Exploring Cuba’s Cultural Heritage

Professor Paul Bracken,
Yale Professor of Management and Political Science
November 11—18, 2013

Dear Yale Alumni and Friends,

Cuba, with its history as one of Spain’s last two colonies in the New World (the other was Puerto Rico) and its complex relationship to the United States from the early Nineteenth Century until now, is a tropical island unlike any other in the Caribbean. Join Professor Paul Bracken, Yale Professor of Management and Political Science, for this unique opportunity to see the Havana of today and the natural beauty of the island while learning about Cuba’s culture. This special 8-day program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture and allow you to meet professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life. With the insightful discussions by Professor Bracken, and with such a wonderful itinerary, this promises to be an unforgettable journey. We encourage you to join other alumni and friends and make your reservation today. (Spaces allocated on a first-come-first-served basis).

With all good wishes from Yale,

Kathy Edersheim ‘87
Sr. Director, International Alumni Relations and Travel 
Association of Yale Alumni

*This trip is subject to the renewal of Yale’s people-to-people license
Monday, November 11
Havana
Arrive in Havana and enjoy a welcome lunch at the historic Nacional Hotel. Its remaining splendor and history serve as a tangible reminder to Cuba’s past times. Enjoy an orientation tour of the city before arriving at the Parque Central Hotel. Meet for an introductory tour briefing before proceeding to the hotel rooftop for dinner. L,D.

Tuesday, November 12
Havana
This morning, enjoy a carefully crafted walking tour of Old Havana and have a chance to speak to local residents and shopkeepers. Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Begin with a private viewing of the newly created model of Old Havana, which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. Continue to the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square surrounded by mansions, and then to the Centro Nacional de Conservacion y Museologia.

Enjoy lunch in a lively restaurant with local music.

This afternoon, enjoy a city orientation tour by bus which will be led by architectural historian Isabel Rigol. The tour will include an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel, which when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design. There will be a chance to speak with hotel staff about their lives. Drive along La Rampa to the Parque Copelia, a large, lush park that is an entire block. In the middle of the park, mingle with locals and visit a remarkable design icon, an ice-cream parlor designed in 1966. Follow Calle L south and arrive at the wide steps which lead to the porticoed, columned façade beyond which lies the University of Havana.

Dinner at Café Oriente. B,L,D.

Wednesday, November 13
Havana
Morning lecture on “US/Cuban Relations” by Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana. End the morning at Ernest Hemingway’s home, which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government.
Enjoy a private lunch at the home and studio of artist José Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

Return to Havana to visit the Presidential Palace, now a museum, which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development. A few minutes away by foot is the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.

Evening reception at the Ludwig foundation, an organization committed to the promotion of art in Cuba, followed by dinner at one of the best private restaurants in Havana. B,L,D.

Thursday, November 14
HAVANA
Morning round-table discussion with economist Ricardo Torres on the “Changing Forces of Cuba’s Economic Structure.” After the lecture, walk to the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The tour this morning will be accompanied by Lucila Fernandez, a contemporary art curator.

Enjoy lunch on the rooftop of the Santa Isabel Hotel which offers panoramic views of Old Havana and its protective fort. After lunch, drive to the home of Cristina Vives, a well-known Cuban art critic and dealer. Cristina’s husband, the noted Cuban photographer Figueroa, will also meet the group.

Enjoy dinner at leisure this evening. B,L.

Friday, November 15
HAVANA
Depart for a full day excursion to the western part of Cuba where dramatic limestone peaks tower above verdant valleys. This area is known for its rich soil and almost all of Cuba’s tobacco is grown in the region. Drive along one of the new roads in Cuba to the town of Pinar del Rio, stopping en route at Las Terrazas, the most successful of the nearly 600 new rural towns built after 1959. Accompanying the group will be Marcia Leiseca, vice-president of Casa de las Americas who has studied socio-cultural work in Las Terrazas and Osmany Cienfuegos, the architect who designed the town and still manages it.

Close by is the Orchid Farm at Soroa. The hilly grounds contain over 800 species of plants all thriving in the humid climate. Continue to the Valle de Vinales to admire Cuba’s most famous landscape, located in the province of Pinar del Rio. The
province’s mountainous landscape is riddled with caves, some running for many kilometers, in which Ciboney burial and cave paintings have been found. Visit the Cuevas del Indio, named for the Indian remains found inside.

Enjoy lunch at the beautiful Hotel La Ermita overlooking the valley. It is possible from here to appreciate the valley’s distinctive landscape with its steep-sided limestone mountains rising dramatically from fertile flat-floored valleys where farmers cultivate the red soil for tobacco, fruits and vegetables. The terrain resembles a Chinese brush painting.

Visit a tobacco farm and meet with local farmers before stopping at the Francesco Donatier cigar factory. Return to Havana late afternoon.

Dinner this evening is at La Imprenta, housed in a former print shop. B,L,D.

Saturday, November 16
HAVANA

This morning, watch a rehearsal of the Danza Contemporánea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group melds the techniques of classical ballet and American modern dance with the rippling spines and head rolls of traditional or folkloric, Afro-Cuban dance; the complex rhythms of Cuban rumba; and the twirling hands and syncopation of Spanish flamenco.

Continue to Matanzas, which began to flourish after large sugar mills were established in the region between 1817 and 1827. As a result of the number of artists, writers, musicians and intellectuals living here at that time, Matanzas came to be known as the “Athens of Cuba.” Explore the historic quarter including Plaza de la Vigia which marks the site of the original settlement. Stop at the Ediciones Vigia which produces hand-made first edition books on a range of topics. Enjoy an inside visit in the Teatro Sauto, one of the finest neoclassical buildings in Cuba. Enjoy a special visit to the Pharmacy Museum. The house itself is beautiful, but the collection of original equipment, furnishings and medical recipes is extraordinary.

Head east to Varadero, stopping at the University of Matanzas for a chance to interact with the students.

Enjoy lunch at the Restaurante Las Americas which is located in the library of the former Dupont Mansion. This green roofed, three-story mansion was called Xanadu and overlooks the coast.

Return to Havana and enjoy an evening reception and briefing at the residence of John Caulfield, the US Charge D’Affaires and highest ranking US official in Cuba.

Dinner this evening is at La Torre Restaurant, located on the 33rd floor of Havana’s tallest building, offering wonderful views of the city. B,L,D.

Sunday, November 17
HAVANA

This morning visit Vivero Alamar, one of Havana’s many urban gardens, and meet with local gardeners. The country’s urban agriculture movement
materialized out of the Special Period, an economic crisis from 1990-94 when the former Soviet Union ended its food subsidies, plunging Cuba into a severe food shortage.

Lunch is close by at the village of Cojimar where Hemingway docked his boat, Pilar. The Terrace Hemingway wrote about in the *Old Man and the Sea* was La Terraza where you will enjoy a lunch of paella today.

Your farewell dinner takes place at La Guarida which is perhaps the most well-known of all “paladars” in Havana, made famous because it was where *Fresa y Chocolate*, the 1994 Oscar-nominated film about gays in Cuba, was filmed.  **B,L,D.**

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**Monday, November 18**

**HAVANA**

Return flight directly from Havana to Miami.

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**YALE LECTURER**

Paul Bracken '82 PhD, Professor of Management and Political Science specializes in international security issues and global management. He has written extensively on security matters, including the books *Fire in the East*, *The Rise of Asian Military Power* and the *Second Nuclear Age* and *The New Atomic Map* (2012). He is currently writing a book on Scenario Methods in Global Business.

Professor Bracken teaches one of Yale College's largest and most popular courses, *Strategy, Technology, and War*, drawing over 300 students. He also teaches the core MBA course on "Problem Framing" in SOM, and is consistently rated the best teacher in SOM executive education programs. He serves on the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel, as well as other advisory groups in the defense and intelligence fields for the U.S. government.
**PROGRAM COSTS AND CONDITIONS**

**Trip Price:** $4,800 (Based on double occupancy)  
**Single room supplement:** $860 (Limited availability)  
**Group size is limited to 34 participants**

**PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:** Educational Program of lectures and discussions with a Yale lecturer. Roundtrip airfare on charter flights between Miami and Havana, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, 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 escort and of a local Cuban guide, a Cuban visa, all gratuities, 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.

**PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:** Domestic airfare to and from Miami, any overnights in Miami, meals not specified in the itinerary; personal items such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls, liquor, room service, independent and private transfers, departure tax of 25 CUCs in Cuba, and excess luggage charges. Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. Airfare is subject to change without notice by the airlines.

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT:** To reserve a space on this program, please mail a check made payable to “DISTANT HORIZONS” for $500 deposit per person along with the completed reservation form to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Final payment is due by September 10, 2013 and must be paid by check.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Distant Horizons and the Association of Yale Alumni reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made without obligation, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. The tour price is based on a number of people traveling together. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs for that departure date. If a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Yale Educational Travel:
- Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a $250 cancellation charge.
- Notice between 60 days and 45 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
- Notice between 44 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 75% of trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.
- 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.

**INSURANCE:** We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for travel insurance will be mailed upon confirmation. Neither the Association of Yale Alumni nor Distant Horizons accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Distant Horizons and the Association of Yale Alumni act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor the Association of Yale Alumni nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and the Association of Yale Alumni cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and the Association of Yale Alumni are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to, all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, on behalf of any participants they may act for and for themselves when registering for, or making payments on, this tour.

**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. This is a rigorous, fast-paced program.**
RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is my check for $__________ ($500 deposit per person) payable to “DISTANT HORIZONS” to hold _____ places(s) on Exploring Cuba’s Cultural Heritage, November 11—18, 2013.

Final Payment is due September 10, 2013.

Name*____________________________________________________________________
Date of Birth___________ Yale Affiliation______________________________________

Name*____________________________________________________________________
Date of Birth___________ Yale Affiliation______________________________________
*All names should be as they appear on passport.

Phone(____)_________________ Email__________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________________
City__________________________________________State__________Zip____________

___ I will require single accommodations (supplemental fee of $860, limited availability)
___ I will share accommodations with:____________________________________

I/We have carefully read the Costs and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Signature___________________________________________Date_____________

Please sign and return this form with deposit check payable to “Distant Horizons” to:

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