



## **The Bar Association of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_**

**\_ \_ \_ \_ \_: Discussing Cuba's Legal System & meeting the people**

**Saturday, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ – Friday, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , 2018**

**Duration:** 7 days and 6 nights Tour of Educational Activities and People to People Exchanges in Cuba, organized by Global Relations Travel Club (GRTC), adhering to all Rules & Regulations; Certificate of Legal Cuba Travel in compliance with US Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control regulations (OFAC) section, 1 C.F.R. § 515.565(b). This is a Private Group Tour, accompanied by GRTC Leaders Dan Rutherford and Josh Lanning, both well-traveled in Cuba.

Accommodations in Havana are at historic and iconic hotels and in the Vinales Valley you will be staying at the best of only three hotels. Highlights will be a presentation on Cuban law, discussions with Cubans on how the legal system affects their family and businesses, visiting Hemingway's home and a private cooking lesson.

Your adventure includes Old Habana to the western Cuban country-side and back to the internationally famous Hotel Nacional, the Cuban Five Star Hotel on the Straits of Florida. Select private restaurants are a part of your itinerary.

**Accommodations:** These are our suggestions. We will need to confirm the dates and best estimate on the number of rooms in order to secure availability.

- *Hotel: Ambos Mundos, 3 star, Old Havana*
- *Hotel: Rancho San Vicente, 3 stars, Viñales Valley, Pinar del Río*
- *Hotel: Nacional, 5 stars, Vedado, Havana*

**Island transportation:** Private Coach and Vintage American Cars

Yellow highlight indicates a Professional Awareness Program

Meetings subject to final confirmation and allowing for modifications

**DAY 1 SATURDAY, \_ \_ \_ \_ - ARRIVAL CUBA / OLD HAVANA / WELCOME DINNER  
(DINNER)**

- \* Depart to Havana via your arranged flights.
- \* Arrival at Havana's José Martí International Airport. Proceed through Immigration, collect your bags and go through Customs, giving them your blue customs form. Participant's arrival times may vary throughout the day. Airport transfers will be arranged for each flight of arriving participants.
- \* Havana's International Airport arrival hall does have bathrooms. They may not have seats and they may not have tissue so you may wish to bring packets of tissues. It is suggested to use the restroom on the flight before landing.
- \* Give your 'Health' forms to the nurses in white uniforms after you go through immigration & body screening. The important question will be if you have been in Africa and exposed to Ebola.
- \* You will be welcomed at the airport exterior lobby by your guide. Look for signage of "Cuba Explorer". They have your flight number and arrival time and will be waiting for you.
- \* Private transfer to the iconic Hotel Ambos Mundos located in the heart of Havana's Old City. (Included) This historic hotel, seasoned with elegance, was home to Ernest Hemingway staying on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor when he stayed in the city. Be sure to visit his room, it is open during the day. (Included)
- \* You will need to wheel your bags a few blocks to the hotel since vehicles are not allowed in the Old City. Enjoy a welcome cocktail (Included) after your private check-in with assistance from your Guide.

- \* Free time to settle in and get oriented to your historic hotel and the cobble stone streets of Old Havana where you are ideally located.
- \* This evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner at restaurant Café Del Oriente in Old Havana. This is the restaurant where Secretary of State John Kerry visited in 2015 and Raul Castro entertained Jimmy Carter in 2011. (Included)
- \* Evening walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will visit the historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere. It contains the largest collection of remaining colonial-era architecture. This is a private tour led by your Cuba Education Tours guide. (Included)
- \* Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana built by the Jesuit order.
- \* Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:

Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.

Palacio del Segundo Cabo [Palace of the Second Lieutenant] dates from 1770. Today it houses the Instituto Cubano del Libro [Cuban Book Institute] and the Galería Raúl Martínez (famed poster artist).

- \* You will continue on to San Francisco Square, one of the oldest plazas in the historical quarter. The square is named after magnificent Iglesia y Monasterio de San Francisco de Asís dating from the 16th century. The basilica is a striking example of Cuba baroque architecture.
- \* Then on to Plaza Vieja, the only civic square of colonial times. Absent are churches and government buildings, and is in contrast surrounded by opulent aristocratic 17th century residences.
- \* AFTER THE WALK: Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

**DAY 2 SUNDAY, \_ \_ \_ \_ – HEMINGWAY BY THE SEA / ORGANIC GARDENING / PRIVATE COOKING LESSON / EVENING FREE TO EXPLORE (BREAKFAST AND LUNCH)**

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included)
- \* Travel to Cojímar, a small fishing Village outside of Havana and Ernest Hemingway’s favorite fishing port in Cuba. It is approximately 7 miles east of Havana. See the harbor where his boat Pilar was moored and where Papa and Gregorio (the bases for Old Man and the Sea) would depart to marlin fish or hunt German Submarines. Tour the small town, see Hemingway’s bust made from metal donated by the local fishermen and get photos in front of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Lookout Fort. (Included)
- \* Visit the small organic garden of Jesus and Julio which supplies all of the herbs for the private restaurant where you will be cooking later. Up close see tropical fruits, bananas, plantains, squash and maybe even the Cuban Bee Hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world. (Included)
- \* **TOUR HIGHLIGHT:** Cooking & mojito making lesson at paladar (private restaurant) El Ajiaco followed by lunch, which you helped prepare. This is a unique experience; in the kitchen, with the chef and staff preparing multiple dishes (lobster, ropa vieja & el ajiaco soup) and then at the bar learning how to properly prepare a Cuban mojito. (Included)

Discussion with restaurant leadership staff on the government requirements of licensing and permitting a private paladar in Cuba. (Included)

- \* Return to hotel.
- \* Dinner, not included. This is a perfect evening to explore Cuba’s famed paladares or visit one of the many cafes within easy walking distance of your hotel.





**DAY 3 MONDAY, \_ \_ \_ \_ - VALLEY OF MAGNIFICENT MOGOTES & THE RICHEST AGRICULTURE LAND IN THE NATION / CIGAR FACTORY**  
(BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER)

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included) Note: lunch will be later in the afternoon, so plan breakfast accordingly.
- \* Morning departure to the western agricultural province of Pinar del Río.

On the coach ride your Cuban guide will have an interactive discussion on the Cuban legal system and the personal use/needs of a lawyer in Cuba. (Included)

- \* In Pinar del Río visit and tour Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory, located in a former prison and on this site since 1961. You will see how some of Cuba's internationally renowned premium cigars are made, by hand. Seated side by side at special wooden benches, the cigar makers carry out their work, producing cigars of identical weight and length. (Included)
- \* Drive through the picturesque Viñales village in the heart of Cuba's prime tobacco growing region. The town itself sits in the center of a flat valley surrounded by stunning formations known locally as mogotes. They are irregularly shaped steep-sided hills that can rise as high as 985 feet and have bases as much as a mile in length. The mogotes were once underwater and during the Jurassic Age, about 200 million years ago, they were the first formations to emerge from the Atlantic Ocean during the creation of Cuba. Many consider this the most beautiful nature spot on the island.
- \* Late lunch at private restaurant Balcón del Valle, Balcony of the Valley and you will see why when you get there, one of the most spectacular views of the entire trip. (Included)



- \* Hotel Rancho San Vicente check in: a unique hotel in a forest setting and overlooked by mountains. This is a bird watchers paradise with several endemic species and at dusk bats emerge from the multiple caves.
- \* Evening relaxing time by one of the two pools at the hotel. (Included)

Small group discussion with our Cuban coach driver on the driving laws and transportation regulations in Cuba. (Included/Optional)

- \* Dinner buffet at hotel at your leisure and a relaxing evening. (Included)

**DAY 4 TUESDAY, \_ \_ \_ \_ - VIÑALES ACTIVITIES / TOBACCO FARMING / MEALS IN COUNTRY-SIDE PALADARES**  
(BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER)

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included) You will have a very large lunch and evening meal, plan breakfast accordingly.
- \* Morning Optional Activities: horseback riding in the valley of the National Park (highly recommended), hiking, massage or guided birding tour (will need to be reserved the day before, the guide, not the birds)!
- \* Lunch at Finca Agro-ecológica El Paraíso (be sure you get a special drink ‘Anti-Stress’ blended from fresh grown organic herbs). Other than the seafood and beef, all of the food you will enjoy at lunch will have been grown on the Finca. (Included)
- \* Tour Finca Agro-ecológica El Paraíso, learn about the family that claimed part of a rocky mountain side to grow vegetables and herbs organically and a cashew tree. Enjoy the outstanding view of the valley. (Included)
- \* Visit a small tobacco farm (you will have to walk part of the way to get to there, horse or oxen are the only other form of transportation) that produces product for the world-renowned Cuban cigar. Meet the owners, third generation women who run the small farm, and have a personal demonstration of hand rolling a Habano cigar. Discussion with the ladies about the government oversight of the tobacco production and sales. Learn the Cuban government’s process for pricing and delivery of the product. (Included)
- \* Visit Cueva del Indio (Cave of the Indian) for a brief walk and then a short boat ride to come out on the other side. Part of the National Park and surrounded by rainforest type vegetation. (Optional)
- \* Return to hotel to relax and freshen up.
- \* ENJOYABLE EVENING AT, SMALL, LOCAL PALADAR: Dinner at private restaurant El Campesino, on the edge of a tobacco field with the mogotes as a backdrop. Meet Yuri and Nino, daughter and mother owners who live on site with their families. Enjoy a wonderful meal of Cuban country-style cooking from the kitchen supervised by Nino. (Included)



**TOUR HIGHLIGHT:** During pre-dinner drinks, on the roof of their home, we will have a candid and personal discussion with Yuri, the young female owner of the private business about Cuban laws and permitting and its impact on her business and family. (Included)

**DAY 5 WEDNESDAY, \_\_\_\_\_ – HAVANA RETURN / REVOLUTION / VINTAGE  
AMERICAN CARS / HOTEL NACIONAL (BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER)**

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included)
- \* Hotel check out and return to Havana.
- \* Visit an open air craft market as you depart Vinales, with brightly colored buildings, shops and church. Experience small town Cuba. (Included)
- \* Lunch, to-go sandwiches, will be provided on the coach ride and hosted by GRTC Leaders, Dan Rutherford & Josh Lanning, in order to save time on the return to Havana. (Optional-provided)

On the coach ride to Havana there will be an engaging discussion on the euphemism “Special Period” in Cuba’s history of when the Soviet Union fell, the U.S Embargo was maintained and the economic stress it placed on the Cuban people: what regulations and life styles were changed. (Included)

- \* In Havana, visit the Museum of Revolution housed in the palace of former dictator President Fulgencio Batista. Behind the Palace and a part of the grounds is the newly refurbished glass enclosure which houses Granma, the boat which took Fidel Castro, Raul Castro, Che Guevara and their revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba for the Revolution. There is a surface-to-air missile of the type that shot down a U.S. Lockheed U-2 spy plane during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the engine of the American U-2 airplane itself. It is an amazing look at history through the eyes of Cuban Revolutionaries. (Included)



Dramatic shifts in Cuban law had no greater starting point in modern history than the Revolution. A Tour of the Museum will help you have a better understanding of that and the 60 complex years of U.S. – Cuban relations. (Included)

- \* A short walk from the Museum of Revolution to near where the motor coach will be parked is the Hotel Sevilla. For those finished with the museum early, wish a refreshment and listen to live Cuban music in the courtyard you can meet there. The entire sixth floor was booked by Al Capone and his body guards at times when he visited Cuba.

- \* Hotel Nacional check in; relaxing time to visit the garden, walk the site depicted in the Godfather Part II movie, enjoy a cigar, a mojito or have a rest on the veranda where some of the world's most interesting personalities' have taken a break while the winds from the Straits of Florida breeze by.

At the Hotel Nacional, stroll by cannons of battles from the 1800's, and visit the bunkers, built overlooking the Malecon and the Straits of Florida to Key West. For 13 days in October 1962 the world hinged on the brink of a nuclear war. The epicenter of the conflict was on the island you will be standing. Diplomatic understandings were formulated, treaties were contemplated, blockades occurred, embargoes were strengthened and international legal precedent was challenged. You may go through the bunkers and trenches and be briefed on the happenings of that complex time.  
(Included/Optional)



- \* You will have the opportunity to caravan in Vintage American cars along the Malecon, stop for photos and continue on to dinner. (Included)
- \* Dinner at the paladar La Casa, private restaurant, one of the earliest established in Cuba and still in the original home. (Included)
- \* Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city.



**DAY 6 THURSDAY, \_\_\_\_\_ – CUBAN LAYWERS / HEMINGWAY’S HOME & FARM / LAST NIGHT IN CUBA**  
(BREAKFAST AND LUNCH)

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included)

Morning meeting with members of Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba - UNJC (Cuban National Union of Lawyers). Subjects: Cuban economy, Cuba’s new investment laws, Cuba’s private business structure. (Included)

- \* Lunch at El Template, along the Bay of Havana and an active street of vintage cars, horse drawn carriages and ships in the harbor. (Included)

- \* Visit Finca La Vigía, home and farm of Ernest Hemingway. This unique National Museum also includes his boat Pilar (in part made famous from his book Old Man and the Sea), the graves of some of his dogs and the fully furnished home which you will be able to see inside. (Included)

- \* Return to hotel.

- \* Dinner not included. With all the great food you have experienced this week it is your last chance to re-visit one of your favorite restaurants or check out a paladar you may have heard about. Your Cuban Guide and GRTC Team will be glad to help. Plan ahead if you want reservations.

- \* Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of Havana. It’s your last night in the Republic of Cuba so Enjoy!

- \* Tropicana, Buena Vista Social Club and Jazz Café are a few options for later evening entertainment. (Optional)



**DAY 7 FRIDAY, \_ \_ \_ \_ - HAVANA/ HOME**  
(BREAKFAST)

- \* Breakfast in hotel. (Included)
- \* Check-out of hotel.
- \* Transfer to José Martí International Airport in Havana for flight home. (Included)
- \* You need to be at your departure airport 3 hours before takeoff, please prepare accordingly. Your driver will meet you in the lobby of your Hotel.
- \* After you clear Cuban Immigration you will be screened and your carry on will be scanned. In the departure hall there is a duty free shop, places to buy snacks and drinks, as well as souvenirs so you may want to have some Cuban Currency (CUC). There is a currency exchange in the departure hall (1) if it is open and (2) if they have USD \$ to exchange for you. They do not take CUC coins. Regardless, if you have CUC and coins when you get home, mail it to Global Relations and we will buy it from you.
- \* When arriving to your U.S. entry airport you will need to clear U.S. Immigration and U.S. Customs. If questioned by an Immigration Officer about your trip to Cuba, note that you were on a sanctioned 'People to People Educational' trip. If asked what that is, tell the truth and explain it was an opportunity to directly engage with Cuban people, learn about their life and country. You were not on a vacation.
- \* Memories of a wonderful visit to the Pearl of the Antilles: Cuba! (Included)

Cuba Travel is a challenge. GRTC staff and Cuban partners work hard to make your tour unfold seamlessly despite Third World conditions on the island. Sometimes things don't go as planned. Flexible travelers understand this is part of the Cuban Adventure.

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