Dear Sam Houston Alumni & Friends,

Located 90 miles off the coast of Key West, Florida, Cuba is an island brimming with vibrant art, soulstirring music and villages cloaked in colonial charm. Cuba, once again accessible to American travelers, is a country begging to be explored. Travel with us to the largest Caribbean island nation and discover a country with a population as warm and scintillating as its tropical climate and colorful arts.

Begin your journey in Havana, Cuba's enigmatic capital city, whose nearly 500-year Old Havana is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the largest collections of Spanish-Colonial architecture in the Americas. Learn more about the Plaza de la Revolucion, the center of Cuban political life where millions of Cubans listened to speeches of Fidel Castro.

Continue the tour with a fascinating visit and guided tour with a local cigar expert to the La Corona Cigar Factory. See firsthand and learn about the history and the process of Cuban cigars being hand rolled. Enjoy a performance by the amazing Habana Compas Dance Group. Interact with the students and teachers to learn more about the Cuban dance culture. Tour the famous Nacional Hotel, once Havana's flagship hotel that has hosted celebrities and world leaders during its heyday, such as Winston Churchill and Frank Sinatra to name a few.

Travel out of Havana and into the rural Cuban countryside to the Vinales Valley located in the western most mountainous range in Cuba and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This region, is known for its stunning scenery, a landscape of prehistoric looking flat-top mountains or "mogotes", tobacco plantations, caves and rivers.

Visit Ernest Hemingway's Farm, (Finca La Vigia meaning 'lookout house'), this beautiful property hosts the house where the Nobel Prize winner lived with his wife Martha for 21 years. View the perfectly preserved home where many of the Hemingway personal furniture and belongings remain intact.

Please review the itinerary details and keep in mind that roundtrip airfare is included in the tour price. We hope that you can join us on this incredible trip!

Cheers,

Donna Gilbert

Donna Gilbert Director of Alumni Engagement & Membership







State University Traveling Bearkats

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Sam







Traveling Bearkats presents



Cuba Discovery

Highlights of Havana, Vinales & the Pinar del Rio

6 Days February 24, 2025

BOOKING DISCOUNT

Save \$100 Per Persor \$200 Per Couple



Highlights:

• Museum of the Revolution

- Old Havana Walking Tour
- Artist Jose Fuster
- Cigar Factory Tour
- Havana Club Rum Museum
- Hemingway's Farm
- Habana Compas Dance Group Performance
- Old Style Classic Car Club
- Nacional Hotel Tour
- Pinar Del Rio & Vinales Valley
- Tobacco Farm & Farmhouse Visit

Inclusions:

- Round Trip Airfare From** IAH
- U.S. Air Departure Taxes & Fees
- Cuban Health Insurance
- 5 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- Bilingual Cuban Tour Guide
- U.S. Tour Director
- 12 Meals (5B, 4L, 3D)
- Support of the Cuban People Interactions
- Admissions per Itinerary
- Baggage Handling at Hotel
- Air Conditioned Motorcoach
- Hotel & Airport Transfers In Cuba
- Gratuities for Hotel Porters, Wait Staff at included Meals, Local Step on Guides and "Support of the Cuban People" Visits & Interactions

Accommodations

5 Nights - Grand Aston Hotel La Habana,

Havana, Cuba

Hotel is subject to change. On some dates an alternate hotel may be used.

CUBAN TRAVEL VISA

Cuban Travel Visa is required for travel to Cuba and applies to United States citizens only. The Cuban Visa cost is \$115 per person including processing fees and is **not included** in the tour rates. Cuban Visa cost will be invoiced with final payment and is subject to change.

Tour Rates:

Booking Discount*: **Regular Rate:** Single Supplement:

*See Reservation Info for Booking Discount details

+\$800

**Other gateways are available. For more information and pricing, please call Premier World Discovery at 877-953-8687.

TRAVEL TO CUBA LEGALLY!

Premier World Discovery offers you the opportunity to travel legally to Cuba under the new OFAC Regulations which were published June 5, 2019. Our scheduled tours follow the General License category of "Support for the Cuban People" and our itineraries include activities that are intended to strengthen civil society in Cuba. Every day's program is designed to promote independence for the Cuban people and is complete with meaningful interactions with the Cuban people

We operate these tours under an OFAC (the Office of Foreign Assets Control) general license, under section 31 CFR § 515.572(a)(1) to provide travel services to U.S. travelers to Cuba. Our tours meet all requirements listed by section 31 CFR §515.574 for Support for the Cuban People. We also organize tours in several of the other 11 categories of travel that are permitted, including: § 515.565 (educational activities), § 515.566 (religious activities) and, §515.575 (humanitarian projects).

Our immersive Cuba tours provide a rich and authentic way to learn about the lives of Cubans, while also sharing with them our perspectives on the world. Our goal is for there to be a mutual benefit to all involved as we learn from each other. Your participation in our Cuba tours support the Cuban entrepreneurs that provide us with private services along the way.

Traveling to Cuba with Premier World Discovery provides a hassle-free, fully legal way for Americans to visit, experience and check off that "bucket list" to Cuba you have always dreamed of. With over 24 years specializing in global

group travel, and operating tours in Cuba since 2012 while servicing thousands of travelers and hundred of groups to Cuba. We are experts in finding and offering authentic experiences that get you behind the scenes to understand the rich culture and history of Cuba. Our extensive network of guides, drivers, restaurant owners, artists and more is essential to the success of your travels in Cuba. We offer pre-set /scheduled departures to Cuba that allow you to book onto and enjoy immersive tours to Cuba with the experts that provides a unique exposure to a dynamic and diverse culture.

Travelers must have a full-time schedule of activities that enhance contact with the Cuban people and result in meaningful interactions with individuals in Cuba. Our expertly designed tours provide this rich content every day.

Premier World Discovery's tours include a

schedule of interesting, educational, interactive and meaningful exchange activities, and as such these tours are not self-directed or self-guided. Trips are fully scheduled, and activities are immersive and incredibly insightful for the Cuban visitor

Itinerary:

DAY 1: DEPART USA - ARRIVE HAVANA

Arrive in Havana at the Jose Marti International Airport and clearing customs and meet your local English speaking Cuban Tour Guide and US Tour Director. Your drive from the airport orients you with Cuba's enigmatic capital city, whose nearly 500-year Old Havana is home to the largest collections of Spanish-Colonial architecture in the Americas. Make a photo stop and learn more about the Plaza de la Revolucion, the center of Cuban political life where millions of Cubans listened to speeches of Fidel Castro. Check into your hotel and unpack for your five night stay. Dinner is included this evening. 🔀 (D) Overnight: Havana

DAY 2: OLD HAVANA (UNESCO) - MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION

This morning enjoy a guided walking tour of pedestrian only **Old Havana**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the beautiful Cathedral de la Havana, built in baroque style in 1748 and learn about its preservation and continuous restoration. Next, enjoy a fascinating tour of the Havana Club Rum Museum with a local Cuban rum expert to learn about the history and process of making Cuban Rum and an opportunity to sample the differences. Following lunch at a local Paladar in Old Havana this afternoon we visit the famous Museum of the Revolution that displays documents and artifacts, weapons and planes from the revolution. Learn about the Bay of Pigs, the 1961 historic clash between the CIA trained Cuban exiles & rebel forces. Next head to the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the incredible Home and Work Shop of world famous artist, painter and ceramicist Jose Fuster, often called the "Picasso of Cuba". He has adorned an entire neighborhood with colorful ornate mosaics. Here we spend time with to discuss the influence of the artist's work and their lives and community. Dinner is on your own this evening allowing you to explore the fine restaurants, cuisine and Jazz clubs of Havana. Perhaps even take in the world famous Tropicana Cabaret Show on your own that offers an evening of music and history at this famous nightclub show that presents song-and-dance performances of 1950's Cuba. (B,L) **Overnight: Havana**

DAY 3: HAVANA - CIGAR FACTORY - HABANA COMPAS

This morning following breakfast we begin the day with a fascinating visit and guided tour with a local cigar expert to the La Corona Cigar Factory. See firsthand and learn about the history and the process of Cuban cigars being hand rolled. The factory rolls such brands as Hoya de Monterrey and Cuaba & Punch. Next enjoy a performance by the amazing **Habana Compas Dance Group**. Interact with the students and teachers to learn more about the Cuban dance culture. Next, tour the famous Nacional Hotel, once Havana's flagship hotel that has hosted celebrities and world leaders during its heyday, such as Winston Churchill and Frank Sinatra to name a few. Free time to explore this historic property housing pictures and nostalgia from a by gone era or even sip a Mojito on the patio. Meet a former famous professional Cuban baseball player and join in a discussion regarding the history and love of this game in Cuba. Religion has always played an important role in Cuban society. Enjoy a fascinating walking tour of the Colon Cemetery founded in 1876, and noted for its elaborate sculpted memorials containing more than 500 major mausoleums and chapels. The cemetery is the final resting place for famous Cubans including artists, writers, musicians and ballplayers. Dinner is included this evening at a local Paladar. (B,L,D) **Overnight: Havana**

DAY 4: HAVANA - VINALES VALLEY (UNESCO) - PINAR DEL RIO

Today we travel out of Havana and into the rural Cuban countryside to the Vinales Valley located in the western most mountainous range in Cuba and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This region, the western province of Pinar del Rio is known for its stunning scenery, a landscape of prehistoric looking flat-top mountains or "mogotes", tobacco plantations, caves and rivers. Next, visit a traditional Tobacco Farm and Farmhouse to meet with the farmer to learn about tobacco cultivation, the drying process and experience a cigar rolling demonstration inside the drying hut. Enjoy a visit inside his farmhouse, meeting and interacting with his family and enjoy some Cuban coffee. A great opportunity to witness up close, how Cuban families live in a rural setting. Next enjoy lunch at the beautiful Finca Paraiso Paladar (organic farm) offering incredible panoramic views of the Vinales Valley and an opportunity to meet the Cuban family that owns this organic farm. Later stop at the **Los Jasmines viewpoin**t offering panoramic views of the Vinales Valley and an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular scenery and take photos of this beautiful and unique region of Cuba. Return to Havana later this afternoon with the evening on your own to explore Havana's many outstanding Paladars, Jazz clubs or simply relax. 🔀 (B,L) **Overnight: Havana**

DAY 5: HAVANA - HEMINGWAY FARM - CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Next enter the world of Ernest Hemingway with a visit to Hemingway's Farm, Finca La Vigia (meaning 'lookout house'). This beautiful property hosts the house where the Nobel Prize winner lived with his wife Martha for 21 years. View the perfectly preserved home where many of the Hemingway personal furniture and belongings remain intact. View his famous boat on display, the Pilar in which he used to patrol for Nazis in the Caribbean waters and featured in his novel "Islands in the Stream". A photo stop is made at the Morro **Castle**, built in 1589, to protect the mouth of the Havana Harbor. "Morro" in Spanish means a rock which is very visible from the sea and therefore serves as a navigational landmark. Perched on the headland on the opposite side of the harbor from Old Havana it can be viewed from miles around as it dominates the port entrance. Next visit the San Jose Craft Market and Art Center to meet and interact with the local artists to discuss and learn of the importance of their art in Cuban culture. Learn from the artists who share their experiences of pursuing the arts with limited access to materials and funding. Before dinner, meet the local Old Style Car Club owners. A chance to interact and talk with the owners and learn why Havana's streets are filled with vintage American automobiles and understand what it takes to keep them on the road. Enjoy a drive through the streets of Havana in a vintage car to a local Paladar for your farewell dinner. After dinner you have an opportunity to meet and discuss with the owners how this private Paladar enterprise works in Cuba. 🔀 (B,L,D) **Overnight: Havana**

DAY 6: HAVANA - FLIGHT BACK TO USA

Breakfast is included this morning. Transfer to the airport for your return flight home with incredible memories of the amazing people, culture and new friends made during your Cuba Discovery tour. 🔀 (B)

Daily tour ltinerary is subject to change. It's very common for the daily activities and 'Support of the Cuban People' / 'People to People' interactions & visits to be interchanged and experienced on different days than this itinerary. All visits and experiences will be included as written in this itinerary, but could be on different days due to availability and schedules.

Reservation Information:

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT

BOOKING DISCOUNT

CUBAN TRAVEL VISA

Reservation Form	Fax, Mail or Email Form to:
Cuba Discovery	Sam Houston State University Traveling Bearkats c/o Premier World Discovery 1650 So. Pacific Coast Hwy., Suite 202
February 24 - March 1, 2025	
Booking #182718 (Web Code)	Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Make Checks Payable to:	Phone: 877.953.8687 Fax: 310.372.0637
Premier World Discovery	Email: info@premierworlddiscovery.com
	Website: https://res.premierworlddiscovery.com
Enclosed find a Deposit in the amount of \$	(\$600 per person) to secure reservations for# of people
Premier's Travel Protection Plan (TPP):	
Yes, I (we) wish to purchase travel pro	tection (TPP) No, I (we) decline travel protection (TPP)
Enclosed find payment in the amount of \$	(\$399 per person) to secure the Premier's Travel Protection Plan (TPP)
Total Payment \$	
RT AIR GATEWAY	ROOMMATE'S RT AIR GATEWAY
see tour details panel for included group RT air	gateway/departure city, additional charges apply for other RT air gateways
To avoid change fees, submit Pas	sport names (first/mid/last) exactly as they appear on Passports
Passport Name	DOB (MM/DD/YY) Gender
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Roommate's Passport Name	DOB (MM/DD/YY) Gender
Passport #:	Exp (MM/DD/YY)/ Country of Issuance
	Exp (MM/DD/YY)/ Country of Issuance
Your Address	Check if Roommate's address is the same
City	State ZIP
Tel #	Mbl #
Email Address	
Emergency Contact/Tel #	
Badge Name(s)	
Cardholder Name (if paying by credit card)	
Amount to be charged \$	
Amount to be charged \$	Exp. Date:CVV#

policy and other terms



Deposit of \$600 per person is due with Reservation Form to secure reservations. Final Payment Due Date is 90 days prior to departure.

Make your Final Payment by check prior to the Final Payment Due Date & receive \$200 per couple/\$100 per person Booking Discount! •Initial Deposit can be made by check or credit card to be eligible. • Payments after Initial Deposit are considered part of Final Payment & must be made by check.

ONLINE BOOKING OPTION - Save time, postage & secure your seat for this group departure. Simply type https://res.premierworlddiscovery.com into your web browser & use the Booking Number (Web Code) from this flyer to make your Deposit online in just a few minutes. No need to submit a Reservation Form if booking online.

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