

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY network

Culture, Economics and Technology in the Cuba

April 9-17th, 2016

Saturday – Day 1 **Bienvenidos** **(L, D)**

am Group check in at Miami International (tentative flight times)

am Departure from Miami International (TBA)

am Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport

11:30 am We start our day with a brief bus tour of Havana as we make our way from the airport to a walking tour of Old Havana. Our guided tour includes a brief history of the city as we visit important sites throughout Havana with a break part way through for lunch. View the diverse architecture of the city. Participants will walk through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about its historic, architectural, and cultural significance. The area was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Learn about the City Historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. The group will explore the four main plazas of the 18th-century colony: Plaza de Armas, which originally housed the main administrative buildings of the colony; Plaza Vieja, the oldest of the plazas; Plaza de la Cathedral, site of the baroque cathedral of Havana; and Plaza de San Francisco, site of the basilica of San Francisco and the old Havana stock exchange.

Lunch at the Moneda de Cuba where we will meet the owner of this social enterprise and hear about the history of this property.

4:00 pm Check in at our hotel/ casa particular, where we will have a brief orientation meeting with Altruvistas and our local Cuban tour guide, with a welcome Mojito.

7:30 pm Welcome dinner at the local paladar, San Cristobal.

Sunday – Day 2 **New Entrepreneurship** **(B, L)**

10:00 am Invited speaker to hotel to give a historical overview of the development of Havana (requested architect and urban planner *Miguel Coyula*). Here you will receive a basic overview of the changing economic realities and trends in Cuba, the importance of tourism, trends in emigration and the dual currency system.

1:00 pm Lunch at Altier paladar, a privately owned restaurant. We will request to speak with the owner to learn about how increased private entrepreneurship is realized.

3:00 pm Exchange with a community arts project called the El Muraleando. Learn how a culture of arts and entrepreneurship has rejuvenated this community.

8:00 pm Dinner with guests, the owners of a Casa Particular ("*Maritza y Pepe*" in Plaza Vieja) to discuss how privately owned "bed and breakfasts" or AirBnB style accommodations work. Again the growth of Casas Particulares is remarkable and needed as tourism increases dramatically but the room capacity is limited.

Evening free for Cultural Activities. Join Malia at the private community arts and performance space the Fabrica de Arte (drop off only).

Monday – Day 3 **Information Technology** **(B, L)**

10:00 am This morning we will be briefed by the Ministry of Communications to discuss the development and future of communications in Cuba. We will request to see Magda de la Caridad Brito D' Toste, Directora de Informatización. After we will visit some local artist studios.

1:00 pm Lunch in Old Havana at Nao Paladar.

3:00 pm Exchange with Raúl Rodríguez, one of the organizers of Jóvenes InfoClub 2015, Simposio Internacional de Comunidad, Entretenimiento y Redes Sociales to learn about the changing realities of youth access to computers and social media.

4:45 pm Return to Hotel after stopping by a few of the wifi zones close to our hotel. Free time to break for dinner .

8:00 pm Free to enjoy a private jazz fusion performance traveling by old cars to a private home with a guest to share about the “Paquete in Cuba. The Paquete is the downloaded movie, television and media packages that circulate informally in Cuba.

Tuesday – Day 4 **Economic and Tech Futures in Cuba** **(B,L)**

9:30 am Meeting with a representative of the Ministry of Economy and Planning (*the Honorable Minister Marino Murillo Jorge to be requested*) for a discussion on economic reforms in the county and future outlooks for the Cuban economy and technology. Or briefing by *Dr. Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva* (requested) from Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana on an overview of foreign direct investment in Cuba. This is vital for understanding how Cuba has worked with other private businesses, governments and MNCS in foreign investment, infrastructure as well as the sugar, nickel, oil and tourism industries.

12:30 pm Lunch el Ajibe, followed by a city tour on bus of modern Havana including the Jose Marti Revolution Square and the Playa and Vedado neighborhoods.

3:30 pm Exchange with Professor Pedro Urra from Havana University and the former director of the National Medical Sciences Information Center. He was also a founder of INFOMED, the national health information network of Cuba. He has dedicated his professional career to information management, the development of the national health information infrastructure, and the training of human resources in information sciences and informatics. He has developed tools for information automation in libraries. He helped develop the Latin American and Caribbean Virtual Health Library and the Virtual Health Campus of the Pan American Health Organization. He has been an international consultant in information projects and initiatives. He is working with Cuban institutions of cultural heritage to develop a national platform for data and information management in the field. He is a vocal advocate for open technologies and social commitment.

5:00 pm stop at a local Hot Spot. Evening free for cultural activities like the Fox and the Crow Jazz Club.

Wednesday – Day 5 **Environment and Technology** **(B,L)**

9:00 am Briefing by a representative of Cuba’s CITMA- the Ministry of Technology and the Environment.

11:00 am Visit to the Literacy Museum followed by lunch at the Santa Ana paladar.

3:30 pm Exchange by the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity (FANJ) is a cultural and scientific non- governmental institution, dedicated to research and promotion of programs and projects for the protection of the environment as it relates to culture and society. Dialogue and exchange with staff about important issues facing Cuba today. Learn about their role in recommending sustainable develop in the tourism industry. *Requested speaker is Roberto Perez Rivero.*

5:00 pm Return to Hotel and free evening for dinner and local cultural and sports opportunities.

Evening optional cultural activity: We drive to the Fortaleza ortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña, known as La Cabaña (Fort of Saint Charles), is an 18th century fortress complex, the third biggest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress).

Dinner reservations at a local paladar Canonzo. Then enjoy the Canoñazo Ceremony. Soldiers dressed in 18th century uniforms fire a canon over Havana bay at precisely 9 p.m. o’clock. It is a historical reconstruction dating back to the colonial era. Back then, the cannon fire announced the official end of the day and the time to close the city gates for the night. Here you will have a lovely view of Old Havana as the restaurant is located in Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana. At the time of its construction in the 1770s it was the largest fort the Spanish had ever built, as well as the most costly. Following the occupation by the British, who used this location to secure the port for their side, the Spanish set about building Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana.

Thursday – Day 6 **Provincial Visit and Education** **(B, L)**

After breakfast we depart for the province of Matanzas, just to the east of Havana. Matanzas known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy is called the “City of Bridges” or the “Athens of Cuba”. Our highlights of our full excursion are many. We stop at the Bacunayagua Bridge on way to Matanzas town where we will visit a book making work shop the Ediciones Vigia to exchange with local artists and writers. Next we are off to learn about the history of the region at the Castillo de San Severino as we walk through this fort and learn about the Slave Route and the legacy of slavery in Cuba. This fort was declared a National Monument in 1978 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our afternoon finds us in the resort town of Varadero. Here we will have time for personal exploration on the beach. You will learn about the booming tourist economy here firsthand. In the evening we return to Havana.

Friday – Day 7 **Economic Opportunities & the Normalization of US Relations** **(B, L)**

9:00 am Visit with Yudivian Almeida Cruz, Ph.D. a Professor in the School of Mathematics and Computation at the University of Havana who researches web-based information distribution systems and their application in Cuba. Presentation of [Yudivian Almeida Cruz TEDx Havana 2014](#).

11:00 am Meeting with a representative from the Chamber of Commerce – to learn about how foreign direct investment works in Cuba and economic futures on the basis of the development strategies and policies established by the state and government.

Lunch

2:30 pm Exchange with ICAP –The Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples. We will ask the North America head to brief of Cuban Economic futures post embargo or normalizations of relations. What do future investments and technology look like?

4:30 pm After we will visit the home of a renown Cuban Photographer, Roberto Salas, to discuss his experience working in Cuba and around the world. Learn about the Revolution through his eyes and photographs. For those further interested in the history of the Revolution and photography.

Evening free Reservations to be made at Paladar Nazdarovie. We will request to meet with Rolando Almirante (a film maker and journalist with a Cuban TV show and his business partner Gregory Biniowsky, a Canadian environmentalist who worked with the Canadian International Development Agency in Cuba. Both have interesting perspectives on the changes in Cuba and also have a successful Russian restaurant with Soviet Union “nostalgia” (<https://www.facebook.com/NazdarovieCUBA>). The restaurant has an excellent Havana waterfront view.

Saturday – Day 8

Wrap up

(B, D)

10:00 am Enjoy a guided tour of the Bellas Artes Museum to learn about important contemporary artists.

2:30 pm Muraleando Community Art Project, a community-based art programs in Havana, inspired originally by local neighborhood artists who taught art “in the streets.” Outdoor murals and sculptures, depicting fanciful celebrations of Cuban life, were a natural outgrowth of these art classes. In a country where nothing is disposable and everything is useful, broken typewriters, old telephones, tire rims, wrought-iron chair parts - all were fair game to weld and paint and turn into sculpture. The original efforts were made in conjunction with cleaning up trash dumps that had collected throughout the neighborhood. Found art objects, parks and murals now replace piles of trash and serve as gathering places for residents and visitors. We will request to meet with local artist and co-founder of the project, Manuel Díaz Baldrich.

5:00 pm Afternoon free to shop at the San Jose Artisan faire.

8:00 pm Farewell dinner at El Divino Paladar, with a guest to discuss Digital Inclusion facilitated by CTN’s executive director Kami Griffiths.

Sunday – Day 9

Transfer to airport

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