



Mosaics at Casa Fuster by John McAuliff

HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

TODAY'S CUBA: CONFOUNDING REALITIES

*with Hampshire College Alumni, Family & Friends
Led by Carollee Bengelsdorf & Margaret Cerullo*

January 7–15, 2018

Participants will meet Cuban writers, visual artists, architects and filmmakers, as well as a social scientist or two, to get a sense of the vitality, complexities and contradictions of contemporary Cuban life. Topics of discussion will include issues related to gender, race, equality/inequality, the ongoing reforms in the Cuban system and their effects on people's daily lives, and relations between Cuba and the U.S.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A meeting with Fernando Pérez, perhaps Cuba's greatest living filmmaker. We will see his film "Suite Havana," a portrayal of 10 *Habaneros* in the course of their daily lives on a single day, and discuss the film with him.
- A guided walking tour with Jaime Rodríguez, one of the three architects who initiated, in the early 1980s, the project to restore Old Havana, undertaken by the Office of the Historian of the City.
- A discussion with the sociologist Mayra Espina on the effects of the reforms undertaken by the Cuban state in the last two decades and their impact on questions of equality and inequality, particularly in terms of race, gender, and generational divides.
- A meeting and film showing with Gloria Rolando, whose work has focused on the recovery and resurfacing of black history on the island.
- A visit to the home of José Fuster, a ceramist and painter who has, with the help of his neighbors in the barrio of Jaimanitas, spent the last 25 years on a community development project centered around artistic production. Lunch with Fuster and a tour of the barrio.
- A discussion with a group of the women who, when they were 15 to 19 years old, fought in the underground in Havana to overthrow the Batista regime during the 1950s.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JANUARY 7 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at the Havana International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your Cuban national guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. **Please note:** Flights should be scheduled to arrive no later than 2 pm. Late this afternoon, gather at your hotel for an informal discussion with specialists Juan Valdez, talking about Cuba after Fidel Castro, and Rafael Hernández, talking about U.S.-Cuba relations. Then attend a welcome dinner at the *paladar* Habana 61 in Old Havana. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (D)*

JANUARY 8 - HAVANA

This morning have a discussion with Jaime Rodríguez, one of the three original architects involved in the City Historian's Office initiative to restore Old Havana. Jaime worked in the project until his retirement two years ago, and designed some of its most unique structures. He will then lead you on a walking tour of this historical district. Lunch will be at the *paladar* Los Mercaderes. Later in the afternoon you will have the option of visiting the studio of visual artist Eduardo "Choco" Roca Salazar or of taking a walking tour of Central Havana with artist Eduardo Hernández. This evening is on own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 9 - HAVANA

Today visit the Cuban Music Research and Development Center in Vedado and meet Cary Diez, head of musicology at UNEAC, the Association of Cuban Writers and Artists. One of the projects that she is deeply involved with is Cuba's En Clave de Rumba ("Rumba Rhythms"), which connects people who are seeking exposure to the genre in Cuba. After your time with Cary, enjoy lunch at *paladar* Ivan Chef Justo, and then return to your hotel. For those who wish, your driver and guide will take you to Santa María del Mar for some time in the sun, sand, and beautiful seas. After sunset, return to Havana and have the remainder of the evening on own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 10 - HAVANA

This morning visit Casa Fuster, the community development project that artist José Fuster and his neighbors have constructed in Jaimanitas. Tour the neighborhood with David González, who has worked with the project for 15 years. Have lunch at the Casa with Fuster, and then return to your hotel. You will have some free time before meeting mid-afternoon for a conference with Mayra Espina, a sociologist whose work for decades has focused upon questions of equality and inequality in Cuba, followed by a screening of the film "Abuela" (at the hotel) and discussion with filmmaker Gloria Rolando. You will have the remainder of the evening on own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 11 - VIÑALES/HAVANA

Have an early breakfast and depart for your excursion to Viñales, a picturesque town in the Pinar del Rio province known for its magnificent and unusual *mogotes* (limestone formations). Viñales is characterized by rich soil and thus incredible agriculture, and it is famous for the numerous tobacco farms in the area. Visit the farm Por el Corazón de Valle and watch/learn about the technique of hand-rolling a cigar. Stop by Hotel Los Jazmines for a photo op of the panoramic view of the *mogotes* and valleys below. Take a drive through the town, noticing the many *casas particulares* in the neighborhoods, while your guide explains the significance of this "rent-a-room" business in a small community, its impact on people's income and life, and how they abide by the regulations to preserve the environment. Enjoy meeting the owners and seeing the extensive gardens of the organic farm and *paladar* Agro Ecológico, which also has commanding, beautiful scenery and delicious, nutritious food. After lunch, travel back to Old Havana and have the remainder of the evening on own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 12 - HAVANA

This morning return to Centro Alejo Carpentier for a viewing of the film "Suite Havana," followed by a discussion with filmmaker Fernando Pérez. Lunch will be at the *paladar* Café Laurent. Later this afternoon visit the famed National Arts University (Instituto Superior de Arte, or ISA). ISA

is the subject of the documentary "Unfinished Spaces," which aired on PBS and has been presented at various film festivals. This evening enjoy pizza and drinks with poet Georgina Herrera and writer and literary critic Maggie Mateo, who was awarded the National Prize in Literature for 2016. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 13 - HAVANA

This morning you can choose to be a willing (or perhaps shy) participant, or an encouraging spectator, at a dance class with dancer/choreographer Juan Miguel Mas, director of Danza Voluminosa at Teatro Miramar. Then take a guided tour of the Museo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum) with photographer and graphic artist Eduardo Hernández. Lunch will be at *Paladar Atelier*. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure, with an optional visit to the jeweler Jorge Gil. This evening is yours to spend at your leisure. Optional late night drag show (transportation and entrance fee on own). *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 14 - HAVANA

Meet youth culture specialist Daybel Panellas this morning (at your hotel) for an informal discussion, followed by lunch at the *paladar* La Guarida, the setting for the famed film, "Strawberry and Chocolate." This afternoon is at leisure. This evening, return to the home of Maggie Mateo (via taxis) for dinner (catered) and discussion with a group of women, Las Clandestinas, who fought in Havana from 1952-1959 to bring down the Batista regime when they were 14 to 22 years of age. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabela. (BL)*

JANUARY 15 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight(s) home. (B)

Note: Itinerary is subject to change.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Carolee Bengelsdorf is professor of politics emerita in the School of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College. She is the founder of Hampshire's Cuba Program, both with the Cuban Union of Artists and Writers and the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana. Her first trip to the island was in 1969, and she has maintained close personal and scholarly contact since. She is the author of *The Problem of Democracy in Cuba* and numerous articles on Cuban women. Her current research involves an oral history of the girls and women who fought in the urban underground in Havana, from 1952 to 1959, to overthrow the Batista dictatorship.

Margaret Cerullo is professor of sociology and feminist studies in the School of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College. She first went to Cuba with Carolee Bengelsdorf in 1978 and has avidly followed developments on the island since. She has returned to Cuba many times to attend conferences and to direct Hampshire's semester-long program in Cuba. She is engaged in research about lesbians' experiences in Havana before and after the Revolution.

LAND PRICING

\$4,395

Includes the activities, entrance fees, accommodations, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, private vehicle transportation, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, full-time guide, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, Cuban visa, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook Travel can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$1,025 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due October 9, 2017 to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until October 24, 2017, at which time final non-refundable payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travell/hampshire-cu18 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or email schmidt@holbrooktravel.com