Cuba

The People, Culture & Art
A People-to-People Educational Exchange

February 9-16, 2015
Dear Alumni and Friends of Cal,

A subject of mystery, fascination, and deliberation for decades, Cuba has been forbidden to American travelers – until now. We are pleased to offer you an exceptional opportunity to visit Cuba yourself on a remarkable eight-day people-to-people exploration. Enjoy intriguing excursions, informative discussions led by knowledgeable experts, and personal contact with Cuba’s people. Discover authentic Cuba in all of its color, history, and contradictions.

Begin your journey with two nights in lovely Cienfuegos, and discover the jewel that is Trinidad. Explore Havana and its cultural and political heritage. Venture into Cuba’s lush countryside past tobacco plantations to a socialist community. Engage in lively conversations with artists, medical professionals, and everyday people. You will always remember Cuba’s unexpected delights and the very real struggles of its people.

This program is made possible by a special license issued to the Cal Alumni Association by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Every measure has been taken to ensure your comfort and convenience during our journey.

I had the pleasure of accompanying the first of five groups that our association, through Cal Discoveries Travel, sent to Cuba in 2012-2014. It was a remarkable experience. The trips resulted in meaningful exchanges between Americans and the Cuban people, and evaluations from all five trips were extremely positive.

I hope you will join us for our next Cuba program. Please call – 510.900.8222 or toll free 888.225.2586 (ask for the travel office) – if you have any questions. I would be happy to answer them, so feel free to ask for me.

Sincerely,

Kris Jameyson, Director
Cal Discoveries Travel
Cal Alumni Association

caldiscovers@alumni.berkeley.edu
alumni.berkeley.edu/caldiscovers
Some places in the world are so much their very own because they have had to evolve and thrive around unique events in human history. Cuba is such a place. Seemingly frozen in time since the 1959 revolution in ways that are wonderful and sobering, its enigmatic emblems, such as the antique Buicks that ply Havana streets and the state-run medical clinics that provide exceptional care, are provocative for Americans to see first hand. It is a privilege to visit this place – and now possible for you to explore through this special people-to-people program.

Program Highlights

- Embark on a truly unique travel adventure – an in-depth exploration of Cuba, now open to Americans after decades of isolation.
- Experience the exceptional opportunity for person-to-person meetings with local Cubans from various walks of life.
- Relish the access this program affords to venues not available to individual travelers. Enjoy lively educational discussions led by experts on Cuban history and culture, excursions to fascinating places, and cultural events that bring you into Cuban homes, state-run clinics, and dance studios.
- See some of Cuba’s finest arts institutions, including Cuba’s leading art academy, the National Museum of Fine Arts, and the famous Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba company.
- Explore three of Cuba’s finest cities – all of which are home to UNESCO World Heritage sites – Havana, Cienfuegos, and Trinidad.
- Savor traditional Cuban cuisine at celebrated restaurants as part of a convenient all-inclusive meal plan.

Operated in accordance with a special license issued to the Cal Alumni Association by the U.S. Department of Treasury, this exclusive program opens the door to a neighbor country long closed to American travelers. It is designed to promote cultural exchange and people-to-people contact.
A journey across Cuba brings unforgettable experiences every day. Talk with artists, farmers, doctors, and young dancers during ample opportunities for contact with Cubans from various walks of life. Enjoy special performances and be welcomed into people’s privately owned restaurants and galleries. Relax as you travel from Cuba’s southern coastline across velvet-green valleys to vibrant Havana. You’ll explore the city’s charming side streets, where crumbling 19th century mansions, with their lovely balconies and birdcages, speak of history’s events. Cuba will unfold with this itinerary.

Included meals indicated each day as B | L | D = Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

**Day-by-Day Itinerary**

**Musical Riches**

From rhumba, son, mambo, and danzón to cha-cha-cha, Cuban popular music has a long and storied history rooted in its West African and Spanish past. Afro-Cuban forms date to self-organized social clubs for slaves and evolved through ceremonies for the African-Catholic religions collectively known as Santería. Their polyrhythmic percussion, call-and-response voices, and dance have influenced Cuban music ever since. In turn, listen closely and you’ll hear a bit of Cuban sound in music from other parts of the world including American jazz, afro-beat, tango, nuevo flamenco and Ghanaian high-life.

**Day One | Cienfuegos**

Depart early this morning from Miami, Florida, aboard a direct-chartered flight for Cienfuegos, Cuba.*

Land gives way to the turquoise Caribbean, leading to Cuba’s white-sand shores and beautiful Cienfuegos, known as Cuba’s Pearl of the South. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage site for being one of the best examples of 19th-century Spanish urban planning in this part of the world. Upon arrival, settle into your room at the Hotel Jagua.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Dinner with live music.

**Day Two | Cienfuegos | Trinidad**

Discover petite and lovely Trinidad, a 500-year-old Spanish colonial city and UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit a maternity center, where you will see how the staff cares for pregnant women in what is one of Latin America’s best healthcare systems.**

Talk with the staff about Cuba’s socialized medicine. Continue to the Plaza Mayor in the center of Old Trinidad, home to Cuba’s largest church, the Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad, with its 14 wooden altars. Explore the Museo de Arquitectura Colonial and the nearby Museo Romántico de Artes Decorativas, housed in the sparkling Palacio Brunet. Visit a Santería temple, where a local santero (priest) will discuss the Santería religion.

Refresh yourself over a buffet lunch in a restaurant on the Plaza Mayor, whose stately 18th and 19th century buildings were financed from riches generated by the sugar trade.

Return to Cienfuegos to enjoy a walking tour of the town’s lovely central square, Parque Martí, and explore the cathedral and the Teatro de Cienfuegos, an Italianate structure of Carrara marble, carved Cuban hardwoods and elaborate ceiling frescos.

The sound of trained singers will fill the theater’s rich interior as the Coro Cienfuegos, one of Cuba’s most famous choirs, treats us to a performance. Meet the singers to talk about their training and music.

Tonight savor dinner at a paladar (a privately owned restaurant), where you can meet the proprietors to talk about what it is like to own a restaurant in Cuba.

**Day Three | Cienfuegos | Havana**

Journey across the beautiful Cuban countryside this morning to Havana. En route,
explore for yourself the **Bay of Pigs**, site of the infamous failed invasion in 1962 by 1,300 CIA-trained Cuban exiles who wanted to overthrow Fidel Castro’s government. Visit the **Museum of Playa Girón**, where you can learn more about the invasion, and stop at a **farmers’ market** to check out the fresh produce and talk with local farmers.

Upon arrival in Havana, visit **Revolution Square**, where Fidel Castro addressed more than one million Cubans on many important occasions. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, go to a **local Jewish center** to see its beautiful temple. Learn about Judaism in Cuba through a discussion with some of its members, many of whom sell handicrafts to support the temple’s operations.

Settle into your room at the **Hotel Meliá Cohiba** before attending a thought-provoking **discussion on the Cuban economy**, moderated by Professor Juan Triana of the University of Havana. Afterward, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

**DAY FOUR | HAVANA**

Morning finds you exploring **Habana Vieja** – Old Havana – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Tour the city’s oldest square, the **Plaza de Armas**, with its stately arcades, and the majestic **Palacio de los Capitanes Generales**, home of the Spanish colonial governors. Walk to the **Plaza de la Catedral**, where the baroque Cathedral of Havana has stood since 1748 before seeing the charming white marble **Fountain of Lions** in the Plaza de San Francisco.

You will discover two very different sides of Havana then. First, visit the **Convento Belén**, a massive complex first built in 1712 that today is a world-renowned community center and social service facility. Then enjoy a fascinating look at Cuba’s education system with a visit to a **local elementary school**, where you can talk with students and teachers.

Continue your journey to some of the quieter streets of Old Havana with **well-known Cuban architect, Miguel Coyula**, as your guide. He will show you gracious old homes, now dilapidated, and tell you about the plight of the families that live there.

Mr. Coyula will lead a more in-depth discussion, titled **Urban Planning and the Architectural Challenges of Havana**, after your walk, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Delve further into Cuba’s past with an afternoon spent at the **Museo de la Revolución**, housed in a former presidential palace. The museum contains Cuba’s most complete exposition of its revolutionary history and includes artifacts such as the yacht that carried Castro from Mexico to Cuba for the revolution.

End the day with a beautifully prepared dinner at a paladar.

**DAY FIVE | HAVANA**

It may be early for a smoke, but morning is a great time to visit a **local cigar factory** to witness the art of rolling fine cigars. Talk with the workers and learn about Cuba’s most famous industry.

Perhaps no Cubans are more passionate than their dancers. Dance has been an essential part of Cuban life since West African slaves were first brought here in the 16th century. You have the special opportunity to visit the **Ebony Contemporary Dance Studio**. See inspiring examples of today’s dance, watch the dancers rehearse, and speak
to them about their profession.**

Next, see Cuban dancers’ interpretation of classical ballet at the school, Lizt Alfonso. Meet and talk with instructors and students before the company’s managers describe exporting Cuban dance culture in spite of political and financial challenges.**

After a lunch of local cuisine, walk across the campus of the University of Havana and meet students and professors.

Continue on to another local dance studio to learn about Afro-Cuban dance from the staff and young dancers including Noel Santovenía Alonso, Marco Hernández Suárez, Maria Yudith Cruz Reinoso, and Yadira Cabrera Echevaría. All born and raised in Havana, they have made dance their life and now teach tango and salsa. Try a few steps yourself!

End a stimulating day with a relaxing walk along legendary Obispo Street, where you can chat with cuentapropistas (self-employed business owners) before enjoying dinner at one of the district’s charming restaurants.

**Day Six | Havana**

Depart the hotel this morning for a ride through Havana’s historic quarter in a delightful Cuban icon – one of the antique automobiles that still populate the streets. Arrive at the National Museum of Fine Arts. From the country’s 17th century “working class” painters to political art, religious works, and examples of Victor Manuel García’s archetypal Cuban woman, the collection tells of the country’s joys, pains, and mysteries through art.

Cuba’s contemporary arts and culture come alive with a talk by Wilfredo Benítez, a director of the Ludwig Foundation, a non-governmental, non-profit institute that supports Cuban artists.

Relax over lunch before journeying to the cooperative, Studio 7 y 60, where several artists work and jointly promote their art. They welcome you for a discussion about the new artistic opportunities in Cuba, as well as the challenges of opening a private studio there.

**Day Seven | Havana | Piñar del Río**

We drive through the beautiful countryside, past rural communities and famous tobacco plantations to the western province of Piñar del Río. At Las Terrazas, a model socialist community developed in the 1980s, we tour organic vegetable gardens and mark the occasion by helping to plant a tree. Meet and talk with the local gardeners and workers in the community.

Enjoy lunch at an eco-friendly restaurant that prepares dishes with locally and organically grown vegetables. Enjoy a discussion on Cuba’s agricultural industry, led by the restaurant’s chef.

Return to Havana in the afternoon to visit La Quinta Santa Venía,** a private religious home for senior citizens, many of whom were young in pre-Revolution Cuba. Meet the nuns who manage the home, and share experiences and activities with the residents.

Afterward, celebrate your journey with fellow travelers at a Farewell Dinner at a lovely local restaurant.

**Day Eight**

After breakfast, depart for Havana’s airport and your return flights home.

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*Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths, or other uneven surfaces.

**The arts and cultural organizations, as well as the school, medical clinic, and senior citizens’ home we visit in Cuba both greatly need and appreciate monetary or in-kind donations.*
Hotel Jagua
Cienfuegos

Enjoy the sun-soaked southern coast of Cuba with beautiful views of the Bay of Cienfuegos from every room at the Hotel Jagua, which offers the spaciousness and clean lines of 1950s Cuban modern architecture. Located in the quiet residential area of Punta Gorda minutes from central Cienfuegos, the hotel offers a sleek, light-filled multi-level lobby, restaurant and cabaret-bar, fitness center and dazzling outdoor pool, and deck beside the bay.

Hotel Meliá Cohiba
Havana

Just steps from the Malecón, the Hotel Meliá Cohiba overlooks Havana Bay. A contemporary high-rise hotel with stunning views of the Caribbean and the city, it is centrally located minutes from the Plaza of the Revolution and Old Havana. With an outdoor pool, well-equipped gym, wi-fi, beauty salon, and wide selection of restaurants and bars, the Meliá Cohiba is a convenient and very comfortable base from which to explore Havana.

Included Features

Transportation
- Round-trip, chartered jet service between Miami, Florida, and Cuba.

Accommodations | Ground Arrangements
- Two nights in Cienfuegos at the Hotel Jagua
- Five nights in Havana at the Hotel Meliá Cohiba

Activities and Events
- Thought-provoking educational programs, featuring planned meetings with local Cubans that will enhance your insight into Cuba
- All excursions as outlined in the program itinerary
- A Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers
- A Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers

Extensive Meal Program
- Enjoy seven breakfasts, six lunches, and seven dinners with this all-inclusive meal program.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.

Many Included Extras
- Consultation services of a dedicated Passenger Service Representative prior to departure
- Services of English-speaking local guides throughout your stay
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers
- Complimentary travel wallet
To reserve your space on this exclusive, educational, people-to-people exchange, please submit the completed reservation form, along with a booking fee in the amount of $600 per person to:

Cal Alumni Association
c/o Cal Discoveries Travel
#1 Alumni House
Berkeley, CA 94720-7520

*This price is based upon person double occupancy rates and includes the $600 booking fee to the Cal Alumni Association and the travel services costs payable to AHI International Corp. (as outlined below). Single accommodations will be an additional $475 (limited availability).

AHI has provided the following quote for this departure:

Travel Services: $3,300 Cuba land/ground package
+ $180 Airline tickets (from Miami)
$3,00 Estimated travel services cost

We have selected AHI International Corp., a licensed Cuba Travel Service Provider, to assist with your travel arrangements to and from Cuba. AHI can assist in booking your air transportation, arranging airport transfers, booking hotel accommodations, arranging ground transportation, assisting with Cuban entry visa applications, and providing other necessary travel services. AHI will invoice participants separately for these travel services.

AHI International Corp. does not have final information regarding U.S. government authorized flight schedules at this time. The land/ground package price includes airport transfers, portage between airports and hotels, hotel accommodations, all meals, all entrance charges, ground transportation, and Cuban visa application fees. AHI International Corp. will request a deposit (separate from the booking fee to Cal Alumni Association) for the land/ground package, with the final payment due December 26, 2014 (45 days prior to departure). The land/ground package price does not include certain tipping and laundry service.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AHI INTERNATIONAL CORP./ CAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**NOT INCLUDED** - Fees for passports are not included in the Land Program price, nor are personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL** - The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the group, in the opinion of AHI International Corp. and the Cal Alumni Association is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who may permanently or temporarily use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION** - If connecting flights to the Cuba charter flight are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all you economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

**CANCELLATION** - All cancellations will be subject to the following cancellation fees: Cal Alumni Association Booking Fee is $600 per person. Cancellations from 75 days to 30 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 50% of the Booking Fee; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in forfeiture of 100% of the Booking Fee. AHI International: More than 120 days prior to departure, $200; Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE EMAILED AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to: Cal Alumni Association.

**BAGGAGE** - All baggage including checked and carry-on cannot weigh more than a combined total of 44 lbs. All checked bags will cost $20 USD and if total luggage is overweight, then $2 per pound overweight fee. This fee is payable in cash only and 70 pounds total weight is the maximum.

**AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS** - On occasion, AHI International Corp. and the Cal Alumni Association can and will photograph or film trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI International Corp., without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI International Corp.’s marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY** - AHI International Corp. and Cal Alumni Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. A HI International Corp. and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI International Corp. and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature however caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of each passenger at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set forth herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any action, omission or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passenger in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(s) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CHARTER FLIGHTS**

A Charter Operator with an OFAC Carrier Service Provider license will arrange the charter flights to and from Cuba. Exchange program participants should refer to the Charter Operator’s Operator-Passenger Contract for further information on the charter program conditions. AHI International Corp. will provide this information as soon as the U.S. government-authorized flight schedules are available.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GROUP ITINERARY**

**Reserve your February 9–16, 2015 trip to Cuba!**

Send to: Cal Alumni Association
c/o Cal Discoveries Travel
#1 Alumni House
Berkeley, CA 94720-7520
Phone: 510.900.8222
Toll Free: 888.225.2586
E-mail: caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

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

**Land Program**

- Please contact me/us to discuss connecting domestic air flight options.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional $475 (limited availability).
- 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.
- Please note that we anticipate check-in for your Cuba charter flight to begin at 7:00 a.m. on February 9. AHI has arranged for a special rate at a hotel near the Miami airport for those who wish to overnight there prior to the charter flight. Check here if you wish for AHI to send you information regarding this overnight.

**Booking Fee Payment:**

- Accept my check made payable to Cal Alumni Association
- Charge my booking fee(s) to: MasterCard Visa American Express

**Expire____/____/____**

Card #__________

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to Cal Alumni Association or AHI International Corp. constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

Moderately Active: Fast pace, substantial walking, extensive stair climbing; participants must be able to climb 40 stairs without the assistance of handrails.

Travelers, whether alumni or friends, must be current Cal Alumni Association (CAA) members. $50 for seniors 65 years and over, and $60 for those who are 64 years and under, establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association members. $50 for seniors 65 years and over, and $60 for those who are 64 years and under, establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association members. $50 for seniors 65 years and over, and $60 for those who are 64 years and under, establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association members. $50 for seniors 65 years and over, and $60 for those who are 64 years and under, establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association members.

The total cost for this program is estimated at: $4,400*

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