

BOBBI LANE & LEE VARIS, Professional Photographer Leaders
“CUBA: Study of People, Places and Sites, featuring Portraiture & Street”

November 8-12, 2017, Wednesday-Sunday, 5-DAYS/4 NIGHTS

HAVANA – COJIMAR – VALLE DE VIÑALES/PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE

Yvonne Butler, YButler Group, LLC, Authorized Group Organizer, ybutlergroup@gmail.com 727-317-9824



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**Beautifully-Appointed Casas Particulares Stay * Photography Instruction & Mentoring,
Cuba-experienced Professional Photographers * Dinners at Top-Chef Paladars & Farm-to-Table
Meal at Eco-Farm * Café Taberna & the Benny Moré Jazz All-Stars Dinner Performance ***

MIN/MAX Group Size: Total 12 guests minimum, 16 guests maximum

Accommodations: CASA NOSTRA casa particular, and nearby casas particulares in the top-quality Casa Hostal Cuba Group, Vedado. Casa Nostra will be the central group meeting place before departures. The casas are located not far from Plaza de la Revolución. Casa rooms are private, with private bath (not shared with other rooms).

Departure Airport: Tampa International Airport (TIA)(departure times are subject to change)

- Wednesday, November 8, 2017: Tampa-Havana, 8:00 am, arr: 9:20 am (5 am check-in)
- Sunday, November 12, 2017: Havana-Tampa, 6:00 pm, arr: 7:20 pm (4 pm check-in)

Pricing:

- **\$3,495 per person, Double Occupancy (one double bed per room for two persons to share)**
- **\$3,650 per person, Single Occupancy (one person in room, one double bed)**

Payment:

Personal Check Only, payable to YBUTLER GROUP, LLC. Credit cards, PayPal, and any other method strictly are not possible.

Program

This is a Cultural and Educational Exchange geared toward directly experiencing the people and activity, seeing history-making changes taking place, learning history, and enjoying the beauty all around you while pursuing your craft or interest in photography or travel. **We are traveling as a group under only US license (see Travel Affidavit) for Cuba cultural-educational exchanges**, not tourism that still is not permitted to date for US passport holders, or for any commercial purposes, such as commercial photography or journalism.

Bobbi Lane (www.bobbilanephoto.com) and Lee Varis (www.varis.com) will provide photography instruction and guidance before, during and after your daily cultural-educational exchange activities, many with photo shoots. We will visit cultural locations and special photo shoot locations, together as a group and in small groups with a leader. You will have a chance to interact with the Cuban people and see them go about their daily lives. Contact your photography leaders with any questions on *photography and photography program content*. Contact the Group Organizer for *registration, insurance, and travel-related details*.

PROGRAM DETAILS (Subject to minor adjustments and modifications; events and venues will be included.)

Day 1 - Wednesday, November 8 - L, D HAVANA

Our stay and home base is the **Casa Nostra (and associated casas particulares)** in Vedado.

1. 5:00 am Check-In Tampa International Airport. Take hotel shuttles to airport starting 4 am.
2. 8:00 am Departure to Havana, on flight with a major airline carrier
3. 9:30/10:30 am Arrival José Martí International Airport, Havana, Cuba
4. TRANSFER to Old Havana, with running history commentary by guide on the ride from airport, for lunch at **Santo Angel** paladar.

(Time will not permit stops to do photography, shop or buy cigars and rum.)

5. 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm After lunch TRANSFER DIRECTLY to John Lennon Park for afternoon instruction by leaders.
6. 5:30 pm Hotel Check-in at Casas Particulares.
7. 7 pm Dinner at **Decameron paladar** or similar.
8. Rest of evening free to explore Havana at night.

Suggestion: Take an evening tour in a taxi particular on your own, joining other group members, at approximately CUC30 total for the taxi (not included.)

Day 2 – Thursday, November 9 - B, L, D – HAVANA TO VALLE DE VIÑALES

1. 7:00 am Breakfast at the casas.
2. 8:00 am Departure to **Las Terrazas** and **Viñales**
3. Along the way, your leaders will discuss the program for today and the rest of the time here.
4. Have a special coffee (not included) in Hotel Moka and buy some coffee. Allow one hour.
5. Continue to Viñales. Time to see views at the Las Jasmines overlook (landscape, mogotes, farmland), shop for gifts, and send a postcard back home.
6. **Eco-Farm (finca)** visit and **Lunch at Finca Paraíso**, included. Guide or farm staff will show group around the farm and give commentary on the eco-friendly operations. (required)
7. Visit a working **tobacco farm** in **Viñales** and learn about tobacco farming and cigar production. Buy some cigars.
8. Return to Casas in Havana by approximately 6:00 pm to prepare for the evening. On the return bus trip, leaders will prepare you for the morning shoot, including lighting, composition, portraiture, architecture, and more.
9. 8:00 pm Transfer to **Paladar Mediterraneo Havana** for dinner.

Day 3 - Friday, November 10 – B, L, D – HAVANA

1. 6:00 am Meet at Casa Nostra and walk the area with leaders up to the Colón Cemetery. Entry is 6:30 am (entry ticket is included) for sunrise shoot.
2. 8:30 am Breakfast at Casa Nostra.
3. 9:30 am Leaders will give a follow-up presentation on light and lighting and discuss morning shoot.
4. 10:30 am Transfer to the nearby Farmer's Market (19 y B) to observe daily life of Cubans.
5. 12:00 pm Transfer to Old Havana for LUNCH at **El Templete**.
6. 1:30 – 3:30 pm Guide will take us on a walking tour of four of the **Five Plazas**, including **Plaza Vieja**, allowing time at each plaza for photography.
7. 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm Transfer to **José Fuster Gallery**. Photographers will visit the gallery, perhaps meet Senor Fuster, and do street photography.
8. 5:00 – 6 pm Transfer back to hotel.
9. 7:30 pm Transfer to dinner at **Ivan Chef Justo paladar** in Old Havana.
10. 9:30 pm Transfer back to casas. Rest of evening is free.

Day 4 - Saturday, November 11– B, L, D

1. 6:00 am Gather at Casa Nostra and share taxi particulares to waterfront at Malecon for a sunrise shoot on the water (not included).
2. Return by 8:30 am for breakfast.
3. 8:30 am Breakfast at Casa Nostra.
4. 9:30 am – 12 pm Transfer to the Habana Queen **Salsa School** for portraiture and viewing of performances. *Group members will bring items to give to dance school, such as warmers, tights, and scarves.
5. 12:00 pm Transfer to Cojimar to waterfront to see bust of Hemingway, castle and sea.
6. 1:00 pm LUNCH at **Café Ajiaco** in Cojimar.
7. 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Transfer to the Museo Hemingway.
8. 5:00pm Transfer to Morro Castle for landscape and water views of Havana and visit the exterior of castle, in late afternoon light (no entry to museum.) Leaders will provide guidance on outdoor photography through sunset at approximately 7 pm.
9. 7:30 pm Return to hotel to prepare for the evening.
10. 8:30 pm– Transfer to Café Taberna and the **Benny Moré All-Stars** for **FAREWELL DINNER AND PERFORMANCE** (included.)
11. 11:00 pm Transfer back to hotel.

Day 5 - Sunday, November 12, 2017

On day five, we will say goodbye to Cuba. You will have the late morning after hotel checkout to go out on your own or in small groups to do some more exploration and photography, with lunch on your own. We will transfer to the airport at **approximately 3:30 pm** check-in, customs clearance and the return flight, arriving at Tampa at **approximately 7:30 pm**; retrieve your checked luggage and go through customs, **allowing a minimum of three hours after arrival** before connecting flights. We recommend you stay overnight and depart for home on Monday.



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PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION DETAILS

Participants should know that Cuba is a special destination. Please understand that all elements of this itinerary are subject to change and that the times and activities listed above are approximate. The Leader/Ground Manager reserves the right to move event times around during the day for weather conditions or other factors. **Price per person includes R/T Airfare (Tampa-Havana), hotel, ground transportation (bus transfers), Cuba Entry Visa, Cuba Health Insurance while in country, and meals indicated as "included" or in Uppercase Letters above each daily list and on the detailed itinerary; photography instruction; and entry fees indicated in program.** Entry fees and meals not included are listed as "not included or "on your own." We reserve the right to make a price increase adjustment, should fewer persons register than expected. We fully expect and anticipate meeting the minimum group size. **Deposits are due IMMEDIATELY but no later than July 8, 2017, to hold airline seats and hotel/casas spaces (Both are in very high demand!) Final Balance is due, at YButler Group offices, no later than September 8, 2017.**

Price of Program* also includes:

- **Cultural-Educational Exchange**, with an Instructional Photography Component.
- Highly-acclaimed Professional Photographer-Leader-Instructors and one-on-one and group photography instruction and guidance during program; critiques will be given on-the-fly on the bus and during shoots.
- Authorized group manager//Letter of Authorization/Affidavit
- English-speaking Cuban guide in Cuba; bus and driver for transfers per itinerary
- Transfers to program event locations
- 4 nights in hotels with breakfast

Your travel to/from Tampa, local stay in Tampa, airport parking, meals, and related personal travel items are at your expense. Excess baggage weight and checked baggage fees; tips and gratuities for guides, drivers, and servers; and personal items and purchases are also yours.

Bring for departure: Passport, copy of Cuba Affidavit. Check baggage rules and restrictions by airline carrier.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS: A **\$500 non-refundable deposit** is due with registration to hold and reserve a space. Given the general year-round scarcity of hotel rooms in Cuba and high demand for rooms for the high season, we request that you submit a deposit and all paperwork at your very earliest convenience. The group size minimum is twelve (12) persons. When SIXTEEN (16) spots are filled, we will add your name and contact information to the Alternates List. If someone cancels, person at top of list will be notified.

A Complete Initial Registration includes: (a) \$500 non-refundable deposit; and electronically-scanned copies of: (b) Cuba Registration form (indicate Double or Single), (c) Copy of first page of your US passport (valid at least six months AFTER our return date), and (d) Cuba Travel Affidavit. Save As **Yourname_Documentname.jpg. Send by email to ybutlergroup@gmail.com.**

Make checks payable to YBUTLER GROUP, LLC, and include request for roommate and other comments, if applicable. MAIL TO: YButler Group, LLC, 2442 Enterprise Road, Suite 4, Clearwater FL 33763.

Travel Cancellation Insurance. We suggest and highly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance on your own or through us. Inquire about insurance after you have registered with deposit and are listed as a registered participant. Standard and Cancel for Any Reason policy quotations will be provided following receiving an email request from you. Quotations are based on: (a) your age, (b) state of residence, and (c) program price. Insurance may be paid by phone by credit card that is paid directly to the insurance carrier on your behalf. Contact YButler Group LLC first for quotation and information.

YBUTLER GROUP, LLC is the Producer of this program and provides group coordination and ground management in Cuba. Contact Yvonne by phone and/or email (ybutlergroup@gmail.com) to get further information **on registration, insurance, and travel-related details**. Please contact your leaders and Yvonne Butler by email to confirm your intention to register prior to sending deposit and forms; YButler Group will confirm availability or status of alternate list. Contact your leaders for questions on photography and photography program elements.

Scand-America International, Inc. is the licensed Travel Service Provider for Cuba travel, with over 30 years of experience (Florida Seller of Travel License no.: ST-39653.)

Disclaimer: All content and events are subject to modest modifications. Final Program Fee per Participant is subject to final number of persons traveling with group and potentially, although unusual, any unforeseen price increases. All program times are approximate. A detailed program itinerary will be distributed prior to departure, for your planning purposes. We will try to stay close to this program. Hotels are in extremely high demand and we cannot guarantee a particular 4-star hotel under present conditions in Cuba until more hotels are built and/or re-opened. Please remain flexible and enjoy your time with the people of this country.

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