Cuba

New Year's in Cuba

Professor Anne Eller
Assistant Professor of History

December 27, 2017-January 1, 2018
Dear Yale Traveler

Cuba is a nation with many layers of rich history, architecture, and politics, from Spanish colonial contests, to the heady developments of the twentieth century, to the revolution itself in 1959, when Cuba claimed an unprecedented presence on the world stage. Now, thirty years after the downfall of the Soviet Union and with the beginning of normalizing relations with the U.S., many believe it is only a matter of time before the politics, environment, and landscape of Cuba change forever. At the same time, this announcement has brought hope to the people of Cuba and the prospect of new opportunities. There simply could not be a more compelling time to visit.

Travel with Yale for a unique opportunity to see the Cuba of today with your family and witness natural beauty and cosmopolitan history of the island. This Cuba program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture and allow the Yale 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.

To introduce myself, I am a historian of the Caribbean with experience in all sorts of archives, from Roseau, to Santo Domingo, to Port-au-Prince, to Havana, and other sites. I have been traveling to the island for more than a decade, and I look forward to discussing the island’s colonial and contemporary history and politics with you.

Travel with Yale, and enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group of like-minded people/families and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Call today to hold your space on this sure to sell out fast program.

All the best from Yale,

Professor Anne Eller
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www.yaleedtravel.org/cubafamily17

Highlights

Conversations with local residents and professionals from all walks of contemporary Cuban life offer a unique and comprehensive perspective into daily life on the island.

Take an in-depth look at Havana, with its splendid examples of Spanish colonial architecture, said to be the finest in the Americas.

Marvel at Cuba’s most famous landscape with a full day excursion to the Valle de Vinales, with its jungle covered summits dropping down limestone cliffs to verdant valleys.
Anne Eller is an assistant professor of Latin American and Caribbean history. She received her degree in history of the African Diaspora and Latin America from NYU; her dissertation received the Dean’s prize for outstanding dissertation in the humanities, 2011-2012. Her work has been supported by Fulbright-Hays, the Doris Quinn Foundation, Yale’s Macmillan Center, and other grants.

Her first book, We Dream Together, focuses on the reoccupation of the Dominican Republic by Spain in 1861, the popular anti-colonial movement that followed, and collective emancipation battles throughout the Caribbean. She has participated in colloquia at venues like the Dominican National Archives and Philadelphia’s Taller Puertorriqueño and in the Digital Library of the Caribbean’s online exhibit “Haiti: An Island Luminous.”

Currently, her research explores the political struggles over emancipation and citizenship in the greater Caribbean and hemispheric context during the nineteenth century. Her new project, tentatively entitled Other 1898s, considers these questions in a number of islands at the turn of the twentieth century.

At Yale, she teaches courses in modern and colonial Latin American and Caribbean history, Caribbean political thought, comparative colonialisms, citizenship, and the African Diaspora.
WELCOME PHONE CALL  
**Thursday, December 7 (tentative)**
Join the Yale group at 4pm EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Anne Eller in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

ARRIVE HAVANA  
**Wednesday, December 27**
Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at Macondo, a lovely private restaurant.

After lunch, visit Ernest Hemingway’s home which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government, with his books on the tables and many of his favorite photographs on display.

After checking in to the Parque Central Hotel, enjoy an introductory lecture by Yale Professor Anne Eller.

Mingle over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres on the hotel rooftop, followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel. (L/D)

HAVANA  
**Thursday, December 28**
This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Old Havana led by an architectural historian. Stop to admire the city’s many squares, its cathedral, and talk with local residents. View a scale-model of Old Havana which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city.

Attend a rehearsal of the Camerata Romeu, an all-women stringed orchestra.

Walk through the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square. Visit the iconic Hotel Nacional and enjoy lunch outside on the beautiful grounds of the hotel.

After lunch, visit the Museo de Bellas Artes, Cuban Collection accompanied by a curator of contemporary art.

End the day at the Callejon de Hamel, the site of a huge multi-dimensional Afro-Cuban mural. Accompanied by a Santeria practioner, enter a Santeria home and learn more about the Santeria religion.

Enjoy dinner this evening at the waterfront restaurant, Rio Mar. (B/L/D)

HAVANA  
**Friday, December 29**
Depart for a full day excursion to the west part of Cuba, with its jungle-covered summits dropping down limestone cliffs to verdant valleys.

Continue on to the Valle de Vinales, 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.

Enjoy a visit to a tobacco farm to learn more about the growing of tobacco and the economics of the tobacco industry in Cuba.

Enjoy a wonderful lunch at a beautiful organic farm with breathtaking views.

After lunch spend some time exploring the town of Vinales before departing for Havana.

This evening, enjoy dinner at leisure. (B/L)

HAVANA  
**Saturday, December 30**
Morning viewing of the documentary film La Maestra which tells the stories of the youngest women literacy workers who went to the mountains and valleys across the island to teach. Visit with one of the women featured in the film and understand how she and the others found themselves deeply transformed in the process.

After the discussion, watch an exciting and diverse private
performance of the dance/musical group Havana Compas.

From here, visit the home and studio of artist José Fuster for a private lunch. Fuster has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

After lunch drive to Marianao to learn about a project called Angeles del Futuro (Angels of the Future) in which children aged between 7-15 years are trained in circus skills.

Enjoy dinner at El Ajibe. (B/L/D)

HAVANA
Sunday, December 31
Morning visit to the Presidential Palace, now known as the home of the Revolutionary Museum which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development. Nearby is the Granma Memorial, which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba.

Continue on to the Plaza San Francisco to watch a performance of the only Cuban theater company made up by children, La Colmenita - the Small Beehive.

Enjoy a pig roast lunch followed by a baseball game with a local youth Cuban baseball team.

End the afternoon with a private salsa class.

Depart the hotel for a farewell New Year’s Eve Dinner at Moneda Cubana located on the Plaza de la Catedral. (B/L/D)

RETURN TO THE U.S.
Monday, January 1
Return flight to the USA. (B)

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

What is Included:
• Program of lectures and discussions with Professor Eller.
• Accommodation on twin sharing basis as per the itinerary.
• All meals listed in the program. One drink with each included meal and wine at welcome and farewell dinners.
• Bottled water on transportation in a deluxe motor-coach with air-conditioning.
• Services of a local Cuban guide and Distant Horizons tour manager.
• Sightseeing and excursions listed.
• Roundtrip airport transfers for a group arrival and departure.
• All gratuities.
• A Cuban visa for all non-Cuban born citizens.

What is Not Included:
• Airfare to and from Havana - please note scheduled flights from the USA to Cuba include the health and evacuation insurance required by the Cuban Government which typically provides $25,000 worth of medical coverage and $7,000 worth of evacuation.
• Airport transfers for individual arrivals and transfers.
• Departure taxes.
• Travel insurance.
• Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, lost luggage, etc.
• Items not listed and expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical
Program Cost

Trip cost based on double occupancy: $5190

Child cost (12 and under): $4890

Single Supplement: $1,310 (limited availability)

Note: Above costs based on double occupancy. Itinerary subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

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Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/cubafamily17
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL

The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) or Distant Horizons (“DH”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION

YET and DH must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses; and loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space.

Terms and Conditions

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All cancellations must be made in writing to YET, and are subject to a $300 non-refundable administrative fee. At the time YET receives written notification of cancellation, the following charges will apply: cancellations received more than 90 days prior to departure, full refund less the non-refundable administrative fee; received between 90 days and 60 days prior to departure, a refund less a $1000 cancellation charge; received 59 days and 30 days prior to departure, a refund less 50% of trip price. No refunds will be given for cancellations received within 30 days of departure.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs
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Experience New Year’s Eve in Cuba with its many festivities, music, carnivals, fireworks, and traditions! On New Year’s Eve, Cuban families burn their Año Viejo doll and throw a bucket of water on the street, both a way to throw out and forget the bad things that have happened in the past and usher in the new.