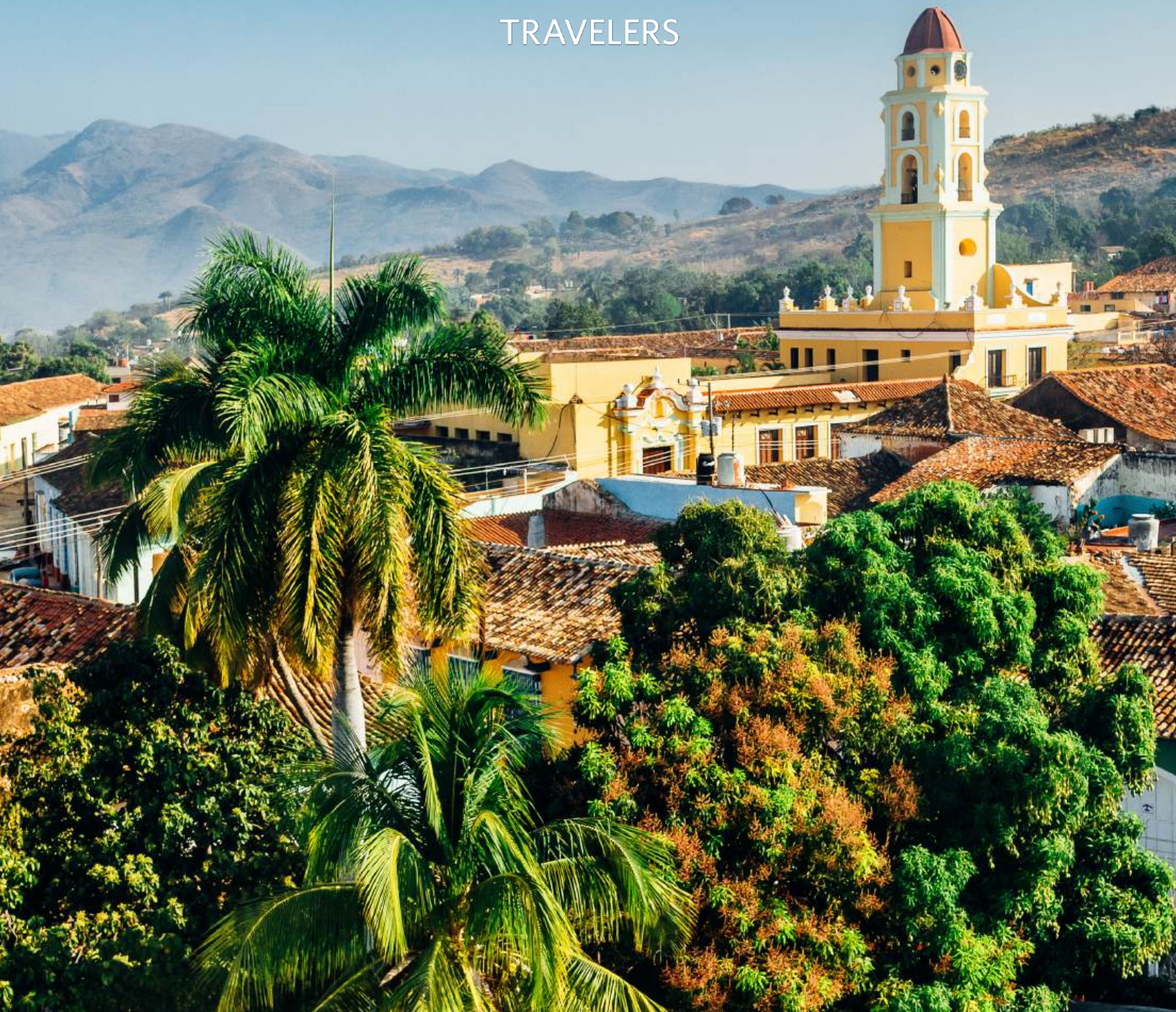


Brandeis

TRAVELERS



Cuba: Art, Culture & History in Havana & Trinidad **In Support of the Cuban People**

with Professor Raysa Mederos, Lecturer in Spanish and Hispanic Studies

February 24 – March 2, 2026



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCE Cuba's art, culture, and history in **Havana** and the colonial city of **Trinidad** with the guidance of Brandeis faculty leader **Professor Raysa Mederos**, a lecturer in Spanish and Hispanic Studies

ENGAGE with **Cuba's leading creators**, with exclusive discussions at the homes and studios of artists, musical performances, and a private dance rehearsal

JOIN curators at Havana's vast **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes** and the multilevel **Fábrica de Arte Cubano**

ATTEND a briefing with the President of Havana's **Jewish Community Center** and experience Cuba's little-known yet intriguing Jewish history

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the former **Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs**

TAKE an expert-guided look at the former sugar mills in the UNESCO-listed **Valle de los Ingenios** region near Trinidad

MARVEL at the ornate 19th-century furniture and decorative arts inside Trinidad's **Museo Romántico**, enjoying an expert-led tour of this opulent mansion that once belonged to a sugar baron

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Professor Raysa Mederos is a lecturer in Spanish and Hispanic Studies in the Department of Romance Studies at Brandeis University, where she has taught for more than 25 years. Born in Havana, she lived in Cuba until immigrating to the United States in 1991. Before arriving in the U.S., she was a professor of English at the Instituto Superior Pedagógico. Her academic work spans Cuban culture, art, history, and current affairs. From 2010 to 2018, she led group trips to Havana. A cultural adviser to [Latin Art Space](#), she is also a practicing artist whose paintings have been shown in diverse venues, including the 2023 Just Arts exhibition at Brandeis. She is at work on a memoir about her childhood in Havana during the 1960s.

Gran Teatro de La Habana, Havana

Brandeis

TRAVELERS

Dear Brandeis Travelers,

Join Brandeis Travelers on a journey to Havana and Cuba's Trinidad, in support of the Cuban people, **February 24 to March 2, 2026**. Just 90 miles from the U.S., this vibrant island nation offers a journey through time, where the rhythms of daily life echo through bustling streets, colorful colonial architecture, and a dynamic blend of cultures.

In Havana, enjoy private, curator-led tours of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, home to a wealth of modern and contemporary Cuban art, and the Fábrica de Arte Cubano, a multi-level arts venue named one of the "World's Greatest Places" by Time magazine. Explore Afro-Cuban spiritual traditions at Callejón de Hamel, an area filled with murals and performances, and meet a Babalawo (high priest) to learn how Santería continues to shape Cuban identity. You'll also attend a rehearsal with Cuba's leading contemporary dance company.

Together, we will engage with members of Cuba's Jewish community through special visits to the Sephardic Hebrew Center and El Patronato synagogue, including a briefing with its president.

Beyond Havana, travel to the French colonial port city of Cienfuegos for an insider's look at a lavish 19th-century theater. Then spend two nights in Trinidad, where the city's UNESCO-recognized colonial architecture, sugar mill history, and natural beauty make it one of Cuba's most captivating destinations.

Our journey will be enriched by Brandeis faculty leader **Raysa Mederos**, lecturer in Spanish and Hispanic Studies. A Havana-born scholar, artist, and author, Professor Mederos brings deep insights into Cuba's past and present. Engage in stimulating conversations with fellow Brandeis travelers, local luminaries, and our tour leader, fostering a deeper understanding of Cuba's history and culture.

Enjoy accommodations at privately owned boutique hotels—Havana's Paseo 206 and Trinidad's Mansión Alameda, both beautifully restored historic homes—and savor authentic Cuban cuisine in paladares, privately owned restaurants.

Space is limited, and this popular program will fill quickly. I encourage you to reserve your place today by contacting our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or email trips@arrangementsabroad.com.

Sincerely,



F. Patricia (Patsy) Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations



Activity Level:



Pace Level:

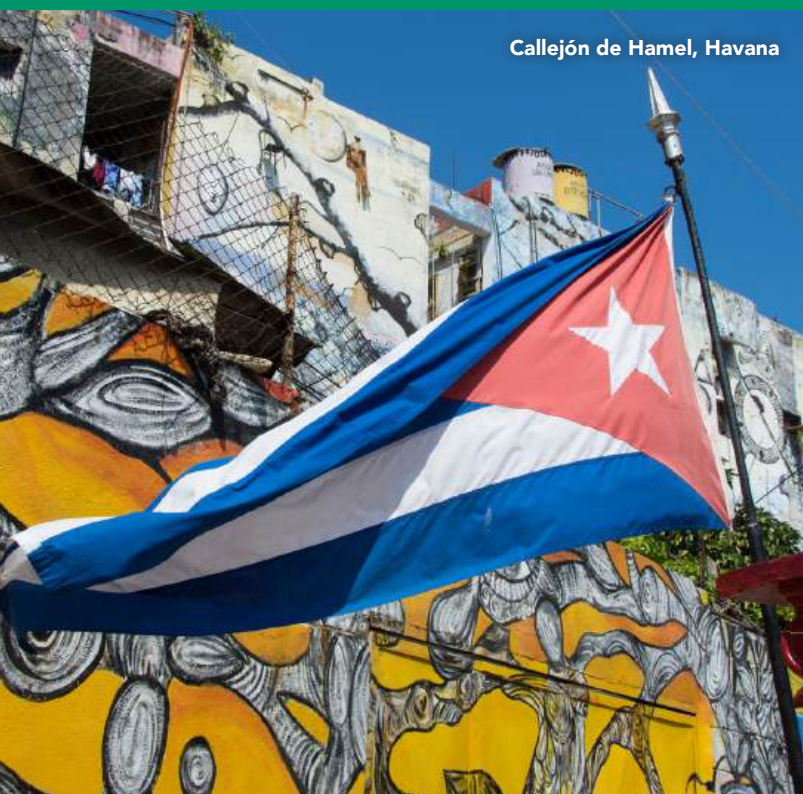


Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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Cuba: Art, Culture & History in Havana & Trinidad In Support of the Cuban People

February 24 – March 2, 2026



Callejón de Hamel, Havana

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Upon independent arrival at Jose Marti International Airport, you will be met and transferred to **Paseo 206**, a boutique hotel located in the quiet Vedado neighborhood.

This evening, gather for a welcome dinner at a paladar, a privately owned restaurant often operated within a family home.

D

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25: HAVANA

Begin the day with a lecture and discussion led by a local architectural historian. Then, set out on a guided walking tour of **Old Havana**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with visits to its historic plazas. Along the way, explore the contributions of Afro-Cuban communities during a visit to **Casa de Africa**.

After lunch at a paladar, continue to the municipality of **Regla**, known for its traditions rooted in Santería, Palo Monte, and other Afro-Cuban religions. Visit **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla**, a church closely associated with the Santería tradition, followed by a walk through the **Callejón de Hamel**, a two-block alley where murals, art, and music celebrate Afro-Cuban identity. While there, attend a performance of Afro-Cuban music and dance.

Later, visit the home of a **Babalawo** (Santería priest) for a private discussion of Santería's practices and spiritual heritage, with attention to its origins in West Africa. This evening, attend a private performance by **Vocal Leo**, a Havana-based choral ensemble, followed by dinner at a paladar.

B,L,D

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26: HAVANA

Enjoy a morning discussion led by a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, offering context on Cuba's political and economic landscape.

Continue to the Jewish Community Center, **El Patronato (Beth Shalom)**, for a conversation with the center's President about Jewish life in Cuba past and present.

After lunch at a paladar, visit the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana** (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana) for a guided tour with an independent curator. Focus on the Cuban art collection, including works by modern and contemporary artists such as Afro-Cuban painter Wifredo Lam.

In the early evening, visit the **Ludwig Foundation of Cuba**, a nonprofit organization supporting Cuban artists. The Foundation's President will host a private reception and dinner on the penthouse terrace, with emerging artists in attendance.

Later, you may choose to attend a performance at one of Havana's live music venues.

B,L,R,D



El Patronato (Beth Shalom), Havana

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27: HAVANA

Following a morning lecture by **Professor Raysa Mederos**, visit **Havana's Sephardic Hebrew Center**, which serves as a hub for the city's Jewish community.

Later, attend a working rehearsal by the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**, known for its contributions to Cuba's contemporary dance scene. After the performance, meet with members of the ensemble for an informal conversation.

In the late afternoon, join a curator for a guided visit to the **Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**, a multidisciplinary cultural space housed in a converted factory. Inside this multilevel building that Time magazine named "one of the world's greatest places," the tour includes current exhibitions and installations, with opportunities to view and purchase artwork.

Dinner follows next door at **El Cocinero**, a former industrial site repurposed as a restaurant with rooftop seating and a seasonal menu. B,D

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28: HAVANA / CIENFUEGOS / TRINIDAD

Depart Havana this morning, stopping first in **Cienfuegos**, a coastal city known for its neoclassical architecture and sheltered deep-water port. Founded by French settlers in 1819, its historic center presents a rare blend of French symmetry and Spanish colonial design.

Walk through the city's central square and along the **Paseo del Prado**, one of Cuba's longest boulevards, lined with neoclassical facades and Art Deco details.



Visit the **Teatro Tomás Terry**, an 1889 theater built by and named for a prominent sugar baron. Inside, Carrara marble and gold-leaf mosaics reflect the wealth and ambition of the era. Afterwards, attend an exclusive performance by the **Choir of Cienfuegos**, whose repertoire blends classical structure with gospel-inspired harmonies.

After lunch at a paladar, continue through the countryside to **Trinidad**. Check into **Mansión Alameda**, a privately owned boutique hotel, for a two-night stay. Dinner this evening is at a paladar. B,L,D

SUNDAY, MARCH 1: TRINIDAD

Visit **Trinidad**, a city whose prosperity during the 18th and 19th centuries was tied to the sugar trade. In the **Plaza Mayor**, walk past pastel facades and red-tiled rooftops, architectural traces of the town's plantation-era economy.

At the **Museo Romántico**, housed in a former sugar merchant's home, view gilt-edged mirrors, imported porcelain, and period furniture assembled to evoke domestic life during that era.

Continue with a local expert for a tour of the **Museo de Arquitectura Colonial**. Inside, witness a curated display representing Trinidad's construction techniques and decorative features, including painted tiles, carved moldings, and oversized wooden doors.

Observation tower, Valle de los Ingenios



Enjoy meeting local artisans and learning about their artwork. Visit a women-led textile workshop to observe how traditional looms are used to produce elaborate handwoven designs.

After lunch at a paladar, venture with a local expert to the **Valle de los Ingenios**, a UNESCO-listed landscape once home to more than 50 sugar mills. Walk among the remnants of mill buildings and the quarters where enslaved people lived and worked, a landscape that carries the imprint of Cuba's plantation system. Gather for dinner at a paladar.

B,L,D

MONDAY, MARCH 2: TRINIDAD / SANTA CLARA / RETURN

Depart the hotel for a scheduled morning transfer to the airport and your return flight home.

B

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Brandeis Travel and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Paseo 206, Havana



ACCOMMODATIONS

PASEO 206, HAVANA

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection, this boutique hotel sits in Vedado, Havana's economic and cultural center. Originally built in 1933, this family home has been thoughtfully restored to preserve its original architectural character. Its cozy, comfortable rooms and suites feature free Wi-Fi, 24-hour room service, Hermès bath products, Marshall speakers, and hypoallergenic king beds dressed in fine Frette linens.

MANSIÓN ALAMEDA, TRINIDAD

Stay at this privately owned boutique hotel, a beautifully restored colonial house from the early 19th century in the heart of UNESCO-listed Trinidad, where you can relax in the serene garden patio and enjoy authentic Cuban hospitality.



Mansión Alameda, Trinidad

PROGRAM RATES

Pricing starts at \$5,399 based on double occupancy and room selection. Limited rooms and singles are available. Inquire today!

Double occupancy rates:

\$5,399 per person for Cozy Room
\$6,299 per person for Junior Room
\$6,899 per person for Master Suite
\$7,399 per person for Rooftop Suite

Single occupancy rates:

\$6,599 Cozy Room
\$7,999 Junior Room
\$9,499 Master Suite
\$9,999 Rooftop Suite

RATES INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, house wine, beer, mojitos, and coffee/tea with all included lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



BRANDEIS TRAVELERS

CUBA: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY IN HAVANA & TRINIDAD ▪ FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 2, 2026 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Room category ☐ Cozy Room ☐ Junior Room ☐ Master Suite ☐ Rooftop Suite

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

I/We will be traveling to Cuba and agree to fully participate in this program under the general license category of travel "In Support of the Cuban People." I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date