

Cuban Literature & Culture

Explore Cuban history, literature, art, and architecture of our Caribbean neighbor. The study abroad component takes place from Sunday, December 10 through Friday, December 23, 2017. US-based course work will also be completed during the Winter Term 2018. There will be several class meeting prior to December 10.

PROGRAM LEADERS

Prof. Walker Rutledge
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Dr. David Lenoir
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COURSES

Honors 300 – Colloquium - Cuban Literature & Culture
English 339 – Honors - Cuban Literature & Culture

ACCOMMODATIONS

In Havana the group will reside in large homes with Cuban families. Breakfast is normally provided each day at the house. Lunch and dinner are included on some days as stated in the itinerary.

The group will fly from Nashville to Havana on Sunday, December 10. The group will return from Havana to Nashville on Friday, December 22, 2017.

CUBAN LITERATURE & CULTURE

This three-credit-hour experience immerses the group in Havana and is divided thematically for each day. Students and faculty will explore and discuss the history, literature, art, and architecture of our Caribbean neighbor. The assigned readings, presentations, and field trips enable learners to view Cuba from many different perspectives.

The group will remain based in Havana and travel by air-conditioned bus to study in various locations in the region. An English-Spanish speaking guide will take care of local arrangements and provide insight in the daily lives of the people we meet.

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Cuba - Havana

HIGHLIGHTS: Havana
Finca Vigia (Hemingway's home)
Valle de Vinales
Pinar del Rio
Las Terrazas
Santa Clara
Varadero

ACADEMIC TERM: Winter 2018
Study Abroad Component: December 10 to 23, 2017
Class meetings during Fall 2017 semester.

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- Undergraduate students must be in good standing.
- Permission of instructor is required.
- Current WKU students eligible to register for WKU courses are able to apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as visiting students.
- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure (explicit parent/guardian permission for anyone under 18 at time of departure).
- Applicant must possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Full payment prior to departure is required. Applicant must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Applicant must not have active student conduct record.
- Complete the [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly

BASE PACKAGE

Cost Estimate: \$3,939

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate tuition for 3 credit hours.
- Twelve-nights of accommodations in Cuba.
- Daily breakfast and several lunches and dinners in Cuba.
- Course-related ground transportation in Cuba.
- Round-trip flight between Nashville and Havana.
- Cuban visa, entrance fee and exit fee.
- International medical insurance.
- Tips for guides and drivers.

Excluded from Base Package

- Items not explicitly stated in Green Sheet.
- Meals & services and beverages not mentioned in the program.
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone call, internet access.
- Travel insurance (not international medical insurance). *Highly recommended.*
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program changes.
- SAGL Study Abroad Application fee of \$150.00

Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts. Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.

Planned Itinerary (subject to change due to schedule and access).

Sunday, December 10, 2017: Arrival Day

We will depart Nashville and arrive in Havana, Cuba.

Monday, December 11, 2017: Get-Acquainted Day

We will continue getting acquainted with our immediate surroundings and with Habana Vieja itself. The walking tour will be conducted by the professors.

Tuesday, December 12, 2017: Revolution Day & Rum Day

Guided visit to the Museum of Revolution, the former Presidential Palace. It exhibits the history of the Cuban Revolution through documents and objects. Outside is the famous Yacht *Granma*, which returned Fidel Castro and his 82 guerrilla fighters from Mexico to Cuba to launch the struggle for liberation from the Batista dictatorship.

Late-morning field trip: Visit to the Havana Club Museum of Rum. The museum offers a real-time experience of the rum-making process.

Wednesday, December 13, 2017: Plaza Day

We will meet with Architect Miguel Coyula from the Group for the Comprehensive Development of Havana City. He will give us an introduction to the layout of the city and show us a scale model of Old Havana.

Later we will visit Cathedral Square, named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture—the Cathedral of Havana, built by the Jesuit order. It is regarded as the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza of Cuba.

Thursday, December 14, 2017: Ernesto Che Guevara Day

In the morning we depart for Santa Clara, the capital city of the Cuban province of Villa Clara, located in the most central region of the province. This was the site of the last battle of the Cuban Revolution in 1958, led by Ernesto Che Guevara.

We will visit the Che Guevara Square of Revolution and Mausoleum, where the remains of Che and sixteen of his men killed in Bolivia in 1967 rest in peace.

Friday, December 15, 2017: Art Day

In the morning we will visit the Museum of Fine Arts' Cuban Collection, where we will see the evolution of Cuba's visual arts over the last 300 years. In the afternoon we will have a guided tour of the Institute Superior de Arte, the country's top art academy.

Saturday, December 16, 2017: Tobacco Day & Vinales Valley Day

We will make a day trip to Valle de Vinales, in the heart of Cuba's agriculture region. The area is also known for its spectacular scenery and freestanding rock formations. Later, we will visit the Cueva del Indio, which was used by the Guanahatabey Amerindians as a burial site in ancient times and as a refuge from the Spaniards for both Indians and Black slaves. Included will be a short boat ride on the subterranean river running through the cave. After meeting with local tobacco farmers, we will have a guided tour of the Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory. Before returning to Havana, we will explore the town of Vinales at our leisure and visit the Vinales Botanical Garden.

Sunday, December 17, 2017: Hemingway Day

In the morning, we will visit Finca Vigia, where Hemingway lived from 1939-1960. We will also tour the Cojimar fishing village where Hemingway kept his boat. In the evening we will visit some of Hemingway's haunts in Old Havana, places such as the Floridita.

Monday, December 18, 2017: Day with Writers

Visit with Cuban writers and journalist.

Tuesday, December 19, 2017: Poetry and Baseball

In the morning we will discuss the poetry of Dulce Maria Loynaz and visit her home/museum/ and poetry center. Meet independent Cuban producer and editor, including a visit to his in-home recording studio. Or something comparable. In the evening, if the sports schedule permits, we will attend a Cuban baseball game (an event unlike any other!)

Wednesday, December 20, 2017: Ecology Day

We will visit Las Terrazas, located in UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Sierra del Rosario in the western province of Pinar del Rio. There we will tour the rural village of Rancho Curujey and learn about this self-sustaining community's goals of reforestation, historical preservation, and environmental balance. Additionally, we will visit the ruins of a French Coffee Plantation built in 1801, a rural elementary school, and the La Moka Ecological Hotel (with trees growing up through the balconies and ceiling). Students may also swim in the fresh waters of the San Juan River with its cascades and pools.

Thursday, December 21, 2017: Education Day

In the morning we will perhaps visit the University of Havana and confer with several students and professors.

In the afternoon, we will meet with Mr. Rodrigo Gonzalez Hidalgo and some of his students who are involved in various public-service projects. Or a Cuban sociologist for an informal discussion.
Farewell dinner at El Aljibe, an excellent restaurant noted for its Creole food. (1)

Friday, December 22, 2017: Departure for Nashville

On this day we will transfer to the Havana Airport and depart for Nashville.

Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

<p>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</p> <p>September 28, 2018 - Priority deadline for application with non-refundable \$250 deposit*</p> <p>October 1, 2018 – Program Fee will be charged to student’s TopNet account. Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>October 20, 2018 – Final application deadline. Applications after this date cannot join the group flight.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment: Deposit is non-refundable.</p> <p>Before October 1: Application fee non-refundable After October 1: 25% of total program cost After November 1: 50% of total program cost After December 1: 100% of total program cost (No refund)</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU’s Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</p>
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The total amount due in your semester invoice may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. Refer to your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program’s Green Sheet for final payment due dates and billing information. If you have any questions, please email facultyled.abroad@wku.edu.

Important Notifications

Program leaders *will not* wait for late arrivals on the day of departure. Missed flights may mean you will not be able to participate in the program with no refund. There are very specific requirements related to studying in Cuba. Details will be provided at pre-departure orientations in the Fall of 2017. Independent travel (*before and/or after the programs start and end date*) is not permitted in Cuba. Travel within the United States after the program is outside the scope of the program leaders and WKU. Insurance - Travel in Cuba includes required supplemental medical insurance. In order to maintain a group rate, each participant will be asked to complete a medical release form. **Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption insurance is recommended.**

Passport Requirements

Each participant must have a valid passport that includes an expiration date that is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. In this case, the expiration must be beyond June 25, 2018.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight, weather delays, negligence/default of suppliers, or suppliers changing their itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to acts of nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.