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MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART

CUBA SAMPLE TRAVEL ITINERARY

Art as a Gateway to Understanding Havana's people and Culture

DAY ONE

Depart from LAX

Arrive in Havana

Transfer from airport to Hotel

6:00pm: Orientation

You will be briefed on further practical aspects of the program. The week's schedule and activities will be discussed and compliance issues will be reiterated – including obligatory participation in all program activities. A walking guided tour of the hotel and immediate environments will begin the process of contextualizing Cuban art within the island's history and culture with a visit to the private home, studio and gallery of Cuban photographer Jose Alberto Figueroa and Cuban art scholar Cristina Vives.

7:30pm: Dinner

Mr. Figueroa and Ms. Vives will join us and will continue the conversation about Cuban Art and Culture.

DAY TWO

8:30am: Morning Session--Old Havana Four Plazas

Under escort by the City Historian's Office, visit Old Havana on foot, walking between the four main plazas that comprise Cuba's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Start at Plaza de Armas, the site of the oldest Spanish fortress in the Americas, the 1519 locale of the first mass in Cuba, and the massive Baroque seat of government, known as Palacio de los Capitanes Generales. We will continue to Plaza de San Francisco de Assis and Plaza Vieja, where we will visit artists' galleries and historic buildings and get a sense of the structure of the colonial city. Wind through historic streets spanning five centuries of historic architecture and end at Plaza de la Catedral and see the Baroque cathedral. This visit will also allow participants to view many of the contemporary installations in this area that are part of the Havana Biennial which coincides with this visit. This walk will be led by a Cuban art and international art scholar.

10:00 am: Taller de Grafica (Museum - Art Gallery)

Learn about printmaking techniques and meet the artists at the Taller de Grafica, a studio established 44 years ago to provide the community with a center for graphic arts. View the art installation at the Taller that is part of the Havana Biennial.

10:45 am: Brief visit to Ernest Hemingway Room at Ambos Mundos Hotel (Museum - History Museum)

Located on the 5th floor of this historic hotel, this is the room where American writer Ernest Hemingway spent 7 years, while in Havana. He wrote *For Whom The Bells Toll* in this room. You will be able to see many of his personal belongings, including his typewriter.

11:30 am: Wifredo Lam Center (Art Museum)

Dedicated to and named for the great Cuban surrealist painter known as the Cuban Picasso, this gallery and museum is just behind the Catedral de la Habana in the elegant, 18th-century Casa del Obispo Penalver. Along with a permanent exhibition of Lam's lithographs and etchings, the center is the organizing entity of the Havana Biennial and will host a major exhibition of international contemporary art for the Biennial event. During this visit we will discuss the art with the organizing curators and meet many of the artists and art experts visiting for the Biennial events.

1:00pm: Lunch

2:30pm: Visit el Morro y La Cabana Havana's historic 16th Century Spanish fort

Many of the Biennial installations and exhibitions will be held here. Meet with Cuban artists who have installations and discuss the process of selection for the Biennial and how their careers have developed. Spend the afternoon visiting the various exhibitions

and enjoy discussions with people from Cuba and international visitors.

7:30pm: Dinner

DAY THREE

Having experienced Havana firsthand, our fourth day will delve deeper into some of the daily activities of Cuban artists living and working in the historic core of Havana.

7:00 am: Breakfast

8:00 am: Morning Session

You will explore the Paseo del Prado. Considered by many to be the most beautiful street in Havana, the Paseo del Prado was first laid out in the late 1700s. The street is lined by many historical buildings carefully restored to their 19th and 20th century glory. The Paseo del Prado is a popular place for the people of Havana to stroll at all times of the day and a good spot to gain a better understanding of the everyday life of Cubans.

We will continue Callejon de Hammel an artists' initiated long-term project that is a combination of a visionary environment, art and community center and mural installation celebrating Afro-Cuban religion and culture. We will speak with Salvador Gonzales the artist in charge of this project and with other artists and residents of this community.

10:30 am: Visit Galeria Habana

This is the city's premiere civic art gallery that is devoted to the artists of the city. View the exhibition which is installed in connection with the Havana Biennial and discuss contemporary Cuban art with the gallery director.

1:00 pm: Lunch

Several Cuban architectural historians will join us for lunch to discuss the urban townhouse in Havana's history. We will be joined by the Galeria Habana Director and several artists from the exhibition to continue the discussion started at the Gallery.

3:00 pm: Museo de Bellas Artes/ Cuban art collection.

We will visit the Cuban collections in this striking modernist building which was completed in 1953 and which exemplifies a combination of sculpture with architecture in a successful fusion of Cuban mid-century modernism. The Palace of Fine Arts houses a collection of Cuban visual art that spans four centuries. We will be guided by the senior curator of the museum and meet with the director. We will discuss the challenges and opportunities for Cuban museums and discuss the possibilities of future cultural exchanges.

7:00 pm: Dinner

DAY FOUR

7:00am: Breakfast

8:00am: Morning Session

We will continue to explore old Havana on foot examining architecture and street life.

9:00am: Day trip to Matanzas

Depart in the morning driving east to the province of Matanzas. Known as the "Athens of Cuba," Matanzas is a historical city with an important port. Visit Ediciones Vigia, a publishing house that produced handmade art books in limited edition. Ediciones Vigia has been in a partnership with Yale University for over a decade.

12:00pm: Lunch

1:30 pm: Visit the restored Sauto Theater, a 19th century opera house and the Museo de Apotecaria (Farmaceutical Museum) a 19th century apothecary fully restored to its original splendor.

Experience the Plaza Central of Matanzas observing daily life in this city as well as the 18th and 19th century architecture in the center of the City.

6:00pm: Return to Havana

7:30pm: Dinner

DAY FIVE

7:00am: Breakfast

9:00am: Morning Session

Begin the day with a seminar offering an integrated analysis of the many issues confronting the city of Havana as Cuba's arts community. This morning, exchange ideas about the contemporary art practice on the island and the arts education system that develops young artists from throughout the country with Mr. Helmo Hernandez, President of the Ludwig Foundation, Cuba's most active visual arts NGO.

12:30pm: Lunch

Several artists from the Ludwig Foundation will join us to continue the conversation from the morning session.

2:30pm: Afternoon Session

Visit Instituto Superior de Arte, Cuba's premiere Art College and continue the discussion about the development of Cuban artists and the interdisciplinary programs of the college as well as the masterpiece of Post Modern architecture that is represented in the building of this college.

7:30 pm: Dinner

DAY SIX

7:00am: Breakfast

10:00am: Visit a group of Cuban artists and filmmakers at the UNEAC the Official artists union of Cuba.

We will have a lively discussion about how Cuban artists are supported in Cuba and how Cuban artists get to travel and work in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

1:00pm: Lunch

3:00pm: Visit the Havana Biennial exhibitions and programs.

7:00pm: Dinner

DAY SEVEN

7:00am: Breakfast

8:00am: Morning Session

We will visit the studios of several Cuban artists and discuss their work and living conditions on the island and their prospects on the international art market. We will visit artists that are not part of the Biennial but who have organized their own independent fringe festival activities during the same period of the Biennial.

12:30pm: Lunch

2:00pm: Afternoon Session

We will continue this afternoon visiting exhibitions and installations of the fringe festival that is organized by independent artists in response to and sometimes in criticism of the Havana Biennial.

DAY EIGHT

Morning schedule to be determined

Afternoon schedule to be determined

5:00pm: Review and debriefing

7:30 pm: Farewell Dinner

This dinner will include artists, leaders of NGO's and others who can bring relevant information to the group

DAY NINE

8:00am: Breakfast

10:00am: Check out of Hotel

11:00am: Transfer from hotel to the airport

Depart Havana

Arrive at LAX

COVER IMAGES

Photos by darkroomillusions

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/21604043@N05/3872632107/in/photostream/lightbox/>