel. Continue to the artsy, eclectic El Callejón de Hamel, Cuba's oldest community art project. The paint-splattered alleyway, now central to Afro-Cuban culture, brims with rumba drummers and dancers, vibrant murals, sculptures and recycled art.

Inside an Art Studio. Next, take a tour of Casa Fuster, the studio of Picasso-inspired Cuban painter and sculptor José Fuster. View his vibrant mosaics and hear about his work

Cuban musician



Sauto Theater, Matanzas





and the obstacles and opportunities for Cuban artists. Enjoy an enriching group lunch here.

Casa de la Cultura. Visit this cultural center that promotes Cuban art, culture and literature with workshops in music, dance, theater and other artistic mediums. Engage with the staff and children to provide hands-on assistance.

Salsa Dance. Back at the hotel, gather with local dancers who will share their knowledge, passion and tips on how to salsa. If you wish, join the fun by trying a few steps yourself!

Day 7 | Cuban Countryside | Havana

Rural Cuba. Travel to the island's countryside, where identity is firmly planted in agriculture. Admire the untamed beauty of tobacco and sugarcane fields en route to visit Las Terrazas, a model socialist community. Engage with residents to learn about their self-sustaining way of life, talk with a local school principal and visit an artist's studio. Then, savor a lunch made with locally grown, organic vegetables.

Enrichment: The Rhythms of Cuban Music.

Farewell Dinner. Celebrate your Cuban adventure over dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8 | Havana | Miami, Florida

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Miami, Florida.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. If an event must be canceled, it will be replaced with another People-to-People event.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Havana, Cuba, at the first-class Claxon Hotel Boutique.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Round-trip flights between Miami and Cuba and all deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

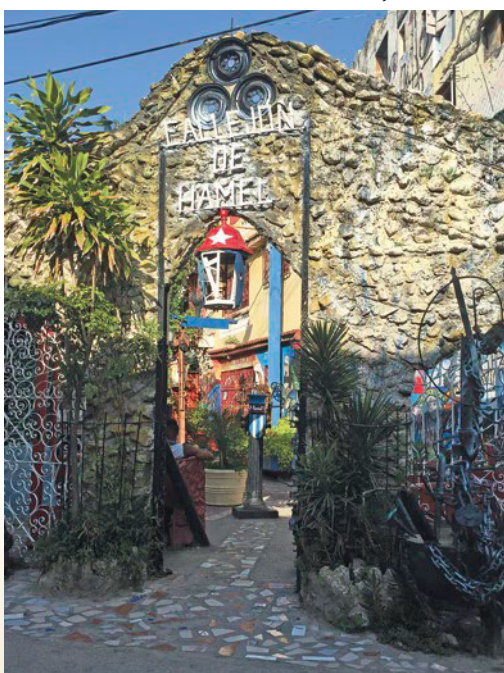
Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or a cocktail with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 12 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into Cuba's history, culture and heritage.
- **Engaging excursions** provide meaningful connections with small business owners and individual Cuban residents who share their personal stories and unique perspectives.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Cuban visa.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:**
We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

El Callejón de Hamel





*Above: Casa Fuster, the studio of Cuban artist and sculptor José Fuster
Below: Agromercado, a sustainable local market*



2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **March 20-27, 2026**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **March 20-27, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
Classic	\$5,945	\$5,195
Junior Suite	\$6,245	\$5,495
Superior Paseo	\$6,545	\$5,795

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and include round-trip air service between Miami and Cuba.
Single accommodations are not available on this program.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://misst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1973A?schoolId=108>.

Explore Cuban culture through interaction with local Cuban residents, artists and artisans, musicians, writers and entrepreneurs, which will directly benefit and support the Cuban people.

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Cuban musicians

Accommodations



The Claxon Hotel Boutique | Havana



Conveniently located Havana's El Vedado neighborhood, the privately owned Claxon Hotel Boutique exudes character, charm and sophistication. The romantic hotel's interior is designed in a seamless blend of historical elegance and classic car-inspired decor, featuring modern comforts and attentive service. After a day of enriching adventures, unwind on the scenic rooftop bar overlooking Havana or in the serene tropical garden and patio gathering spaces.



AHI Travel Expertise



- Travel Consultants** assist with the reservation process.
- Travel & Air Coordinators** offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.
- Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.
- Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.
- Handpicked Expert Guides** and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Book your journey today!

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Discover Cuba's rich culture and charismatic people!

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