Legacies and Landscape of Cuba: from Santiago to Havana

November 8 - 19, 2014

With Professor Alan Plattus / Professor of Architecture and Urbanism
Dear Yale Alumni and friends,

Since returning from a recent trip to Cuba, I can tell you that this is an absolutely fascinating trip! There was a strong sense that we were visiting this island at a pivotal and critical time, when it is poised for dramatic changes. Some of the changes were visible while we were there while others were merely palpable and hanging in the air for us to think about.

Cuba, with its history as one of Spain’s last two colonies in the New World 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 us for this unique opportunity to see the Cuba of today and the natural beauty of the island.

This special 11-night program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture and allow the group to meet local residents and professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba’s heritage. With insightful discussions by Prof. Alan Plattus on his return visit to the country 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).

Enjoy the unique blend of this trip that combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group of like-minded people and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries!

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Edersheim ’87
Senior Director
International Alumni Relations and Travel
Association of Yale Alumni
ITINERARY

SANTIAGO  (L/D)

November 8
Arrive in Santiago and visit the Morro Castle, built in 1640 to ward off pirate attacks.

Enjoy lunch at a restaurant set atop the cliffs with fabulous views along the coast. After lunch, enjoy an orientation tour of the city including a visit to the Moncada Barracks, the place where Fidel Castro and 79 soldiers stormed the barracks in 1953. Continue on to the Cementario Santa Ifigenia where many notable figures are buried.

After checking into the Melia Santiago Hotel, enjoy Dr. Plattus's first lecture followed by a welcome cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel.

SANTIAGO  (B/L/D)

November 9
Take a full day to explore Santiago, the second largest city and former capital. For many years Santiago was a clearinghouse for many different nationalities. Its proximity to Jamaica and Haiti fostered close links and this is where many of the French planters and merchants who fled Haiti following the revolution in 1791 settled. The rich racial mixture 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.

Begin the day at the Museo de Arte Colonial, built in 1516 and said to be the oldest house in Cuba.

Enjoy a tour through the Carnival Museum. Santiago's Carnival is the most famous in Cuba. This small museum is in one of the oldest houses on Calle Heredia and displays old costumes, black-and-white photographs, huge papier-mâché masks, and hand-painted and embroidered mamarachos (capes).

A few minutes away is the Plaza Dolores, perhaps Santiago's most charming square, surrounded by quaint colonial buildings. Enjoy lunch before stopping at the Jesuit Dolores College where Fidel Castro was educated as a youth.

After lunch drive to the Basilica del Cobre which takes its name from the large copper mine that the Spanish established in the mid-1500's. The church – Cuba's only basilica – is known for its offerings and as the shrine to of La Virgen de la Caridad (Virgin of Charity), patron saint of Cuba, to whom miraculous powers are ascribed. In 1952, Hemingway dedicated his Nobel Prize for Literature to the Virgin.

The final stop for the day will be at the Caney Rum Factory which was built in 1868 by the Bacardi family and nationalized in 1959. The Cuban government continued to make rum under the Bacardi name but Bacardi sued and won the lawsuit. Ever since, the rum produced from this factory has been sold as “Havana Club”. While it is not possible to tour the factory, it is possible to sample some of the rums.

CAMAGUEY  (B/L/D)

November 10
Depart the hotel this morning and drive to Camaguey. En route stop at Bayamo.

After lunch continue on to Camaguey and overnight at the Gran Hotel.

Before dinner enjoy a private Salsa class. Salsa has its origins in Cuba where the blending of African drum rhythms and Spanish guitar evolved into a variety of Latin American music. Today's Salsa dancing is a rich blend of Latin-American and Western influences.

CAMAGUEY  (B/L/D)

November 11
During the 19th century, Camaguey was the center of the rebellion against Spain.

After Dr. Plattus's second lecture, enjoy a walking tour of the large colonial core of the city. It is now a national monument containing more old buildings than any other city save Havana. Visit a number of buildings including the Casa Natal de Ignacio Agramonte, the birthplace of the patriotic hero and the mansion where his family lived for many years. Now a museum, the house preserves the original furniture and a number of enormous clay pots. These clay pots, now a symbol of the city, were used to store water and historically a family's wealth could be measured by the number of tinajones (clay pots) in their possession.

Visit the main theater which is home to the Ballet of Camaguey, the most respected Cuban dance group after the Ballet Nacional.

Schedule permitting, attend an Alfareros game. The Alfareros
are the baseball team that represented Camaguey in the Cuban National Series.

**CAMAGUEY (B/L/D)**

**November 12**

This morning, drive to Minas to visit a very special violin workshop which opened in 1976. With the Cuban Ministry of Culture, the workshop owner is training locals to turn native hardwoods into elegantly carved violins.

From here drive to Rancho King. In 1952, the Kleberg family, owners of Texan King Ranch, bought the land in Cuba. In 1959, when the Cuban government seized the property, there were more than 38,000 acres of land, 8,000 heads of cattle and the farm was valued at $5 million dollars. Surprisingly, the ranch has been kept intact and now offers an opportunity to glimpse into the holdings that the US had in this area, as well as see how the land is being used today. Enjoy a special rodeo where you can see the skills of local horsemen. Vicente, manager of the land, will then accompany the group on a short walk to the village of Cafetal where there will be an opportunity to visit the Pablo Miguel Napoles elementary school. Continue on to visit a traditional home and learn more about the fruits and trees grown in the area.

After a roast pig lunch return to Camaguey to enjoy drinks at the home of Cuba’s most creative and prodigious contemporary painters, Joel Jover and his wife Ileana Sanzhez. Enjoy dinner at the newly opened 1800 Restaurant.

**TRINIDAD (B/L/D)**

**November 13**

Drive to Trinidad stopping en route at Ciego de Avila, a small city of shaded colonnaded storefronts and the most modern of Cuba’s provincial capitals.

Enjoy lunch and then set out for the Valle de Los Ingenios, a living museum of the sugar industry, featuring ruined sugar mills, summer mansions, bar racks, and other facilities.

Afternoon arrival in Trinidad. Check into the El Jagua Hotel and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

**TRINIDAD (B/L/D)**

**November 14**

After Dr. Plattus’s third lecture, spend the day exploring Trinidad, the crown jewel of Cuba’s colonial cities. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence. Stop in at Trinidad’s Library where the group will meet with library staff and discuss the subject of intellectual freedom, a passionately debated issue.

After enjoying lunch at Sol Ananda, walk to the traditional Trinidad home of Julio, a horse whisperer, and his wife Rosa Munoz to visit with the family and enjoy their horses.

Enjoy dinner at a private restaurant.

**HAVANA (B/L/D)**

**November 15**

Morning drive to Havana, stopping en route at the Bay of Pigs where, in 1962, about 1,300 heavily armed CIA-trained Cuban exiles came ashore fully equipped to provoke a counterrevolution to topple the Castro regime.

Enjoy lunch nearby before visiting Ernest Hemingway’s home which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government.

After lunch, stop at the historic Nacional Hotel for a drink. Its remaining splendor and history serve as a tangible reminder to Cuba’s past times.

Check into the Parque Central then enjoy a rum based cocktail followed by dinner on the hotel rooftop.

**HAVANA (B/L/D)**

**November 16**

This morning, enjoy Dr. Plattus’s fourth lecture followed by 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 facade beyond which lies the University of Havana.

Dinner at Café Oriente.
HAVANA  (B/L)
**November 17**
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.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit a community project called Artecorte run by Gilberto Valladares (Papito) who is with the help of the city is restoring the neighborhood. Continue on to visit a rations store and a senior center. Attend an evening reception at the Ludwig Foundation, an organization committed to the promotion of art in Cuba. Enjoy dinner at leisure.

HAVANA  (B/L/D)
**November 18**
Morning lecture on “US/Cuban Relations” by Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana. End the morning at 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.

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.

End the afternoon at the studio of Havana Compas and enjoy a private performance of this dance/musical group.

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.

IN TRANSIT  (B)
**November 19**
This morning, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

A Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

In transit meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

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**PROGRAM COSTS AND INCLUDED FEATURES**

Trip Price: $5900 (Based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement: $1000 (limited availability)

Group size 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.
Yale Lecturer

Alan Plattus ’76 is Professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Yale School of Architecture. He has an independent practice as an architectural and urban design consultant and has lectured across the country and abroad on the history of architecture and cities, as well as contemporary issues in architecture and urban design. He founded and directs the Yale Urban Design Workshop, a community design center based at the School of Architecture, which has undertaken civic design and neighborhood planning projects in New Haven and throughout Connecticut. He has also published on topics ranging from the history of cities to recent American architecture and urban design.

Professor Plattus has traveled and worked abroad extensively as coordinator of Yale’s China Studio for ten years, as the leader of a Yale team working on a Peace Park in the Middle East, but the core of his focus as a professional and teacher has been American towns and cities. Since the early nineties he has taught a popular Yale undergraduate course on New Haven and the American city. Professor Plattus is married to Nancy Berliner ’75, ’79 MD, Professor of Medicine at Yale for twenty years and now Chief of the Section of Hematology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Parque Central Hotel

The Parque Central is considered to be amongst the best hotels in Havana with a wonderful location in the heart of Old Havana. The hotel faces Central Park and is within walking distance to the Plaza de la Catedral, Capitolio building, Gran Teatro de La Habana, and Havana Harbor.

El Jagua Hotel

Built in the modernist style of the 1950’s, the El Jagua hotel was recently renovated in a sophisticated contemporary style.

Melia Santiago Hotel

An iconic city hotel considered the best hotel in Santiago with great city views and the Sierra Maestra as a backdrop.

Gran Hotel Camaguey

The Gran Hotel is a colonial style hotel centrally located in Camaguey.

Parque Central Hotel
RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, please mail a check made payable to “DISTANT HORIZONS” for $1000 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 8, 2014 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 preparing for the tour.

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

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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.

Visit www.yaleedtravel.org to book online or return the below form with your deposit check payable to “Distant Horizons” to Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TO CUBA TODAY! NOVEMBER 8-19, 2014

Please sign and return this form with a $1000 deposit check (per person) payable to “Distant Horizons” to:
Association of Yale Alumni
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New Haven, CT 06520-9010

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)
Title ___ First ________________ Mid.Intl. ____ Last _________________
Yale Affiliation(s) ___________________ Birthdate ___________________
Title ___ First ________________ Mid.Intl. ____ Last _________________
Yale Affiliation(s) ___________________ Birthdate ___________________
Street Address   _______________________________________________
City _________________________State  ___________ZIP  ____________
Home: ( ______ )  ____________________________________________
Office: ( ______ )  ____________________________________________
E-mail: ______________________________________________________

I/We authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

☐ I will share accommodations with: ____________________________
(Form sent separately.)

☐ I prefer single accommodations at an additional $1000 (limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by September 8, 2014 (60 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, payable to Distant Horizons.

I/We have carefully read the costs, responsibility, and terms and conditions sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Signature__________________________________Date__________
Explore Santiago which has some of the most exciting music, art and architecture in the Caribbean.

Enjoy exploring Camaguey and the colonial core of its city, now a national monument that contains a treasure trove of old buildings.

Continue on to Trinidad, the crown jewel of Cuba’s colonial cities. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence.

Take an in-depth look at Havana, considered to be the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Look at the historical core and understand how that can be preserved.

On this unique people-to-people program, meet with many Cubans to understand the richness of this splendid island and gain a first hand perspective of daily life in Cuba and the challenges they face.

Legacies and Landscapes of Cuba

November 8 - 19,