NEW YEAR’S IN CUBA
A FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAM
December 26, 2015—January 2, 2016

Dear Friends:

Experience New Year’s Eve and Cuban Liberation Day in Cuba with its many festivities, music, carnivals, fireworks, and traditions! On New Year’s Eve, Cuban families burn their Año Viejo doll and throw a bucket of water on the street, both a way to throw out and forget the bad things that have happened in the past and usher in the new. There will be particular excitement in the air this year as President Obama’s recent announcement to normalize relations has brought much hope to the people of Cuba, and there simply could not be a more exciting time to visit this “time-capsule” nation before its landscape changes forever.

Join us for this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba as we meet with local residents, artists, and professionals to see the island through their eyes while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage.

This trip is being limited to 32 participants and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to join us and make your reservation today!

Cordially,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel

“Never mind the propaganda... Help yourselves to the happiness that travel to Cuba can bring..” Fidel Castro
Saturday, December 26

**MIAMI**

Independent arrivals in Miami. Check into the Miami International Airport Hotel.

Enjoy welcome introductions and dinner at the hotel this evening. D.

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Sunday, December 27

**HAVANA**

Enjoy breakfast at leisure. Depart Miami on a morning charter flight to Havana.

Upon arrival, enjoy an orientation tour of Havana with a stop at the John Lennon Park and the Plaza de la Revolución.

After lunch at El Ajibe, visit the Callejon de Hamel to learn more about the Santeria religion.

After checking into the Hotel Melia Cohiba, join Dr. Zimbalist for an introductory lecture followed by a private reception and dinner on the terrace of the Café Laurent. L,D.

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Monday, December 28

**HAVANA**

After breakfast, view the documentary La Maestra and meet with Norma Guillard, featured in this film about the young women literacy workers who taught across the island.

Visit the Partagas Cigar Factory before enjoying lunch at Palacio de la Artesania, where you will watch a private performance of the dance/musical group, Havana Compass.

Visit the Presidential Palace, now the Revolutionary Museum which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development.

Visit the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other revolutionaries to Cuba.

Accompanied by a representative from the Cuban Sports Ministry, enjoy a pro baseball game. (Schedule permitting)

Enjoy dinner at La Moneda Cubana. B,L,D.

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Tuesday, December 29

**HAVANA**

Enjoy a morning walking tour of Old Havana which has the reputation of being the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Restoration work helps to reveal the glories of its past. Visit a CUC store as well as a rations store. View a scale model of Old Havana. Stop at the Plaza San Francisco to watch a performance of the only Cuban theater company made up by children, followed by snacks, juice, and conversation with some of the young members.

Continue on to visit the Hotel Nacional's Hall of Fame where you will enjoy lunch outside on the hotel’s beautiful grounds.

After lunch, visit the Maine Memorial, which is a monument to the victims of the USS Maine. Conclude with a visit to an ice cream parlor designed in 1966.

End the afternoon with a visit to the farmers market.

Before dinner, enjoy a lecture on “The Changing Faces of Cuba’s Economic Structure” by Professor Ricardo Torres.

Dinner this evening at Café Oriente followed by the Buena Vista Social Club show at Café Taberna. B,L,D.

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**Andrew Zimbalist**

Andrew Zimbalist is the Robert A. Woods professor of economics at Smith College in Northampton, MA., and a member of the Five College Graduate Faculty. He received his BA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and his MA and PhD in economics from Harvard University. He has been a visiting professor at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, at the University of Hamburg in Germany, at the University of Chile, and at Harvard University. He serves on the editorial boards of various scholarly journals. He has consulted widely in the sports industry for players’ associations, teams, leagues, cities, commissions, foundations, film projects, and law firms, and in economic development for USAID and the United Nations Development Program, and is a frequent media commentator. He chaired the Cuba Study Group of the Latin American Scholars Association. He has served as an economic consultant to the commissioner’s office of Major League Baseball since 2005. He has published twenty-five books, including his most recent Circus Maximus: The Economic Gamble of Hosting the Olympics and World Cup (2015) and several on Cuba.

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Photo by © Sven Creutzmann
**NEW YEAR’S IN CUBA**

**Wednesday, December 30**

**HAVANA**

This morning visit a project called *Angeles del Futuro* which trains children between 7-15 years old in circus skills.

Private lunch at the home and studio of artist *Jose Fuster* who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

After lunch, visit *Ernest Hemingway’s home* which has been lovingly preserved and recently restored by the Cuban government.

End the afternoon with a *salsa class* on the rooftop of the Plaza Hotel followed by dinner at leisure this evening.  **B,L**

**Thursday, December 31**

**HAVANA**

Morning visit to *Vivero Alamar*, one of Havana’s largest and most successful organic urban gardens to learn about the important role of these state-owned research gardens.

Enjoy a *traditional pig roast* followed by the rare opportunity to participate in a *baseball game* with some of the locals.

This afternoon visit the new *Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes* accompanied by curator *Lucila Fernandez*.

Dinner and New Year’s Eve Gala.  **B,L,D.**

**Friday, January 1**

**HAVANA**

Depart for a *full day excursion* to the west part of Cuba, with its jungle-covered summits dropping down limestone cliffs to verdant valleys.

Stop at the *Orchid Farm at Soroa*, which is maintained by the University of Pinar del Rio. The hilly grounds contain over 800 species of plants, including 200 endemic to Cuba, all thriving in the humid climate.

Continue by a smaller road to the *Valle de Vinales* to admire Cuba’s most famous landscape, located in the province of Pinar del Rio. This area was the last refuge of the Ciboney, the hunter-gatherers who were pushed here by the more advanced Taino.

Stop at a *tobacco farm* to learn more about this industry so important to Cuba. Continue on to walk with naturalist *Emma Palacios* along the *Coco Solo Palmarito trail* through a misty dreamlike landscape, rich in plant and birdlife.

Enjoy a fabulous feast at a private farm with beautiful views overlooking the valley.

Return to Havana to and enjoy a farewell dinner this evening at L’Atelier.  **B,L,D.**

**Saturday, January 2**

**RETURN**

Depart for a return flight to Miami.  **B.**

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**Evening entertainment:** There will be optional opportunities each evening to attend a music or dance performance depending on what is happening in the city each night. A wonderful publication will be emailed to you prior to your trip which will include a schedule of events and your guide will be happy to assist you with purchasing tickets.

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**Trip Price:** $4,780 per person

**Single room supplement:** $860

**Minimum Age:** 12

**Trip price includes** roundtrip airfare on charter flights from Miami to Cuba, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, one drink is included with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons escort and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all gratuities, Cuban departure tax, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation.

**Tour cost does not include** domestic airfare to and from Miami. 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
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I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for Exploring Havana and its Environs with Smith Travel.

Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a $300 administration fee. Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Room Arrangements
☐ Single Occupancy (Single supplement $860)    ☐ 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

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payments: Reservations for this tour require a of $600 per person and an application form signed by the participant. Full balance of the trip cost is due upon receipt of invoice no later than 60 days prior to departure.

Tour Price Includes: Educational Program of lectures and discussions, roundtrip airfare on charter flights between Miami and Cuba, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, one drink with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all basic gratuities, Cuban departure tax, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation.

Visas: Distant Horizons will issue the necessary Cuban visa for all non-Cuban born tour participants. Distant Horizons cannot be held responsible in any way for any cost incurred if they are denied entry into the country upon arrival even with a valid visa. It is the traveler’s responsibility to verify that all details of their visa are correct.

Tour Price Does Not Include: Domestic airfare to and from Miami, Miami hotel, meals not specified in the itinerary; personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls, liquor, room service, independent and private transfers, and excess luggage charges. Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. Airfare is subject to change without notice by the airlines.

Cancellations: Distant Horizons and Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. The tour price is based on a number of people traveling together. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs for that departure date. The minimum group size of this departure is 20 paying participants.

If a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons: Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a $300 cancellation fee. Notice between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price. No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date. No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Acceptance of Terms and Conditions: By accepting reservations for this tour, you acknowledge receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signify acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.

Smith College’s tour operator, Distant Horizons, is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at tcrinfo.org. California Law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. Distant Horizons has a trust account.