



**Cuba Program  
Purdue University  
May 22-30, 2017**

Monday, May 22

- Mid-day: Arrival to Havana (flight information pending).
- 3 pm **Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as “casas particulares,” or “private homes.”** Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, it’s a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.
- 7 pm **Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal overlooking the Straits of Florida at the Hotel Nacional.** Tasty Cuban food served family style with a great view of the Havana sea wall and the old Spanish fortress. The setting brings many back to the 1950s, when the mafia held its annual meetings at this historic hotel.

Tuesday, May 23

- 9 am **Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula**, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment and restoration programs. It’s bound to leave you with a better understanding of why Havana looks the way it does today and possibilities moving forward. Location TBD.
- 10:30 am **Walking tour of the Old City.** Wander through the **Plaza Vieja**, the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century. See the **Plaza de San Francisco**, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719. Visit **Plaza de la Catedral** and the Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana. Visit the **Plaza de Armas**, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.
- 12:30 pm **Lunch at La Bodeguita del Medio.** Located on a side street in Cathedral Square, this is apparently where the mojito, Cuba’s famed National drink, was first created.

*Afternoon and evening free*

Wednesday, May 24

- 9 am **Discussion with Marta Núñez**, prominent Cuban sociologist, about the Cuban education system and her recent research on how current economic reforms are affecting women in Cuba.
- 10:30 am Visit to the **University of Havana**, the country’s oldest and most prestigious university, where we will receive a tour of the grounds and classrooms.
- 12 pm **Lunch at La Paila**, a simple open air local restaurant specializing in meat and fish.

- 1:30 pm **Visit to the Museum of the Revolution**, which holds hundreds of artifacts from pre and post-revolutionary times and highlights the tense relationship between the U.S. and Cuba.
- 3:30 pm **Discussion with Carlos Alzugaray**, former Cuban diplomat and expert on U.S.-Cuba relations, to learn about the bilateral relationship and Cuban foreign policy. Location TBD.
- 6:30 pm **Spend the evening at Café Madrigal with Frank Delgado**, renowned singer and songwriter, for a discussion about the nueva trova movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. **Café Madrigal**, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating art work. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails.

#### Thursday, May 25

- 10 am Spend the day at **Las Terrazas National Forest**. About an hour west of Havana, the area has been designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1984. We will learn about conservation programs and have a discussion with local residents in the area. **We will also enjoy a nice meal in the beautiful nature reserve.**
- 5 pm Continue on to **Viñales**. Considered by many to be the most beautiful place in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world.
- 6:30 pm Check-in at casas particulares.

*Evening free*

#### Friday, May 26

- 9 am **Enjoy a morning hike with a local guide through tobacco fields**. Talk to your guide about the possibility to try the excursion on horseback.
- 12 pm **Enjoy lunch** on the grounds of a local farm, **Finca Paraiso Agroecologica** (the agro-ecological Paradise Farm), where we will learn about Cuban agriculture and tobacco production.
- 4 pm **Attend salsa-dancing lessons**. Side-by-side with Cuban dancers we'll learn new salsa techniques.

*Evening free*

#### Saturday, May 27

*Free day*

#### Sunday, May 28

- 9 am Depart for Havana.
- 11:30 am **Visit to the home and studio of plastic artist Fuster**, who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, plastic art and other designs.
- 1 pm Check-in at casas particulares. Rest and relax.

*Late afternoon and evening free*

Monday, May 29

*Free day*

7 pm **Farewell dinner at Paladar Atelier.** This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, but modern setting. **Discussion with Niuris Higuera, owner of Atelier, and Yamina Vicente, owner of Decorazon, a private party planning company, about the private sector in Cuba.**

Tuesday, May 30

TBD Hotel check-out and depart for airport.

**Visit to La Finca Vigía.** Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, today it still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The beautiful grounds and bizarre tales from Hemingway's many years in Cuba are captivating.

TBD Return flight to U.S (flight information pending).