

Trade Mission to Cuba



June 3-12, 2016

You are invited to join AEE Members and their guests on a Once-In-A-Lifetime experience to historic Cuba. There simply could not be a more exciting time to visit this “time-capsule” nation before it changes forever.

Please join us for this unique opportunity to explore new business opportunities as well as immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba as we meet with local residents, artists, and professionals to see the island through their eyes while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage.

There will be particular excitement in the air this year as President Obama’s announcement to normalize relations has brought much hope to the people of Cuba.

We encourage you to join us and make your reservation today!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Thumann', is positioned above the printed name.

Al Thumann
Executive Director





Enjoy lunch at La Moneda Cafe.

After lunch visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection) which houses the best collection of Cuban art in the country. The tour this afternoon will be accompanied by Lucila Fernandez, a contemporary art curator.

Enjoy dinner at Café Oriente where a wonderful jazz trip will play for the group.

Enjoy a lovely evening stroll from the restaurant to the hotel, stopping en route for a drink at the famous La Floridita Bar which served Hemingway's favorite Daiquiri.

June 6, Monday: Havana

B,L,D

Morning visit to the Cuban Renewable Energy Research Center where we have arranged a round-table discussion. While Cuba is an island full of sun, rivers and windy coasts, only four percent of the island's electricity is generated from renewable energy. The island hopes to soon change that, with a goal of generating 24 percent of its energy from renewables by 2030

After lunch, visit a community project called Artecorte run by Gilberto Valladares (Papito) who is working with the city to restore the neighborhood.

From here drive to the Center for Appropriate Technology (CITA) which was originally founded in 1995 to conduct research on improving inexpensive water and sanitation technologies to meet the needs of poorer Cubans in rural areas. CITA is currently working to develop prototypes for several technologies including a variety of water pumps, windmills, and water filters. One of the pumps CITA is working on is solar-powered and is designed to be energy efficient

End the afternoon with a visit to the Presidential Palace, now a museum, which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development. Walk a few minutes to the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.

Enjoy dinner at L'Atelier, a paladar with typical Cuban cuisine.



Itinerary

June 3, Friday: Miami

D

Independent arrivals and check-in at the Sofitel Miami Hotel.

Meet your director for a trip briefing and introduction to Cuba followed by a private dinner at the hotel.

June 4, Saturday : Havana

L,D

Depart Miami bound for Havana.

Arrive in Havana and enjoy a welcome lunch at the historic Nacional Hotel. Its remaining splendor and history serve as a tangible reminder of Cuba's past times.

This afternoon visit Ernest Hemingway's home which has been lovingly restored by the Cuban government.

Enjoy a drive along the Malecon before arriving at the Parque Central Hotel.

Before dinner meet with Professor Raul Rodriguez for a round-table discussion on "US/Cuban Relations."

Proceed to the hotel roof-top for a private cocktail reception followed by dinner.

June 5, Sunday: Havana

B,L,D

This morning, enjoy a carefully crafted walking tour of Old Havana with the opportunity to speak to local residents and shopkeepers. The tour will be led by architect Ayleen Robainya. Havana has the reputation of being the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. The tour begins with a private viewing of the newly created model of Old Havana, which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. Continue to the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square surrounded by mansions, and then to the Centro Nacional de Conservacion y Museologia.



its electricity needs from renewables by 2030 as part of a plan to attract foreign investment and this afternoon the group will meet with Antonio Valdés Delgado, Cuban executive secretary of the sustainable development program for renewable energy sources. Mr. Valdés has been looking at wind manufacturing which, he feels, could offer Cuba's industry the opportunity to establish alliances with overseas partners". Official studies suggest that the country's wind energy potential is between 1.2GW and 3.5GW. Among planned projects, 13 are expected to be installed in the east of the island and additional sites are currently being examined.

End the day at Patronato, Havana's largest and most impressive synagogue which was built in 1957.

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

June 7, Tuesday: Havana /Pinar del Rio Excursion B,L,D

Depart for a full day excursion to the western part of Cuba where dramatic limestone peaks tower above verdant valleys. This region is known for its rich soil where almost all of Cuba's tobacco is grown. Drive along one of the new roads in Cuba to the town of Pinar del Rio, stopping en route at the Orchid Farm at Soroa. The hilly grounds contain over 800 species of plants all thriving in the humid climate.

Continue on to visit a tobacco farm to learn more about the growing of tobacco and the economics of the tobacco industry in Cuba.

Enjoy wonderful organic lunch at a private farm overlooking the valley to appreciate the valley's distinctive landscape with its steep-sided limestone mountains rising dramatically from fertile flat-floored valleys where farmers cultivate the red soil for tobacco, fruits and vegetables. The terrain resembles a Chinese brush painting.

After lunch, spend some time exploring the town of Vinales before returning to Havana.

Enjoy dinner at Cafe Laurent.

June 8, Wednesday: Havana B,L

Morning round-table discussion with economist Ricardo Torres on the "Changing Forces of Cuba's Economic Structure."

After the lecture, watch a rehearsal of the Danza Contemporánea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rippling spines and head rolls of traditional or folkloric, Afro-Cuban dance, the complex rhythms of Cuban rumba, and the twirling hands and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

Enjoy a private lunch at the home and studio of artist José Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

Cuba's government has set itself the target of supplying 24% of

June 9, Thursday: Havana B,L,D

Morning meeting with staff from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) to discuss with them the efforts they are making towards the stated goals of the government to focus on renewable energy.

Continue on to the 331 ArtSpace studio to view the works of three young and emerging artists - Adrian Fernandez, Frank Mujica and Alex Hernandez.

Stop at La Finca Yoandra, an urban garden located about 25 minutes west of Havana. The effects of the Special Period and consequent food shortages have had greatest repercussions in the city of Havana. With approximately 2.5 million people, Havana has about one fifth of Cuba's total population. Havana's urban agriculture has taken on many forms, ranging from private gardens (huertos privados) to state-owned research gardens (organiconicos) and this morning there will be a chance to learn more about how these gardens, located near urban areas, grow and distribute their freshly-grown produce.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at a newly opened restaurant attached to the urban garden which has the city's finest wine collection.

After lunch, meet with Aguas de la Habana. Water privatization in Cuba began in January 2000 when the government created a mixed public-private company to manage the water,





sewer and storm-water drainage system in 8 of the 15 municipalities that make up Havana and, combined, include about 60% of the population of the capital. The company operates under a 25-year renewable concession contract. It serves 1.25 million inhabitants in these municipalities which include Old Havana. Aguas de la Habana, has a capital of 8 million USD and is owned by the Cuban state through the National Institute for Water Resources (INRH), the Spanish private company Aguas de Barcelona (Agbar) and the Spanish family firm Grupo Martinon. The contract foresees that ultimately the entire population of Havana will be served by the company

Before dinner, meet with Dr. Rena Pérez, formerly with the Ministry of Agriculture and now an advisor to the Ministry of Sugar. Dr. Perez's discussion, documented with slides, will address "Living in Cuba Today". Her husband, Orlando Perez, a former high ranking party member, will also attend. Mr. Perez was Cuba's ambassador to Russia during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and was head of the National Bank of Cuba from 1962-1973

Dinner this evening is at La Guarida which is perhaps the most well-known of all "paladars" in Havana, made famous because it was where Fresa y Chocolate, the 1994 Oscar-nominated movie was filmed.

After dinner, enjoy a show at the famous Tropicana.

June 10, Friday: Jibacoa

B,L,D

This morning take the ferry to the neighborhood of Casablanca to catch the old Hershey train to what was once an important sugar-producing mill for the Hershey chocolate company.

Enjoy lunch in the Hershey Gardens before driving to the **Memories Hotel at Jibacoa**. Jibacoa beach is situated in an isolated magnificent bay. Our resort sits on one of the most beautiful beaches in Cuba, an ideal spot for nature lovers and for anyone looking for a relaxed vacation. Coco palms, cactuses, flowering bushes and plants flourish in the hotel grounds.

The coral reef in front of the hotel is home to amazing fish and coral which we will explore this afternoon.

Dinner at the hotel's fine dining Italian restaurant this evening.

June 11, Saturday: Jibacoa

B,L,D

The group will be lead on a hike through the wonderful landscape around the hotel. There will be a chance to meet with local farmers and learn more about the biodiversity of this area. After lunch we have arranged a private salsa class. Salsa has its origins in Cuba where the blending of African drum rhythms and Spanish guitar evolved into a variety of Latin American music: Son, Danzón, the rhythms of Carnival, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Salsa and even Tango came out of Cuba. The Salsa movements originate from the Cuban Son dancing of the 1920s, and more specifically through the beat of Son Montuno with strong influences from the dance of Danzon, Mambo, Guaguango and other Afro-Cuban folkloric dancing. Today's Salsa dancing is a rich blend of Latin-American and Western influences.

Farewell dinner at the hotel's fine dining Cuban restaurant.

June 12, Sunday: Return

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This morning, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Miami.

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.



Program Costs and Inclusions

Trip Price: \$3,625
Single Room Supplement: \$760
Tour limited to 35 travelers.
Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis

Tour Price Includes:

Accommodation as listed based on double occupancy; All meals as listed; Sightseeing and excursions as listed including all special events and lectures; Transportation in a deluxe, air conditioned motor-coach; Services of a local Cuban guide and Distant Horizons tour manager; Evening performance at the Tropicana; All gratuities; Mandatory Health Insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government. This provides \$25,000 worth of medical coverage and \$7,000 worth of medical transportation.

Tour Price Does Not Include:

Roundtrip airfare on charter flights Miami-Havana-Miami (Current 2015 charter flight approximately \$450); Any items not specifically listed; Domestic airfare to/from Miami; Luggage charges; Items of a purely personal nature: A Cuban visa card. (Will be secured by Distant Horizons for all non-Cuban born citizens. Cost \$75); Cuban departure tax of \$30

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Parque Central Hotel

For questions or additional information,
contact Melissa Costa at
MelissaC@Distant-Horizons.com or
800-333-1240

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TO CUBA TODAY!

To reserve your space, please return this form with a \$600 deposit* check (per person) payable to “Distant Horizons” to:
Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

*Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a \$300 administration fee.

Discovering Havana, Cuba

Association of Energy Engineers - June 3-12, 2016

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Title ___ First _____ Mid.Intl. ___ Last _____

Title ___ First _____ Mid.Intl. ___ Last _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

I/We authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

I will share accommodations with: _____

I prefer single accommodations
(limited availability, single supplement applies).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

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. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, payable to Distant Horizons.