

Brandeis

TRAVELERS



Cuba: Art, Culture & History

In Support of the Cuban People

with Dalia Wassner, PhD, Director,
Jews of the Americas at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies

April 13 – 19, 2024

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ENGAGE with Cuba's leading creators in exclusive gatherings, with intimate discussions at the homes and studios of artists, access to a private rehearsal at a famous dance company, and an inspiring evening of art and music at Havana's Fabrica de Arte Cubano

DELIGHT in a private, curator-led tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks and international masterpieces

CELEBRATE at an exclusive cocktail reception and dinner in the company of the President of The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba

MEET Cuban thought leaders, including the former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will share profound insights on Cuban politics

ATTEND a briefing with the President of Havana's Jewish Community Center and experience Cuba's little-known yet intriguing Jewish history

TAKE a private tour of the splendidly renovated Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, the ornately designed, Neo-Baroque-style home to the Cuban National Ballet Company

ENJOY an exclusive tour with workers at a privately owned local workshop where Havana's iconic vintage cars are repaired and refurbished

EXPLORE Pinar del Rio, a region known for its lush tobacco haciendas. In the Vinales Valley, encounter the famous mogotes, the iconic hillocks of the region

DELVE into the life of Ernest Hemingway at Finca Vigia, the house where he lived for 20 years, with a glimpse of his famous fishing boat "Pilar"

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dalia Wassner, PhD, is the director of the Jews of the Americas initiative at Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies. As a historian, her work focuses on inclusive and interdisciplinary approaches to Jewish Diaspora, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, and Diaspora Studies. Dr. Wassner authored the book "Harbinger of Modernity: Marcos Aguinis and the Democratization of Argentina" (Boston: Brill, 2014), shedding light on the vital role of Jews and public intellectuals in Argentina's post-dictatorship democratization. She also guest-edited the inaugural issue of the journal "Latin American Jewish Studies" (Spring 2022) and has contributed to esteemed publications such as the "Latin American Research Review," "Iberian and Latin American Studies," "Contemporary Jewry," and "Journal of Modern Jewish Studies." In addition, Dr. Wassner holds positions on the Latin American Jewish Studies Association Board of Directors, the Jewish Women's Archive Encyclopedia Editorial Board (Latin America), and the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry Board of Directors.



Author and art conservator **Rosa Lowinger** (Brandeis '78), will join the group for a tour of iconic buildings and sites in modern Havana. The author of "Tropicana Nights: The Life and Times of the Legendary Cuban Nightclub" and "Dwell Time: A Memoir of Art, Exile, and Repair," Rosa was born in Cuba and raised in Miami's Cuban-Jewish community. After studying art history and studio art at Brandeis she went on to become one of the nation's leading conservators of sculpture and historic buildings and has worked frequently in Cuba.

Brandeis

TRAVELERS

Dear Brandeis Travelers,

My first journey to Cuba took place in the 1980s, during my time as a student at Dartmouth College. Since then, I've been fortunate enough to revisit this remarkable country. Situated just 90 miles from the U.S., visiting Cuba is like taking a trip through history to the present day, with its intriguing blend of cultures and strikingly colorful, centuries-old architecture. However, in spite of its proximity, most Americans weren't able to travel there until very recently.

In April 2024, join Brandeis Travelers to witness Cuba on the brink of historic change. We will have unparalleled behind-the-scenes access to some of Cuba's most exclusive spaces guided by its warm and hospitable citizens. In partnership with local guides and experts, our tour will be led by Dalia Wassner, PhD, director of Jews of the Americas, an initiative of Brandeis University at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies. Her expertise in Latin American Studies and Diaspora Studies will offer a unique point of view to experience this vibrant island nation. Together, we will honor Cuba's Jewish community with special visits to Havana's Adath Israel Synagogue, the only Orthodox synagogue in Cuba, and the Jewish Community Center for a briefing by its president.

Throughout the program, you will have inside looks at Cuba's dynamic art scene, including a curator-led private tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, home to much of Cuba's art heritage, and exclusive access to a private rehearsal at the country's leading contemporary dance company. You will also meet the workers who are fueling Cuba's economic renaissance, joining farmers on a tour of their lush tobacco hacienda in Pinar del Rio province and observing the restoration of Havana's iconic vintage cars at a privately owned workshop. A sojourn will present the opportunity to delve into the world of famed expat Ernest Hemingway, with visits to his longtime home and the village that inspired his iconic work, "The Old Man and the Sea."

Indulge in Cuban cuisine at paladares, privately owned restaurants often found in the owner's home, enjoying a unique "field-to-table" dining experience. Engage in stimulating conversations with fellow travelers, local luminaries, and our tour leader, fostering a deeper understanding of Cuba's complex heritage.

Spaces for this sought-after tour are limited, so we encourage you to secure your reservation soon. For more information or to reserve your place today, please contact Arrangements Abroad at (800) 221-1944 or (212) 514-8921.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patsy Fisher".

F. Patricia (Patsy) Fisher
Vice President,
Alumni Relations

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Cuba: Art, Culture & History

In Support of the Cuban People

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Arrive independently in Havana. Upon arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to La Reserva Vedado, a boutique hotel and your home for six nights. Our welcome dinner this evening is at a paladar, a privately owned restaurant located in the proprietor's home. D

SUNDAY, APRIL 14: HAVANA

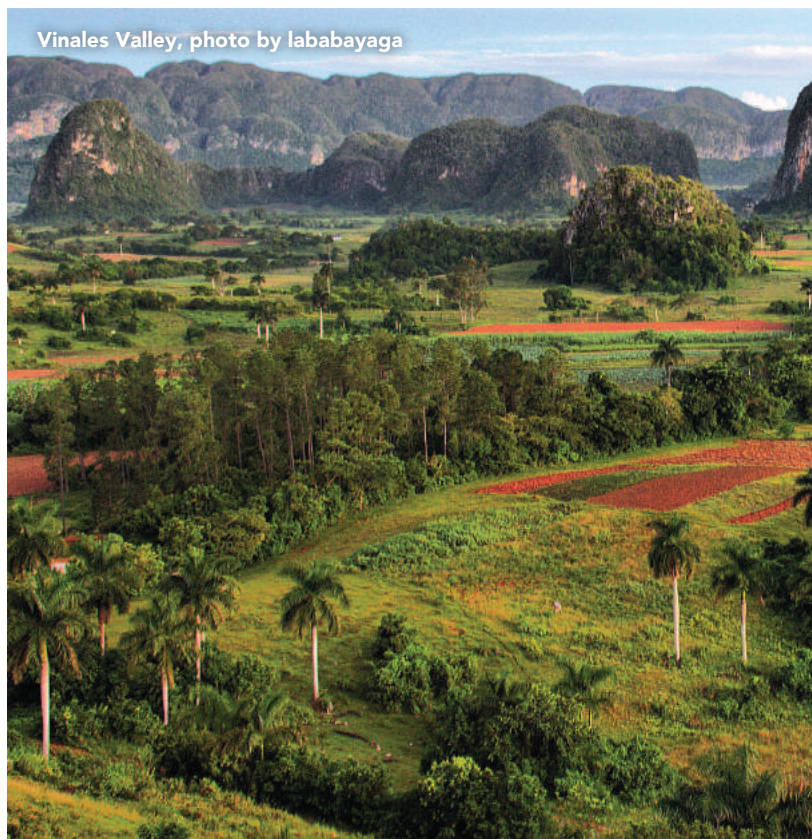
Join a local architectural historian for a lecture on the history of Havana's remarkably well-preserved buildings, some dating to the 16th century. Afterwards, depart on a walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. Visit the old Jewish Quarter, the center of Cuba's small yet fascinating Jewish community. Following lunch at a paladar, take a private tour of the splendidly renovated Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso. Explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner is at El Cocinero, followed by an evening of entertainment next door at Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), the city's liveliest multidisciplinary performing and visual arts space. B,L,D

MONDAY, APRIL 15: HAVANA / VINALES / HAVANA

Take a morning drive through the countryside to the western province of Pinar del Rio, known for its lush tobacco haciendas. Explore the unique topography and natural beauty of the Vinales Valley, where you'll encounter spectacular caves, underground rivers, and the famous mogotes, the iconic hillocks of the region. Meet with farmers for a private tour of their tobacco hacienda to learn about the drying and rolling processes, followed by lunch at a privately owned organic farm. Before returning to Havana, visit a local artist's studio. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own. B,L

TUESDAY, APRIL 16: HAVANA

On a private morning tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, join an independent curator to trace Cuba's history through the works of its greatest artists. After lunch, visit Havana's Sephardic Hebrew Center. In the early evening, drive to The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, one of only a few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include local Cuban artists. Later, you may attend an evening of musical performances. B,L,R,D





WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / COJIMAR / HAVANA

Head outside of the capital to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to Finca Vigia (Lookout Farm), the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces, see Hemingway's famous fishing boat "Pilar" and climb the tower to his study. Our excursion concludes with a brief visit to the village of Cojimar, the setting for "The Old Man and the Sea." After lunch, return to Havana and gather for a lecture on the island's current realities by a former ambassador who was once Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. After the talk, visit the Adath Israel Synagogue, Cuba's only Orthodox synagogue. Continue to the Jewish Community Center, El Patronato (Beth Shalom), for a briefing with the president (pending confirmation), followed by dinner at a local paladar. B,L,R,D

THURSDAY, APRIL 18: HAVANA

Delight in exclusive access to an informal morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cardenas contemporary dance company. Afterwards, visit the Colon Cemetery with a local guide. With its ornate tombstones commemorating Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists, this cemetery is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Following lunch on your own, this afternoon visit a private classic car workshop, Nostalgicar, where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished. Explore the history of the renowned Hotel Nacional (1930), which was originally designed by McKim, Mead & White. Enjoy a mojito on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor before dinner. This evening, celebrate with a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's excellent paladares. B,D

FRIDAY, APRIL 19: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and join an arranged transfer to the airport for your flight home. B

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Brandeis Travelers and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

ACCOMMODATIONS

LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA

Amid the serenity of a residential street, this colonial mansion, recently renovated, exudes the cosmopolitan energy of mid-20th-century Havana. Art and sleek design permeate every corner of La Reserva Vedado, serving as distinctive markers of its identity. Discover a tranquil oasis, a hidden gem offering respite from the city's bustling streets.



La Reserva Vedado

PROGRAM RATES

Pricing starts at \$4,999, based on double occupancy and room selection. Limited rooms and singles are available. Inquire today!

Double occupancy room rates:

\$4,999 per person for Standard Room
\$5,799 per person for Junior Suite
\$5,999 per person for Deluxe Suite

Single occupancy room rates:

\$6,299 Standard Room
\$7,199 Junior Suite
\$7,499 Deluxe Suite

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations at La Reserva Vedado in Havana
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



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CUBA: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY ▪ APRIL 13 – 19, 2024
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Room category Standard Room Junior Suite Deluxe Suite

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We will be traveling to Cuba and agree to fully participate in this program under the general license category of travel "In Support of the Cuban People." I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date