



Mosaics at Casa Fuster by John McAuliff



CUBA

TODAY'S CUBA: CONFOUNDING REALITIES

with Hampshire College Alumni

January 5 - 13, 2020

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

- Meet 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.
- Take 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.
- Have a discussion with the sociologist Mayra Espina whose work has focused for decades upon questions of equality and inequality, particularly in terms of race, gender, and generational divides.
- Visit the picturesque town of Viñales, learn about the history of enslaved peoples in this area, and meet the owners of a large organic farm and paladar, Agro-Ecológico.
- Visit 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.
- Meet a group of 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 5 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at 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. At 4 pm, meet in the hotel lobby/bar for welcome and introductions. At 5 pm, we will be joined by sociologist and political theorist Juan Valdés Paz, along with his daughter and grandson, for a brief orientation and then dinner at Al Carbon. After dinner, Juan will talk about Cuba before, during, and after Fidel Castro. Juan's daughter and grandson will offer distinct generational perspectives on the Revolution and Cuba today. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (D)*

JANUARY 6 - HAVANA

This morning chat with Jaime Rodríguez, one of the three original architects involved in the City Historian's Office initiative to restore Old Havana. Jaime worked on 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. The evening is free. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 7 - HAVANA

Go to Fresa y Chocolate Cinema for a viewing of the film "Suite Havana," followed by a discussion with filmmaker Fernando Pérez, certainly one Cuba's best known and most critically acclaimed directors. Afterward, return to your hotel and get ready for an afternoon at the beach. You will be taken to Santa María del Mar for lunch and time in the sun, sand, and beautiful seas. In the evening, enjoy drinks and pizza at the home of writer and literary critic Maggie Mateo, who was awarded the National Prize in Literature in 2016; talk with her and with the poet Georgina Herrera. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 8 - HAVANA

This morning you can choose to be a willing participant, or an encouraging spectator, at a dance class with dancer/choreographer Juan Miguel Mas, director of Danza Voluminosa at Teatro Miramar. After class, visit Casa Fuster, the community development project that artist José Fuster and his neighbors have constructed in Havana's Jaimanitas neighborhood, an old fishing village. Tour the neighborhood with David González, who has worked with the project for 15 years. Have lunch at the Casa with Fuster and David, and then return to your hotel. This afternoon, meet for a conference with sociologist Mayra Espina, whose work for decades has focused upon questions of equality and inequality in Cuba. You will have the remainder of the evening on own. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 9 - HAVANA

This morning take a guided tour of the Museo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum) with photographer and graphic artist Eduardo Hernández, focusing on visual art and cultural policy since the Revolution. Lunch will be at Paladar Ivan Chef Justo. This afternoon, you will be hosted by Roberto Zurbano on his walking tour, "The Black Presence in Havana; Past and Present." This evening is free, or you can meet at the home of filmmaker Gloria Rolando, who has focused her work on recovering the lost history of the island's black residents. Gloria will show her films and discuss what she has sought to do in her work. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 10 - HAVANA

Have an early breakfast and depart for your excursion to Viñales, a picturesque town in the Pinar del Río province, known for its magnificent and unusual mogotes (limestone formations). Learn about the history of enslaved peoples in the area, then meet the owners of a large organic farm and paladar, Agro-Ecológico, which has commanding views and features a "farm-to-table" restaurant. After lunch, visit a tobacco farm and get to know one of the leading wildlife artists of Cuba, Nils Navarro, particularly famous for his prints of native avian species of Cuba, and author of "Endemic Birds of Cuba: A Comprehensive Field Guide." On the way out of town, stop by Hotel Los Jazmines for a panoramic view of the mogotes and valleys below. The evening is free. Those who wish can attend a performance this evening from 6-8 pm by Obini Bata (women drummers) at the Asociación Yoruba. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 11 - HAVANA

This morning meet with Rafael Hernández for a talk about US-Cuban

relations. Lunch will be at the famous paladar La Guarida. This afternoon, meet Marilyn Solaya for a showing of her film, "Vestido de Novia." The evening is yours to spend at your leisure. Optional: late night (11 pm) drag show. (There is a very small transportation and entrance fee.) *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BL)*

JANUARY 12 - HAVANA

This morning visit Fernando Funes' farm Finca Santa Marta, perhaps the most advanced experiment in agriculture on the island. Funes will take you on a tour of the finca and talk about its origins, how it operates in the community, and his ideas about the possible future for agriculture on the island. Have lunch at the finca with Funes. Free time after lunch. In the evening, return to the home of Maggie Mateo for a catered dinner and discussion with a group of women who, when they were teenagers, fought in the underground movement in Havana in the 1950s to bring down the Batista dictatorship. *Overnight at Hotel Santa Isabel. (BLD)*

***During your free time, there will be opportunities to see dance performances, attend concerts, and—if the Havana team, the Industriales, makes it to the playoffs—go to a baseball game. We will keep you apprised of events.*

JANUARY 13 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight(s) home. Hotel Santa Isabel check-out time is noon. (B)

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Carollee Bengelsdorf is professor emerita of politics 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 Carollee 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 annual semester-long academic program in Cuba. She is engaged in research about lesbians' experiences in Havana before and after the Revolution.

LAND PRICING

\$4,195 (16 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full time guide for duration of program, all tips/gratuities, bottled water on the bus, departure tax, Cuban visa, and donation to Hampshire College.

Does not include international airfare or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$745 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until October 22, 2019 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/hampshire-cu20 or contact Sandy Schmidt at Schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 800-451-7111 ext. 379