Dear Brandeis Alumni and Friends,

I first traveled to Cuba in the 1980s, when I was a student at Dartmouth College, and recently returned to this enchanting island. Colorful architecture, a fascinating history, and warm and welcoming people all make Cuba an extraordinary destination.

We are entering a period of historic change in Cuba, with the advent of normalized U.S.—Cuba relations. Next February, Brandeis professor Elizabeth Ferry, chair of the Department of Anthropology, will lead a group of alumni and friends on an exciting exploration of this captivating Caribbean nation.

Our exclusive itinerary has been carefully crafted to provide an insider’s view of life in Cuba. We will enjoy private events such as an after-hours tour and reception at the Ceramics Museum, meet with celebrated artists and leading historians, and have ample opportunities to interact with local residents and truly experience the culture. The trip will also include a visit to the Adath Israel synagogue, the only Orthodox synagogue in Cuba, and a visit to the Jewish Community Center for a briefing by its president.

During an excursion to the island’s north coast, we will explore the rich Afro-Cuban heritage of Matanzas. Other highlights on this journey include a full-day excursion to western Cuba and the Pinar del Río province, where we will tour an orchid farm, walk on a trail within the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, and have lunch at a colonial coffee plantation. There will also be opportunities to savor Cuban cuisine during meals at paladares—privately owned restaurants often located in the owners’ homes—and at a unique “field-to-table” restaurant.

Traveling with Brandeis means that throughout your journey you will enjoy thought-provoking conversations and encounters with local people, all in the good company of like-minded travelers. As space is limited and interest great, please return the enclosed reservation form at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad at (800) 221-1944 or (212) 514-8921.

Sincerely,

F. Patricia (Patsy) Fisher
VP for Alumni Relations
February 20
MIAMI / HAVANA
Meet at Miami International Airport in the early morning for a regularly scheduled chartered flight to Havana. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, transfer to the Hotel Saratoga for lunch and check in. Following an introductory lecture by Brandeis lecturer Elizabeth Ferry, our welcome dinner this evening is at a *paladar*, a privately owned restaurant often located in the owner's home.

February 21
HAVANA
This morning attend a lecture by an architectural historian followed by a walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Catedral. Conclude with lunch at a restaurant near the cathedral. Late afternoon visits are arranged in the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists. In the early evening, drive to the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists.

February 22
HAVANA
Begin the day with a visit to the Adath Israel synagogue, the only Orthodox synagogue in Cuba, and continue to the Jewish Community Center for a briefing by its president, Adela Dworin. Then drive to Finca La Yoandra, a unique urban farm, and learn about sustainable agriculture in Cuba and the relationship between private entrepreneurs and the government. Afterwards, have lunch in El Divino, their farm-to-table restaurant. En route back to Havana, stop at the small hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula to visit Finca La Vigía, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for twenty years. View the rooms through open windows and see his fishing boat, *Pilar*. In the early evening, a private concert is arranged, with an opportunity to chat with the performers, followed by dinner.
February 23  
**HAVANA / LAS TERRAZAS / HAVANA**

During a full-day excursion to western Cuba and the Pinar del Río province, pass land used to grow crops including sugar cane and tobacco. The westernmost destination will be Soroa, to tour an impressive orchid farm that is run by the University of Pinar del Río. Then walk on a trail in Las Terrazas within the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, and observe many species unique to the area. Learn about conservation practices in this important example of a sustainable community. Lunch is arranged at a colonial coffee plantation before returning to Havana, where the balance of the day is at leisure.

February 24  
**HAVANA**

Following a lecture on Cuba’s current reality by a former Cuban Ambassador and deputy minister for foreign affairs, visit Havana’s Sephardic Jewish Center. Conclude the morning at the National Museum of Fine Arts for a curatorial tour of the Cuban art collection. In the late afternoon, we have been invited to a private after-hours tour and reception at the Ceramics Museum, followed by dinner.

February 25  
**HAVANA / MATANZAS / HAVANA**

Depart for a full-day excursion to Matanzas, stopping en route at the Bacunayagua Bridge, the highest in Cuba, with panoramic views of the nearby valley. Upon arriving in Matanzas see the main square, Parque de la Libertad, surrounded by many historical buildings. Visit the perfectly preserved 19th-century Pharmacy Museum as well as Ediciones Vigía, a workshop where handmade books are created. After lunch, a private concert is arranged at the Ermita de Monserrate hilltop chapel, followed by an opportunity to talk with the performers. Return to Havana where the evening is at leisure.

February 26  
**HAVANA**

This morning attend an informal rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, adjacent to Revolution Square. Then visit the Taller Experimental de Gráfica, where there will be an opportunity to meet the studio workers and printmakers and purchase their work. Founded in 1962 by mural artist Orlando Suárez with the support of Che Guevara, this studio/workshop is still thriving today and is one of Cuba’s most important graphic arts establishments, preserving traditional printmaking techniques. Conclude the morning with a visit to a local cigar factory. Following lunch you may wish to see the storied Hotel Nacional, speak with vendors at the Feria de Artesanía (the crafts market), or stroll past the colonial-style buildings on Calle Obispo, Old Havana’s main shopping street. Gather this evening for our farewell dinner.

February 27  
**HAVANA / MIAMI**

Transfer to the airport for the mid-morning flight to Miami.
PROGRAM RATE $4,995 per person, double occupancy
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT $895 (limited availability)

Rate Includes
- Round-trip airfare via regularly scheduled chartered flights: Miami / Havana / Miami
- Seven nights accommodations at Hotel Saratoga
- Buffet breakfast daily, six lunches and five dinners. Bottled water and coffee / tea with all meals; beer /wine at welcome and farewell dinners.
- Escorted sightseeing via private motorcoach as per itinerary, including services of a bilingual national guide throughout the program
- Airport / hotel / airport group transfers for all participants
- Basic gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges
- Pre-departure material, reading list and luggage tags

Not Included in Rate
Airfare between home city and Miami; passport fees; beverages other than bottled water and coffee / tea with meals and wine with welcome and farewell dinners; personal items and expenses; trip cancellation insurance; excess baggage; any other items not specifically mentioned as included; Cuban visa fee (excluding Cuban-born travelers), Cuban Departure tax and limited Cuban health insurance policy (for travelers under age 80).

NOTE: Due to the early morning flight to Havana on February 20, guests are encouraged to arrive into Miami on February 19. A short meeting will be scheduled that evening for trip briefing and traveler meet and greet. Details on the time and location of the meeting will be shared prior to departure. Academic Arrangements Abroad would be happy to arrange overnight accommodations (February 19) at the Miami International Airport Hotel at a cost of $240 per room. Guests choosing to arrive to the airport on February 20 will be provided with detailed information on meeting location and flight check in procedures.

AIRFARE
Round-trip air travel between Miami and Havana is via regularly scheduled chartered flight. Business Class is not available. Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements between your home city and Miami, for a processing fee of $40 per person. Domestic airfare will be quoted on an individual basis and is payable by credit card only.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
$1,500 per person, payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad, of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH
This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs without handrails at locations that are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

INSURANCE
TRIP CANCELLATION/EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS
The itinerary and faculty leadership are subject to change at the discretion of AAA and Brandeis Alumni Travel Program (BATP). All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Individual deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE
The participation of BATP is limited to educational sponsorship of the program (The Program) described on the website and in the trip brochure. AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, BATP and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. Nor will AAA or BATP and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. AAA and BATP are not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or BATP. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA to be in the best interest of the participant’s health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY
AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a $500 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; BATP shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 60 and 30 days before departure, 75 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor BATP shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon trip payment to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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California Seller of Travel #2059789-40

On the cover: Plaza Vieja, Havana. Photo by Eric Pontifer.
CUBA WITH BRANDEIS ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

RESERVATION APPLICATION | FEBRUARY 20 to 27, 2016

To reserve a place on this trip, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,500 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, New York 10018-3721.

PLEASE NOTE: Brandeis Alumni Travel Program will be traveling to Cuba under a General license as defined by the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). These regulations, which have been recently updated, require that program participants a) travel to and from Cuba with the group; b) participate fully in all program activities; and c) abide by the terms of the U.S. Embargo. Participants will receive a full explanation of these requirements upon registration, and will be asked to read and sign a form explaining in detail travel regulations under the new guidelines.

FIRST PARTICIPANT

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Accommodations

Hotel Room Preference  □ Double  □ Twin  □ Single (at a supplement of $895)  I wish to share a room with ____________________________.

□ I/We would like to book overnight accommodations at the Miami International Hotel for the night of February 19.

Form of Payment

□ Enclosed is my check payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad.  □ Credit card (for deposit only; final payment must be made by check.)

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPRIATION DATE

Each participant must sign below.

I/We confirm that I/we will fully participate in the cultural exchange activities of this People-to-People Program.

I/We confirm that I/we have fully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this program.

I/We agree to the balance due by check, 120 days prior to departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE

For more information, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad (an OFAC-licensed Travel Service Provider)

Telephone: 212.514.8921 or 800.221.1944  |  Fax: 212.344.7493  |  E-mail: trips@arrangementsabroad.com