MARCH 20 - 26, 2016
People-to-People Travel with Oberlin Alumni
MARCH 20 - 26, 2016

CUBA:
Art and Cultural Creativity in the 21st Century
Dear Oberlin Travelers,

This people-to-people educational travel delegation will immerse you in Cuba’s arts, culture, and economics by giving you the unique opportunity to interact with Cubans of many perspectives. Our exciting week-long itinerary of performances, tours, museums, culinary adventures, and other events will result in a profound glimpse into our fascinating neighbor during this important period of change.

Our journey will be enhanced by the participation of Oberlin College Professor Ana Cara. Professor Cara is the Chair of the Hispanic Studies Department and she is a specialist in folklore, creolization theory, and Latin American and Caribbean literatures and cultures. We will also be joined by Project Por Amor Director and Oberlin alumnus Sage Lewis ’05, who is an artist and expert on Cuban culture and will be personally taking us to places no other tour groups get to visit. Meena Ghaziasgar, Director of Alumni Relations, will be your official Oberlin host.

Our exploration through Cuba’s fascinating past and present promises to be an experience to be treasured. I hope you will join us for this memorable adventure through Cuban Art and Contemporary Culture in the 21st Century.

Warm regards,

M. Danielle Young
Executive Director, Oberlin Alumni Association

Ana Cara came to Oberlin College in 1980 and teaches interdisciplinary courses on Latin American literature and culture, which include the folk arts, music, and dance. She holds a PhD in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania and has done extensive fieldwork in the Caribbean, Argentina (where she was born and raised), and among Latinos in the U.S. Originally a member of the Department of Romance Languages, she founded Oberlin’s Department of Hispanic Studies in 2001, which she currently chairs. Last January, Cara led Oberlin’s first Winter Term program in Cuba titled “Imagining Havana.” She has also directed programs in Spain, Mexico, and London. Her publications, including the edited volume “Creolization as Cultural Creativity,” focus on culture contact and change, and on the relationship between literature, music, and the traditional verbal arts.
Itinerary

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to minor changes between now and the trip dates.

DAY 1, SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016 | MIAMI TO HAVANA

7:40 am ~ Flight Leaves Miami for Havana

8:40 am ~ Arrive in Havana. When we arrive in Havana we will pass through customs, get our bags, and proceed out of the airport. We will be greeted by our Cuban guide and our chauffeur. Our bus will take us to lunch while we get a brief introduction during the drive.

10:00 am ~ Orientation and Walking Tour. After settling into our rooms and before going to dinner we will get acquainted with the historic neighborhood constructed just after the independence from Spain and the formation of the Republic of Cuba. Bordering Old Havana and Central Havana municipalities, this area is notable for significant architectural structures that exemplify the mid-19th century urban center. We will start with a tour of the newly remodeled capitol building (1929) modeled on the U.S. Capitol. Then we’ll see the Grand Theater (1915), walk through Central Park (1877), and see the Neo-Moorish style Inglaterra (1879) and Sevilla (1908) hotels. We’ll walk down the famous Promenade, El Paseo del Prado (1929), considered in its time as one of the greatest open spaces in the world, designed by French landscape designer JCN Forestier. Here we’ll see the original Bacardi building (1930), an example of tropical Cuban Art Deco and the National Museum of Fine Arts Cuban Collection designed by Cuban architect Alfonso Rodriguez Pichardo (1955).

12:00 pm ~ Welcome Lunch at Rio Mar Paladar. Enjoy lunch where the Almendares river meets the Caribbean Sea dividing the El Vedado and Miramar neighborhoods. These private home restaurants called “paladares,” along with other types of small businesses, are nascent experiments in Cuban entrepreneurialism.

2:00 pm ~ Private Performance and Discussion with Danza Abierta. Experience a short performance of this small and internationally renowned contemporary dance-theater ensemble. Under the artistic direction of Spanish-turned Cuban immigrant Susana Pous, Danza Abierta creates their process-driven work through improvisation and tightly woven relationships between the dancers. After the performance we will have a short discussion with the ensemble.

3:30 pm ~ Driving Tour of El Vedado Neighborhood. El Vedado is Havana’s center of modern architecture and is considered to be Havana’s “downtown.” Where most habaneros come to enjoy performances, films, work, and run errands, El Vedado is a meeting place for contemporary life. We will get a brief introduction to the layout and history of this neighborhood where our Havana hotels are located.

4:00 pm ~ Arrive at the Hotel Capri Central and Check-in to Your Rooms. The Hotel Capri is the most recently refurbished hotel in Havana. This historic hotel was built by mobster “Santo Trafficante Jr” as a Havana high rise hotel/casino in 1955 and operated by Charley “The Blade” and Sonny “The Butcher” during the Batista years. Make sure to spend time at the famous rooftop pool were opening scenes from Carol Reed’s movie “Our Man in Havana” and Mikhail Kalatozov’s “I Am Cuba” were filmed.
DAY 2, MONDAY, MARCH 21 | FOLK ART

7:00 pm ~ Welcome Dinner at the La Guarida Paladar. Anyone who has been to La Guarida will find it difficult to disagree that Enrique and Odeisys have managed to create their own magical home restaurant. The building, originally known as La Mansión Camagüey, shows its former grandeur from the magnificent wooden entrance door through the marble staircase up the two flights of stairs to the restaurant itself. The location for a classic scene from Cuba’s most iconic film “Fresa y Chocolate,” La Guarida has gone on to become one of the most popular restaurants in Cuba.

8:15 am ~ Breakfast at the Hotel. We will eat breakfast at the hotel every morning. The buffet opens as early as 7:00 am daily.

9:00 am ~ Discussion on Folk Art & Contemporary Art with Ana Cara. Ana Cara, Oberlin Professor of Hispanic Studies and PhD in Folklore and Folklife, will discuss the importance of the traditional folk arts in Cuban culture, and their presence in contemporary art and life.

10:30 am ~ Visit Artist Hector Gallo’s Studio in Alamar. Hidden in the Soviet-era housing project of Alamar is the extraordinary “World of Gallo.” A neighborhood junkyard was transformed into an expanse of obsessed creativity, insight, and humor through this artist’s endless outdoor folk constructions. His intimate galleria offers the opportunity to share a Cuban view of the world as distilled through the indomitable intelligence and wit of this retired Cuban diplomat and undiscovered artist.

11:30 am ~ Ernest Hemingway’s Finca Vigía. Visit the hilltop house of American writer Ernest Hemingway where he lived from 1940 – 1960 with his wife, Martha Gellhorn, and their children. Cuba was Hemingway’s most frequented country where he wrote the “Old Man and the Sea,” “To Have and Have Not,” and “For Whom the Bell Tolls.” Hemingway donated his Nobel Prize to the Cuban people. His home in San Francisco de Paula has recently been the subject of a massive preservation effort by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. At this farm you will see his sport fishing boat, the Pilar. The Finca Vigia estate and the fishing village of Cojimar are considered the most significant locales for those interested in Hemingway’s history.

1:00 pm ~ Lunch at El Ajiaco. We will have lunch in Cojimar, the fishing village where Hemingway kept his boat, the Pilar.

3:00 pm ~ Folklórico Nacional de Cuba Private Performance. Go behind the scenes and witness this extraordinary ensemble perform African and Hispanic folkloric dance and music in their rehearsal headquarters. Folklórico Nacional de Cuba has performed together for 35 years and has gone on more than 93 international tours. We will have an opportunity to meet the dancers and artistic director to discuss their work in folkloric dance practice.

4:30 pm ~ Down Time at the Hotel. Rest by the rooftop pool or explore the city individually.

7:30 pm ~ Dinner On Your Own. Split into small groups to explore Havana’s booming new foodie scene. We’ll recommend options and make reservations at the best restaurants in town such as El Cocinero, Doña Eutimia, El Litoral, Vista al Mar, El Atelier, La Moraleja, and El Mediterráneo.
DAY 3, TUESDAY, MARCH 22 | ART OF OLD HAVANA

8:15 am ~ Breakfast at the Hotel

9:00 am ~ Overview of Havana and its History with City Planner Dr. Miguel Coyula. Dr. Miguel Coyula is a renowned Cuban architect, urban planner, and professor at the University of Havana. He is an expert on the historical development of Havana and will give a glimpse into the history of Cuban architecture, from the Colonial era to 1950s modernism and today. This will deepen your understanding of the city while we explore its many neighborhoods.

10:00 am ~ Private Performance of Camarata Romeu. Visit the beautifully restored Basílica San Francisco de Asis to experience a private performance of the first all women string orchestra in Latin America. Under the direction of Zenaida Romeu, Camarata Romeu is one of Cuba’s most extraordinary classical music ensembles. This non-governmental independent music group frequently tours internationally and performs new works of numerous Cuban and other Latin American composers.

11:00 am ~ Contemporary Art at la Plaza Vieja. Curator Gretel Medina will guide us through an exhibit of contemporary Cuban art at one of Havana’s most important contemporary art museums, El Centro del Desarrollo de Arte Contemporáneo. Then we’ll walk around the Plaza Vieja to mingle through its boutique museums and markets. We’ll also see a contemporary photo exhibit at la Fototeca de Cuba.

12:30 pm ~ Lunch at Paladar Los Mercaderes. We’ll stroll down the oldest street in Havana, Calle de los Mercaderes (Merchants Street), to have lunch in a beautiful new restaurant built inside the home of the owner.

2:00 pm ~ More Plazas and More Contemporary Art. After lunch we will continue down Calle Los Mercaderes to la Plaza de las Armas, Havana’s first square which is now an outdoor book market. Our Cuban guide will give us a history of the city’s settlement. We’ll then continue to the Plaza de la Catedral were we’ll visit the collective graphic arts workshop, Taller de Gráfica. This public studio for local artists was established by Pablo Neruda and Che Guevara at the beginning of the Revolution as a place where artists living and visiting Havana can work on printmaking. We’ll then be guided by Cuban arts specialist Wilfredo Benitez through an exhibit at the Wilfredo Lam Center. We’ll continue on to a new three-story art exhibiting space called La Factoría. We’ll visit the Plazuela del Santo Angel, an area experiencing significant progress fostered by the emerging private sector. Then we’ll visit la Plaza del Cristo del Buen Viaje, an area undergoing current restoration. Stroll back down Prado promenade to our hotel for down time before dinner.

7:30 pm ~ Dinner at the Ludwig Foundation. Have dinner at Cuba’s most internationally connected advocate for emerging Cuban artists. The foundation will invite Cuban artists to share their work and join us for dinner.

9:30 pm ~ Night Activity. After dinner we will attend a music or dance performance, to be determined, depending on what is happening in the city that night. Such activities could include the National Ballet, National Contemporary Dance Company, National Symphony Orchestra, jazz concerts, salsa clubs, Tropicana Cabaret, drag shows, baseball games, boxing matches and many other attractions of the Havana nightlife (optional - price not included).
DAY 4, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 | JOURNEY TO VINALES

8:15 am ~ Breakfast at the Hotel and Check-out

9:00 am ~ Depart for Viñales Valley. Enjoy the scenic drive through the Western province of Pinar del Río, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This pine-populated, red-soiled tobacco-growing region of Cuba features lime stone mountains called “mogotes” that jut out of the valley floor.

11:00 am ~ Visit to the Tobacco Farm Finca Montesino. On our way to Viñales we’ll stop by a 3rd generation tobacco farm that grows and prepares tobacco for the Cohiba brand. The farmer will show us the process of how the world’s finest tobacco is created.

1:00 pm ~ Lunch at Finca Agroecológica. Have lunch on what some might consider to be one of the most beautiful farms in the world. For four generations this family has owned and operated this organic sustainable agricultural project. Enjoy a farm-to-table family style meal at their house perched on top of a hill with a magical view of the Viñales Valley. The farmers will take you on a tour of their “finca” after lunch.

2:30 pm ~ Afternoon Hike through the Cuban Countryside. Meet with the City Historian of Viñales Ricardo Alvarez who will stroll with us through the small farms, town center, geological wonders, and world’s finest tobacco-growing region.

4:00 pm ~ Check Into Private Bed & Breakfasts. The people of Viñales are as friendly and inviting as its landscapes. We will have the chance to split up into small groups and stay in these country homes in the center of town. This is an interesting and personal way of experiencing the Cuban “guajiro” way of life, an opportunity to practice your Spanish, and engage in direct people-to-people contact with the Cuban people.

7:30 pm ~ Dinner with your Host Families. Your host families will cook dinner for you. Make sure to schedule the time and menu with them when you arrive.

9:00 pm ~ Night of Music Under the Stars at Centro Cultural Polo Montañez. Gather with locals and foreigners alike to dance and listen to Cuban rhythms (optional - cost not included).

DAY 5, THURSDAY, MARCH 24 | WESTERN HAVANA

8:30 am ~ Breakfast at the Your B&B & Check Out. Your families will help carry your luggage and bring you to our designated location to meet the bus on time.

9:00 am ~ Transfer to Havana

12:30 pm ~ Lunch at Artist Jose Fuster’s Studio in Jaimanitas. Have lunch with the artist who has transformed his entire neighborhood into a Gaudi or Brancusiesque wonderland of sculptures, mosaics, and murals. Fuster has become internationally renowned for community projects where neighbors volunteer their homes to become part of a sprawling masterpiece known as “Fusterlandia.”
2:30 pm – Visit to the Instituto Superior de Arte. Before the Revolution this art school was a former country club that prohibited President Batista from being a member because he was part black. Che Guevara and Fidel Castro turned it into the only school for all the arts in Latin America through an ambitious dream to break traditional forms and empower their arts and culture. Although unfinished in its construction, it is now Cuba’s most advanced school of the arts with architecture revered worldwide. Many books, documentary films, and even operas have been recently created about this school and its fascinating story.

3:30 pm – Visit to Kcho’s Studio in Romerillo. Cuba’s most well known contemporary artist has his own studio and cultural hub in the suburb of Romerillo. Not only does he offer free art exhibits at the highest level, it is the first and only place in Cuba to offer free high-speed public wi-fi to anyone who wants it. You can see throngs of Cubans gather here around the clock to log on and connect with the outside world.

4:30 pm – Driving Tour of Havana’s Western Suburbs. On our way back into Havana we will drive through the neighborhoods of Marianao, Playa, and Miramar and see the foreign embassy district.

5:00 pm – Check Into Hotel Nacional. Perhaps the most interesting and elegant hotel in the Caribbean basin, the Hotel Nacional was designed in 1930 by the famous American firm McKim, Meade & White combining Art Deco, Arabic, and Hispano-Moorish architecture with neoclassical and neo-Colonial elements. Enjoying a rich history that for many years made it a glamorous meeting place, dining destination, and guesthouse for the literati and glitterati of the world in the pre-revolution era. Hollywood stars Betty Grable, Ginger Rogers, Errol Flynn, Ava Gardner, Fred Astaire, Gary Cooper, Nat King Cole, and Bob Hope comprised only a handful of those who crossed the waters to Cuba and then headed to the Nacional. Overlooking the Malecón Avenue and the Sea, it remains one of the most peaceful atmospheres to enjoy a tropical drink and Cuban cigar.

7:30 pm – Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar. Located in a cluttered and eclectic bottom floor home of an early 20th century mansion in Centro Habana, The Guardian rated this as the number one paladar in Havana.

9:30 pm – Night Activity. After dinner we will attend a music or dance performance, to be determined, depending on what is happening in the city that night. Such activities could include the National Ballet, National Contemporary Dance Company, National Symphony Orchestra, jazz concerts, salsa clubs, Tropicana Cabaret, drag shows, baseball games, boxing matches and many other attractions of the Havana nightlife (optional - cost not included).

DAY 6, FRIDAY, MARCH 25 | CENTRO HABANA

8:45 am – Breakfast at the Hotel

9:45 am – Open Rehearsal of Danza Contemporánea de Cuba at Teatro Nacional. Watch Cuba’s national contemporary dance company rehearse under the direction of Miguel Iglesias. They seamlessly and masterfully blend modern dance with Afro-Cuban folkloric dance, ballet, and popular dance. “An exotic hybrid of contemporary, classical, and Caribbean styles…an exquisite physical instrument…They move with an old-fashioned juiciness, reminiscent of the Martha Graham Company, burning up the choreography” - The Guardian
11:30 am – Visit to the Homes of Afro-Cuban Spiritual Leaders. Meet Afro-Cuban religious practitioners in this authentic and once-in-a-lifetime invitation to go inside the homes of a “palero” (Palo del Monte) and a “babalawo” (Santería). As sacred Congo and Nigerian worldviews, respectively, combined with Catholicism, new belief systems emerged in Colonial Cuba. Members of these religious traditions will share their altars that are made to communicate with the dead, the saints, and a pantheon of African deities. The journey will take place in Cayo Hueso, beginning in Parque Trillo and ending at the Callejón de Hamel. This is an opportunity to discuss religious practices that continue to have great importance in Cuban culture.

1:00 pm – Afro-Cuban Lunch at the Callejón de Hamel. Enjoy a delicious traditional buffet in the home of artist Salvador Gonzalez in Centro Habana and learn about some of the traditional creole dishes that make Cuban cuisine so rich.

2:00 pm – Rumba Demonstration at the Callejón de Hamel. Rumba (guaguancó) is a secular Afro-Cuban music, song, and dance tradition that lies at the heart of all Cuban rhythms. In this concert workshop, the ensemble Rumba Morena will describe how this music, song, and dance is played. The setting is the Callejón de Hamel, a back alley where, 20 years ago, artist Salvador Gonzalez decided to eschew the traditional art scene and paint on the outside walls of his apartment. After the neighbors started to applaud his artistic effort, he transformed it into a large-scale mural and public art installation inspired by Afro-Cuban spiritual practices where rumba music, dance, and rituals happen every Sunday.

3:30 pm – Visit to the New U.S. Embassy in Cuba. The new U.S. Embassy is in the former U.S. Interest Section that used to house a Consular Services, a Political and Economic Section, a Public Diplomacy Program, and Refugee Processing unique to Cuba. Here we will meet with a foreign policy representative from our government to hear their perspective on Cuba, U.S. policy, the long, troubled history of U.S.-Cuba relations, and their perspective on our future.

7:00 pm – Old Cars Ride. We will travel to dinner “Havana Style” in a fleet of specially selected 1950s American cars that will take us to dinner on a scenic route through Havana’s most beautiful neighborhoods.

7:30 pm – Farewell Dinner at La Cocina de Lilliam with Live Music by Charanga Siglo 20. Celebrate our last night in Cuba at a party at the house of Chef Lilliam. One of the oldest paladares in Havana serving traditional Cuban cuisine, this back yard open-air garden provides the perfect atmosphere to savor the flavors and sounds of Havana. We’re inviting one of Cuba’s oldest charanga bands to play traditional danzón and son music.

10:00 pm – La Fábrica de Arte Cubano. Experience Havana’s hippest new magnet for the urban and chic: an old peanut factory transformed into a multi-level and almost infinite art and music space. This new cultural hangout is an entrepreneurial project of Cuban celebrity musician X Alfonso. It is a shining reflection of what the future might hold for Havana as it once again becomes the cosmopolitan trend-setting cultural capital of Latin America (optional – cost not included).

DAY 7, SATURDAY, MARCH 26 | HAVANA TO MIAMI

8:15 am – Breakfast at the Hotel
9:00 am - Discussion on Cuba-U.S. Relations with Professor Raul Rodriguez. Start the day with a presentation and discussion on the past, present, and future of our country’s relations with Cuba. Raul Rodriguez is a Cuban professor of U.S. history at the Universidad de la Habana and an internationally recognized and published scholar on US-Cuba relations.

10:30 am - Check Out of Hotel and Board the Bus

10:45 am - Visit to San José Artisan Market. On our last day we’ll have a chance to meet small arts & crafts vendors. Buy presents for your friends and family at home with your remaining Cuban currency. Talk to the artisan community about their businesses and share thoughts on the future of small businesses and innovation in Cuba’s growing private sector.

12:30 am - Lunch at La Finca Marta. This small experimental agro-ecological farm 15 miles southeast of Havana aims to demonstrate that farms based on biodiversity and intensive management can thrive in a rapidly changing economy by producing high quality products without the need for transgenic crops, mechanization, or state-run distribution. Founded in 2012 by the renowned Cuban agronomist Dr. Fernando Funes-Monzote, La Finca Marta fetches a premium price from fifteen new Havana restaurants and emerging middle class families with a CSA-style share distribution system. It pays its workers on total sales rather than a predetermined salary. Recent political reforms like legalizing direct sales and the emergence of private food and transportation cooperatives are allowing new models of privatized agriculture and culinary development. We’ll have a freshly grown farm-to-table lunch and then get a tour and discussion in local food systems led by Fernando, the local pioneer who has published over 100 academic articles on agro-ecological farming.

4:30 pm - Transfer to José Martí International Airport

8:20 pm - Flight Departs Havana for Miami. Flight leaves from José Martí International Airport, Terminal 2. Check in time is 5:20 pm. Our Cuban guide will help us check in and get us through customs.

9:20 pm - Arrival in Miami. We’ll go through customs, say goodbye, and go to our hotels to spend the night before catching an early flight home the next morning.
Estimated Cost

$4,295 per person (double occupancy)
$4,745 per person (single room)

Please note that the above price is not final until we get final price confirmations from Cuba. We hope to finalize this and provide sign up links by mid-August.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE  Deposits are due 100 days before departure and full payment of the balance is due to Cuba Tours and Travel 45 days before departure. Changes and cancellations 30 days before departure will be refunded, based on the refund policy found in the terms and conditions.

INSURANCE INFORMATION AND MEDICAL EVACUATION  Cuba Tours and Travel provides health insurance in Cuba as part of the program cost through the Cuban visitor’s health insurance agency Assistour. We will also offer each participant the option of choosing Trip Interruption Insurance with our travel insurance partner, Access America Allianz Travel Insurance, at an added cost.

www.allianztravelinsurance.com

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http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_tr_app.pdf
**PROGRAM PRICE INCLUDES:**

* Meet-and-greet at the Miami International Airport
* Round trip air MIA-HAV-MIA and Departure Tax in Miami
* Airport departure tax upon departing Havana
* Arrival assistance at Jose Marti Airport (HAV)
* Cuban visa
* US Government paperwork and People-to-People Educational Travel License
* Transfers in and out from the airport to hotel
* Medical insurance in Cuba
* Accommodations for 6 nights at Hotel Capri and Hotel Nacional in Havana
* Accommodations for 1 night at a Casa Particular (bed & breakfast) in Viñales
* Daily breakfast at the hotel
* 4 dinners at popular paladares
* 5 lunches
* 4 visits to museums or organizations that charge an entry fee
* Artist studio & gallery visits as required
* Special visits to Danza Contemporanea, Folklórica Nacional, La Camarata Romeu, and Rumba Morena
* Lectures and discussions with artists, economists, historians, and spiritual leaders
* An overnight trip to the Cuban countryside to see the town of Viñales
* Luxury motor coach transportation for the whole program
* Full translation by professional Cuba-based guide
* Trip led by Oberlin College Professor of Hispanic Studies Ana Cara, Director of Alumni Relations Meena Ghaziasgar, and Oberlin alumnus Sage Lewis ’05
* Program management in Cuba
* After-hours guidance
* Our Cuba Travel Tips publication and extensive traveler guidance

**PROGRAM PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

* Tips for Cuban guide and driver, baggage handlers & waiters
* Single room differential ($450)
* Trip interruption insurance
* Air from home city to Miami
* All other items not listed in “PROGRAM PRICE INCLUDES”
TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations & Payments: Reservation Form must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of $500.00 USD per person (Payments must be made by check or Money Order, or Credit Card payment with a 4% fee added to the price). Deposit payment is due no later than 45 days before travel. Final Payment is due no later than 30 days before travel. Any preand post trip arrangements not finalized by 45 days prior to travel, may result in an additional service fee. It is our policy to hold travel documents until full payment is received.

Escrow Protection: Pursuant to its registration with the California Seller of Travel law (CST#207379040), and the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund TCRF, Cuba Tours and Travel has chosen to deposit all of your payments directly into our separate Client Trust Account. This means that such funds will be maintained separate and apart from our operating funds until approximately 45 days prior to departure (or at any time a payment is needed for your trip) when we are required to pay for all the costs of your trip. The TCRF applies only to those purchasing their trips within the State of California. However we maintain the practice of holding all funds in escrow for all passengers regardless of where they purchased their services.

Cancellations/Refunds: For land arrangements, written cancellation received by Cuba Tours and Travel (hereafter referred to as CTT) and Project Por Amor (hereafter called PPA) no later than 45 days prior to departure, will result in a full refund less an administrative fee of $200.00 per person. In the event of later cancellation by the participant, NO REFUND will be made. NO REFUND will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate. The right is reserved to cancel this program at any time prior to departure if it is deemed necessary, or if registration numbers prove insufficient by 45 days and a full refund will be made to those persons registered at that time.

Airfare: Certain airfares to and from Cuba, carry restrictions and penalties, to be advised at time of booking; full refunds will be made for refundable Business and First Class airfares. (A ticket processing fee applies for all airline reservations.) CTT & PPA is not responsible for any nonrefundable airfares. Baggage Fees vary and are the sole responsibility of the traveler. We will do all possible to update information in a timely manner, however we cannot be held responsible if fees increase prior to departure.

Included: All services as detailed in this proposal/quote. Not Included: Passport fees; baggage fees; items of a personal nature, such as valet/laundry, phone/fax communications; items not on the regular menus; expenses of hotels, meals, guides, buses, cars, railroad, boats, etc., for sightseeing not included in the itinerary; trip insurance; any other items not specifically included; aftertour gratuities to guide and motorcoach driver; airport tax leaving Havana.

Cuban Visas: Please note that currently the US Government prohibits us from furnishing visas and they are not included in our offerings. We will assist you in obtaining your visa and they will be provided by the Air Charter Company or directly at Customs in the Cuban Airport that you land in.

Trip Insurance: Cancellation/Baggage/Medical insurance is strongly recommended (an application will be sent with your trip confirmation).

Responsibility: In all matters related to the making of arrangements for hotel accommodations, required program activities, sightseeing tours and services provided incident there to, to entertainment and transportation by air, railroad, motor coach, boat, automobile, etc., CTT & PPA will act only in the capacity of an agent for any of the travel services with regard to carriers, hotels, suppliers and all other related services. Because of their status as agents, and because they maintain no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of these travel service suppliers, we can assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, property/luggage damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of (1) any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of the suppliers, (2) any wrongful, negligent or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any employee of any of these suppliers, (3) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment or instrumentality owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (4) any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under the control, direct or otherwise, of CTT & PPA. Group members assume responsibility for their physical abilities to travel, CTT & PPA and their agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the trip any time before departure or during the trip should said person’s health or physical condition or general deportment impede the operation of the program, in which case no refund will be given. The above disclaimers are similarly claimed by any sponsor of the trip if applicable. The trip prices mentioned in this document are based on tariffs and costs in effect at time of printing, and are subject to increase without notice should there be any upward revision in such tariffs or costs before departure. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made. Additional expenses, if any, will be borne by the passengers. The price includes operator’s compensation for service, supervision, operation, promotion and profit. Airlines, railroads and vessels concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. Responsibility to abide by license program. Travel to Cuba is licensed by the US Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control through The Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the “Regulations”). Each American Citizen or Resident is individually responsible in complying with the license program. It is the intention of CTT & PPA to insure that the licensed program is followed and all participants abide by the official program. Your acceptance of the responsibilities related to this program are signaled by paying for your travel transaction.

Hotel Substitution: Cuba is currently undergoing an unprecedented expansion of demand on its tourism facilities and we have experienced very last minute substitution of hotels by Havanatur, the State travel organization. Although we cannot unconditionally insure that every hotel previously confirmed will be available at check in time, we will work diligently to keep the hotel selections intact and/or insure that any substitutes will be in the same category. Room Occupancy: Cuba Tours and Travel will make every effort to accommodate your single or double room or suite request. However room occupancy is based on availability and you will be charged for the actual room arrangement you get during the actual trip to Cuba. Room Conditions: Cuba Tours and Travel will work with the hotel to make every effort to insure that your room is acceptable by US Standards, however we cannot be responsible for mold or cigarette smoke residue left over by previous tenants of the hotel room.

Optional Activities: Optional activities furnished by independent suppliers not affiliated with CTT & PPA carry with them various inherent risks which can cause serious personal injury. Although precautions are taken by suppliers to guard against such dangers, your safety cannot be guaranteed. Should you elect to participate in such activities while on this program, you must understand that participation will be at your own risk CTT & PPA can assume no responsibility for your safety.

Acts of God and the Like: CTT & PPA is not liable for acts of God, fire, acts of governments or other authorities, wars, civil disturbances, riots, terrorist acts, strikes, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, dangers incident to sea, land and air travel, and other similar acts or incidents beyond its ability to control.

Compliance with United States & Cuban Laws: By Paying the deposit for this trip the participant warrants that he or she has read and understood the United States Treasury Department’s travel restrictions for Cuba which can be found in www.treasury.gov/OFAC and that they have secured a OFAC Specific License from a duly licensed organization other than CTT & PPA or that they qualify for a General License to travel to Cuba. By paying their deposit and other invoices for this trip participant certifies that they will fully participate in the full time activities pursuant to the license requirements as listed in the program itinerary. Participant also certify that they will abide with all applicable laws for foreign visitors in the Republic of Cuba. Failure to comply with US and Cuban law will result in immediate expulsion from the program.

Cuban American Participants: Acknowledge that their Cuban Visa, Passport and any other required documents are in place and up-to-date. Please call CTT & PPA Office if any questions.

Traveler’s Representations: Acceptance of the Confirmation/Invoice covering this trip and payment thereof certifies that you have not recently been treated for, nor are you aware of any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard to yourself or other members of this tour, and is also an acceptance of the trip conditions applicable to the trip and that you have read and understand those conditions.