

PRINCETON JOURNEYS



Afro-Cuban Arts & Culture in Havana In Support of the Cuban People

Featuring Reena Goldthree, Assistant Professor of African American Studies

December 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026



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

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

DISCOVER the captivating seaside city of **Matanzas**, renowned as a birthplace of *rumba* and numerous Afro-Cuban folkloric traditions

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 event at the **Ludwig Foundation of Cuba** in the company of the artists supported by the organization

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

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Reena Goldthree, assistant professor of African American studies at Princeton, specializes in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. Her research and teaching focus on social movements; political theory; labor and migration; and Caribbean feminisms. She earned her B.A. in History-Sociology (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) from Columbia University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Duke University. Her current book project, *Democracy Shall Be No Empty Romance: War and the Politics of Empire in the*

Greater Caribbean, examines how the crisis of World War I transformed Afro-Caribbeans' understanding of, and engagements with, the British Empire.

Beyond the book manuscript, her work has appeared in the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *The American Historian*, and *Radical Teacher*. She is the co-editor of a special issue of the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* on gender and anti-colonialism in the interwar Caribbean (December 2018). She has also published essays in *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition* (Northwestern University Press, 2018), *Caribbean Military Encounters* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), and *Global Circuits of Blackness: Interrogating the African Diasporas* (University of Illinois Press, 2010).

Professor Goldthree is an Associated Faculty Member in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies and in the Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS).



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, with a special focus on Afro-Cuban arts and culture.

On this people-to-people tour, connect with a diverse range of local personalities, including an architectural historian, social psychologist, dancers, artists, and a Santería high priest. Go behind the scenes at gallery tours, enjoy private receptions, and venture into the homes of local people. You will discover 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.

Alongside Princeton study leader **Reena Goldthree**, assistant professor of African American studies, delve into Cuba's rich Afro-Cuban heritage. Learn about Santería, Palo Monte, and other Afro-Cuban religions in Regla and Guanabacoa; discover the colorful murals, music, and dance of Callejón de Hamel, a center of Afro-Cuban art and cultural heritage; and journey to the captivating seaside city of Matanzas, renowned as a birthplace of *rumba* and numerous Afro-Cuban folkloric traditions.

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/wiQ1jzNP69fsSoap7> or contacting the Princeton Journeys team at 609-258-8686 / journeys@princeton.edu.

Kind regards,

Bridget St. Clair

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



Activity Level:



Active

Pace Level:



Vivace

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Afro-Cuban Arts & Culture in Havana In Support of the Cuban People

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Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28: 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.

R,D

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29: HAVANA / REGLA / GUANABACOA / 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, 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.

B,L,D

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30: HAVANA

This morning, explore the **National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana**, Cuba's largest museum. An independent curator will lead you on a private tour of its vast collections of works by leading Cuban artists, with a special focus on Afro-Cuban art.

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

Later, visit the house of a **Babalawo (Santería high priest)** for an inside look at the rituals and practices of Santería that have been passed down through generations. Dinner and the rest of the evening are free to enjoy at your leisure.

B,L

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31: HAVANA / JAIMANITAS / HAVANA

Attend a morning lecture given by the distinguished **Norma Guillard**, a Cuban social psychologist and adjunct lecturer at the University of Havana. Following lunch, venture just outside Havana to the picturesque fishing village of **Jaimanitas**. Visit the house and studio of artist José Rodríguez Fuster, whose public artwork has been compared to that of Gaudí in Barcelona.

Take a walking tour of the village to see how Fuster has ingeniously decorated more than 80 surrounding homes with ornate murals and domes, tailored to the personalities of his neighbors. You will also behold his masterpiece, **The Artists' Wall**, a breathtaking quilt of dozens of tiles, each one signed and donated by other Cuban artists.



Wifredo Lam, *Tercer Mundo*, 1966, (detail),
Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana



New Year's Eve in Cathedral Square, Old Havana

Afterwards, return to Havana and join a local expert at the **Colón Cemetery**, often referred to as Cuba's largest sculpture park. Admire the ornate tombstones commemorating Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists, each one a testament to Cuba's cultural heritage.

As evening falls, make your way to the **Ludwig Foundation of Cuba**, one of Cuba's few NGOs, for a presentation on Cuban art, with several local artists in attendance. Later this evening, toast to 2026 at a **special New Year's Eve celebration**. B,L,R,D

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1: HAVANA / MATANZAS / HAVANA

Journey to the captivating seaside city of **Matanzas**, renowned as a birthplace of *rumba* and numerous Afro-Cuban folkloric traditions. Matanzas is also known as the "Venice of Cuba" for the 17 bridges and three rivers that traverse its environs. En route to the city, pause at the **Bacunayagua Bridge**, the highest in all of Cuba, and revel in the panoramic views of the verdant valley below.

Upon arrival in Matanzas, visit the **Castillo de San Severino**, an 18th-century castle built by African enslaved people, and a poignant symbol of the city's past. The castle houses objects and photos that offer powerful insights into the reality of enslaved life. Next, visit **Ediciones Vigía**, an artisanal publishing house where skilled craftspeople create handmade books, and meet an artist in his studio.

After lunch, ascend the Monserrate hills to **La Ermita de Monserrate**, a small late 19th-century neoclassical church, where you will witness a special performance by the Choir of Matanzas. Return to Havana for an evening at leisure. B,L

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2: HAVANA / SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA / HAVANA

This morning, you may opt to proceed to Cuba's leading art school, the **Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)**, and delight in an opportunity to interact with professors and students and view their artwork.

Alternatively, venture outside the bustling city to the small, hilltop village of **San Francisco de Paula** for a visit to **Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm)**, the house where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years. View the rooms through open windows from the surrounding terraces; see Hemingway's famous fishing boat *Pilar*; and climb the tower to his study.

Later, you will have exclusive access to an informal rehearsal of the **Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company**, led by the acclaimed choreographer/director. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to chat with the performers.

Before the day's end, enjoy a private visit to **Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**, the city's liveliest multidisciplinary performing and visual arts space, named one of "the world's greatest places" by *Time* magazine. B,D

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3: HAVANA / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning for the airport and your flight home. B



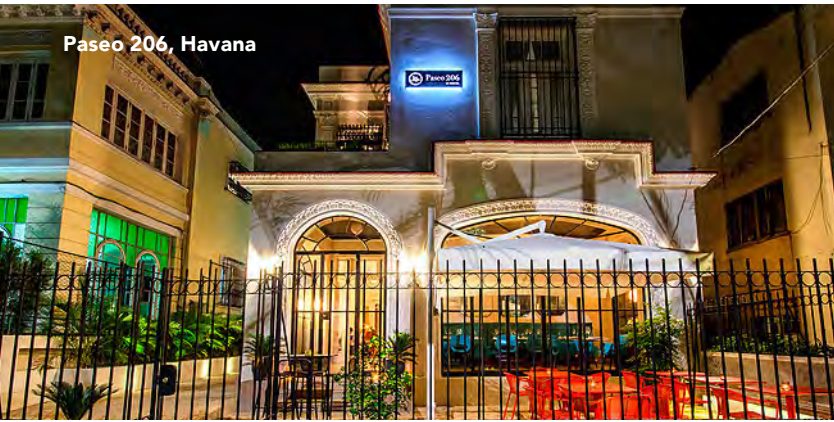
Castillo de San Severino, Matanzas

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ACCOMMODATIONS



Paseo 206, Havana



Paseo 206, Havana

PASEO 206

A member of the "Small Luxury Hotels of the World" collection, Paseo 206 is a beautifully restored historic boutique hotel nestled in Vedado, the economic and cultural heart of La Havana. In this family home dating to 1933, ten cozy and comfortable rooms and suites offer free Wi-Fi, 24-hour room service, Hermès bathroom amenities, Marshall speakers, and hypoallergenic king-sized beds with luxurious Frette linens.

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 and beer at welcome and farewell dinners
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport / hotel / airport transfers for all travelers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES Cuban visa; Cuban Departure tax; 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.

PRINCETON JOURNEYS AFRO-CUBAN ARTS & CULTURE IN HAVANA DECEMBER 28, 2025 – JANUARY 3, 2026 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, [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
 Cozy Room Junior Room Master Suite Rooftop Suite

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

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

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Credit/debit 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