EXPLORE THE ARTS & CULTURE IN

C★U★B★A

May 26 - June 1, 2018

ALTERRA CONSULTING

1247 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20007
Tel. 703.549.9115 • www.alterraconsulting.org

Welcome to Cuba! Over 7 days on this magical island, you will experience this nation's fascinating history, its tapestry of cultures, and its world-beating commitment to the arts!

Music, dance, and the visual arts are alive in Cuba! And evident everywhere you go! Nationwide, 200 neighborhood cultural centers highlight all art forms - music, dance, film, theater, and the visual arts. On this trip, we will spotlight music, dance, and the visual arts. You'll engage with the range of art forms, including the very unique Afro-Cuban style. You'll visit galleries, clubs, and studios – and have the chance to purchase items for your family, friends, and private home!

Afro-Cuban culture is strong and resilient! Cuba maintains an enduring connection to the African continent. The African influence permeates Cuban history, religion, art, wisdom, and emancipation battles. On this trip, you will experience how Africa has shaped and defined Cuban culture for 500 years.

Cuba is a "must-destination" for foodies! You will enjoy the rich and varied flavors of the nation's diverse traditions. You'll visit eateries where locals dine, and you'll access the paladars, too – private restaurants boasting top artisanal chefs!

Cuba's history is unique – and its culture rich & textured! You'll tour include cigar and rum factories, complete with tastings and samples. You'll ride in a vintage car along Havana's seawall – the Malécon. You'll engage with historical Cuba, Afro-Cuba, and a contemporary Cuba seeking its own way in the world. You'll witness the struggles of these last 60 years, and see the resiliency in Cuba's people!

Cuba's architecture is simply stunning. Old Havana – a UNESCO World Heritage site – is one of the most architecturally diverse city centers in the world. And it is changing before our eyes. One by one, grand old mansions, palaces, hotels, and cathedrals receive fresh coats of paint, structural overhauls, and careful façade restorations.

Enjoy a host of optional activities! We have built in time to explore and enjoy Havana on your own. Activities range from dancing and drumming classes to evening gallery events, golfing, flea markets – and downtime on the beach. Take in the theater, ballet, a bustling modern club – even street music or a boxing match, as you wish!

PRICING, DATES & REGISTRATION

Dates: May 26-Jun 1, 2018
Pricing for this unique arts & culture experience:
Early Bird Registration: $3700 per person sharing if registered by July 31, 2017 (payment option not open).
Regular Registration: $4200 per person sharing August 14.

Inclusions:

- Airfare from Miami to Havana & return
- 4-star luxury hotel accommodation in Havana
- 6 breakfasts ~ 4 lunches
- Daytime luxury ground transport
- English-language guiding
- Interpretation services as needed
- Entrance to museums & historical/cultural sites throughout the week
- Cuban entry visa
- Cuban health insurance
- US Treasury Department (OFAC) license to travel

Payment options: (only open for regular registration at $4200)

Deposit: August 14, 2017
Amount Due: $1200.00

2nd Payment, October 13, 2017
Amount Due: $1500.00

3rd Payment, January 15, 2017
Final Payment Due: $1500.00

DAILY ITINERARY ☙ HAVANA & WESTERN CUBA

DAY 1 - SATURDAY, MAY 26: ARRIVAL IN HAVANA

- Arrive Havana's José Marti International Airport, where you will meet your guide outside Baggage Claim, and transfer to hotel.
- Group dinner and evening welcome/ orientation at private restaurant La Moneda Cubana (dinner own account).
- Overnight at 4-star luxury hotel TBD

DAY 2 - SUNDAY, MAY 27: AFRO-CUBAN ART & ITS IMPACT ON CUBAN CULTURE (BREAKFAST~LUNCH)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the **Casa de Africa** museum, to experience Africa's influence on Cuban history and culture.
- Watch an Afro Cuban dance performance
- Lunch – then a guided walking tour of **Callejón de Hamel**, Havana's prime example of Afro-Cuban culture.
- **Optional Afternoon Activity: Rumba class**. The Afro-Cuban Rumba is a group of dances related to the Rumba genre of Afro-Cuban music. Classes are held in three variants: Colombia, Guaguancó and Yambú.
- Group dinner (own account), with live dance & music lessons courtesy of the Afro-Cuban band Dulce María at the Yoruba Association of Cuba
- **Suggested evening activity**: Casa de la Musica in central Havana or in Miramar (own account)
- Overnight at 4-star luxury hotel TBD

DAY 3 - MONDAY, MAY 28: CUBA IN CONTEXT: EXPLORING THE NATION'S HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY CULTURE (BREAKFAST~LUNCH)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer from the hotel to **Old Havana in vintage cars**, followed by a guided walking tour of Old Havana and a visit to the
- **Museum of the Revolution** – This time-slot is perfect for a half-day orientation to Havana, its history, and its role as capital of the Cuban nation. We'll explore the four main plazas of Old Havana; walk the Malécon; pass through Vedado, Miramar, and Colon Cemetery; and visit a site of significance to Cuban-American friendship – the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolence. (Lunch is included.)

Suggested afternoon options:

- Workshop on creating a new inspirational vision of both modern and national contemporary dance techniques. **Danza Contemporánea de Cuba** (founded in 1959), has developed a particular style from the basics of Cuban folklore and universal modern dance. With more than 70 productions in its active repertoire, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba has toured throughout America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. This company's dance tradition is mainly to relax and freely move around in a comfortable way. We will gain an appreciation and knowledge of various Cuban techniques and Cuban rhythms – from popular to classical to folkloric.
- Take **Cuban painting classes** at any of several local studios.
- Dinner at private restaurant **El Figaro**, Prado 115, (own account)
- San Carlos de la Cabaña fort to enjoy historic cannon firing ceremony at 9:00 PM
- Overnight at 4-star luxury hotel TBD

DAY 4 - TUESDAY, MAY 29: ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S HOME/FARM~SHOPPING AT HAVANA'S STORIED FLEA MARKET (BREAKFAST~LUNCH)

- Tour **Finca la Vigía**, Ernest Hemingway's former home & farm, now a museum dedicated to the American author's life &

work in Cuba.
- Lunch
- **Visit the Almacenes de Deposito San José arts & crafts center**. Speak with vendors about how the new economic reforms have affected them personally and as emerging businesspeople.
- **Optional afternoon activities:** Learn to play the conga or bongo drums. Or take a tour of a spectacular Havana rum distillery!
- 8:00 p.m. Dinner at La Catedral restaurant, Hanoi Vietnamese restaurant, or similar in Old Havana (Own account)
- **Evening entertainment suggestion**: Jazz Café (own account)

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit to a famous Cigar Factory.
- Visit to the Rum Museum, including tasting.
- Lunch
- Ride in Vintage cars
- Spen remainder of at leisure. Another option is to take dance or percussion classes.
- Dinner on your own.
- S**uggested evening activity:** Casa de la Musica in central Habana or in Miramar (own account.)

Our guide will offer golf course, beach, shopping and restaurant suggestions.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY, MAY 31 PINAR DEL RIO & WESTERN CUBA (BREAKFAST)

- **8:00 AM: Depart early for western Cuba**
- Pinar del Río, at the nation's western tip, is the last of the major cities in Cuba to be founded by the Spanish. is fascinating place, historically remote from much of the island, has developed its own unique tobacco culture. Today Pinar is a vibrant metropolis, graced by an irrepressible, multi-ethnic energy and 20 stunning nearby beaches.
- **Lunch on arrival at Finca Agroecologica El Paraiso (own account).** This restaurant has been called the best culinary experience in Cuba. The restaurant is linked to a family-owned organic farm, which supplies the restaurant with fresh produce.
- **Immediately after lunch, we visit a tobacco farm and a cigar production facility.**
- Visit the Moncada farming cooperative, including the local bodega and family doctor's office if possible. Or explore the city on your own, before meeting with the group to transfer back to Havana.
- **Other options:** Down-time at a local beach ~ Visit las Terrazas, a vast, green protected area designated by UNESCO as one of the world's critical biosphere reserves.
- **6:00 PM:** Enjoy an early dinner in Pinar (own account), then return to Havana.
- Overnight at the hotel TBD.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY, JUNE 1: HAVANA→MIAMI (BREAKFAST)

- Breakfast, then depart the hotel for **José Martí International Airport**
- Catch flight back to Miami