

PRINCETON JOURNEYS



Cuba: Literature, Art & Culture

In Support of the Cuban People

featuring Lizabel Mónica *22,
transdisciplinary writer and educator, The Pennington School

January 4 – 10, 2025

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT Cuba's **emerging private sector**, savoring meals at privately-owned *paladares*, relaxing at a charming boutique hotel in the heart of Havana, and hearing the stories of leading entrepreneurs

GO behind the scenes at Cuba's most prestigious literary institutions, including the **Casa de las Américas**, to discover how they are supporting the next generation of literary talents

DELIGHT in a curator-led tour at the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana**, with its impressive collection of Cuban artworks

EXPERIENCE the vibrant energy and colorful murals of **Callejón de Hamel**, a two-block alleyway where street art and live music performances honor Afro-Cuban culture

LEARN about the sacred rituals and traditions of Santería on an expert-led tour of the **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla**, where the revered Black Madonna stands as a powerful symbol of Afro-Cuban spirituality

CELEBRATE at **exclusive receptions**, including a private dinner in the company of the President of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and the young artists supported by the organization

MEET the thought leaders who are shaping Cuban society, including the **former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs**, who will share profound insights on Cuban politics

WITNESS an exciting rehearsal of the **privately-owned dance company of acclaimed choreographer Rosario Cárdenas**, watching as Cuba's leading contemporary dancers perfect their craft

VENTURE to the picturesque Cuban countryside to **tour a farmer-led tobacco hacienda** and enjoy a private demonstration of the rolling and drying processes

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Lizabel Mónica *22 is a transdisciplinary writer and educator who divides her time between Cuba and the United States. She completed her bachelor's degree in history with postgraduate studies in Caribbean literature at the University of Havana, before earning her master's and Ph.D. from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Latin American Studies Program at Princeton University.

Mónica is the author of works of fiction and poetry that have been translated and collected in numerous anthologies. She also works as co-director of the feminist artistic initiative Fruta Bomba (Havana, 2018-present). Mónica has published numerous articles on Cuban literature and visual arts, including the peer-reviewed academic article "Archivo: Vivir en el interior de una memoria portátil" (Argentina: Recial, 2023), and a series of short bilingual poems for the homonymous project and book *Connectify/Free_Wi-Fi[poesía]*, coordinated by the visual artist Néstor Siré (United States: O Miami, 2022). Mónica taught at The Lawrenceville School from 2018 to 2023, and she recently joined the World Language Department at The Pennington School.

PRINCETON JOURNEYS

Dear Princetonian,

Visiting Cuba can be a transformative and moving experience. We invite you to join your fellow Princetonians in Havana for an inspiring look at contemporary life that few visitors have the opportunity to witness. Cuba is a land of fascinating contradictions: vintage automobiles fill the streets as if the 1950s never ended, yet the country stands on the cusp of significant change. An emerging private sector now provides Cubans with opportunities that were once unimaginable.

On this people-to-people tour, connect with a diverse range of local personalities, including a former ambassador, entrepreneurs, authors, and dancers. Go behind the scenes at gallery tours, enjoy private receptions, and venture into the homes of local artists. Discover how Cuba's intricate history, shaped by colonialism, revolution, and the interwoven influences of Indigenous, European, and African cultures, has inspired powerful works of art and literature with global resonance.

Havana-born writer, activist, educator, and expert on Cuban literature **Lizabel Mónica *22** will serve as study leader on this tour. With her guidance, our group will trace Cuba's deep literary history, exploring themes of identity, resistance, and change that have influenced writers around the world, particularly in Latin America. Meet renowned contemporary authors whose fiction grapples with modern Cuban realities and visit Casa de las Américas, a landmark institution, to learn how it's supporting a new generation of Cuban voices.

We are proud to support Cuba's privately-owned businesses throughout this program, including accommodations at a boutique hotel and most meals at *paladares* (small, private, family-run restaurants). **Reserve your place today** by registering online at <https://forms.gle/ZVbcrG2A4WN69Uw8A> or contacting the Princeton Journeys team at 609-258-8686 / journeys@princeton.edu.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget St. Clair".

Bridget St. Clair
Director, Alumni Education and Travel
Princeton University

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Cuba: Literature, Art & Culture In Support of the Cuban People

January 4 – 10, 2025

Plaza de la Catedral, Havana



SATURDAY, JANUARY 4: DEPARTURE / HAVANA, CUBA

Welcome to Havana! Upon your independent arrival at José Martí International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to **Paseo 206**, your boutique hotel in a quiet, residential neighborhood. Gather this evening for a festive welcome dinner at a *paladar*, a privately-owned restaurant usually located in the proprietor's home and largely staffed by family members. D

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5: HAVANA

Founded in 1519, Havana remains the Caribbean's most impressive historical urban center. Participate in a morning lecture and discussion with a local architectural historian, then depart on a walking tour of UNESCO-listed **Old Havana**, including four of its expansive plazas and the 18th-century **Havana Cathedral** (Catedral de San Cristóbal), one of the oldest cathedrals in the Americas.

Following lunch at a *paladar*, discover the colorful murals of **Callejón de Hamel**, a center of Afro-Cuban art and culture in Havana. Enjoy a live music and dance performance and see numerous shrines to *Orishas*, spirits from the Santería tradition.

Later, explore the homes and studios of some of Havana's leading artists, where there may be an opportunity to purchase paintings and drawings. Dinner tonight is at a local *paladar*. B,L,D

MONDAY, JANUARY 6: HAVANA / VIÑALES / HAVANA

Today, venture outside of Havana to the western province of **Pinar del Río**, known for its lush tobacco *haciendas* and the Viñales Valley's UNESCO-recognized *mogotes*, distinctive hills towering as high as 1,000 feet, with steep, almost vertical sides.

Meet with a local farmer for a private tour of a tobacco *hacienda* and enjoy an engaging private demonstration of the drying and rolling processes. Then transfer to lunch at a privately owned organic farm with a lovely scenic view.

Before returning to Havana, **visit the studio of a local painter** who has charted the history of his community through his work. Then, enjoy dinner on your own. B,L

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7: HAVANA

This morning, **join a former ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** for an eye-opening discussion. Then, visit the **Centro Cultural Dulce María Loynaz**, a branch of the Cuban Book Institute dedicated to promoting Cuban authors. The center is named in honor of Dulce María Loynaz (1902-1997), one of Cuba's most celebrated poets.

After lunch, walk down **Calle Obispo**, Havana's main shopping street, and explore **Dador**, a privately-owned fashion boutique. Speak to one of the owners about the challenges and advantages of operating a small business in Cuba.

Attend a private after-hours tour and reception at the **Museo Nacional de la Cerámica Contemporánea Cubana**, housed in the 18th-century Casa Aguilera. In the early evening, drive to **The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba**, one of only a few Cuban NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art. The Foundation's President will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace, where guests will include local Cuban artists. B,L,R,D

Viñales Valley, Pinar del Río



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8: HAVANA /
SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / COJÍMAR / HAVANA**

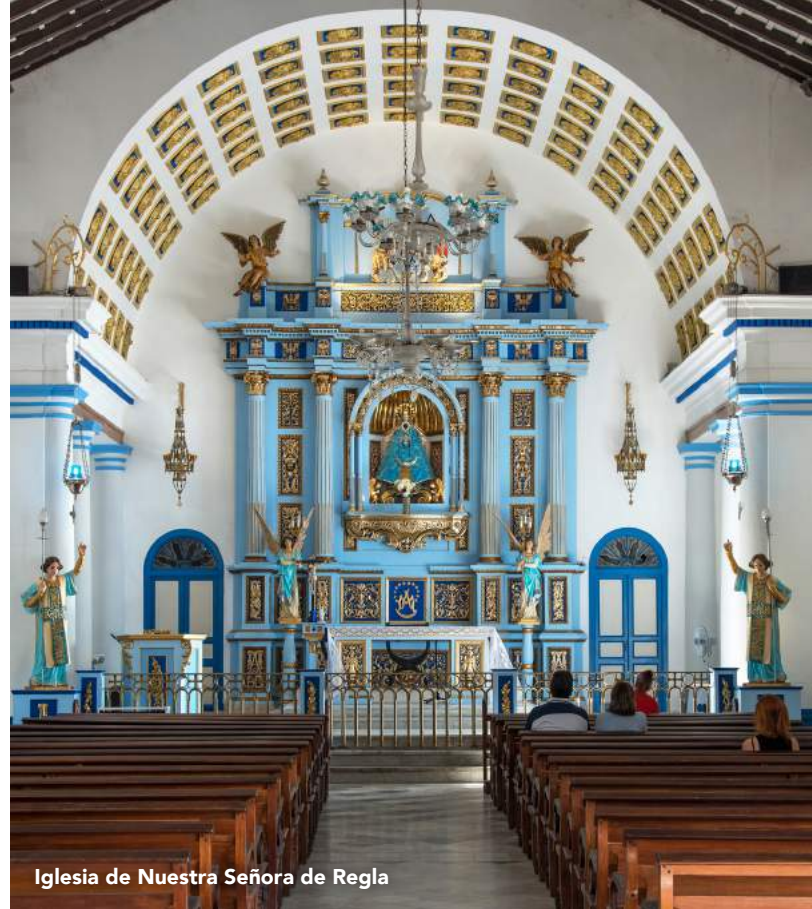
Meet the visionaries behind the **Casa de las Américas**, an institution that has been at the forefront of Latin American literature since the Cuban Revolution. The organization's highly regarded Casa de las Américas Prize has recognized the works of literary giants like Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Eduardo Galeano. Learn how this organization supports and publishes the work of Cuban writers, sculptors, musicians, and other artists.

Afterwards, an independent curator will guide you on a private tour of the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana** (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana), Cuba's largest museum. Encounter the complex, colorful works of the country's leading modern and contemporary artists, including Raúl Martínez, known as Cuba's answer to Andy Warhol; and the revered Afro-Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam, whose abstract, geometrical imagery was influenced by Picasso.

Following lunch, learn more about Santería, Palo Monte, and other Afro-Cuban religions in **Regla** and **Guanabacoa**, two municipalities near Havana. Step inside the **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla** and stand before the revered Black Madonna (La Santísima Virgen de Regla), a powerful symbol of the community's spiritual life.

At the **Museo Municipal de Guanabacoa**, examine important artifacts related to Afro-Cuban religions, including those of the Orisha Elegguá, a deity who presides over crossroads and transitions.

This evening, explore the renowned 1930 **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**, designed by the acclaimed New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White. Stop in its storied Hall of Fame to see tributes to its many famous guests, including Buster Keaton, Rita Hayworth, Nat King Cole, Sir Winston Churchill, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Gabriel García Márquez. Enjoy a *mojito* on a terrace overlooking Havana's harbor before dinner at one of Havana's excellent *paladares*. B,L,D



Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9: HAVANA

Gather for a **morning meeting with the celebrated Cuban writer Leonardo Padura**. Padura's gripping novels dive deep into Cuba's heart, blending history and fiction to expose the scars of Cuba's past. Born in Havana in 1955, Padura honed his craft as a journalist, developing a keen eye for detail that now shines in his fiction.

Delight in a behind-the-scenes morning rehearsal of the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**, featuring some of Cuba's most gifted contemporary dancers. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to chat with the performers.

Following lunch on your own, visit a family-owned classic car workshop, **NostalgiCar**. At this garage where some of the city's finest vintage cars are repaired and refurbished, the proprietor will talk about how he started the business and the challenges of acquiring parts.

This evening, prepare to be moved during an exclusive performance of **Vocal Leo**, an acclaimed choir directed and founded by teacher Corina Campos. Then celebrate this journey with fellow travelers during a festive farewell dinner at one of Havana's oldest *paladares*. B,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning on a pre-arranged transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Princeton Journeys and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.





ACCOMMODATIONS

PASEO 206

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection, this boutique hotel is a romantic jewel nestled among the tree-lined streets of Vedado, the economic and cultural heart of La Havana. This family home dating back to 1933 has undergone a careful restoration that has maintained the soul of the structure, preserving the original architectural elements. The cozy and comfortable rooms and suites all offer free Wi-Fi, 24-hour room service, Hermès bathroom amenities, Marshall speakers, and hypoallergenic king-sized beds with luxurious Frette linens.



Paseo 206

Old Havana, Havana



PROGRAM RATES

\$5,699 per person, double rate in Cozy Room
\$7,099 single rate in Cozy Room

\$6,299 per person, double rate in Junior Room
\$8,899 single rate in Junior Room

\$7,399 per person, double rate in Master Suite
\$10,499 single rate in Master Suite

\$7,999 per person, double rate in Rooftop Suite
\$11,399 single rate in Rooftop Suite

RATES INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all travelers
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare (which includes the Cuban departure tax); Cuban visa (approx. \$100, subject to change); limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; travel insurance; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Flower ladies, Plaza de Armas, Havana



PRINCETON JOURNEYS

CUBA: LITERATURE, ART & CULTURE ▪ JANUARY 4 – 10, 2025

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place, please [register online](#) or contact Princeton Journeys at 609-258-8686 / journeys@princeton.edu.

You may also complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256 Princeton, NJ 08543. **Please let us know if you plan to mail in your form, as we expect space on this program to sell quickly.**

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Princeton affiliation

Princeton affiliation

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Room category Cozy Room Junior Room Master Suite Rooftop Suite

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We will be traveling to Cuba and agree to fully participate in this program under the general license category of travel "In Support of the Cuban People." I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date