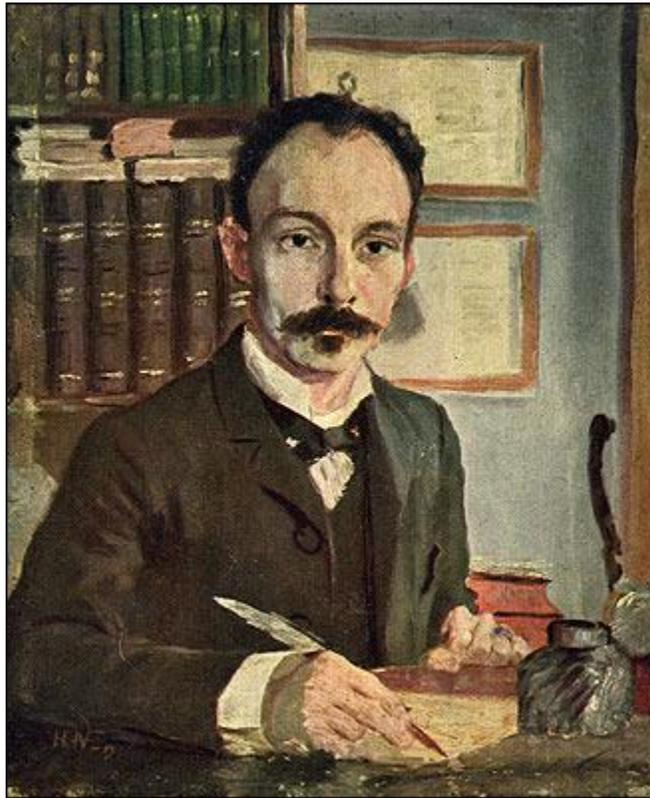


LITERARY HAVANA – JANUARY 15-22, 2012

Join us on this professional research trip to Cuba and be exposed to its literary qualities as they have developed from pre-independence to the life of writers today. Meet the people of Cuba and enjoy the music and culture of the island. This trip is open to all professional researchers with documented experience in the literary world. It is also open to others with a genuine interest in the literary arts who could benefit by exposure to their practice in Cuba.



José Martí

Dates, Activities, and Details for Seven Days and Nights in Havana

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012

- * **Departure from Miami International Airport**
- * **Arrival in Havana/transfer to Hotel Presidente. Light lunch.**
- * **Visit to Callejón Hamel**
- * **Welcome dinner – Santo Angel, in Habana Vieja**

The fine print: You will be sent detailed departure information well in advance of our trip.

Callejón Hamel is an alleyway in Centro Habana that, over the years, has been converted into an elaborate art and dance center focusing on Santería and other syncretic Afro-Cuban religions. On Sundays Callejón Hamel is a crowded and lively affair where visitors watch and take part with neighborhood participants in the dancing and drumming. The Callejón with its extensive art space is open to the public daily. Transportation provided.

Our dinner restaurant fronts on Plaza Vieja, one of the areas restored by the City of Havana.

Monday, January 16

*** Hotel Presidente breakfast**

*** Explore the four plazas of Old Havana and their neighborhoods**

*** Lunch at the Armadores de Santander rooftop restaurant**



Callejón Hamel

*** Afternoon -- visit to the Cathedral and Jewish Community Center, followed by a meeting with a representative from Cuba's theater world.**

*** Dinner on your own at a paladar.**

The fine print: Your package cost includes the hotel's daily breakfast buffet.

The rooftop restaurant Armadores de Santander looks out over Havana Bay where the *USS Maine* went down, and beyond.

Paladars are private licensed restaurants in family homes. You will be provided with a list of recommended paladars.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

*** Hotel Presidente buffet breakfast**

*** Take a launch across Havana Bay to the village of Regla.**

*** Explore Regla, then travel by van to Guanabacoa.**



Finca Vigía

*** visit the Guanabacoa Museum**

*** Lunch at Doña Carmela.**

*** Visit to the estate of Ernest Hemingway, Finca Vigía, in the Havana suburb of San Francisco de Paula.**

*** Dinner at a paladar.**

The fine print: The cross-Bay launch to Regla is one of the few opportunities to use Cuban pesos. Otherwise, just about everything is done with convertible pesos, worth approx. \$1.20 each, known by their official initials, CUC (kook).

The small, human-sized church at Regla has the famous black Madonna.

The Guanabacoa Museum is a terrific place to learn the history of Afro-Cuban spirituality and beliefs, and how they developed clandestinely from slavery to today.

Lunch takes place on a private outdoor backyard patio in a small housing complex on the east side of the Bay.

The Hemingway estate includes a building that houses many of the author's archives. In a rare bilateral accord, researchers from Harvard University's JFK Library have been allowed to study and photocopy his papers here. It's where Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote for most of the last two decades of his life.

Wednesday, January 18

*** Breakfast at the Hotel Presidente.**

*** Visit the Martí Casa Natal.**

*** Transportation to the city of Matanzas. (Lunch on the way.)**

*** Afternoon visit and reception with the staff of Ediciones Vigía, an independent publishing house.**

*** Return to Havana.**

*** Paladar dinner back in Havana.**

More fine print. The birthplace of José Martí (b. 1853 d. 1895, architect of Cuban independence and a writer of international stature) is located in Habana Vieja. The Casa Natal gives a good overview of his life and importance. Martí spent most of the last fifteen years of his life living and working in New York.

The drive to Matanzas will give us a chance to see Cuba outside Havana. We'll stop at an outdoor roadside café for lunch.

Ediciones Vigía produces lovely limited-run hand-made books.



The launch across Havana Bay to Regla

Thursday, January 19

*** Breakfast at the Hotel Presidente.**

*** A walk through the narrow streets of Barrio Chino, with running commentary by a life-long resident.**

*** Lunch at Tien Tan, on the pedestrian walkway in Barrio Chino.**

*** Afternoon: visit to a rooftop mixer with Cuban writers, poets, and others.**

*** Back to the hotel before dinner at La Barraca on the north patio at the Hotel Nacional**

*** Option: After nine pm, live jazz at the Rincón del Jazz at La Zorra y El Cuervo.**

The rooftop mixer is at the home of internationally published poet Reina María Rodríguez who occasionally has colleagues over for drinks and invigorating chit-chat about literature and publishing. One reaches the rooftop after walking up five flights of stairs. Spanish, while obviously advantageous, is not required for this or any of the week's activities. Other passengers, our tour leader, and our guide will help out when needed, and of course many Cubans speak English.

Friday, January 20

*** Presidente breakfast.**

*** Museo de Bellas Artes.**

*** Lunch at El Templete.**

*** Afternoon option: Baseball game at the Estadio Latinoamericano.**

*** Dinner at a paladar**

*** Theater evening – either a major production and a historic venue or an avant garde/small theater company at a neighborhood venue.**

Finer print. The Museo de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum) exhibits an extraordinary collection of Cuban art from early colonial times to early this week. (Another museum houses international art.)

El Templete sits along the Malecón facing the Bay.

Baseball option: Three of Cuba's sixteen teams are based in the Havana area, and there is almost always a game at the Estadio Latinoamericano. Sigfredo Barros, baseball writer for the daily "Granma," will join us. The baseball schedule is not released until the fall, at which time we'll know which teams will play this particular day. Transportation provided.

Theater evening. Our man in Havana is keeping his eyes out for announcements of productions in January. Once we have a choice we'll let you know.

Saturday, January 21

- * **Hotel breakfast.**
- * **Morning: Riverside Santería ceremony.**
- * **Lunch at Asturias Center across from the Capitolio.**
- * **Final afternoon – Used and rare book dealers at the Plaza de Armas or on your own to visit corners of Havana thus far unexplored (or to revisit places of particular appeal).**
- * **Farewell dinner at El Aljibe with guests of our choice.**

Fine print: The riverside ceremony at the Bosque de La Habana involves authentic Yoruba chanting and drumming with genuine equipment and, of course, local Santeros.

The Asturias Center is situated in an enormous room on the second floor of an historical building across from the Capitolio, a building modeled after our US Capitol.

Visitors gain a great deal of insight from browsing the second-hand and rare book stands at the Plaza de Armas and chatting up the booksellers for not only their knowledge of contemporary and bygone books and authors, but also the current literary scene.

El Aljibe is an open-air restaurant that serves comida criolla – very Cuban food.

Sunday, January 22

- * **Breakfast, then check out of hotel.**
- * **Transfer to airport.**
- * **Go through ticketing process that includes \$25 CUC airport exit fee.**
- * **Arrive Miami International Airport, clear immigration and customs, connect to your destination.**

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The Literary Havana package includes:

- * **Roundtrip, Miami→Havana→Miami**
- * **Cuban visa**
- * **Accommodations, seven nights, Hotel Presidente**
- * **Daily breakfast**
- * **five lunches**
- * **three dinners (15 meals in all)**
- * **admission to five museums**
- * **“luxury motor coach” transportation to all destinations including Matanzas**

- * Professional fully bilingual guide from Havanatur
- * Medical insurance (obligatory)

The package does not include:

- * Gratuities (guide, driver, restaurant servers)
- * \$25 CUC airport departure tax

Package price: \$2795. (Single room, +\$300)

Best bet: an early morning or evening stroll along the Malecón.

Recommended reading and links:

Harper's Magazine October 2010: "Thirty Days as a Cuban"

"Nuestra América" by José Martí

Spanish: http://www.analitica.com/bitblbio/jmarti/nuestra_america.asp

English: <http://www.historyofcuba.com/history/marti/America.htm>

Non-fiction: *Without Fidel: A Death Foretold in Miami, Havana and Washington*, by Ann Louise Bardach

Fiction: *Dreaming in Cuban*, by Cristina García

Dirty Havana Trilogy by Pedro Juan Gutiérrez

Poetry: *The Whole Island – Six Decades of Cuban Poetry (A Bilingual Anthology)*, ed.: Mark Weiss

Photography: *Violet Isle*, by Alex Webb & Rebecca Norris Webb

CD bonus track: *Traveler's Tales – Cuba*

...and Tom Miller's *Trading With the Enemy: A Yankee Travels through Castro's Cuba*, which, if you don't have, we'll supply you with a copy.

Trip leader: Tom Miller has been a regular visitor to Cuba since 1987. He is the author of *Trading With the Enemy*, editor of *Traveler's Tales Cuba*, co-founder of the (since suspended) U.S.-Cuba Writers Conference, and has served as tour leader for educational Cuba trips by the National Geographic Society and other organizations. He has written frequently about Cuba's history and its social and cultural life for a wide range of publications, including Smithsonian, LIFE, the Washington Post, and Natural History. He lives in Arizona.

If you consider yourself a researcher into Cuba's rich literary history and wish to take part in this trip...

* for questions about trip activities contact Tom Miller via e-mail: tlinoliner@msn.com or at (520) 325-3344 daily after 11 a.m. eastcoast time.

* to join the group, to inquire about qualifications, and to make payment arrangements, contact Yaíma and Peter Sanchez at Cuba Tours and Travel: 1 (888) 225-6439 or write to tours@cubatoursandtravel.com

The absolute deadline for this Professional Researcher trip -- sign-up and \$500 deposit -- is Monday, November 14.

* Sign up at http://tourinfosys.com/signup/lit_hav_2012 (ignore very bottom line)

* Please note that this trip is designed for Professional Research under the guidelines of the U.S. Treasury Department. For more information on Cuba travel restrictions please visit www.treasury.org/ofac

* One final note: we welcome Cuban-born participants. They must jump through additional hoops, so native Cubans should sign up early.

This invitation is for professional in the field who will qualify for full time professional research in the fields of literature, journalism, translation, and writing. We greatly appreciate you passing this on to qualified individuals who may likewise be interested. This invitation is intended for you and a small group of other professionals, and therefore is limited in size. Please do not send via list-servs or to people you do not know. Thank you for understanding.