

**CUBA DRAFT AGENDA DRAFT FOR THE BELIZEAN GROVE RETREAT IN  
HAVANA: AS OF JULY 8, 2016  
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**

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**THURSDAY JAN 26, 2017**

- 2:00 OR 3:00 PM Arrivals, customs, and airport departure  
Time TBD 5 buses load with tour guides on board  
(Flight schedule not yet confirmed)
- 4:00 PM Buses drive around Revolution Circle w/guide commentary en route to the Parque Central
- 4:30-6:30 PM Free time to get unpacked and settled
- 6:30 PM Load antique cars & drive through Old Town to Cathedral Square
- 6:45-7:00 PM Red carpet entrance to cocktails and dinner on Cathedral Square
- 6:45-7:30 PM Cocktail Reception
- 7:30-9:00 PM Dinner
- 9:00-11:00 PM Band/Dancing  
9:30, 10:pm, 10:30pm  
Buses will be waiting to take people back, some may walk back through the vibrant streets of Havana and end up in various bars:
- 11:00 PM-1:00 AM Late Night at Sloppy Joe's or and Kilometer Zero, a bar with live music not far from the hotel, we can also take people to SiaKara bar, near the Capitolio  
*(Optional at your own expense)*

**FRIDAY JANUARY 27, 2017**

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast available at Parque Central.

Conferences for members followed by lunch at the hotel

Spouses

9:30-10:30 AM Cigar Factory tours Followed by cigar shopping

10:30 – Noon spouses Group  
Walking tour of Old Havana

Noon lunch in restaurants in Old Havana

1:00-4:00 PM Education Tracks I

**Business:** Visiting different small businesses, led by an economist from the University of Havana, discuss investments in Cuba in various businesses.

**Art:** Begin with a private short guided tour of the Fine Art museum, and visiting art galleries, and private artist homes, meet artists and curators.

**History:** Discuss the meaning of the Revolution, a short intro at the Revolution museum. Tour important sites and memorials to Revolutionary heroes, including the Colon cemetery, the University of Havana and the National hotel.

**Photography:** With Alex Castro and Ramses in their studio and in old homes.

**Rum Tasting/Cigar Rolling** at Hotel Nacional

**Salsa Dance class with local experts**

4:00-5:30 PM Free Time

5:30 PM Departure for cocktail party at US Ambassador's home

6:00-7:00 PM Cocktail at US Ambassador's home

7:00 PM Departure for two private restaurants: la Guarida restaurant, and l'Atelier

7:30 PM Dinner

10:00-12:00 AM Late Night at La Guarida Rooftops for music and dancing  
*(Optional at your own expense)*

## **SATURDAY JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast available at Parque Central hotel

Members: Conference followed by lunch at the hotel restaurant.

## **Spouses: Nature and Farm day**

Visit an old private farm and meet 3 generations of owners, the Del Campo and learn how to make a Cuban lunch and enjoy it.

Or learn how to make a Cuban lunch at a private home in town

Or visit a cooperative organic farm and enjoy lunch together.

Or visit a biosphere community and enjoy lunch there.

1:30PM-4:00PM      Education Tracks II, same as above:  
Business  
Art  
History  
Photography  
Cigar and Rum tasting  
Salsa lesson

Cocktail party at artist home or Art gallery that will fit all

Followed by Dine around to paladars (private restaurants), where they can talk to the owners. Amongst them: Rio Mar, L'atelier, Le Chansonier, Laurent, San Christobal, Cocina Liliam, Esperanza

## **SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2017**

7:00-8:00 AM      Breakfast available at Parque Central

Members: Conference followed by lunch at the hotel restaurant.

## **Spouses:**

Grand tour of Havana's neighborhoods, including the market for craft. Stop also at Club Havana for cocktails, a private country club in a fabulously eclectic 1928 mansion that once housed the Havana Biltmore Yacht & Country Club. The club has its own beach, swimming pool, tennis courts, bar, boutiques and health club. In the 1950s the establishment gained brief notoriety when it famously denied entry to Cuban president Batista on the grounds that he was 'black.' These days the history of the establishment seems to have swung full circle and it is again a popular hangout for foreign correspondents and diplomats.

Noon-1:30 PM      Lunch at Aljibe

We can repeat the Education tracks or leave it free, as people want to do their own things on the last afternoon in Havana

4:30 PM	Departure for Hemingway's Villa
5:00-6:00 PM	Cocktail Party at Hemingway's Home w/Guides
7:00 PM	Departure for dinner at Cocinero
7:30-9:30 PM	Dinner at El Cocinero, on the roof top bar, followed by a party and ending up next door at Fabrica de Arte Cubano, the funkiest new Center that combines: arts, music , poetry and fun for young people of all ages. A Belizean Grove night to remember!!
9:30 PM	Entrance to La Fabrica begins with artist-guided tours of Section 1 art displays
9:40-10:15 PM	Coffee, desserts, and cocktails in Section 2 Big Screen Room w/program photos or art being highlighted on the screen
10:15-1:00 AM	Section 3 Dungeon Room opens for band party with dance instructors to encourage participation, we are working on this with the Fabrica manager. <i>(We are working on schedule to make everything earlier so everyone can attend dancing on the last night!)</i>

### MONDAY JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>

7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast available at Parque Central
Flights TBD	Group Departure to Miami

### JAN 30<sup>TH</sup> TO FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> EXTENSIONS

Check out of the Parque Central and Saratoga hotel

Extension people: your choices are: A relaxed and investigative extension (Varadero), or a more active extension (Trinidad).

### VARADERO

**VARADERO:** take the 2 hour ride north East to **Varadero** for 2 days in an all inclusive deluxe hotel for R&R with spa services throughout on the most famous beach of Havana and meeting local Cubans in the surrounding villages and discuss life in Cuba. On Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, drive back to Havana for departure to the U.S.A. Schedule and flights TBD (or fly directly from Varadero to Miami)

## TRINIDAD

Drive four and a half hours, spend 2 nights in spectacular Colonial **Trinidad** with a stop in **Cienfuegos** for visit. See description below

### **January 30<sup>th</sup>:**

Take the highway going east and then south to Cienfuegos, a city of neoclassical buildings with a European flair. **We visit the Palacio de Valle**, we exchange ideas and meet the people behind this architectural jewel that was originally the modest home of a trader, Celestino Caceres. **Have Lunch in a restaurant on the waterfront.** Visit to downtown Cienfuegos, the main Square Jose Marti, Paseo del Prado, and others.

Visit the Tomas Terry Theatre, completed in 1895 named after a sugar baron from Venezuela who arrived in Cuba with no money and made his fortune by buying sick slaves for a low price, to later nurse them back to health and reselling them, this money was invested in a sugar estate what brought him the wealth to build several outstanding buildings in Cienfuegos, including this theatre, with materials specially brought over from Europe.

Visit neoclassical buildings around such as The Cathedral built with the donation of wealthy families like the Lebrancs, the Albis, and the Terrys. Inside you find the reproductions of the 12 Apostles in stained glass imported from Paris. Also the original machinery of the clock tower was built in France and it is still in place and working. Enjoy lunch at the private restaurant Vista Del Mar overlooking the giant bay of Cienfuegos.

In the afternoon:

Drive to Trinidad and check **into your casa for 2 nights. (private home accommodation).** **Gather for dinner in a private restaurant** followed by walking to the center of town for live music and dancing in the square with locals and tourists.

### **January 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Homemade breakfast at your casa, prepared by the owner  
We begin with a **stop at a mirador** (lookout) over the **Sugar Mill Valley** (another UNESCO World Heritage Site), where the sugar barons used to have their countryside mansions and mills.

Walk through Trinidad's historical center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We visit **the Architecture Museum (Casa de los Sanchez Iznaga) or the Romantic Museum**, enjoy the craft market, and optional time at the beach.

Private cocktail party with artists at Rudy's studio

Dinner is at the hotel restaurant and we will return to the center of town after dinner to practice dancing with the locals!

**February 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Fly back to the U.S.A. Flights and schedules TBD.

**DESCRIPTIONS OF EDUCATIONAL TRACKS**

**History Track**

Presidential Palace/Revolution Museum  
Hotel Nacional (Mafia stories, bunker tour, etc.)  
Morro Castle

History Track – Gain a better understanding Cuba’s history, from the perspective of the Cuban government.

First visit the University of Havana and the old Christopher Columbus Cemetery, considered one of the four most important cemeteries in the world for funerary art. Learn what happened to the students during the revolution and enjoy this gorgeous cemetery. Then in the Museum of Revolution check out the collection of exhibits devoted to the period of the revolutionary war of the 1950s and the country's post-1959 history. Highlights include the yacht which took Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba for the revolution, a SA-2 Guideline 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 U-2 airplane it downed.

**Art Track**

Multiple Artist Homes  
Private Galleries/Collections

Art Track – Explore Cuba’s amazing art scene, visiting the best artist studios, art galleries and artist homes Havana has to offer., meet the artists. Also visit the Museum of Fine Arts, a fabulous building displaying Art from Colonial time to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A feast to the eye.

At the museum, you will experience an extensive art collection of the works from the painters of the times of earliest colonizers of Cuba, painted by the working class man serving the Spanish aristocracy. One can see in the earliest painting the dark representations of noble men and women, poised in their elegant European clothing and the suffering of the people they conquered. You’ll also find Cuban surrealism, contemporary abstracts, religious works, scenes from Cuban life, sculpture, landscapes and the beautiful painting by Victor Manuel Garcia of the archetypal Cuban woman, the “Cuban Mona Lisa” in the Museum’s collection.

From a recent NYT article *Cuba's Art Scene Awaits a Travel Boom – As collectors, art connoisseurs and institutions eagerly gear up to travel to Cuba after President Obama's decision to loosen the economic embargo, the art scene that awaits them is sui generis: a world whose artists are cut off from supplies and the Internet and, at the same time, celebrated by a coterie of international buyers whose curiosity and determination brought them to Cuba long before talk of a thaw.*

### **Business Track**

Cars & Chrome

IT Company

Real Estate business

Humidor makers

Business Track – Offers a unique opportunity to explore Cuba's emerging investment climate. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1999 forced Cuba to expand the role of trade and tourism in its economy. Now with recent US changes towards Cuba, opportunities for commerce have taken a new importance.

Led by Economist Ricardo Torres, learn how Cuba's economy is moving from total government control to operating private businesses and how companies are handling this phenomenon. Visit the Nostalgic Cars Workshop where old American cars are revived and a private IT enterprise that is doing business in a industry that until recently was government controlled and in an environment where infrastructure is weak.

Visit a real estate broker and development company to learn more about Cuba's recent move to allow citizens to buy and sell property. From 1959 thru 2011, Cubans were only allowed to swap properties and out of this huge political shift a brokerage industry has emerged.

### **Photography Track**

Alex Castro/Ramses Photography in private homes

Alex Castro Track – Alex Castro, son of Fidel Castro and official photographer of the retired Cuban leader, will lead a private photography class for us at an old beautiful estate in Havana's "Highland Park" neighborhood. Come meet Alex (as you would expect, he is a very interesting guy with a unique perspective) and Ramses Batista to see how the very rich Cubans lived in the 1950's, and learn advanced photography techniques.

### **Cigar and Rum Tasting**

Cigars & Rum – For those inclined to experience firsthand one of Cuba's greatest exports, enjoy cigar and rum tasting on the magnificent grounds of the historic

luxury Hotel Nacional de Cuba, located on Taganana Hill on the Malecón overlooking Havana Harbor and the city.

### **Salsa Dance Lessons –**

Be ready for an afternoon of Cuban dancing, with this optional salsa dancing class at Casa Del Son.

### **Hemingway's villa**

Depart for an exclusive visit to Ernest Hemingway's villa. For this only-Belizean Grove event, we closed down the site so that we can have it all for ourselves – you won't want to miss this.

Ten miles east of Havana is Hemingway's house in Cuba - Finca Vigía. Located in the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula, it was built in 1886 by a Spanish Architect and purchased by Hemingway in 1940. There Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Finca Vigía has made both the World Monuments Fund list of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places.

A historian will tell us all about the significance of this magical place, as we sip local sugar cane drinks.

**Times and schedules subject to change**  
**As always EXPECT the UNEXPECTED in CUBA and it is all GOOD**

### **Weather & Recommended Dress Code**

January is the perfect time to visit Cuba, before the summer heat hits! At this time of year, Havana enjoys mild and pleasant weather, with average daytime high temperatures around 81F (27C) and average lows around 63F (17C).

Days Men & Women – During the day, casual and comfortable! Jeans, khakis and leggings are acceptable depending upon the weather; wear comfortable walking shoes or sneakers (there will be plenty of walking).

Nights Men – During most evenings, the gentlemen can get away wearing jeans and nice button-down shirt. For the reception with the US Ambassador, slacks and a blazer are necessary for men (no ties required/the Ambassador will be in a suit).



Women – Dress conservatively in slacks or a dress and bring a jacket or sweater; the nights in Havana tend to cool down quickly. The feel is more urban and gritty than beachy. For the reception with the US Ambassador, women should wear dress pants or a dress (similar to a business casual event).

#### General Tips

- 1) Dress in light layers and be prepared for rain.
- 2) Don't wear clothing or jewelry that is too flashy.
- 3) Many Cuban women wear flats or sandals at night; the city has many cobblestone streets so heels can be more difficult.
- 3) While the buildings & art are colorful and their personalities are exuberant, most Cubans tend to dress in black, gray and jeans of all types.