

**UCLA** Alumni

# Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba

Nov. 10-19, 2016

Featuring **UCLA Distinguished Professor Teofilo Ruiz**  
Department of History



Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

Join us as we explore the more hidden corners of Cuba. Our thoughtfully planned journey begins in the eastern part of the island with stays in the town of Gibara and Cuba's second largest city, Santiago. These provide a contrast to the western part of the island and reflect a culture that has been impacted by their proximity to Jamaica, Haiti, and the French planters and merchants who chose to settle in and around Santiago. Discover coastal fishing villages, charming squares and run-down Spanish-era buildings set against cobalt blue waters. Head west to the beach at Jibacoa which lies next to a pristine coral reef and is just a drive away from the sugar mills once owned by the Hershey chocolate empire. From here, visit the city of Matanzas, once called the Athens of Cuba, before driving to the tobacco region of Vinales. Admire the valley's distinctive landscape, with its steep-sided limestone mountains called mogotes rising dramatically from fertile flat-floored valleys where farmers cultivate the red soil for tobacco, fruits and vegetables. End with two days in Havana, and a chance to explore this ever-changing city. There simply could not be a more exciting time to visit this "time-capsule" nation before its landscape changes forever.

With 20 sold-out departures in the last four years, more than any other university in the country, we are pleased to continue to offer this fascinating destination.

Based on the pre-trip interest we anticipate this trip to sell-out. Early registrations are encouraged as tour membership is limited to 28 travelers.

Sincerely,



Christel Pailet  
Director, Alumni Travel



# Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba

November 10-19, 2016



## **GIBARA** **Thursday, November 10**

Depart on a mid-afternoon flight from Miami to Holguin and continue a short distance by a scenic road that undulates through eye-catching villages to the small, intimate town of Gibara. This is an independent-spirited, coastal fishing village of charming squares and run-down Spanish-era buildings on a cobalt bay. The saddle-shaped Silla de Gibara that so captivated Columbus creates a wild, scenic backdrop.

Overnight at the charming Hotel Ordoño Encanto, a 27-room colonial gem with a two-floor roof terrace, original cornicing, and a beautiful, frescoed lobby. **D**

## **GIBARA** **Friday, November 11**

Accompanied by Ernesto Blanco, a professor at the University of Holguin, spend the day exploring Gibara and its environs. Admire the town's old buildings with their larger than life sized peeling wooden shutters, stained glass windows and fading pastel colored walls. Walk past the town's church, and the miniature Statue of Liberty monument replica.

Enjoy lunch at Playa de Caletones. After lunch, stop by at the Jiba movie theater that plays host to the Low Budget Film Festival (Festival del Cine Pobre) every year. Its beautifully ramshackle lobby overlooking the Calixto Garcia Park is papered with old posters for long-forgotten movies.



Enjoy a private performance of the superb Gibara Dance company followed by dinner at La Culinaria, where chef Alberto Ronda serves wonderful Cuban food every evening.

**B,L,D**

## **SANTIAGO** **Saturday, November 12**

Morning drive to Santiago, the second largest city in Cuba and its former capital. The rich racial mixture of this city has produced some of the most exciting music, art, and architecture in the Caribbean. This port city is also an industrial city and the distilleries of the original Bacardi rum are here.

Upon arrival, visit the Morro Castle originally built in 1640 to ward off pirate attacks.

Enjoy a traditional lunch in a restaurant set atop the cliffs with fabulous views along the coast.

After checking into the Hotel Melia, enjoy drinks at the hotel before enjoying dinner at a private restaurant.



## **SANTIAGO** **Sunday, November 13**

Take a full day to explore Santiago. Stop at the Museo de Arte Colonial, built in 1516 and said to be the oldest house in Cuba and the Carnival Museum. Santiago's annual carnival is a major event and has been part of the city's traditions since 1669.

Enjoy lunch at Café Matamoros on the Plaza Dolores before visiting the Jesuit Dolores College where Fidel Castro was educated as a youth.



After lunch, drive to the Basilica del Cobre. The church – Cuba’s only basilica – is known for its offerings and as the shrine to La Virgen de la Caridad (Virgin of Charity). Hemingway dedicated his Nobel Prize for Literature to the Virgin.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **B,L,D**

## **JIBACOA**

### **Monday, November 14**

Morning flight to Havana. Upon arrival continue along a spectacular coastal road to Matanzas which began to flourish after large sugar mills were established in the region between 1817 and 1827.



Stop for lunch at the Matanzas Seminary which was founded in 1946 by the Cuban Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal Churches. After lunch, enjoy a performance in the chapel by the Matanzas Chamber Choir.

Stop at the Ediciones Vigia which was founded in 1985 and produces hand-made first edition books on a range of topics.

Drive a short distance to Jibacoa and the Memories Hotel. Coco palms, cactuses, flowering bushes and plants flourish in the hotel grounds which are set against sparkling blue water and a lush landscape. **B,L,D**

## **JIBACOA**

### **Tuesday, November 15**

Located close to Jibacoa is the town of Hershey, part of the American Hershey Corporation chocolate empire’s subsidiary property in Cuba. Explore the ruins of the sugar mill and the beautifully maintained Hershey Gardens before returning to the hotel for lunch beach-side.

This afternoon enjoy a snorkeling expedition on the resorts private coral reef. **B,L,D**



## **VINALES**

### **Wednesday, November 16**

Depart to the west part of Cuba, with its jungle-covered summits dropping down limestone cliffs to verdant valleys. Stop en route at the Orchid Farm at Soroa which houses over 800 species of plants.

Visit a small tobacco farm to learn more about the growing of tobacco and the economics of the tobacco industry in Cuba followed by lunch at a beautiful private farm overlooking the valley. It is really possible from here to appreciate the valley’s distinctive landscape, with its steep-sided limestone mountains called mogotes rising dramatically from fertile flat-floored valleys where farmers cultivate the red soil for tobacco, fruits and vegetables.

Check into Hotel La Ermita which offers sweeping views and wonderful Cuban food. **B,L,D**





## HAVANA

### Thursday, November 17

Morning drive to Havana. Drive straight to El Divino for a delicious lunch. Set in the middle of La Yoandra ranch, Divino restaurant is a unique place where culinary traditions take center stage amidst music and art.

After lunch proceed to the Callejon de Hamel, the site of a huge multi-dimensional Afro-Cuban mural. Here there will be a chance to learn more about the Santeria religion where we meet with a Santeria practitioner, Elias Aseff.

Check-into the Parque Central. Before dinner, meet with Dr. Rena Pérez, formerly with the Ministry of Agriculture and now an advisor to the Ministry of Sugar. Dr. Perez's discussion, documented with slides, will address "Living in Cuba Today."

Enjoy cocktails and dinner on the roof-top. **B,L,D**

## HAVANA

### Friday, November 18

Morning meeting with Norma Guillard, who is featured in the documentary film *La Maestra*. View the documentary which tells the personal stories of the literacy campaign Fidel arranged in the early days of the Revolution.

Continue on to attend a rehearsal of the Camerata Romeu. This is an all-women group of musicians, who play stringed instruments. The Camerata Romeu was founded in 1993 by director Zenaida Romeu. Her goal is to select music from both Cuba and different parts of the world. Composers chosen range from Leo Brouwer and Esteban Salas to Bach and Mozart.

Enjoy lunch at the home of curator Milagros Borges Gomez. Admire her lovely home and the works of many different Cuban artists. After lunch enjoy a private performance of the dance/musical group Havana Compass. The troupe has created an exciting, diverse performance with traces of Spanish dance form, African-Cuban Jazz rhythm and modern dance.

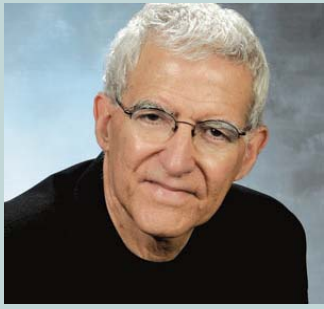
Farewell dinner this evening with chef Niuris Higuera at her elegant restaurant – Atelier. **B,L,D**

## RETURN

### Saturday, November 19

Return flight from Havana to Los Angeles. **B**





## Tour Lecturer

**T**eofilo Ruiz received his doctorate from Princeton University and has taught at many universities, including the

University of Michigan and Princeton. He served as UCLA History Department chair (2002-2005) and chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (2008-2009).

A medievalist and early modern historian, Ruiz was selected by the Carnegie Foundation as one of the four Outstanding Teachers of the Year in 1994. The author of 14 books, he received the prestigious 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship and the Distinguished Teacher Award at UCLA. In 2012, Ruiz was selected as the Senior Research lecturer at UCLA and received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama.



## Cuban Guide

**N**elson Ramos graduated with honors from Havana University in 1984 with a degree in Economics and

Political Science. After graduating, he went on to work in the Marketing Research Department at the Foreign Trade Ministry of Cuba. During the Special Period when Russian withdrawal of financial support to Cuba threatened the economy of the country, Nelson supported his family by taking several part-time jobs. This included selling cookies in the street, stickers for motorcycles, and translating Italian cartoons for Cuban TV. In 1993 he became a tour guide and has been working with Distant Horizons since 1999.



## Terms & Conditions

Please read this information carefully as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following terms and conditions.

### RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT

To reserve your space on this program, a \$500 deposit is required per person. Check only, payable to Distant Horizons. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due 60 days prior to departure, check only.

It is advisable not to mention Cuba when making any payments such as writing Cuba in the memo line of your check or when wiring payments. Even though you are traveling on a legal trip to Cuba, due to the trade embargo, should your bank see Cuba mentioned they will be forced to freeze your bank account until they receive proof of the legality of your trip.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If you must cancel the trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refund for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

- Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a \$350 cancellation charge
- Notice between 60 and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of the trip price
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure
- No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced
- No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services

Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information on trip cancellation insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form.

### RESPONSIBILITY

The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association as sponsor, and Distant Horizons as tour operator, is strictly limited. The UCLA Alumni Association and Distant Horizons purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent or arbitrary acts or omission of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The UCLA Alumni Association and Distant Horizons are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, and other independent suppliers.

## General Information

Please note that participants must be in good physical condition and be able to walk for long distances over uneven cobblestones and up and down stairs without problems.

*Distant Horizons is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at [tercinfo.org](http://tercinfo.org). California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account.*

## Pricing & Inclusions

**Tour Price: \$5,350\* per person, double occupancy**  
**Single Supplement: \$890 (Limited availability)**

### TRIP PRICE INCLUDES:

Roundtrip airfare on charter flights from Miami to Holguin, returning from Havana to Los Angeles, accommodations as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), one drink with lunch and one with dinner, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed, transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach, the services of a Distant Horizons tour manager and a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, gratuities, Cuban departure tax, and mandatory health insurance and evacuation required by the Cuban Government which provides \$25,000 worth of medical coverage and \$7,000 worth of medical transportation

### TRIP PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Domestic airfare to Miami and from Los Angeles, any overnights in Miami, luggage charges, additional drinks at meals, trip cancellation insurance, lost baggage and medical insurance (above a mandatory amount required by the Cuban government) · Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed.

*\*Based on a minimum group size of 15 people*



# reservation form

Name as it appears on your passport

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on your passport

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name for name tags \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Business

## Air Arrangements

The charter flight from Miami to Havana is a morning flight. It is highly recommended you plan to overnight in Miami the night before departure to allow for any domestic flight delays and extra check-in time needed for Cuban charter flights.

## Room Arrangements

- I would like to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to request a single room at an additional \$890 (pending availability)
- I would like to share my room; please try to find me a roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed)

Reservation Deposit, a deposit of \$500 is required for each participant

Enclosed is my deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (check only, credit card not accepted)

Please make check payable to *Distant Horizons*.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis.

Reservations to be paid in full 60 days prior to departure, Sept. 10, 2016. Final payments must be made by check only.

UCLA Alumni Travel is a benefit of membership in the Alumni Association. All alumni are now members of the UCLA Alumni Association. You may invite up to three companions to travel with you as a guest on your membership.

- Yes, I am a member of the UCLA Alumni Association.
- No, I am not a member. Please send me an application to join.

I/We have read the tour conditions and responsibility clause and agree to all therein (all participants must sign)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL RESERVATION FORM TO:

UCLA Alumni Association / Attn: Alumni Travel

James West Alumni Center

Los Angeles, CA 90095 1397

Fax: 310 209 4271 Email: [travel@alumni.ucla.edu](mailto:travel@alumni.ucla.edu)