“Never mind the propaganda... Help yourselves to the happiness that travel to Cuba can bring.”

Fidel Castro
HAVANA
Saturday, March 15
Depart Miami on a morning charter flight to Havana.

Upon arrival, enjoy lunch on the beautiful grounds of the Hotel Nacional. This iconic hotel opened in 1930 when Cuba was a prime travel destination for Americans. Its remaining splendor and history serve as a tangible reminder to Cuba’s past times.

End the afternoon at the Presidential Palace, now a museum that illustrates the history of Cuba’s political development. A few minutes away by foot is the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel, a surprisingly large launch, that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.

After checking into the Melia Cohiba Hotel, enjoy an introductory tour briefing before proceeding to a private restaurant for welcome drinks and dinner. L,D

HAVANA
Sunday, March 16
Enjoy a morning discussion with the former Ministry of Agriculture and now advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Rena Perez, on “Living in Cuba Today.”

After the discussion, begin exploring Havana by foot. Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. As we walk through Old Havana we will stop to admire the city’s many squares, its cathedral and a scale-model of Old Havana which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. As we stroll through Old Havana, there will be a chance to interact with residents and local business owners. Enjoy musicians and interacting with dancers while enjoying lunch at Café Taberna located on the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square.

After lunch, enjoy a city orientation tour by motor coach (and foot) which will be led by an architectural historian. The tour will include an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which, when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design. Drive along La Rampa to the Parque Copelia, an entire block of a large, lush park. In the middle of the park, visit a remarkable design icon, an ice-cream parlor designed in 1966. End the afternoon with a walk through the renowned Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón.

Enjoy dinner this evening at Café Oriente, located in the heart of Old Havana. B,L,D

CIENFUEGOS
Monday, March 17
Morning departure for Cienfuegos stopping en route at the Bay of Pigs where, in 1962, about 1,300 heavily armed CIA-trained Cuban exiles came ashore fully equipped to provoke a counterrevolution to topple the Castro regime. Continue on to Cienfuegos and enjoy lunch at the Jardín de los Laureles.

After lunch, begin exploring the historic area around the Parque Martí which is Cienfuegos’ central square and admire the lavish Cathedral and town theater. Stop in at the Tomas Terry Theater before continuing on to the Taller Grafico of Cienfuegos, a wonderful graphic print shop. Meet the artists, some of whom hold classes for local residents with Down’s Syndrome.

After checking in at the El Jagua Hotel, enjoy dinner at Casa Verde. B,L,D

CIENFUEGOS
Tuesday, March 18
Enjoy a morning drive to Trinidad, the crown jewel of Cuba’s colonial cities. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence.

Begin the day at the Plaza Mayor which is in the center of town. Around the plaza is the Museo Romantico, the Museo Arqueologia and the cathedral, Iglesia Parroquial de la Santisima Trinidad which was built between 1817 and 1892. Explore the cathedral, which is the largest church in Cuba, and is renowned for its acoustics.

Lecturer Biography:

Dana Leibsohn

Priscilla Paine van der Poel
Professor, Art History

Dana Leibsohn teaches courses on Latin American visual culture and histories of colonialism and global trade. Her current research focuses on two themes: indigenous visual culture in colonial Latin America, and trans-Pacific trade in the early modern period. She has published on indigenous maps and manuscripts, hybridity in colonial visual culture, and the trade between China and Mexico.

Professor Leibsohn is a member of the editorial boards of the Art Bulletin and the interdisciplinary journal Colonial Latin American Review. Currently she also serves as Faculty Director of the Five Colleges Digital Humanities Project, based in Amherst, Massachusetts.
Exploring Cuba’s Cultural Heritage: Havana and Trinidad

After a short walk, explore the Palacio Cantero, a former mansion with breathtaking views over the square from the upper floor balconies. Continue on to visit Trinidad’s Library where the group will learn more about the important role of libraries in Cuba.

Enjoy lunch while meeting with the owner at Sol Ananda, one of Trinidad’s most popular paladars.

After lunch, visit the area known as Valle de Los Ingenios, the sugar industry’s living museum and home of the famous Manaca-Iznaga Tower.

Return to Cienfuegos and enjoy an opportunity to listen and meet with members of a local choir before enjoying a wonderful dinner in Cienfuego’s best private restaurant. B,L,D.

HAVANA

Wednesday, March 19

Enjoy a morning drive back to Havana, stopping en route to visit Ernest Hemingway’s home, which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government and is just as Hemingway left it with books on the table and many of his favorite photographs on display.

After lunch at La Divina Pastora, visit the 7y60 Studio to admire art by four emerging young artists—Frank Mujica, Maria Cienfuegos, Adrian Fernandez and Alex Hernandez.

End the afternoon with a visit to the Santovenia Senior Center to meet with staff and residents before checking in to the Melia Cohiba Hotel.

Enjoy dinner at leisure. B,L.

HAVANA

Thursday, March 20

This morning, enjoy a round-table discussion on “US/Cuban Relations” to be given by Professor Raúl Rodríguez from the University of Havana.

Continue on to visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The tour this morning will be accompanied by Lucila Fernandez, a contemporary art curator.

Enjoy a private lunch at the home and studio of artist José Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art. Fuster’s creations are an array of artwork from ceramics evoking the nation’s African roots to whimsical paintings drawn from ordinary life in Cuba.

Attend an evening reception at the Ludwig foundation of Cuba, an autonomous, non-governmental and non-profit institution created to protect and promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture.

Enjoy drinks and dinner at the home of curator Milagros Gomez. Admire her lovely home and the works of many different Cuban artists including Kunta, Ruben Rodriguez, Salvador Corratge and Orestes Hernandez. B,L,D.

HAVANA

Friday, March 21

This morning, enjoy a round-table discussion with economist Ricardo Torres on the “Changing Forces of Cuba’s Economic Structure.”

Continue on to watch a rehearsal of the extraordinary dance group, Danza Contemporánea de Cuba.

After the rehearsal, enjoy lunch at Vivero Alamar, a co-operative research garden, and meet with staff to learn more about urban gardening in Havana.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at La Guarida, perhaps the most well-known of all paladars in Havana, made famous because it was where Fresa y Chocolate, the 1994 Oscar-nominated film about gays in Cuba, was filmed. B,L,D.

RETURN

Saturday, March 22

Depart for a return flight to Miami. B.

Trip Price: $4,920 per person
Single room supplement: $760

Tour cost includes:
Airfare on a round-trip charter flight from Miami to Cuba. Accommodation as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy. Meals as listed in the itinerary (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner). One drink is included with lunch, and one with dinner. Bottled water on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed. Transportation in a deluxe motorcoach with air-conditioning. Services of a local Cuban guide. A Cuban visa card. All gratuities

Tour cost does not include:
Domestic airfare to and from Miami. Cuban departure tax of $30. Beverages outside of one drink at mealtimes. Trip cancellation, lost baggage or medical insurance (above a mandatory amount required by the Cuban government.) Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed

For more information or a more detailed itinerary, contact Elizabeth Bigwood at (800) 225-2029 or via email at alumtrav@smith.edu
Dear Smith Alumnae and friends:

Join us for this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba. Our program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture and allow the group to meet local residents and professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage. Spend five days exploring Havana which has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. It is a treasure trove of churches, palaces, citadels and mansions wedged along narrow streets or looming over palm-fringed plazas. Enjoy a full day trip to Matanzas to experience the rich cultural history of this city known as the “Athens of Cuba,” before heading east to spend two days exploring Cienfuegos and Trinidad. The entire city of Trinidad with its fine palaces, cobbled streets and tiled roofs is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered by many as the crown jewel of Cuba.

This trip is being limited to 20 participants and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to make your reservation today!

Cordially,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, Smith College

Reservation Form

I would like to reserve ____ space(s) for Exploring Cuba’s Cultural Heritage: Havana and Trinidad. Enclosed is a deposit of $500 per person, in the total amount of $____________.

Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a $250 administration fee. Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Room Arrangements

☐ Single Occupancy (Single supplement $740)    ☐ Double Occupancy, I will share a room with: __________________________

☐ I would prefer a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one is not available

Personal Information

Last Name __________________________ First Name __________________________
Address __________________________ City, State, Zip __________________________
Daytime phone (______) __________________________ Email Address __________________________

Send reservation and deposit made payable to Distant Horizons to:
Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063
EXPLORING CUBA’S CULTURAL HERITAGE: HAVANA AND TRINIDAD

March 15-22, 2014

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