LEGACIES AND LANDSCAPES OF CUBA
March 15 – 26, 2013

Join us as we unravel the richness of Cuban culture on a program that travels through the country from east to west. Cuba, with its defiant history, is a resplendent tropical island unlike any other in the Caribbean. Explore this island of contrasts and its rich culture, still largely unfamiliar to many travelers. This trip promises to be a rare treat for history enthusiasts, music lovers and those who appreciate beautiful landscapes. Throughout the program there will be opportunities to meet Cubans from different walks of contemporary life.

The trip begins with two days in Santiago. The cradle of Afro-Cuban culture, Santiago is legendary for its music and is known as the birthplace of the revolution. Walk through the town’s Parque Cespedes where some of Santiago’s most imposing buildings front the square. Drive past Guantanamo Bay to Baracoa, a charming town enveloped by rich tropical vegetation. This is where Christopher Columbus is said to have first landed and a local church houses a cross he brought with him.

Fly by chartered plane to the Trinidad area, Cuba’s oldest colonial city surrounded by a verdurous ring of mountains. Its colonial architecture is linked together by a grid of small squares and cobble-stoned streets. In the center lies the main square ringed by the mansions of wealthy colonialists. End the trip with five days in Havana where there will be ample opportunity to explore the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. Meet and enjoy discussions with economists, artists and foreign policy experts. Return to Miami from Havana.

Synopsis of the tour

SANTIAGO – 2 nights Melia Santiago
• Enjoy a carefully-crafted walking tour of Cuba’s second largest city
• Visit the Basilica del Cobre
• Drive to the east side of Guantanamo Bay which overlooks the US Naval Base
• Visit the Morro Castle

BARACOA – 2 nights Hotel Castillo
• Visit the town’s cathedral and wander through Plaza Marti
• Meet with a curator to discuss the history of the Fort Museum
• Take a short boat ride on the Duaba River

TRINIDAD AREA – 2 nights Las Cuevas
• Speak with residents about this opulent living museum built by sugar planters
• Speak with a librarian at the Trinidad library to discuss the role of libraries in Cuba

HAVANA – 5 nights Saratoga Hotel (Junior Suites)
• Walk through Havana’s colonial historic core
• Marvel at the Presidential Palace
• Enjoy a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation
• Enjoy a briefing at the US Interests Section
• Visit the studios of a number of contemporary artists
• Enjoy a private lunch at the home of artist Jose Fuster

Trip Price: $5,700 based on double occupancy. Single supplement: $980. Includes round trip airfare from Miami, meals and accommodations in hotels as listed, a full sightseeing program, services of a local guide, all gratuities and a Cuban visa.
I would like to reserve ______ space(s) for the *Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba* trip March 15 – March 26, 2013.

*Enclosed is a non-refundable deposit of $500 per person, in the total amount of $ _________________.

Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.

Deposits are refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a $250 administrative fee

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**Room Arrangements**

- [ ] Single Supplement
- [ ] Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: ___________________________
- [ ] I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

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**Personal Information**

Last Name____________________________________________ First Name ______________________________________________
Address    ____________________________________________ City, State, Zip ___________________________________________
Daytime Phone (______)________________________________ Email Address ___________________________________________

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*Send reservation form and deposit to: Smith Travel, Alumnae House, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA  01063*
PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

Alumnae Association of Smith College
Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba
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March 15, Friday: Santiago.

Fly on a direct morning flight from Miami to Santiago.

Spend the balance of the day exploring Santiago, the second largest city in Cuba and its former capital. For many years, the city of Santiago and the surrounding region were a clearinghouse for many different nationalities. Its east-facing position and proximity to Jamaica and Haiti fostered close links between the city and those two Caribbean islands. In addition, many of the French planters and merchants who fled Haiti following the revolution in 1791 chose to settle in and around Santiago. The rich racial mixture has produced some of the most exciting music, art, and architecture in the Caribbean. This port city is also an industrial city and the distilleries of the original Bacardi rum are here.

Stop at the Museo de Arte Colonial, said to be the oldest house in Cuba. It was built in 1516 as the home of Cuba’s conqueror, Diego Velázquez. Along the second story runs a balcony built with a Moorish-style wooden grille to shield its delicate aristocratic occupants from prying eyes.

Enjoy a tour through the Carnival Museum. Santiago’s Carnival is the most famous in Cuba. This small museum is in one of the oldest houses on Calle Heredia. Santiago’s annual carnival is a major event and has been part of the city’s traditions since 1669. The museum displays old costumes, black-and-white photographs, huge papier-mâché masks, and hand-painted and embroidered mamarachos (capes). Percussion instruments, including old car parts and simple wood instruments, show how popular the celebration is. The final room displays a couple of the most recent winners of the costume contests, which are elaborate and huge affairs.

Enjoy lunch at Plaza Dolores, perhaps Santiago’s most charming square, surrounded by quaint colonial buildings.

Walk into the Jesuit Dolores College where Fidel Castro was educated as a youth. It was one of the most profound intellectual influences in his life. Original construction of the building began in 1907 and it was inaugurated as the Jesuit Dolores School in August 1913. In 1961, with the nationalization of education in Cuba, it functioned as a secondary school until the 1977-78 school year, when it became a high school. Since that time, over 15,000 students have graduated from the school. It was closed in 2000, but reopened in 2007 after workers from the Moncada Construction Group, together with local construction companies, the Office of the City Conservationist, and support from the people of Santiago de Cuba, dealt with structural repairs and general rehabilitation of the 100-year-old facility.

Afternoon, check into the Melia Santiago.

Enjoy drinks and dinner at the hotel followed by a stroll around the Parque Cespedes, which is ringed with gas lamps, metal grills, and tall shade trees. The beautiful white colonial building on the north side is the town hall. From here, Fidel Castro gave the victory speech on January 2, 1959 after he entered town following Batista’s flight from Cuba.
March 16, Saturday: Santiago.

Depart the hotel for a morning visit to the important Cementario Santa Ifigenia, which has been in use since 1868. Among the many notable figures buried here are Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Emilio Bacardi, and Cuba’s national hero, Jose Marti, who rests in a large, octagonal mausoleum. Nearby is the original Bacardi Factory that was founded in 1838 and nationalized in 1959. At that point, Bacardi moved to Puerto Rico. The Cuban government continued to make rum under the Bacardi name, but Bacardi later sued and won. Ever since then, the rum produced at this factory has been sold as “Havana Club.” While the factory is closed to visitors, a small shop is open to sample some rum.

Drive past the Moncada Barracks. On July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro and 79 soldiers dressed in Cuban Army uniforms stormed the barracks. The building is no longer used as barracks and instead houses a superb museum that tells the tale of the attack, the Revolution, and subsequent history. We’ll drive by the Plaza de la Revolucion which is dominated by a massive monument to Antonio Maceo, the hero-general of the War of Independence.

After lunch at the Zun Zun Restaurant, drive to the drive to the Basilica del Cobre which takes its name from the large copper mine that the Spanish established in the mid-1500’s. The church—Cuba’s only basilica—is known for its offerings and as the shrine to of La Virgen de la Caridad (Virgin of Charity), patron saint of Cuba, to whom miraculous powers are ascribed. In 1952, Hemingway dedicated his Nobel Prize for Literature to the Virgin although the medal is now in the custody of the Archbishop of Santiago.

End the day at the Morro Castle which was originally built in 1640 to ward off pirate attacks. Unfortunately, this effort failed, and in 1662 the pirate Henry Morgan stormed it and then blew it up. A more solid structure was begun in the late 18th century and this is what one sees today. From the battlements of the Castle there is a spectacular view of the harbor and its bottleneck entrance. The interior of the castle houses the Museo de la Pirateria, an exhibition of pirates during the colonial and modern eras.

Enjoy an early dinner at a restaurant called El Morro set atop the cliffs with fabulous views along the coast. B,L,D

March 17, Sunday: Baracoa.

Enjoy a spectacular drive from Santiago to Baracoa. Drive by Guantanamo the east side of Guantanamo Bay overlooking the Guantanamo US Naval Base. Although for security reasons its not possible to stop in the area, one can catch glimpses of it as we drive. It is one of the oldest US overseas military bases and the only base located in a communist country. It is a constant thorn in the side of Cuban-US relations. Since 1903 the US has held an indefinite lease on the property that it claimed as a prize at the end of the Cuban-Spanish American War. The rent is $4,085 a year. Since 1959, Fidel Castro has not cashed the US Treasury checks.

Upon arrival in Baracoa, transfer to the Hotel Castillo, formerly one of Baracoa’s three forts. Baracoa is an attractive town surrounded by rich, tropical vegetation. The name Baracoa is an Indian word meaning ‘existence of the sea’. Christopher Columbus arrived in Baracoa on November 27, 1492. He planted a cross, now housed in the church, and described a mountain in the shape of an anvil which was thereafter used as a point of reference for sailors. Baracoa is full of references to Columbus’ stay here. Porto Santo marks the place where he was married in 1514, the same year that the capital of Cuba was moved from Baracoa to Santiago de Cuba by Diego Velazquez. Baracoa was the first of the seven cities founded by Diego Velasquez, and as such, is considered to be the oldest colonial city in the Americas. Between 1639
and 1742, Baracoa’s three forts – El Castillo, Fuerte de la Punta and Fuerte Matachin – were built by the Spanish to protect the city from invasion. After the revolution in Haiti, Baracoa became a refuge French exiles and they brought with them coffee and cacao farming techniques as well as their own style of architecture.

This afternoon we’ll meet a curator of the Fort Museum and enjoy a specially guided tour. The exhibitions here trace the history of the region since pre-Columbian days. Continue to the town’s cathedral, dating from 1805, built on the site of an earlier church destroyed by pirates in 1652.

Dinner at a private restaurant this evening. These private restaurants, which are opening up all over the country are known as paladars. B,L,D.

March 18, Monday: Baracoa.

Enjoy a morning walk to the town’s cathedral which is an ocher-colored edifice dating from 1805 and was built on the site of an earlier church which was destroyed by pirates in 1652. For many years the cathedral housed the cross known as the “Cruz de la Parra” which is said to have been brought here by Columbus. Historians have confirmed that the cross dates back from the time of Columbus, it now seems unlikely that it was brought by Columbus from Europe. As the Cathedral is currently being worked on, the cross has been moved to a building close by where it is possible to admire the cross in its glass case.

A few minutes away is Plaza Marti which is surrounded by colonial houses and the small tobacco factory located inside a small blue house. Stroll through this area and meet with residents and business owners.

Drive a few miles outside of town to the Duaba River where a short boat ride has been arranged. Cruise through lush landscapes and forests where the air is filled with the chirps and squawks of more than a hundred different bird species. Enjoy a delicious lunch at the Finca Duaba beneath the shade of palms and plantains. The final stop for the day will be at the village of Guirito where local famers will perform adaptations of Cuban son, a dance known as el nengen and el kiriba.

This evening after dinner at the hotel attend a magnificent performance of Afro-Cuban dancers in the local Casa de la Cultural. B,L,D.

March 19, Tuesday: Trinidad/Cienfuegos area

Depart Baracoa on a private charter flight for Cienfuegos.

Latin for “Holy Spirit,” Sancti Spiritus is one of the best preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time of the sugar trade. Founded by Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar in 1514, it retains its colonial architecture and charming streets.

After lunch at a local restaurant check into the Plaza Rijo Hotel, a restored colonial building located in the heart of the city.

Afternoon to explore the area.

**Exact hotel to be confirmed.**

Enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel. B,L,D.
March 20, Wednesday: Trinidad/Cienfuegos area.

Morning drive of just over an hour to Trinidad - the fourth of the seven cities founded by Diego de Velasquez in 1514 as a base for expeditions into the New World. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence. It is the crown jewel of Cuba’s colonial cities. The whole city with its fine palaces, cobbled streets and tiled roofs, is a national monument and, since 1988, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Trinidad’s prosperity rested on the sugar industry, which was introduced in the 18th century. As a result of the wealth that the sugar industry brought Trinidad’s cultural life flourished. Schools of languages, music and dance were opened and a wide variety of artisans set up businesses, including gold and silversmiths. In 1827 the Teatro Candamo opened its doors. The well-off patricians built huge mansions for themselves (now museums) and sent their children to European universities. However, during the second half of the 19th century the Industrial Revolution and increased sugar beet production in Europe led to the decline of Trinidad’s slavery-based economy. Construction ceased and the city remained frozen in time. The maze of cobbled streets is lined with terra-cotta tiled roofed houses in soft pastel colors. Much of the architecture is neo-classical and baroque, with a Moorish flavor reflecting the town’s heritage of conquistadores. The exquisite buildings are fronted by mahogany balustrades, fancy grills of wrought iron, turned wooden rods and massive wooden doors with postigos (small windows) that open to let the breezes flow through cool, tile floored rooms connected by double-swing half-doors.

Begin the day at the Plaza Mayor which is in the center of town and elegantly adorned with glazed earthenware urns. Around the plaza are 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. On the left at the front of the church is a crucifix of the brown-skinned Christ of Veracruz who is the patron of Trinidad. The altars are made of precious woods such as cedar, acacia, caoba and grenadine.

After a short walk, explore the Palacio Cantero which is housed in a mansion that belonged to the Borrell family from 1827 to 1830. Later the building passed to a German planter named Kanter or Cantero, and it is still called Casa Cantero. Dr. Justo Cantero acquired vast sugar estates and his wealth is well displayed in the stylish neoclassical decoration of the rooms. The view of Trinidad from the top of the tower is wonderful and not to be missed.

Enjoy lunch in one of Trinidad’s wonderful private restaurants.

After lunch there will be a chance to visit Trinidad’s library and meet with where the head librarian, Marisa Pedroso. Learn about the important role of libraries in Cuba and how books are selected and what censorship occurs. It would be wonderful to bring along a copy of your favorite book in Spanish to donate to the museum.

Late afternoon visit the Valle de Los Ingenios. This is a living museum of the sugar industry, featuring 75 ruined sugar mills, summer mansions, barracks, and other facilities related to the field. The famous Manaca-Iznaga Tower, built in 1816, is 45m high, and the tolling of its bells once marked the beginning and end of working hours on the sugar plantations.

Return to the hotel for dinner. B,L,D.

March 21, Thursday: Havana.
Depart Trinidad this morning and drive to Havana. En route stop at Cienfuegos and enjoy a walking tour of the area around the Parque Marti, the central square. Admire the lavish Cathedral and the town theater which was built with materials craftspeople imported from Europe.

Lunch will be at the fabulous Palacio del Valle which originally belonged to Celestino Caceres but was given as a wedding present to a member of the local Valle family who added to it by producing a magnificent building.

Continue on to the Bay of Pigs when, in 1962, about 1,300 heavily armed CIA-trained Cuban exiles came ashore fully equipped to provoke a counterrevolution to topple the Castro regime.

Arrive in Havana mid-afternoon. Transfer to the Saratoga Hotel (junior suites) in Havana.

Dinner and drinks on the hotel roof-top this evening. B,L,D.

March 22, Friday: Havana.

This morning begin exploring Havana by foot. Havana was declared the capital in 1519, and on December 17 of that year the first mass was celebrated under a ceiba tree which, according to legend, is an ancestor of the one standing at the east end of the Plaza de Armas. Around it rose the center of the original city – the plaza – and the first government buildings. With continued attacks by the French and English, colonial authorities decided to make Havana itself a fort, and in 1633 began constructing city walls that eventually ringed what is now Old Havana.

Of all the capital cities in the Caribbean, Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Restoration work in the old part of the city helps reveal the glories of the past. Many of its palaces were converted into museums after the Revolution and more work has been done since the old city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. While much of Cuba's infrastructure has crumbled and its economy has limped along, more than 300 landmark buildings in Old Havana have been refurbished. From fortresses built in the colonial days to famous nightspots and hotels of the city's swinging era just before the Cuban revolution, the key to the renaissance of the old city has been a strategy of restoring old hotels, restaurants and historic sites to attract tourists, then using the revenue from tourism to finance more restoration. Restoration of the historic center is one of the city government’s priorities and our time here will allow ample opportunity to evaluate the progress.

Begin by walking from the hotel to the center of old Havana to view a scale-model of Old Havana. The model serves as an excellent introduction to the lay-out of the city. It is color-coded by age with the historic buildings painted in crimson, pre-revolution buildings in yellow and the post-revolutionary buildings in ivory. Close by is the Plaza de Armas which was built in 1584 for military exercises. Most mornings, used books are sold here, mainly post-revolution editions on Cuban history. Havana's town hall is located on the square, now the city museum, and gives an overview of its history. Admire the Cathedral of Saint Christopher located on the cobbled Plaza de la Catedral. The cathedral has been described by one Cuban writer as "music set in stone." The square is surrounded by some of Havana's oldest buildings, the wealthiest families built their mansions here.
End the morning at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square. Although the square was in a sad state of repair for many years, that decay is being reversed by the caring restoration of Habana Vieja.

Lunch in a restaurant with local music.

Continue by bus for a city orientation tour by bus 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. It was owned at the time by Meyer Lansky. The hotel has recently been restored to recapture its 1950s ambience. Drive along La Rampa which climbs past the offices of Cubana, the Hotel Havana Libre and Art-Deco apartment buildings 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, which serves an estimated 30,000 customers a day. Follow Calle L south from La Rampa and arrive at the wide steps which lead to the porticoed, columned façade beyond which lies the University of Havana.

Dinner this evening at Café Oriente. B,L,D.

March 23, Saturday: Havana.

After breakfast this morning, enjoy a lecture by Raul Rodriguez on “US/Cuban Relations”.

After the lecture, walk from the hotel to the Presidential Palace, a huge ornate building topped by a dome. The history of Cuban political development is illustrated here from the slave uprisings to joint missions with the ex-Soviet Union. A few minutes away by foot is the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956. The Granma, a surprisingly large launch, embodies the powerful, unstoppable spirit of the revolutionary movement.

Enjoy a private lunch at the home and studio of artist Jose Fuster, who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art. Fuster is an artist who is dedicated to his creations, a vast array of artwork from ceramics evoking the nation’s African roots, as represented in the Santeria religion, to whimsical paintings drawn from ordinary life in Cuba: commuters crowded inside creaky, smoke-belching buses, the ubiquitous dominoes games in backyards and street corners. Drive though his neighborhood known as Jaimanitas before arriving at his studio and home for lunch.

After lunch visit the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), which was founded in 1976. The institute is a center of advanced studies in the fields of theatre, dance, music, visual arts and communication art. It was designed by three young “rebels” architects: Italians Roberto Gottardi and Vittorio Garatti, and Cuban Ricardo Porro. As the five main buildings emerged, they were thought too sensual, too avant-garde for grim Communist tastes. The project was halted, though the school did open. The ghostly complex fell into ruin. Amazingly, in 2001, the Cuban government approached the three architects and asked them to complete the project. Restoration was completed in 2009.

Attend a private reception at the Ludwig Foundation, an organization committed to the promotion of art in Cuba.

At leisure for dinner. B,L.

March 24, Sunday: Havana.
Round-table discussion this morning with economist Ricardo Torres on the “Changing Forces of Cuba’s Economic Structure”. Mr. Torres is a macro-economist and professor at the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana. He has been a visiting professor at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and is currently writing his dissertation on the impact of structural change on economic growth in Cuba.

Late last year Fidel Castro was quoted as saying to an American journalist that the Cuban economic model “doesn’t even work for us anymore.” Monumental changes since then have been announced including, but by no means limited to, the laying off of more than half a million state workers, the privatization of small businesses, a new credit law offering certain Cubans bank loans, and the devaluation of the peso to bring it on par with the dollar.

Continue on to visit the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes is actually divided into two sections, occupying two buildings: the Cuban Collection which we will see this morning, and the International Collection. The museum’s origins date back to 1842 when the San Alejandro Art Academy started its collection, forming the nucleus of the museum founded in 1913. It expanded greatly after Castro took over in 1959, notably with works from the private collections of Julio Lobo and Oscar Cintas. The tour this morning will be accompanied by a contemporary art curator.

After a traditional Cuban lunch at El Ajibe, drive to the studio of four young and very talented artists. The studio – known as 7 and 60 – showcases the works of Maria Cienfuegos, Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mujica and Alex Hernandez.

Dinner at a paladar this evening. B,L,D.

March 25, Monday: Havana.

Morning visit to an “organoponico”. Cuba's urban farming has been a stunning and surprising success. Today in Havana, 90% of the city’s fresh produce comes from local urban farms and gardens. The country’s urban agriculture movement materialized out of the Special Period, an economic crisis from 1990-94 when the former Soviet Union ended its food subsidies, plunging Cuba into a severe food shortage. Without any other options, Cuban urbanites began growing their own foodstuffs on unutilized land. This wave of urban agriculture spread not only through Havana, but also other Cuban cities. Additionally, the trade embargo has meant the country’s food producers cannot import the pesticides and herbicides used in other parts of the world; thus, the growers have turned to innovative integrated pest management techniques and all-natural bio-pesticides. These solutions make environmental sense, too, as the proximity of urban farms to densely populated communities makes pesticides a potential health hazard. There are currently over 450 organoponicos in Havana growing and selling vegetables, herbs, and spices directly to the public. The organoponicos use raised container beds and a high ratio of compost to soil to grow produce. These farms, many of them on tiny plots now supply much of Cuba’s vegetables. They also provide 350,000 jobs nationwide with relatively high pay and have transformed eating habits in a nation accustomed to a less-than-ideal diet of rice and beans and canned goods from Eastern Europe. It’s a fascinating model and shows that cities can not only produce their own food but also get all kinds of social and ecological benefits.

After lunch meet with staff at the US Interest Section for a briefing.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at La Guarida this evening. B,L,D.
March 26, Tuesday: Return.

Drive to the airport for your return to Miami. B.
## FLIGHT ITINERARY

**Alumnae Association of Smith College**  
**Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba**  
**March 15 – 26, 2013**

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<th>Date</th>
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Please note:

This schedule is subject to change.

There is a departure tax of 25 CUCs which will need to be paid upon departure from Havana on March 26.

Please allow at least a 4 hour layover in Miami if you have a connecting flight on March 26.