



## ***Indaba Working Group Educational Consulting Services***

A People-to-People Delegation for the 34th Havana International Book Fair  
With *Dr. Richard D. Benson II, Ph.D.*

February 13<sup>th</sup> - February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Tba	Arrival in Miami International Airport and overnight in Miami.
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### **February 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Orientation and Historical Overview of the Capital**

7:45 am	Check in at Miami International Airport for American Airlines Flight 1447.
10:45am	Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport, Havana.
12:30pm	Upon arrival we will start our delegation in Cuba with a welcome mojito and lunch at a paladar, or private restaurant, in Old Havana.
2:00pm	<b>Orientation Meeting followed by a briefing by Cuban architect Miguel Coyula</b> to discuss the History and Future of Havana. Learn about the historic development of the Capitol, and about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana through the salvaging of neglected buildings, tourism for restoration investment, and the accompanying social services for local residents (location TBA-Hotel Plaza?).
3:30pm	We will familiarize ourselves with Cuban culture and history on a <b>Walking City Tour of Old Havana</b> . We will visit many of Havana's most important civic, historical and architectural

***“Transforming Communities through Sustainable Philanthropic Travel”***





**February 17<sup>h</sup>****Day 2 University of Havana Scholars Exchange**

- 9:30am **University of Havana** scholarly exchange continues.
- 11:30pm **Faculty Scholarly exchanges and program** (tba with input from Kenia).
- 12:30pm **Lunch at local paladar**
- 2:30pm **Engage the community of the Karibuni Project.** We will learn about their strategies and solidarity efforts.
- 4:30pm End our full day learning about the impacts of the US embargo on Cuba with an exchange at **ICAP-the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples.** Here you can also ask about US/Cuban Relations past and present.
- 5:30pm Break at hotel
- 7:45pm Dinner Reservation at Café Laurant (not included) that is within walking distance to the Hotel Nacional, where we can visit its stunning patio and relax before we walk a block to the Jazz club. Our guide will give us a tour of the hotel and highlight the incredible Mafia historical events.
- 9:45pm Cultural Activity—Enjoy live Cuban Jazz at La Zora y El Cuervo
- Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**February 18<sup>th</sup>****A Culture of Literacy**

- 9:00am Learn about Cuban Education and the Literacy Campaign as we visit the **Literacy Museum.**
- 11:00am Visit to the **Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University (UCP EJV)** for an exchange.
- 1:00pm Lunch in Old Havana and enjoy an hour of free time to wander the streets.
- 3:30pm **Tour the Casa De Africa** to learn about Cuba’s rich history and relations with the continent. The delegation can have an exchange with Cuban authors.
- 5:30pm Free time to rest and dine at hotel or enjoy free time for dinner in Old Havana.
- 8:00pm Optional Cultural Activity with a special friend’s home, Amy, who will invite other artists for us to engage with and support their art.
- Meals Included :** Breakfast, Lunch

**February 19<sup>h</sup>****Documenting Voices**

- 9:00am Exchange with **Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando**. Among her best-known works are Cuba, My Footsteps in Baraguá (1996), a history of the West Indian community in eastern Cuba, Eyes of the Rainbow (1997), a film about Assata Shakur, and a three-part series on the 1912 massacre of members of the Partido Independiente de Color (Independent Party of Color). She will talk about race and gender in Cuba, and answer your questions about filmmaking. At the Casa de Amistad.
- 10:30am Free time to do some shopping at the **San Jose Arts Fair** or walk around Havana. Free time for Lunch in Old Havana.
- 2:00pm **Tour the Fidel Ruiz Castro Center** to learn about this statesman's remarkable life.
- 4:00pm Exchange with the community at the **Martin Luther King (MLK) Center**. Then our group will visit the MX/MLK bust afterwards before we make our way to the hotel to rest.
- 5:30pm **Classic Car Ride**.
- 7:00pm **Farewell Dinner** with invited guests Dr. Yanela Gonzalez, Dr. Zuleica Romay, and host Kenia Serano who are invited to share with us.
- 8:00pm **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**February 20****Hasta Luego**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am Wrap-Up Session in hotel.
- 10:30 am Hotel check-out and Transfer to the Jose Marti International Airport to depart from Havana to Miami for your departures at 1-2pm.
- Meals Included:** Breakfast



## Excursion to Viñales

February 20-23, 2026

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

### Viñales Valley

8:00am	Breakfast
9:00am	This morning we are off to the beautiful rural area of Piñar del Rio. The drive is about 2 to 2.5 hours depending if we need to stop on the way
11:00am	Our first stop is the Las Terrazas Biosphere Reserve in Pinar del Rio province. In the Rosario Mountains, visit the town of Las Terrazas, an ecological community and environmental education center that has been declared a UNESCO bio-reserve area. Meet with reserve officials and community residents who are working in the reserve. Take a hike in the forest to see endemic flora and fauna. Meet with local artists and learn about the community's unique architecture along with visits to a school and local clinic to meet with doctors.
1:00pm	Enjoy lunch at Romero's, a unique gourmet vegetarian restaurant in Cuba.
3:00pm	We end our day exchanging with local artists. Then we drive to Viñales Valley and check in to our Casas Particulares.
7:00pm	Dinner Reservation at el Valle del Balcon.
	Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

**February 21<sup>st</sup>****Viñales Valley**

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| 8:00am | Breakfast   |
| 9:30am | We will start out with a leisurely walking tour of the farmlands and crops. Learn more about the simple lifestyle here and see first-hand the farmers who grow tobacco for some of the most expensive cigars. Viñales is a small and charming rural village. We will visit and take pictures at an impressive lookout of the valley and its unique mogotes.   |
| 1:00pm | Head to an ecological farm, Finca Paraiso, for a tour and for lunch. We will also learn how cigars are rolled (and give a shot at it yourself). After lunch we will have free time—an hour or so—for either horseback riding or hiking through the area. Here we get a chance to see the countryside of Cuba, and how traditional ways of farming and living have been maintained throughout the years. |
| 4:00pm | Visit to the Cueva del Indio. If you feel up to it we can visit a local art gallery in town and wander the town square. This is the town of countless Cuban writers: Felix Luis Varela, Amir Valle, Angel Santiesteban, and more.   |
| 5:30pm | For dinner you can eat on your own.   |
- Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>****A la Havana**

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| 8:00am  | Breakfast   |
| 9:30am  | Returning from Viñales to Havana, on our way we will stop in Soroa to visit Congolaria and exchange with Eloisa Bocart. We will enjoy a hike to a waterfall and have time to bathe. |
| 12:00pm | Lunch at a local farm for a farm to fork lunch (it will be \$25 in cash here today).  |
| 3:00pm  | We visit the iconic finca "La Vigia" (Hemingway House), located in the San Francisco de Paula district of Havana.   |
| 5:00pm  | Check in to the iconic Hotel Nacional   |
| 7:30pm  | Farewell Dinner   |
- Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner


**Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Departure**

8:00am Breakfast

Am tba Transfer to the Jose International Airport

Meals Included: Breakfast

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