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 United States and Cuba continue to normalize relations, bringing much hope to the people of Cuba. 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
Tuesday, December 27
HAVANA
Depart Miami on a morning charter flight to Havana.

Upon arrival, enjoy an orientation tour of Havana with a stops at the Plaza de la Revolucion, the most politically important square in Cuba.

Stop at the Hotel Nacional's Hall of Fame where you will enjoy lunch outside on the hotel's beautiful grounds.

After lunch, enjoy a city orientation tour by motor coach which will be led by an architectural historian. The tour will include an ice cream parlor which is a remarkable design icon, serving approximately 30,000 customers day. Also enjoy an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design.

After checking in to the Hotel Melia Cohiba, enjoy an introduction lecture followed by dinner on the terrace of the Café Laurent. L,D.

Wednesday, December 28
HAVANA
This morning, enjoy a 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. On the walking tour, you will also enjoy visits a rations store, and to a scale model of Old Havana.

Stop at the Plaza San Francisco to watch a performance of the only Cuba theater company made up of children, La Colmenita, and meet with the director and actors.

Enjoy a pizza lunch at La Dominica.

After lunch, visit the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes accompanied by a curator of contemporary art.

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

Enjoy dinner and the music of a wonderful jazz trio, at Café Oriente this evening. B,L,D.

Thursday, December 29
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 an amazing organic farm with beautiful views overlooking the valley.

After lunch, spend some time exploring the town of Viñales before returning to Havana to enjoy a dinner at leisure. B,L.

Friday, December 30
HAVANA
This morning, visit a project called Angeles del Futuro which trains children between 7-15 years old in circus skills.

Continue on to enjoy a special performance of the dance/musical group, Havana Compass.

Lunch will be hosted at the home and studio of internationally renowned artist Jose Fuster who has turned his entire neighborhood into a piece of mosaic art.

End the day at Callejon de Hamel to learn more about the Santería religion.

Enjoy dinner this evening at El Ajibe. B,L,D.
Saturday, December 31
HAVANA
After breakfast put on your dance shoes for a private salsa class.

Continue on to the Presidential Palace, now the Revolutionary Museum which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development. Visit the Gamma Memorial which preserves the vessel that Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries brought to Cuba.

Enjoy lunch at the beautiful home of curator Milagros Borges Gomez surrounded by the art works of many Cuban artists.

This afternoon, visit 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 dinner and a New Year’s Eve Gala at La Moneda Cubana this evening. B,L,D.

Sunday, January 1
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.

After a wonderful pig roast lunch, experience a baseball game with local Cuban children.

Gather for a farewell dinner this evening at Le Chansonnier. B,L,D.

Monday, January 2
RETURN
Depart for a return flight to Miami. B.

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.

Trip Price: $5,380 per person
Single room supplement: $1,820
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 tour manager and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all gratuities, 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. Luggage charges. 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 she can be reached via email at alumtrav@smith.edu

Smith College’s tour operator, Distant Horizons, is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restoration Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at tcrcinfo.org. California Law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. Distant Horizons has a trust account.
I would like to reserve_____space(s) for Exploring Havana and its Environs with Smith Travel

Enclosed is a deposit of $600 per person, in the total amount of $____________

Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a $300 administration fee. Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Room Arrangements

☐ Single Occupancy (Single supplement $1820)  ☐ 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

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: Hotel Accommodations: In hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, prices listed are based on two persons sharing a room. Distant Horizons reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in the brochure when necessary. Distant Horizons will do all possible for single participants to satisfy requests to share rooms. On occasions when it is not possible, the single room supplement will apply. If Distant Horizons assigns you a roommate and your roommate cancels or changes their mind about sharing a room, you will be liable for the single room supplement. Meals: American breakfast (B), lunches (L) and dinners (D) are included as specified in the itinerary. One drink is included with lunch and one with dinner. Air Transportation: On chartered air service between Miami and Cuba. All Land Travel Listed: Including airport transfers to and from hotels for those on the group flight, educational program of lectures and discussions, entrance fees to monuments, bottled water kept on the bus, transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager and of a local Cuban guide, special activities as quoted in the itinerary, and all gratuities. Visas: Distant Horizons will issue the necessary Cuban visa for 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. Mandatory Health Insurance and evacuation policy required by the Cuban Government and provided by Havananatur. This provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of medical transportation. This insurance does NOT provide coverage for any treatment related to a pre-existing condition.

TOUR COST is based on rates of currency exchange at time of printing (August 2016) and is subject to change with or without previous notice. If there is a price increase prior to the day of departure in the basic costs, such increases may be passed on to the participant. 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, should the number of participants fall below this number, a small group surcharge and/or revised staffing will apply.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Domestic airfare to and from Miami, Miami hotel, meals not specified in the itinerary, Cuban departure tax, 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.

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 a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:

Notice more than 90 days prior to departure: a refund less a $300 cancellation charge.
Notice on or between 90 days and 61 days prior to departure: a refund less a $600 cancellation charge.
Notice on or between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
Notice on or between 30 days and 7 days prior to departure: no refund.

If no refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.

Air CARRIERS CONTRACT: The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time tour members are on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airline concerned when the ticket is issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger.

RESPONSIBILITY: Distant Horizons and Smith College act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor Smith College nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and Smith College cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and Smith College cannot be held responsible if the tour lecturer or leader cancels, and passengers will be advised of a comparable replacement should time permit. Distant Horizons and Smith College are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies 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.