Thursday, January 21

11:30 am  Meet at Miami airport by the ABC Charter desk to check in as a group

2:00 pm  Depart Miami on American Airlines 9468, arrive Havana at 3:00 pm

4:30 pm  **Settle in to the Historic Hotel Capri**, which was one of the first hotel casinos built by the Mafia in Cuba. Owned by mobster Santo Trafficante, and run by George Raft, the hotel was at a time one of the largest casinos in Havana. Located blocks from the University of Havana, Coppelia ice cream, and the Havana seawall, the recent remodeling provides first class amenities, while leaving the history and original charm of “The Capri.”

5:30 pm  **Discussion with journalist Marc Frank.** Author of Cuba Revelations and the longest serving foreign correspondent in Cuba, Frank writes for Reuters, the Financial Times and the Economist, and is an authority on the Cuban economy. He will offer insight into important economic, political and social issues on the island and share colorful stories about being a reporter in Cuba.

7 pm  **Welcome dinner at El Cocinero.** This private restaurant is housed in a former factory and attracts Havana’s hip crowd. **Walk next door for live music, art and photography at La Fabrica de Arte Cubana.** Rock star X Alfonso has turned this into meeting spot for an eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.

Friday, January 22

9:30 am  **Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula.** Coyula spoke at the World Affairs Council on October 3, 2014. His presentation on Havana’s architecture pulls together housing issues, infrastructure, investment and restoration programs. For Coyula architecture reflects the political and economic context of the country.

11:30 am  **Visit Barbershop Alley.** “Papito” Vallares, a local barber, expanded upon his successful barbershop, opening a hairdressing school, a playground and several private businesses, incorporating entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.

12:30 pm  **Lunch at Doña Eutimia Paladar.** This paladar was one of Newsweek’s top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. The restaurant is located on Havana’s historic Cathedral Square.
2:30 pm **Walking tour of the Old City.** The tour includes the Plaza Vieja, the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century; the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century and dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco (1719); the Plaza de la Catedral and the Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana; the Plaza de Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly the center of power in Cuba.

4 pm **Visit to the Lizt Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for local youth,** specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group, and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on them. The talent and work ethic at this school is impressive.

5:30 pm **Spend the evening at Café Madrigal with Frank Delgado,** renowned singer and songwriter, for a discussion about the nueva trova movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. **Café Madrigal,** owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails.

**Saturday, January 23**

9 am **If the embargo were lifted . . .** Discussion with Collin Laverty about doing business in Cuba.

10:30 am **Discussion with staff from the EU Embassy,** about relations between the European Union and Cuba. **Location: EU Mission.**

*Free afternoon*

4 pm **Visit to Christopher Colon Cemetery,** one of the oldest and most prestigious cemeteries in Latin America, where we will receive a guided tour.

5:30 pm **Visit to the home and studio of plastic artist José Fuster,** who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, plastic art and other designs.

*Free evening*

**Sunday, January 24**

10 am **Discussion with Yaima Doimeadios,** economist from the University of Havana, about the Cuban economy and the economic reform process.

11:30 am **Take pedestrian ferry across Havana Bay to the community of Regla,** a working-class, Afro-Cuban community with a thriving local culture. Regla is especially known for its strong ties to Santería and other Afro-Cuban religions. We will have a discussion with **Magia López and Alexey Rodriguez of the hip-hop/jazz duo Obsesión** about their experiences and views on race and gender equality in Cuba.
1 pm  Visit to the arts and crafts market in Old Havana. The largest handcraft market in Havana, la Feria de San José features hundreds of artisans selling art, crafts, clothes and music. Grab sandwiches at the market or nearby.

3 pm  Discussion with web-based entrepreneurs that have taken advantage of the opening of the private sector in Cuba and their training in computer science to form start-ups.

Monday, January 25

8:30 am  Check-out of hotel and depart for Viñales Valley, stops en route. Considered by many to be the most beautiful place in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world.

11:30 am  Visit a local farm to learn about Cuban agriculture and tobacco production

12:30 pm  Enjoy lunch on the grounds of a local farm, Finca Paraíso Agroecológica (the agro-ecological Paradise Farm), where we will learn about Cuban agriculture and tobacco production, while indulging in an organic meal.

2:30 pm  Spend an hour exploring the downtown area of Viñales. Be sure to walk a few blocks from the city center and venture down side streets.

Afternoon & Evening Free

Tuesday, January 26

9:30 am  Depart Viñales for Havana – stops en route

Visit a small country town where Mario Pelegrin, a community activist, has created a charming neighborhood project dedicated to local children. In this tranquil setting, a collection of rustic cabins provide a home for amateur art programs. This wonderful program gives local kids the opportunity to have fun while learning new skills in the areas of music, dance, theatre and art.

11:30  Visit to La Finca Vigía. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, today it still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: For Whom the Bell Tolls and The Old Man and the Sea. The beautiful grounds and bizarre tails from Hemingway’s many years in Cuba are captivating.

Afternoon free

3 pm  Visit to Nostalgic Car Garage, where Havana’s first private car service refurbishes autos from the 1950s. Discussion with owner and workers.

5 pm  Check-in at the Hotel Copacabana, a comfortable hotel located along the water in the beautiful Miramar neighborhood. The Copacabana’s happening lobby features live music daily. A wonderful swimming pool overlooks the ocean and there is sea access for folks hoping to take a dip in the sea.
6 pm  Briefing by U.S. Embassy staff at hotel

7 pm  Dinner at Paladar Atelier. This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, but modern setting.

**Wednesday, January 27**

*Free morning*

11 am  Check-out of hotel and depart for airport.

2:30 pm  Depart Havana on American Airlines 9447, arriving in Miami at 3:30 pm