

Brandeis

TRAVELERS



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

with Peter R. Kalb, the Cynthia L. and Theodore S. Berenson
Associate Professor of Contemporary Art

February 22 – 28, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY special access to the Havana Art Biennial and experience its extraordinary exhibitions, performances, and installations alongside curators and artists

JOIN a curator for a private tour of what Time magazine calls one of “the world’s greatest places”—Havana’s Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), a spellbinding, multilevel showcase of contemporary Cuban art

DELIGHT in a curator-led tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks

CELEBRATE at exclusive receptions, including a private dinner in the company of the President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and the young artists supported by the organization

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will share profound insights on Cuban politics

ATTEND a briefing with the President of Havana’s Jewish Community Center and learn about Cuba’s Jewish history and heritage

WITNESS an exciting rehearsal of the privately-owned dance company of acclaimed choreographer Rosario Cardenas, watching as Cuba’s leading contemporary dancers perfect their craft

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside to tour a farmer-led tobacco hacienda and enjoy a private demonstration of the rolling and drying processes

SUPPORT Cuba’s emerging private sector, savoring meals at privately owned paladares, relaxing at a charming boutique hotel in the heart of Havana, and hearing the stories of leading entrepreneurs

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Peter R. Kalb is the Cynthia L. and Theodore S. Berenson Associate Professor of Contemporary Art, chair of the Fine Arts Department, and Women’s Sexuality, and Gender Studies core faculty member at Brandeis University, where he has taught modern and contemporary art history for two decades. He is the author of “Art Since 1980: Charting the Contemporary,” a chronological survey of contemporary art from its explosive beginnings in New York to its global expanse in the 21st century.

Kalb is also the author of “High Drama: The New York Cityscapes of Georgia O’Keeffe and Margaret Bourke-White” and revising author of the fifth edition of H.H. Arnason’s “History of Modern Art.” He has researched contemporary art in Havana, and is co-curator of the “Dreams and Realities: Visions from Taiwan and Cuba of a Post Cold-War World,” a 2013 exhibition at Art Basel Hong Kong. Currently, he is writing about artists’ responses to the Apollo moon landing.

Brandeis

TRAVELERS

Dear Brandeis Travelers,

Traveling to Cuba can be a transformative and moving experience. Situated just 90 miles from the U.S., visiting Cuba is like taking a trip through history to the present day, with its intriguing blend of cultures and strikingly colorful, centuries-old architecture. Cuba's intricate history, shaped by colonialism, revolution, and the interwoven influences of Indigenous, European, and African cultures, has inspired powerful works of art with global resonance.

In February 2025, join Brandeis Travelers to explore the contemporary arts and culture of this vibrant island nation in support of the Cuban people. Enjoy special access to the Havana Art Biennial, a pivotal event that has brought Cuban art to the world stage. Since 1984, this international festival has transformed Havana's streets and public spaces into open-air galleries, bringing artistic innovation from around the globe to the local community.

Throughout the program, you will have exclusive access to Cuba's dynamic art scene, including a curator-led private tour at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, home to much of Cuba's art heritage, and participate in a rehearsal at the country's leading contemporary dance company. You will also meet the workers who are fueling Cuba's economic renaissance, joining farmers on a tour of their lush tobacco hacienda in Pinar del Rio Province. A sojourn will present the opportunity to delve into the world of famed expat Ernest Hemingway, with visits to his longtime home and the village that inspired his iconic work, "The Old Man and the Sea."

Together, we will honor Cuba's Jewish community with special visits to Havana's Adath Israel Synagogue, the only Orthodox synagogue in Cuba, and the Jewish Community Center for a briefing by its president.

Dine at paladares, privately owned restaurants often found in the owner's home, in support of the Cuban people, and savor a unique "field-to-table" dining experience. Engage in stimulating conversations with fellow Brandeis travelers, local luminaries, and our tour leader, fostering a deeper understanding of Cuba's complex heritage.

Space is limited. For more information or to reserve your place today, please contact Arrangements Abroad at (800) 221-1944 or (212) 514-8921.



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 [here](#).

Brandeis is not responsible for any tour operator policies or for any refunds. Arrangements Abroad (AA) is the operator of this program and solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities associated with it. Additionally, Brandeis University, as a sponsor, has no financial or legal responsibility for the program.

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

February 22 – 28, 2025



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Welcome to Havana! Upon arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to La Reserva Vedado, a boutique hotel and your home for six nights. Our welcome dinner this evening is at a paladar, a privately owned restaurant located in the proprietor's home.

D

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Participate in a morning lecture and discussion with a local architectural historian, then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed Old Havana, including four of its expansive plazas and the 18th-century Havana Cathedral, one of the oldest cathedrals in the Americas.

Visit the old Jewish Quarter, the center of Cuba's small yet fascinating Jewish community. Following lunch at a paladar, explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner is at El Cocinero, a former cooking oil factory transformed into a chic restaurant and bar with delicious food and world-class daiquiris.

Next door, join a curator for a private tour of what Time magazine calls one of "the world's greatest places," the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), a spellbinding, multilevel cultural, artistic, and musical performance space that defies categorization. You'll have an exclusive look at its spectacular exhibits and installations with an opportunity to purchase artwork.

B,L,D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA

This morning, join a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for an eye-opening discussion. Then visit Havana's Sephardic Hebrew Center. After lunch,

head outside the capital to the small, hilltop village of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to Finca Vigia (Lookout Farm), the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces and see Hemingway's famous fishing boat "Pilar" on the property.

Return to Havana and enjoy guided access to the Havana Art Biennial. Since its 1984 inception, this Biennial has become a cornerstone for artists from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, shining a light on non-Western perspectives and contemporary issues. In this highly anticipated festival, experience Havana's public spaces and lively streets transformed into open-air galleries. Meet curators and artists as you delve into extraordinary exhibitions, engaging performances, and interactive art installations.

In the early evening, explore the renowned 1930 Hotel Nacional de Cuba, designed by the acclaimed New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White. Stop in its storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many famous guests, including Buster Keaton, Rita Hayworth, Nat King Cole, Sir Winston Churchill, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Gabriel García Márquez. Enjoy a mojito on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor, followed by dinner at a local paladar.

B,L,D

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25: HAVANA

Your exploration of the Havana Art Biennial continues this morning, followed by a private tour of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum. Encounter the complex, colorful works of the country's leading modern and contemporary artists, including Raul Martinez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol; and the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam, whose abstract, geometrical imagery was influenced by Picasso.

Havana Art Biennale along the Malecon



After lunch, visit the Jewish Community Center, El Patronato (Beth Shalom), for a briefing with the president. In the early evening, drive to The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, one of only a few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include local Cuban artists. Later, you may attend an evening of musical performances. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26: HAVANA / VINALES / HAVANA

Today, venture outside Havana to the western province of Pinar del Rio, known for its lush tobacco haciendas and the Vinales Valley's UNESCO-recognized mogotes, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides. Meet with a local farmer for a private tour of a tobacco hacienda and enjoy an engaging private demonstration of the drying and rolling processes.

Transfer to lunch at a privately owned organic farm with a lovely scenic view. Before returning to Havana, visit a local artist's studio. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own. B,L

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27: HAVANA

Delight in a behind-the-scenes morning rehearsal of the Rosario Cardenas Dance Company, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, step into the 122-acre Colon Cemetery, which is more than simply a sprawling burial ground. This remarkable green space is often referred to as an open-air museum or "Cuba's largest sculpture park." With your local guide, learn the stories of Cuba's past through the elaborate sculptures, monuments, and mausoleums.

Following lunch on your own, visit the Adath Israel Synagogue, Cuba's only Orthodox synagogue. This evening, prepare to be moved during an exclusive performance of Vocal Leo, an acclaimed choir, followed by a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's oldest paladares. B,D

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and join an arranged transfer to the airport for your 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.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

LA RESERVA VEDADO, HAVANA

This boutique hotel stands as a peaceful haven amid the city's dynamic pulse. Each room, adorned with a mix of vintage Cuban flair and modern features, promises a stay filled with charm and comfort. Its prime location allows easy exploration of Havana's main attractions like the Malecon, historical landmarks, and cultural hubs, making it a perfect spot for guests eager to dive into the lively culture of Cuba's capital.



PROGRAM RATES

Pricing starts at \$5,699, based on double occupancy and room selection. Limited rooms and singles are available. Inquire today!

Double occupancy rates:

\$5,699 per person for Standard Room

\$6,499 per person for Junior Suite

\$6,699 per person for Deluxe Suite

Single occupancy rates:

\$6,899 Standard Room

\$7,899 Junior Suite

\$9,199 Deluxe Suite

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations at La Reserva Vedado in Havana
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell 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 RATE 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.

Vinales Valley, Pinar del Rio





The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, Havana

BRANDEIS TRAVELERS
CUBA: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY ▪ FEBRUARY 22 – 28, 2025
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 \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 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 ☐ Standard Room ☐ Junior Suite ☐ Deluxe Suite

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

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