GREATEST VOYAGE IN NATURAL HISTORY

The Amazon is a living labyrinth of forests, wildlife and people, all bisected by a storied river meandering 4,200 miles across South America. Cloaked in mist, boasting every shade of green, the heart of the Amazon is a wilderness that has pulled at the spirits of adventurers for centuries. Over the 33 years that International Expeditions has been exploring the Amazon, our guests have enjoyed unrivaled access to the rainforest's most pristine areas and the company of the river's most knowledgeable guides. Leaving behind only the diminishing wake of our riverboat, IE can transport you to the Amazon of your imagination to discover a rainforest that pulsates with diversity of life.

The AACA Museum offers you this opportunity to explore Cuba.

BOOK BY MARCH 1, 2017

CUBA

PEOPLE, CULTURE & CLASSIC CARS

The AACA Museum offers you this opportunity to explore Cuba.

JUNE 2-10, 2017
**Why People-to-People Travel?**

People-to-people travel affords you an immersive opportunity to connect directly with the Cuban people, learning more about each other through direct contact and cultural exchange. Authorized people-to-people travel mandates that you participate in a daily slate of engaging activities focused on education and cultural exchange.

“Cuba was fabulous, and the genuine people-to-people experiences — the choir, the art/music school, the tobacco factory, etc. — were wonderful. I loved observing a dramatically different social, economic, and political environment, especially at this time in Cuba’s history.” — Fred Schauer of Charlottesville, Virginia

**Let the Rhythm Move You!**

Pulsating rhythms wrap you like a blanket as the sounds of Cuba — salsa, rumba and jazz — carry from almost every street corner and club, day and night. To truly be immersed in the daily lives of Cuban people, you must first listen. And listen to the music — mingled with laughter — spilling from a local club serving as a warm invitation to join into the daily lives of locals.
brush aside the Cuba that you “know” from history books and current events, and there is an unfiltered view of this vibrant island found only through the eyes of its people. While traversing the countryside and sipping coffee in small cafés, IE guests encounter working-class locals eager to share, learn and ensure lives and options are transformed.

With music, art and athletic prowess, Cuba has long demonstrated to the world that it is bastion of talent and style. From the Tropicana nightlife to the Buena Vista Social Club, Cubans have entertained us. Cuba’s vices are legendary — mellow cigars of renown quality, lavish cabarets, Salsa dancing and smooth rum. This has always been a playground for inspired eccentrics. Author and adventurer Ernest Hemingway whiled away his time in Cuba, but it was the writings of Jose Marti that best defines Cuba’s hunger for freedom and independence.

Despite governing policies, Cuba’s culture thrives, while nature pays no attention to political differences.

Historic Connection: People-to-People Travel

After World War II, President Eisenhower wanted to bring people together, recognizing that lasting peace could be advanced by engaging with people of other cultures. Groups of citizen ambassadors traveled on programs designed to engender a mutual understanding and appreciation. People-to-people travel continues to enable U.S. citizens to travel with a purposeful objective — to gain insight and understanding for people living in different societies.
Day 1 – FRIDAY, JUNE 2  MIAMI  Today we assemble in Miami at the Cambria Suites hotel near the airport and meet for an orientation reception in advance of our trip to Cuba the next day.

Day 2 – SATURDAY, JUNE 3  MIAMI / HAVANA  Board our charter flight to Havana. Meet our local guide and drive into the city, stopping first at Revolution Square. Check into the Hotel Nacional, Melia Cohiba or similar, where we spend the next four nights. Enjoy a reception and dinner at the elegant beachfront Club Habana, which in the 1930s was the Havana Biltmore Yacht and Country Club. Joining us are special guests, including Eduardo Mesejo who is director of Deposito del Automovil, a type of repository of classic and historic cars, and other guests from Havana’s classic car community. (D)

Day 3 – SUNDAY, JUNE 4  HAVANA  Havana is nearly 500 years old: the passing of time is best understood through its countless architectural styles. This morning begin a tour of Old Havana with your guide exploring the old city and visiting the four main squares where history and architecture intertwine to tell Havana’s story best. Some plazas are famous for book sellers lining the edges of the park and others are known for art and music. After lunch we meet Eduardo Mesejo for a special visit to the Deposito del Automovil, where antique cars that were important in Cuban history are kept. This repository was created by the Office of the Historian of the City in order to keep these cars safe and it functions now almost as a museum. From here we head outside the city center to a meeting of A Los Cubanos, the premier classic car club of Havana and where we are the special guests. Many of the finest vintage cars from the 1950s will gather in the parking lot of the famous Tropicana Nightclub. We’ll meet members and be a part of the festivities including awarding prizes for the best cars. Dinner tonight is in a private restaurant (paladar). Paladar owners are truly Cuba’s new breed of entrepreneurs and are leading a transformation in Cuba to private enterprise. (B,L,D)

Day 4 – MONDAY, JUNE 5  HAVANA: VINALES VALLEY DAY TRIP  Drive west from Havana to Soroa, a beautiful area surrounded by mountains and former coffee plantations. Soroa is home to one of the Caribbean’s best botanical gardens. While this is commonly known as the “Orchid Garden,” there is much more to it! Walk through the gardens with a botanist/guide who shares her knowledge. Continue to the famed Vinales Valley. Vinales boasts Cuba’s most strikingly beautiful landscapes with many spectacular mogotes – limestone karst outcrops with caves and rivers running through them. The area around Vinales is where the island’s best tobacco is grown. Call on one of the tobacco farms and the family that works the land. In town there is a place where more than 50 women are at work examining, grading and sorting tobacco leaves determining which particular cigar the individual leaves are likely to go in. At lunch, meet a family that prepares our meal from homegrown vegetables grown at their organic farm and who is responsible for the land. The town of Vinales is quite small but very interesting. In town is a bodega where Cubans are able to purchase staples using ration books while just across the street is a store with all manner of goods only available for purchase with Cuban convertible pesos (CUCs). There are also a few craft shops, galleries and a good cigar shop surrounding the main square. Later in the afternoon we return to Havana and our hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 5 – TUESDAY, JUNE 6  HAVANA  Learn more about the classic cars of Cuba and how they are maintained, repaired,
bought and sold. There is a local saying, “Cuban mechanics work magic,” and we have a full schedule of activities crafted by our friends at Deposito de Automovil designed to help us discover this magic. Lunch is at Restaurant Al Aljibe, a favorite in the exclusive Miramar section just outside Havana. At the private garage of a leading mechanic, enjoy a close up look at how vintage American cars from the 1950s are repaired and restored. Get ready for a surprise courtesy of the AACA Museum! Begin with drinks at the historic Hotel Nacional overlooking the sea. En route to dinner, drive along the Malecon and then up the Paseo del Prado, a wide avenue separating Old Havana from the central city. Paved in marble, this promenade is a popular place for local residents to relax while children play. See numerous art deco buildings, including the famous Barcardi Building. Say goodbye to Havana with dinner at Paladar California, where we meet the owner who is also a classic American car buff. End the evening with music at a Buena Vista Social Club revue. (B,L,D)

Day 6 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7  HAVANA / FINCA VIGIA / VARADERO
This morning we visit additional Cuban mechanics who are connected with A Los Cubanos as well as the popular cable television show Cuban Chrome. After lunch we pay homage to “Papa” Hemingway at his former home Finca Vigia, preserved very much as it was on the day he left Cuba for the last time. Join a specialist Cuban guide for a discussion

Cuba Guests’ Experiences
“Cuba was fabulous, and the genuine people-to-people experiences — the choir, school, tobacco factory — were wonderful. I loved observing a dramatically different social, economic and political environment, especially at this time in Cuba’s history.”    Fred S.
of his life and work while in Cuba. Later in the afternoon we travel east on Cuba’s National Highway into Matanzas Province and cross the causeway to the Varadero Peninsula. The peninsula of Varadero is known for its beautiful beaches luxury international class resorts and though we are staying in one of the best hotels it isn’t the turquoise waters and white sands beaches that bring us there. It is the nearby city of Matanzas which was Cuba’s major colonial era port with exports of coffee, tobacco and sugar and it was also the most important slave trading port. The bay is the deepest in Cuba, and during one battle in 1628 more than 20 Spanish galleons were sunk here by a Dutch admiral. Dinner tonight is in our all-inclusive resort hotel, the Royalton. (B,L,D)

Days 7 & 8 – THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JUNE 8 & 9 VARADERO & MATANZAS

Our visits in Matanzas include a colonial pharmacy and Las Munequitos de Matanzas, a center for traditional Cuban dance. Here we meet with young Cuban dancers and rhythmic musicians. Enjoy dinner one night at Xanadu Mansion which was built by Irenée Dupont de Nemours but now serves as the club house of Cuba’s finest golf course. (B,L,D)

Day 9 – SATURDAY, JUNE 10

HVARADERO / MIAMI

This morning we fly from the Varadero airport back to Miami. (B)

A Note About Accommodations

IE has carefully sought out accommodations that provide the best service and location available; however, Cuban hotels outside of Havana may not reflect the same standards and amenities found on other IE journeys. Whether it comes to changes in your accommodations or our daily schedule, travel to Cuba requires flexibility and a sense of adventure.
International Expeditions conducts authorized people-to-people travel to Cuba that engages participants in meaningful interactions with individuals in Cuba.

For more information on joining International Expeditions’ journey contact:

Toni Rothman
AACA Museum, Inc.
161 Museum Drive  Hershey, PA  17033
tonirotman@msn.com