Cuba’s Cultural Heritage: Havana and Trinidad
February 17-24, 2018

Featuring UCLA Distinguished Professor Steven Loza
Department of Ethnomusicology
Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

Cuba is a tropical island nation unlike any other in the Caribbean; as rich in contrasts as it is rich in art, architecture and warm, welcoming people.

Join us for this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba as we meet with artists, dancers, scholars, and professionals to see the island through their eyes while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage.

The journey begins with five days in Havana, one of the finest examples of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Discover the city’s many squares and experience its lively music and art scene. From the waves crashing against the Malecon to the Afro-Cuban beat, Havana is a feast for the senses. Head southeast to Cienfuegos, a city with beautiful architecture, nestled between lush mountains and rich agricultural lands. Explore Trinidad, Cuba’s oldest city and a crown jewel of colonial architecture. Here we will discover the legacy of the wealth created by the short-lived sugar boom with its fine palaces, cobbled streets and tiled roofs.

There simply could not be a more exciting time to visit this “time-capsule” nation before its landscape changes forever.

With more than 20 sold-out departures in the last five years, more than any other university in the country, we are pleased to continue to offer this fascinating destination.

Based on the pre-trip interest we anticipate this trip to sell-out. Early registrations are encouraged as tour membership is limited to 28 travelers.

Sincerely,

Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel
HAVANA
February 17, Saturday
Depart on an intended morning flight from Los Angeles or other departure city which arrives in Havana early evening. Proceed to your hotel for check-in.

Meet for an introductory tour briefing and an overview of the trip before enjoying a private cocktail reception and welcome dinner on the hotel rooftop. D

HAVANA
February 18, Sunday
This morning, enjoy a discussion with UCLA Professor Loza followed by a walking tour of Old Havana, the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Enjoy the city’s many squares, its cathedral, and a scale-model of Old Havana before ending the morning at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square surrounded by colonial mansions.

After lunch at La Moneda Cubana, join Ayleen Robaina, an architectural historian, on a city orientation tour by bus which will include a stop at the University of Havana as well as an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel.

Stop at the 331 Gallery to view the works of three young emerging artists: Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mojica and Alex Hernandez.

Enjoy the music of a wonderful jazz trio and dinner this evening at Café Oriente. Walk back to the hotel after dinner, experiencing Old Havana in the evening. B,L,D

HAVANA
February 19, Monday
Enjoy a morning discussion with economist Ricardo Torres on the “Changing Forces of Cuba’s Economic Structure.”

Continue on to watch a rehearsal of the extraordinary dance group, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba.

Continue to NostalgiCar, a classic car mechanic shop, where you will meet with the owner of the shop who will talk about his business.

From the car mechanic shop, drive in Cuba’s iconic classic cars to a private lunch at the home and studio of artist José Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

After lunch, enjoy a special visit to the Laboratorio para el Arte in Romerillo where Alexis Leyva Machado (Kcho) opened a new art center which is made up of several exhibits one of which is a Wilfredo Lam exhibit

Return to the hotel to meet with Norma Guillard, who is featured in the documentary film La Maestra. View the documentary which tells the personal stories of the literacy campaign Fidel arranged in the early days of the Revolution.

Dinner this evening is at L’Atelier, one of Havana’s best private restaurants. B,L,D

HAVANA
February 20, Tuesday
Enjoy a morning discussion with UCLA Professor Loza.
After the discussion, visit the Partagas Cigar Factory to learn about cigar production.

Continue on to visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection) accompanied by a contemporary art curator.

Enjoy lunch at Le Figaro Restaurant located in the community project of Arte Corte. After lunch meet with project director, Gilberto Valladares (Papito), who is working with the city to restore the neighborhood.

Continue on to visit Vivero Alamar, a state-owned research garden to learn about urban gardening.

Enjoy dinner at leisure this evening (a list of recommended restaurants will be provided). B,L

HAVANA
February 21, Wednesday
Participate in a morning discussion on “U.S./Cuban Relations” with Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana.

After the discussion, visit the Presidential Palace, now known as the home of the Revolutionary Museum, which illustrates the history of Cuban political development. A few minutes away is the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other revolutionaries to Cuba in 1956.

Continue on to enjoy a drink in the Hall of Fame of the iconic Hotel Nacional followed by lunch on the hotel’s beautiful grounds.

End the afternoon at the art and craft center located at the former Almacenes de San Jose on the Port of Havana.

Enjoy dinner at La Guarida, which served as the main setting for the Oscar nominated film, Fresa y Chocolat. B,L,D

TRINIDAD/CIENFUEGOS
February 22, Thursday
This morning, depart for Cienfuegos stopping en route at the Bay of Pigs where, in 1962, about 1,300 heavily armed CIA-trained Cuban exiles came ashore fully equipped to provoke a counterrevolution to topple the Castro regime.

After lunch at a private home, continue on to Cienfuegos, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Admire the cathedral and the Tomas Terry Theater located on the Parque Martí Square.

Stop at the Museo Historico Provincial to attend a performance of Cantores de Cienfuegos, a versatile, 23-member choral group.

Enjoy dinner this evening at your hotel. B,L,D
TRINIDAD/CIENFUEGOS
February 23, Friday
This morning, enjoy a drive to Trinidad, the crown jewel of Cuba's colonial cities. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence.

Begin the day at the Plaza Mayor which is in the center of town. Around the plaza is 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.

After a short walk, explore the Palacio Cantero, a former mansion with breathtaking views over the square from the upper floor balconies. Stop at the studio of Yami Martinez whose work focuses on Cuban women and their invisible labor. Much of her art center around coffee makers that are portrayed as women.

Continue on to the home of Julio and Rosa Munoz, some of Trinidad’s most dynamic and charismatic personalities. Their beautiful home is a traditional Trinidad house where we will get a chance to chat with the family. Muñoz comes from a line of prominent Spanish immigrants and their spacious, ochre-colored family casa sits on a sunny corner of Trinidad, though they lost their other properties and businesses after the revolution. Today, Julio, an electronic engineer by training, is a renowned photographer and a proud Workers Union representative.

Enjoy lunch while meeting with the owner at Sol Ananda, one of Trinidad’s most popular paladars.

After lunch, visit the area known as Valle de Los Ingenios, the sugar industry’s living museum and home of the famous Manaca- Iznaga Tower.

Return to Cienfuegos and enjoy a farewell dinner at a wonderful local restaurant. B,L,D

RETURN
February 24, Saturday
Return to Havana for your return flight home stopping en route to visit Ernest Hemingway’s home, which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government. The house is just as Hemingway left it, with the books on the tables and many of his favorite photographs on display.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at El Divino, set in the middle of La Yoandra ranch in Havana.

Depart for your late afternoon return flight home. B,L
Tour Lecturer

Steven Loza is a professor of ethnomusicology, UCLA faculty member of 24 years, and adjunct professor of music at the University of New Mexico, where he formerly directed the Arts of the Americas Institute.

Loza has conducted extensive research in Mexico, the Chicano-Latino U.S., and Cuba, among other areas, and has lectured and read papers throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. From 2013-2014, he made three trips to Cuba to present his research, promote the UCLA student mariachi band in classes and concerts, and as part of one the UCLA Alumni Travel trips.

Cuban Guide

Nelson Ramos graduated with honors from Havana University in 1984 with a degree in Economics and Political Science.

After graduating, he went on to work in the Marketing Research Department at the Foreign Trade Ministry of Cuba. During the Special Period when Russian withdrawal of financial support to Cuba threatened the economy of the country, Nelson supported his family by taking several part-time jobs. This included selling cookies in the street, stickers for motorcycles, and translating Italian cartoons for Cuban TV. In 1993 he became a tour guide and has been working with Distant Horizons since 1999.
Responsibility:
No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused meals. No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date. Notice on or between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price. The following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:
- Made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. If a participant cancels, the UCLA Alumni Association 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 set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.

Cancellations:
Distant Horizons and the UCLA Alumni Association 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. These decisions must be made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. If a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:

- Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a $350 cancellation charge.
- Notice on or between 60 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.
- No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Responsibility:
The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association as sponsor, and Distant Horizons as tour operator, is strictly limited. Distant Horizons and the UCLA Alumni Association 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 set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.

General Information:
Please note that participants must be in good physical condition and be able to walk for long distances over uneven cobblestones and up and down stairs without problems.

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Accommodations

The Parque Central is one of the best hotels in Havana with a superb location in Old Havana. The spacious rooms are comfortable and nicely decorated. Each room has individually controlled air-conditioning, TVs, mini-bars, safes and hair dryers. The hotel has all the modern facilities you would expect in a hotel with a business center, a rooftop swimming pool, gym and restaurants.
http://www.hotelparquecentral-cuba.com/

The hotels we use in the Trinidad/Cienfuegos area do not compare to those in Havana. The exact hotel will be confirmed closer to departure but previous trips that we have operated recently have included the Jagua Hotel and La Union in Cienfuegos, and Las Cuevas and La Ronda Hotel in Trinidad. These 3-star properties provide simple accommodations with private bathrooms, hot and cold water, air-conditioning and mini-bars. While the accommodations in the Trinidad area are more rustic, we believe experiencing rural Cuba and Trinidad is well worth the visit, and with some flexibility you will come away with a much richer Cuban experience.
UCLA Alumni Travel
Cuba’s Cultural Heritage: Havana and Trinidad, Feb. 17-24, 2018

reservation form

Name as it appears on your passport __________________________________________ Date of Birth ____________ Gender: □ M □ F

Name as it appears on your passport __________________________________________ Date of Birth ____________ Gender: □ M □ F

Preferred name for name tags ________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State __________ ZIP____________________

Home Phone ( _____ ) ___________________________ Cell Phone ( _____ ) ____________________________

Email _____________________________________________________________________

Home □ Business □

UCLA Alumni Travel is a benefit of the UCLA Alumni Association, and membership at least at the Blue Membership level is required. You may acquire a membership by following the steps below.

□ I am a member of the UCLA Alumni Association.
□ Sign me up! I have enclosed a check for:
  □ $100 Blue Membership (annual gift)
  □ $1,000 Gold Membership (one time gift) made payable to the UCLA Foundation

Room Arrangements

□ I would like to share a room with _____________________________________________
□ I would like to request a single room at an additional $1,670 (pending availability)
□ I would like to share my room; please try to find me a roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed)

Reservation Deposit, a deposit of $500 is required for each participant

□ I have enclosed a deposit of $ ____________ (PER PERSON) (Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons.)
□ I want to reserve my place with a credit card deposit.

Please charge $ ____________ to my: □ MasterCard □ Visa

Card #________________________________________ Expiration Date _____/_____ Security Code: __________

Name (as it appears on your card) ______________________________________________ Signature ____________________________

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis.
Reservations to be paid in full 60 days prior to departure, Dec. 17, 2017. Final payments must be made by check only.

I/We have read the tour conditions and responsibility clause and agree to all therein (all participants must sign).

Name ______________________________ Signature ______________________________ Date: __________

Name ______________________________ Signature ______________________________ Date: __________

MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL RESERVATION FORM TO:
UCLA Alumni Association / Attn: Alumni Travel, James West Alumni Center, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397
Fax: 310-209-4271 · Email: travel@alumni.ucla.edu