

# Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

## Cuba: Discover the Jewel of the West Indies

May 23-30, 2014

Dear World Affairs Council of Charlotte Travelers,

Join us for this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in Cuba while exploring local landmarks that are significant to Cuba's heritage. This trip is coordinated in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and the Economy.

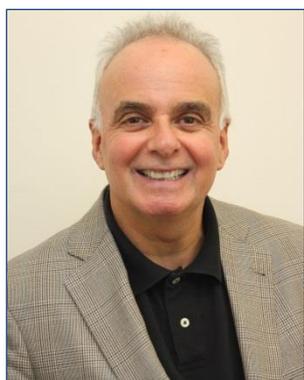
This program has been designed to unravel the richness of Cuban culture while interacting with local residents and professionals to gain a new, in-depth perception of Cuban life. Spend two days exploring Cienfuegos and Trinidad, one of Cuba's oldest colonial cities. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered by many as the crown jewel of Cuba. Drive west to spend five days exploring Havana which has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas.

Accompanying the trip will be Ljubomir (L.J.) Stambuk, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte as well as Dr. Joseph Scarpaci, Director of the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and the Economy, who has led multiple "behind-the-scenes" and personalized tours to Cuba. In addition, our very own Jeff Knight of "Knight Travel," and a full time Cuban travel guide will be joining us throughout the trip. *You will be well cared for!*

Dr. Scarpaci will provide a rich educational component to this program with his daily discussions and insights. Join him on morning walking tours, lively debates, or even yoga classes!

**We encourage you to make your reservation today!**

(Photos: top right – [source](#); bottom right, Plaza de la Catedral in Old Havana – [source](#))



### Dr. Joseph L. Scarpaci: Biography

As a world renowned authority on Cuba, Dr. Joseph Scarpaci has led numerous education and cultural tours to Cuba. His extensive experience, in-depth knowledge and countless anecdotal stories and local knowledge makes him the perfect expert to lead World Affairs Council of Charlotte members on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Cuba, the Jewel of the West Indies. During this trip, Dr. Scarpaci will educate and lead travelers through personalized explorations of **all the best** that Cuba has to offer from hidden gems of local art and shopping, vibrant music and mouthwatering Cuban delicacies at neighborhood restaurants.

Dr. Joseph L. Scarpaci (Ph.D., Florida) is a broadly trained human geographer, with a regional focus in Cuba and the Southern Cone, and the southern portion of South America. Dr. Scarpaci holds degrees in Geography from Penn State (M.S.) and Rutgers University (B.A.). He is the founder and Executive Director of The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture & Economy, Associate Professor of Marketing and Interim Chair of the Department of Marketing

and Management at West Liberty University (WV), and Emeritus Professor of Geography and former Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning at Virginia Tech.

From 1992 to 2005, Dr. Scarpaci coordinated the longest-running U.S. study abroad program in Cuba, bringing more than 500 students, faculty, and interested travelers to the island. His earlier work specialized in Latin American studies, urban affairs and planning (particularly urban geography, Latin American historic districts, and urban social movements), and urban social theory. Since 1974, Dr. Scarpaci has invested 89 months of field research in Latin America and has presented more than 100 invited lecturers at universities, government agencies, and international organizations. He has published several books, including Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis (UNC Press, 2002), co-authored by Cuban architects M. Coyula and R. Segre; Plazas and Barrios: Heritage Tourism and Globalization in the Latin American Centro Histórico (U. of Arizona Press, 2005); Cuban Landscapes: Heritage, Memory and Place (Guilford Press, 2009), co-authored by A. Portella; and Marketing without Advertising: Brand Preference and Consumer Choice in Cuba (Routledge Press, 2011) co-authored by E. Morales.

### Thursday, May 22, 2014 – OPTIONAL: Charlotte to Miami (via American Airlines)

#### NOTE THAT MOST CHARTER FLIGHTS TO CUBA DEPART MIAMI EARLY MORNING

You should plan on traveling to **Miami** the day prior to departure and overnight in or near the airport.

The World Affairs Council of Charlotte has arranged **an optional overnight package to Miami** that includes accommodation at the Miami Airport Marriott with breakfast, a fun evening with dinner and wine at an exceptional Cuban restaurant in Coral Gables and transfers with a short city sightseeing tour of **Miami**.

**OPTIONAL:** Cost per person for this **Miami** pre-departure hotel and dinner package is \$245 and \$310 for a twin/double and single respectively. Please contact Knight Travel (704-366-5525; [jknight111@hotmail.com](mailto:jknight111@hotmail.com)) for assistance booking air travel to Miami. **Limited group space is being held through American Airlines departing from Charlotte.**



### Friday, May 23, 2014 – Cienfuegos / Trinidad

Arrive in **Cienfuegos** and enjoy a walking tour of the historic area around the Parque Marti. Stop in at the Tomas Terry Theater built in the late 1800s by the son of Venezuelan industrialist Tomas Terry. The uniqueness of the theatre is visible from the seats made from Cuban hardwoods and an impressive ceiling fresco. Enjoy lunch at Jardin de los Laureles after the tour.

Drive to the Taller Grafico, a wonderful graphic print shop and meet the artists, some of whom hold classes for local residents with Down's Syndrome.

Continue on to **Trinidad** to check in to the lovely Iberostar Hotel, located in the heart of **Trinidad**, before enjoying an introductory lecture followed by drinks and a welcome dinner at the hotel.

**Lunch and dinner provided.**

(Photos Left: top – Cienfuegos [source](#); middle - urban historic center of Cienfuegos, Parque Marti [source](#); bottom – Tomas Terry Theater [source](#); below – Iberostar Hotel [source](#))



## Saturday, May 24, 2014 - Trinidad

Spend the day exploring this city, the crown jewel of Cuba's colonial cities. Founded by Diego de Velasquez in 1514, **Trinidad** is located in the Central Cuban province of Sancti Spiritus, but owes its existence and historical significance to the sugar industry that flourished there and in the nearby Valle de los Ingenios (Valley of the Sugar Mills) in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. **Trinidad's** urban architecture coupled with continuity and homogeneity in terms of construction and design is evident, particularly in its early 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, with strong Andalusian and Moorish influences. In addition to its architecture, much of **Trinidad's** urban fabric, including the irregular system of squares and plazas, cobblestone streets and other historical and urban elements has been preserved.



Begin the day at the Plaza Mayor (*pictured above left – [source](#)*) which is in the center of town. Around the plaza are the Museo Romantico, the Museo Arqueologia, and the cathedral, Iglesia Parroquial de la Santísima Trinidad (*pictured above center - [source](#)*) which was built between 1817 and 1892.

Visit the Palacio Cantero (*pictured above right – [source](#)*), a mansion originally built in the early 1800s by one of the richest men in Cuba, Don Pedro Jose Iznaga Borell, but is now the Municipal Museum, which details the history of Trinidad. It features a large galleries courtyard and artifacts left by those fleeing the 1959 revolution. The viewing tower that's part of the museum provides panoramic views over the Colonial **Trinidad** and the sea.



Stop in at the home and studio of artist Carlos Mata and his wife, Barbara Calzada and daughter, Amaya Mata, who are also artists. Enjoy lunch at a new private restaurant and engage with the staff of the restaurant before visiting Trinidad's library where the group will learn how books are selected and what censorship occurs and discuss how Havana exerts control in more rural areas.

Continue on to explore Valle de Los Ingenios, the sugar industry's living museum which includes the famous Manaca-Iznaga Tower (*pictured left - [source](#)*).

Enjoy an opportunity to visit a beach before dinner this evening at Sol y Son.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.**

## Sunday, May 25, 2014 - Havana



Morning drive along the “autopista” to **Havana** making a stop en route to the *Bay of Pigs* where in 1962 about 1,300 heavily armed CIA-trained Cuban exiles landed with the aim of ousting the Castro regime.

Arrive in **Havana** and enjoy a welcome lunch at the historic Nacional Hotel. Located on Malecón, this hotel designed by a famed New York firm in the 1930s has an interesting history marked by political changes. Its remaining splendor and history serves as a tangible reminder to Cuba’s past. (Pictured left - [source](#))

For an overview of the hotel’s history visit their [website](#).



After lunch, there will be an orientation tour of the city before arriving at the Parque Central Hotel. **Havana** is the Caribbean’s largest city with a romantic and colonial atmosphere that captures its culturally unique society and roller-coaster history. It’s not unusual to find vintage American cars with Russian engines parked against ration shops built next to palatial buildings marking its complex past. (Pictured left - [source](#))

Dr. Scarpaci will deliver an in-depth and thought provoking lecture on Cuba followed by cocktails and dinner on the hotel’s rooftop. Enjoy some of the best views in Cuba with a Cuban mojito!

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.**

## Monday, May 26, 2014 - Havana

This morning, Dr. Ricardo Torres, who is a professor at the Center for the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana and recent guest scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American studies, will facilitate a discussion on *The Changing Faces of Cuba’s Economic Structure* focusing on Cuba’s strategy to liberalize its economy. Cuba’s economy is going through monumental changes that include privatization of small businesses, devaluation of the peso (\*on par with the dollar) and new offerings of bank loans.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.**

Accompanied by Dr. Scarpaci, enjoy a carefully crafted walking tour of Old Havana (pictured right - [source](#)). **Havana** has the reputation of being the most splendid and finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Enjoy a private viewing of the newly created model of Old Havana, which serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. Enjoy lunch accompanied by traditional music at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square surrounded by mansions.



This afternoon, be part of a city orientation tour by motor coach which will be led by Dr. Scarpaci. 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 (*pictured right - [source](#)*). Drive along La Rampa to the Parque Copelia, a large, lush park that is an entire block.



Have dinner at the Café Oriente Restaurant, which is located right in Old Havana on one of its most beautiful squares.

## Tuesday, May 27, 2014 - Havana

Participate in a morning briefing at the US Interest Section to learn more about US/Cuban relations and the role of the US Interest Section.

After the briefing, enjoy a special visit to a farm and learn more about urban farming in Cuba. Continue on to learn about a community project called Artecorte that is opening a school for barbers and developing a children's park with a barber theme. From here visit a rations store and a senior center.



After a delightful lunch at El Figaro, visit the Presidential Palace, now a museum, which illustrates the history of the Cuban political development, from slave uprisings to joint missions with the ex-Soviet Union (*pictured left - [source](#)*).

A short walk away is the Granma Memorial which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other revolutionaries to Cuba in 1956. The Granma, a sizeable yacht, embodies the powerful spirit of the revolutionary movement.

**Breakfast and lunch provided. Enjoy a dinner at your leisure this evening.**

## Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - Havana

Listen to a morning lecture on “*US/Cuban Relations*” by Professor Raul Rodriguez from the University of Havana. Rodriguez has written extensively on Cuban foreign policy and U.S / Canada-Cuban relations including publications for the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (Harvard University) and Canadian Foreign Policy Journal.

After the lecture, watch a wonderful dance rehearsal of the Danza Contemporanea de Cuba. This extraordinary dance group blends classical ballet and American modern dance with complex techniques and rhythms of Cuban rumba, Afro-Cuban dance and Spanish flamenco. (*pictured right – [source](#)*).

Experience a private lunch at the home and studio of artist Jose Fuster who has turned his neighborhood into one enormous piece of mosaic art.

After lunch, meet with musicians and dancers from Havana Compas.



**Breakfast and lunch provided. Enjoy tonight's dinner at a private restaurant.**

## Thursday, May 29, 2014 – Havana



Visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Arte Cubano – Cuban Collection), which is an architectural gem itself (*pictured left – [source](#)*). This tour will be accompanied by a contemporary art curator, who will describe the history of Cuban art and how it's intertwined with the revolution and modern history.

After lunch at El Ajibe, visit the 7 y 60 studio to view the works of four young and emerging artists.

End the day with a visit to the Santonvenia Senior Center and meet with staff and residents. Senior citizens will be one of the fastest growing demographics in Cuba with life expectancy for both men and women being 75 and 79 respectively. Accordingly a recent article in Cuba's communist newspaper Granma, 26 percent of Cubans will be 60 or older, the highest percentage of seniors in Latin America.



Don't miss your farewell dinner which takes place at La Guarida, perhaps the most well-known of all "paladars" in **Havana** (*pictured left – [source](#)*), made famous because it was where *Fresa y Chocolate*, the 1994 Oscar-nominated film about gays in Cuba, was filmed.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.**

## Friday, May 30, 2014

Return flight to Miami.

**Breakfast provided.**

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## Cuba Trip Price

**20 Participants**      \$4490 (based on double occupancy)  
\*includes air travel from Miami to Cuba and all airline fuel surcharge and government taxes

**25 Participants**      \$4450 (based on double occupancy)  
\*includes air travel from Miami to Cuba and all airline fuel surcharge and government taxes

**Single occupancy rate:**    \$1080 (\*in addition to above referenced prices)

Please contact LJ Stambuk via [lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org](mailto:lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org) or 704-604-3317 if you are interested in single occupancy.

### Trip Price Includes:

- Roundtrip airfare on charter flights from Miami to Cuba
- 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 tour manager and of a local Cuban guide
- A Cuban visa
- All gratuities
- 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 and from Miami, any overnights in Miami, departure tax of USD 30 in Cuba, luggage charges, additional drinks at meals, trip cancellation, 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.

**Trip cancellation and additional travel insurance will be made available through Knight Travel.**

#### **Thursday, May 22, 2014 – OPTIONAL: Charlotte to Miami (via American Airlines)**

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#### **Cuba Trip Payment**

**Deposit:** \$500  
**Deposit Deadline:** Monday, March 3, 2014  
**Final Payment Deadline:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Checks are preferred and should be made out to **“Distant Horizons”** and mailed to the following address:

World Affairs Council of Charlotte  
 c/o UNC Charlotte  
 9201 University City Blvd.  
 Charlotte, NC 28223

**Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.** If you would like to become a WACC member, please contact Danielle Cobos, Program and Membership Manager via e-mail at [dcobos@worldaffairscharlotte.org](mailto:dcobos@worldaffairscharlotte.org) or call 704-687-7757 or [go to our website and sign-up online](#). Individual membership begins at \$50 and is tax deductible up to the extent allowed by law.