Cuba

April 7 to 16, 2016

“The trip was a once in-a-lifetime experience, and I was grateful to have Stanford prepare and organize it. The access to artists’ homes and private enterprise was just great—I loved the diversity of experiences.”

— Tracy M. Field, ’83, Cuba for Women, 2014
JOIN POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR DON SHARE, MA ’80, PHD ’83, for a close-up look at Cuba on a program created specifically for the Stanford National Black Alumni Association. Engage in illuminating talks with local experts to discuss the current state of the arts, economics and politics of this island nation that is increasingly more accessible to U.S. citizens. Revel in the rhythms and beats of Cuban music and dance: the rumba, charanga, cha-cha-chá, and son cubano with its fusion of Spanish and African sounds and instruments. Begin the exploration in Santiago de Cuba in the southeastern part of the island where Castro’s Revolution began in 1953. Then spend six nights in Havana discovering Cuba’s rich architectural heritage while visiting the colonial-era Plaza de Armas and marveling at the art deco Bacardi Building and Hotel Nacional de Cuba.
Faculty Leaders

Professor Don Share, MA ’80, PhD ’83, coordinator of Latin American studies at the University of Puget Sound, specializes in comparative politics and comparative political economy with an emphasis on the politics of southern Europe and Latin America. He has published a number of books and articles about countries’ transitions to democracy. Having led many groups of students and faculty to numerous Central American countries, plus a Stanford alumni trip to Cuba in 2003, he is acutely aware of how eye-opening and unpredictable it is to experience a different culture for the first time. Professor Share looks forward to helping us make sense of the contradictory and complex realities of contemporary Cuba, from its Marxist-based politics and relations with the U.S. to its culture and economics.

- Professor, department of politics and government, University of Puget Sound
- Recipient, Fulbright and Rockefeller awards
- BA, political science/Spanish language and literature, University of Michigan
- MA and PhD, political science, Stanford University

“Immeasurable. He was not only erudite but fun as well. His continuing comments and insights throughout the trip were wonderfully helpful. I hope others get to go with him.”

—Stanford Traveler, Cuba, 2003

Itinerary

Thursday, April 7
HOME / MIAMI, FLORIDA, U.S.
Arrive in Miami independently and check in to our hotel. Partake in a brief welcome and orientation meeting this evening at the hotel. CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL MIAMI AIRPORT

Friday, April 8
MIAMI / SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA
Transfer to the Miami Airport for the approximately one-hour flight to Santiago de Cuba. Our tour today takes us from the Avenida de los Libertadores to Revolution Square. We visit the Moncada Barracks where, on July 26, 1953, the barracks were the site of an armed attack by a small group of revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro. This armed attack is widely accepted as the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. Continue to San Juan Hill, site of the final battle of the Spanish-American War and made famous by Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders. Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local paladar (private restaurant). HOTEL MELIA SANTIAGO (B,L,D)
Saturday, April 9
SANTIAGO DE CUBA
Begin with a visit to the city’s historic center, where local experts teach us about the preservation and conservation of the city’s patrimony. Later, visit the Taller Cultural Luis Guias Oduardo, a center for artists and writers. After lunch at El Morro Restaurant, visit the 17th-century El Morro Fortress, which has served both as a fortress and a prison. This evening we attend a private performance by an African-Cuban-Caribbean dance company followed by dinner at a *paladar*. HOTEL MELIA SANTIAGO (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 10
SANTIAGO DE CUBA / HAVANA
This morning we may have a lecture before we transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Havana. Upon arrival, check in to our hotel, ideally located in central Havana. This evening we have dinner at one of Havana’s best *paladars*. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Monday, April 11
HAVANA
Explore Havana’s strong artistic heritage at the tree-lined Plaza de Armas and learn about the Plaza’s colonial and pre-revolutionary architecture with a walk down Calle Obispo to marvel at the 16th-century Castillo de los Capitanes Generales, now the Museo de la Ciudad. With a local artist as our guide, visit the Taller de Grafinca Experimental, Havana’s printmaking and lithographic workshop, and meet the artists working there. Our final stop today is Havana’s oldest square, the 16th-century Plaza Vieja. Later, attend an interactive talk with a local professor on the evolution of Cuban music. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)

Tuesday, April 12
HAVANA
Today we visit the famous Hotel Nacional de Cuba, located on the famous Malecón (waterfront promenade). This afternoon, go to Parque Trillo and the home of a Yoruba Priestess who explains the roles of the religion’s deities and elaborate altars in her home while a local guide teaches us about the role of African religion and culture in Cuba. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L)

Wednesday, April 13
HAVANA
Today attend a private flamenco rehearsal and talk to the group’s director who introduces us to the dancers; enjoy the opportunity to speak with them about their experience as dancers in Cuba as well as discuss the cultivation of artistic talent in Cuba. Continue to Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), a multifaceted art institute founded by Fidel Castro and Ernesto “Che” Guevara in 1961, on the site of a former country club in the formerly affluent Cubanacán suburb of Havana. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L)

Thursday, April 14
HAVANA
Today begins with a lecture given by a local economist followed by a walking tour led by a local architect that includes such architectural gems as the Bacardi Building, erected in 1930 and one of Cuba’s most impressive examples of art deco architecture. After lunch, tour the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, where we view the Cuban Collection, a vast trove of both traditional and contemporary Cuban paintings and sculptures. The museum’s origins date back to 1842 when the San Alejandro Art Academy started its collection, forming the nucleus of the museum, which was formally founded in 1913. It expanded greatly after Castro took over in 1959, and features works dating from the 16th century to the present day. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)
Friday, April 15  
HAVANA  
Following a lecture this morning, visit Christopher Colon Cemetery, founded in 1876 in Vedado. Named for Christopher Columbus, the 140-acre cemetery is noted for its many elaborately sculpted memorials, including more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels and family vaults. En route back to our hotel, stop at the Plaza de la Revolucion, where the Jose Marti monument proudly towers over the city, honoring Cuba’s national hero. This evening celebrate our journey at our farewell cocktail reception and dinner.  
HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B,L,D)  

Saturday, April 16  
HAVANA / MIAMI, FLORIDA, U.S.  
Enjoy a final lecture before transferring to the airport for our afternoon charter flight back to the U.S. (B)  

What to Expect  
The General Travel license stipulates that visitors to Cuba must engage in a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities resulting in meaningful interaction between the visitors and individuals in Cuba. Therefore participation in all the scheduled activities is required per the terms of license. We consider this program to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. The longest drive is approximately one hour, including rest stops. Daily activities involve from one to three miles of walking on city streets, which can be uneven or cobbled, and climbing stairs without handrails. Cuba has undergone many changes in the last few years and general conditions have improved. That being said, Cuba’s tourism industry is still developing and patience with local service standards will greatly improve one’s enjoyment of the trip. Because of Cuba’s inconsistent infrastructure, we consider this program to be moderately strenuous. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in the places we visit and the people we meet far outweighs the need for creature comforts. In many ways, the challenges of this program are part of the learning experience. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.  

Please note: This program falls under the general license requirements for educational travel as laid out by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control on January 16, 2015. In addition, this itinerary includes only the tourist sites we will be visiting; guest speakers and special events are also planned but will likely not be confirmed until shortly before our departure. Our intent with this program is to give travelers a well-rounded introduction to the region, ranging from tourist highlights to interaction with local people.
Information

Dates
April 7 to 16, 2016 (10 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 28 participants. Single accommodations are limited; please call for availability.

Cost
$7,995 per person, double occupancy
$8,795 per person, single occupancy

Included
- 9 nights of best-available hotel accommodations
- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 6 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Roundtrip flights between Miami and Cuba; internal flights within Cuba
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
- U.S. domestic airfare to/from Miami
- Passport and visa fees
- Cuban departure tax (25 CUC—approximately $30 US)
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services
Terms and Conditions

Eligibility
Registration is currently limited to members of the Stanford National Black Alumni Association and their families, until July 31, 2015. After that date, space may be offered to nonmembers, pending availability.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?snbaa2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due on December 9, 2015. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until December 9, 2025. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of the date listed on the welcome letter.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

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Stanford Travel/Study is a program of the Stanford Alumni Association