



Education and Excellence in the African Diaspora in Cuba

November 17-27th, 2023

Friday, Nov. 17 Arrival Morning

	Arrival at Santiago's Maceo International Airport. We ask that the group arrive by 2:00pm.
4:00pm	Group Check in at the hotel.
6:00pm	Welcome Meet and Greet with a Welcome Mojito.
6:30pm	AAREA Orientation Meeting & Briefing- engage in an overview of our delegation together in Cuba.
8:00pm	Welcome Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 18th Welcome to Santiago (B, L)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Meet with the staff at the African Cultural Center "Fernando Ortiz" for an exchange on the African presence in Cuba and to learn about the work of this institution. (http://www.afrocubaweb.com/ortizafrican.htm)
11:00am	As we start our day in Cuba we will receive an orientation of the City of Santiago during our City Tour (includes Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, a national landmark and the cultural landmarks in downtown Santiago). Lunch at the beautiful El Moro , in the San Pedro de la Roca fortress.
2:00pm	Visit to the Moncada Barracks and museum to learn about the history of the M26 movement.
4:00pm	Enjoy a cultural exchange with the Foco Cultural Los Hoyos or another Afro Cuban performance group.
	Dinner and Eve free to enjoy the Casa de Trova.

Sunday Nov. 19th Cultural Roots in Oriente (B, L)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Visit to Casa del Caribe , an ethnographic research center, for a general overview on Afro-Cuban religious systems, an introduction to their research program and exchange with the researchers. Here we meet with anthropologist, Raul Miyares and then visit their current gallery. http://www.ecured.cu/index.php/Casa_del_Caribe
12:30pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Depart for our excursion at El Cobre town. Here we will have lunch and then learn about La Caridad del Cobre : the Patron Saint of Cuba and the Catholic church as we visit to the Patron Saint's Sanctuary. La Caridad is also known as the Yoruban Orisha, Oshun . http://www.cubantraditions.com/religions/catholic/caridad_del_cobre/caridad_del_cobre_patroness_of_cuba.html
	Dinner is free but we will make a reservation at the Tres Anas .
	Eve is free for the Casa de las Traditions

Monday November 20th Revolutionary Education (B, L)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Briefing and overview of the Cuban public education system with a representative of MINED-the Ministry of Education . Here we will learn about education as guaranteed by the state, and the history of education/pedagogy since 1959.
11:00am	Exchange with UNEAC –the Cuban Union of Artists and Writers to learn about arts education, opportunities and constraints today. We also learn about national identity through art and literature. Lunch
2:00pm	Time to walk through local galleries off the main square.
3:00 pm	Exchange at the Santiago School of the Arts and with students there or another performance arts school.
5:00 pm	Enjoy a break.
	Evening Dinner is free tonight but we will make a reservation so we can share with each other.

Tuesday November 21 (B, L,)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Check out of hotel. Excursion to the Baconao Natural Park , a UNESCO biosphere reserves in 1987. It is located around 20 kilometers from the city. We will enjoy a hike here after we visit the historic coffee plantation Cafetal Isabélica which was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the archaeological landscape of the first coffee plantations in southeastern Cuba in 2000. We will learn about how the Víctor Constanan grew corn,

	cocoa, and coffee grown after he fled Saint Domingue, today's Haiti. He named the plantation after his wife Isabel María. He was one of the French settlers who fled Saint Domingue's slave revolt. Lunch.
2:00pm	Visit to the The University of Oriente - Santiago de Cuba (Exchange with faculty tba).
4:00pm	Transfer to the airport. Grab a snack there before our Flight to Havana
6:35pm	Flight to Havana. Arrival about 8:20 pm transfer to Hotel.

Wednesday November 22 Orientation to Havana (B, L)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00 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 understand the history and the current political economy of Cuba.
11:00 am	Enjoy a guided Walking City Tour of Havana , a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Delegates also have time to engage with Cubans at their art studios, galleries and markets where participants will meet with Cuban artists and find out firsthand how artists negotiate between the tourist market, a socialist economy and new opportunities for individual entrepreneurship. Visit the four major historical squares of Cuba, we will not gloss over their use during the slave trade. Today, the historian of the city's massive efforts to restore Old Havana's buildings, attracts tourism and new investment to improve social services for local residents. Lunch in old Havana at Hemingway's old dive, the Bodequita del Medio. Then we continue our City Tour that includes an exchange with the well-known Cuban artist Choco .
3:00pm	We learn about the history of the Literacy Campaign in Cuba with an informative visit to the Literacy Museum . This museum documents how Cuba educated its entire population and the programs that it inspires around the world today.
5:00pm	Free time. Dinner reservation at San Cristobal Paladar .
7:30pm	Tonight we will experience the interactive community arts space of the Fabrica de Arte . Enjoy a guided tour followed by a dinner reservation at Tierra. After enjoy live music and more. You will cab home at your leisure after.

Thursday November 23rd AfroCuban Voices (B, L)

9:00am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Enjoy a Drumming Workshop!
12:00pm	Lunch and exchange with Nancy Morejon . Hear about her career as a Cuban educator and writer. <i>In 1986 she won the Cuban "Premio de la crítica" (Critic's Prize) for Piedra Pulida, and in 2001 won Cuba's National Prize for Literature, awarded for the first time to a black woman.</i> At Jardin de los

	Milagros.
3:00pm	Casa De Africa in Old Havana to learn about the history of Africans in Cuba and we examine slavery from 1520 till 1886. The museum focuses on the continent of Africa and Cuba's African heritage, reflecting in a simple, but deep way, history, religion, art, wisdom, and emancipation battles. The Casa de África is devoted to research and the promotion of African culture and how it has shaped and defined Cuban culture. We will request to see their local AfroCuban group perform for us.
4:30pm	Enjoy an intimate discussion of Race in Cuba with Gisela Arandia. She is a journalist, social activist, and researcher on issues of race and society in contemporary Cuba!
6:00pm	Break to rest or explore on your own. Evening Dinner is free tonight.
10:00pm	Enjoy live jazz at the Zora y El Cuervo (included)

Friday November 24th Fruits of the Revolution (B, D)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Exchange with Icap for an exchange on US Cuban Relations and the impacts of the US embargo on Education.
11:00am	Visit to ELAM, the Latin American Medical School and exchange with students
1:00 pm	Free time for lunch and shopping at the San Jose De Almancenés Crafts market.
3:30pm	Exchange at a Casa de Abuelos.
5:00pm	Meeting and Exchange with Gloria Rolando , AfroCuban filmmaker to discuss national identity, ethnicity and the AfroCuban roots in Cuban Culture. She will also share about the Haitian Diaspora in Cuba. We will engage further on emancipation in Cuba and the role of Afrodescendientes played in the war against Spain and later in the Revolution. http://www.afrocubaweb.com/gloriarolando/gloriarolando.htm followed by dinner at El Cimarron Paladar https://www.elcimarron-cuba.com/paladar
7:00pm	Cruise in Classic Cars. We will get picked up from dinner then cruise along the Malecon and stop for a group photo at Revolution Square.

Saturday, November 25th Spiritual Roots (B, L)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:30am	Enjoy a Rumba Class (Or Salsa).
11:00am	Exchange with the community project Quasicuaba. We will meet a Santero or an Ifa Elder for a discussion on Santeria, Ifa, Palo, and Espiritismo.
1:00pm	Lunch at la Divina Pastora.
3:00pm	Visit to a local Botanica where spiritual items and herbs are purchased.
3:30pm	Learn about the representation of African religion and oral history in the artwork of Francisco Gordillo.
4:30pm	Explore the community arts space of Callejon de Hamel.

5:00pm	Break to rest or explore on your own.
7:30 pm	Dinner reservation at La Guarida for those that like.

Sunday, November 26th Wrap-up (B, D)

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	Today we cross the bay and explore the community of Regla , where we will briefly learn about Santeria as we visit the Church of Regla (dedicated to the Black Madonna, the Virgin of Regal which is also known as the ocean goddess or Orisha Yemaya).
10:30am	Exchange with Hip Hop artists from Obsession.
12:30pm	Lunch reservation at the serene Finca Vista Hermosa and organic farm.
2:30pm	Enjoy a quick stop at Guanabacoa. We stop at the municipal museum for a brief tour of this town and its overview of Ifa/Santeria. Then we visit our las cultural community project that features local artists in a gallery, a beautiful garden and coffee shop. Here we will learn to make our own Mojitos or Mocktail!
6:00pm	Free time to rest.
7:30pm	Farewell Dinner at Café de Oriente

Monday, Nov. 27th Hasta Luego (B)

9:00am	Check out of Hotel
	AM Free for personal research and personal exploration
	AM Transfer to Jose Marti International Airport for our departures back to US

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