Day 1  
**Saturday, March 9 (L,D)**

**Afternoon**  
Arrive HAV. Clear immigration and customs and claim baggage, a process that takes about an hour. You will be greeted by your local Cuban guide and CCT Escort, who will guide you to our bus.

**2:30 pm**  
Welcome lunch at the famous El Aljibe Restaurant. This state-run restaurant known for its Cuban-style orange chicken, serves up hearty portions of traditional Cuban food over live music in a charming setting.

**4:00 pm**  
Check-in to Hotel Paseo Habana  
Calla A esquina 17, Vedado  
Tele: +53 7 8360808

After check-in or as time permits, you may explore the surrounding neighborhood of Vedado. During your stay you may consider a walk along the Malecón (Havana’s famous seawall) or La Rampa. Vedado is home to the most iconic buildings of Havana’s modernist movement including the Habana Libre Hotel, the Coppelia Ice Cream parlor, the Pabellon Cuba, and the Riviera Hotel.

**6:45 pm**  
Depart for a private musical performance and welcome dinner. The band leader is Professor Alberto Faya has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world since 1973, winning national awards in music and musicology. He will be joined by young musicians who will treat us to a lively journey through the history of Cuban music.

**8:30 pm**  
Welcome dinner at Paladar Atelier. NOTE: Paladares are privately-owned and operated restaurants. Atelier and the many other paladares we will enjoy during our visit provide a window into the lifestyle of entrepreneurs who have converted their homes into dining establishments under loosening governmental restrictions.

Day 2  
**Sunday, March 10 (B,L,D)**

Complimentary breakfast is served every day in the hotel.

**9:00 am**  
**US-CUBA RELATIONS**  
Presentation by former diplomat and University of Havana professor, Camilo Garcia Lopez Trigo. In addition to his experience at the Ministry of Foreign Relations (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, or MINREX) and many foreign diplomatic missions, Camilo has served leadership roles within the Cuban Writers and Artists Union (Union de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, or UNEAC) as well the National Center for Sex Education (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual, or CENESEX). Camilo will introduce his background in foreign and domestic service, review the current status of U.S.-Cuba relations, and encourages questions for a free and open dialogue.

**10:30 am**  
Depart for our walking tour of Havana Vieja. Our Cuban tour guide will explain the history of the city as we view prominent buildings and plazas that played a prominent role in the development of Havana as one of the most important cities in the New World.

We start at the Plaza de Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.

We see Plaza de la Catedral and visit the Plaza Vieja. Learn about the massive historic preservation program which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.
We visit the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719.

1:00 pm  
Lunch at Paladar Los Mercaderes. This impeccably restored mansion is a welcome retreat from the bustling streets of the old city. Enjoy delightful tapas and a selection of seasonal specialties. The affable owner, Yamillis Alvarez will provide a short history of the building and describe his experiences as an entrepreneur.

4:00 pm  
THE NEW CUBAN ECONOMY  
Lecture by Juan Alejandro Triana. Juan is a faculty member of the Department of Economics at the University of Havana. His research and publications have focused on micro-financing in Cuba and Cuba-U.S. economic relations. Juan will explain the evolving Cuban economic model and discuss government policies regarding privately owned businesses, the changing public perception about making money, and the growing interest in entrepreneurship.

7:45 pm  
Depart for the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC) and dinner at Arte Tierra. Once an oil factory, this repurposed complex is without doubt the hippest place in Havana. Part Miami Art Basel, part Williamsburg warehouse party, the FAC is taking the Cuban arts scene by storm hosting viewings, performances and exhibitions of cinema, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture, graphic design, photography, and the visual arts.

Day 3  
Monday, March 11 (B,L)

9:30 am  
CUBA’S EMERGING PRIVATE SECTOR: The rules and regulations for private enterprises in Cuba. Lecture by Cuban attorney Joanna Soler. In this presentation, Ms. Soler will share her experiences representing cooperatives and licensed private enterprises in Cuba and discuss the status of business regulation and taxation in today’s Cuban private sector.

11:00 am  
We visit the Museum of the Revolution.

12:30 pm  
Lunch at Habana 61 located in the Callejon de los Peluqueros (Barber’s Alley). You will be joined by author Hal Klepak, a Latin American expert, Professor Emeritus at Royal Military College of Canada, security analyst, author of Raúl Castro and Cuba: A Military History.

3:00 pm  
Discussion with Cristina Escobar Dominguez, Cuban TV broadcaster & journalist. Cristina is an international commentator considered one of the most recognized and respected journalists of her generation. She currently hosts a weekly television talk show “Once a Week” focusing on a variety of topics including the arts, science, economics, politics and pop culture. Christina has extensively covered the recent changes in U.S.-Cuba relations from both sides of the Florida Straits. A very astute social and political observer, Christina shares her insights and thoughtful analysis of important current issues and Cuban society.

Evening  
Dinner on your own.

Day 4  
Tuesday, March 12 (B,L)

8:15 am  
PENDING APPROVAL Depart for our Briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Each participant must present his/her passport for entry. Notepads are permitted in the meeting room; bags and electronics will be checked in the lobby with our security guards. Please note all U.S. Embassy briefings are informative and candid, with time for unscripted questions. To be able to offer this courtesy, all briefings are completely off the record. Business casual dress is recommended for your visit to the Embassy; gym and beach clothing is generally regarded as not-appropriate attire.

10:30 am  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
We visit the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (the “Nature Foundation”), a multi-disciplinary NGO focused on issues of the environment and sustainable development in Cuba. We will be hosted to a though-provoking discussion by Yociel Manreo, Director of the Foundation’s Economic & Environmental Responsibility and Consumption program, to learn about Cuba’s environmental priorities and the activities of this unique environmental NGO. Joining us for our discussions at the Foundation will be representative(s) from Cuba’s Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA).

12:30 pm  
Lunch at La Carboncita.
After lunch, we visit the legendary workshop of Nostalgicar. This family owned and operated business is renowned for their professional restoration services of American 1950’s luxury automobiles. Meet Julio Alvarez, Cuban entrepreneur and owner of the vintage car rental service Nostalgicar. Alvarez, whose father was a GM mechanic before the Revolution and who himself studied mechanical engineering, has taken the Cuban nostalgia craze to a whole new level.

3:30 pm Next we enjoy a walking tour with entrepreneur Mario Otero to learn about private sector tourism in Cuba including new businesses of home owners and licensed brokers of local Casas Particulares (B&B’s). These private homes have been licensed by the State to accommodate the influx of tourists in places where there is a shortage of hotel rooms. Mario Otero holds a license from the Cuban government permitting him to act as a broker between tourists and owners of casas particulares. Mario is also a proprietor of his own bed and breakfast and during our time together he will elaborate on the challenges and prospects for this particular segment of the Cuban tourism industry.

5:30 pm Return to hotel.

Dinner on your own.

Day 5 Wednesday, March 13 (B,L) – Artemisa Province

8:00 am Depart for Finca Marta in the province of Artemisa (approx. 40 minute drive).

Arrive at Finca Marta. This experimental farm embraces a movement to cultivate “agro-ecology” in Cuba and currently supplies produce to more than 30 of Havana’s best restaurants. Without access to chemical fertilizers or pesticides, sustainable farming methods were born in the 1990’s following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

We will be greeted by renowned farmer Fernando Funes who will speak to the group during the luncheon, share his life philosophy, vision for sustainable agriculture, and provide a tour of the property. Mr. Funes has been an invited speaker at various international conferences centered around organic farming and was recently featured on an episode of CNBC’s The Profit. We enjoy a true farm-to-table lunch at Finca Marta, before continuing to Las Terrazas.

1:30 pm We depart for the pioneering eco-community of Las Terrazas in Sierra del Rosario. We will be greeted by a local guide who will educate us on the significance as well economic landscape of this revolutionary “green” project.

In 1968, President Fidel Castro founded the green revolution. Architect Osmany Cienfuegos mobilized work brigades that created over 1300km of terraces of timber, fruits, ornamentals and vegetables. They carved 170km of roads through the mountains to build homes, schools, playgrounds, and clinics all surrounding the lake of San Juan. The biosphere came under UNESCO protection in 1984 due to the success of the reforestation project. It is now home to 117 bird species, including 12 that are endemic.

We visit to the ruins of a French Coffee Plantation built in 1801 by the French who escaped Haiti after the 1791 Haitian revolution.

We stop at the famous Café Maria for delightfully rich Cuban coffee.

We continue to Hotel La Moka, an ecological hotel with trees growing up through the balconies and ceiling. The income generated from tourism has funded the community library, the new Aire Libre café, a museum and the expansion of the Hotel with a second hotel in the pipeline. Cuba’s recent economic reforms haven’t yet reached Las Terrazas as private businesses such as Casas and restaurants are prohibited.

Time permitting, we meet with local artists and craftsmen living in Las Terrazas.

5:00pm Return to Havana.

Evening Dinner is on your own.

Day 6 Thursday, March 14 (B)
Today is reserved for free, independent activities.

Day 7  Friday, March 15 (B,L,D)

11:00 am  FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CUBA: Briefing on Foreign Investment Law No. 118/2014 and associated tax and labor implications for the foreign investor.

Lecture by Lázaro Núñez Montero: Mr. Núñez is an attorney and author of several legal articles with over 30 years’ experience practicing civil and commercial law in Cuba. A former judge at the Municipal Court of Havana and Professor at the University of Havana, Mr. Núñez’s expertise includes extensive knowledge of international trade law having represented Cuban import and export agencies in the negotiation of international credit agreements, sales contracts, maritime law, and matters of arbitration. He currently serves as Legal Advisor for Cubazucar, the exclusive export agency of Cuban sugar and its derivatives under the direction of the Cuban Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Investment (MINCEX).

This lecture will include the following topics:
- Description of Cuban Investment law.
- The fundamental requirements for doing business in Cuba.
- Procedural process for gaining government approval and forming state partnerships.
- Legal protections for foreign business, the Cuban banking system, hiring Cuban workers, Cuban income tax considerations.

1:00 pm  Lecture & Lunch at Nazdarovie – a new Cuban-Soviet inspired restaurant on the Malecón. We will be greeted by Gregory Biniowsky, an attorney from Canada who moved to Cuba over 20 years ago. In 2014 Gregory and his business partners opened Nazdarovie as a way to pay homage to the Soviet women who settled and established families in Cuba. They have created a space of nostalgia and memories for the thousands of Cubans who spent ‘the best years of their youth’ studying at universities in the USSR – a nostalgia which transcends politics and ideology.

Gregory is a Canadian lawyer and political scientist who has lived in Cuba for more than 20 years, and has a diverse background involving a multitude of for-profit and nonprofit endeavors, including teaching at the University of Havana; doing consulting work for foreign companies exploring or setting up ventures in Cuba, and working as a consultant for the Canadian Embassy in Havana and the United Nations in Havana. Gregory presently works for the Canadian based international law firm Gowlings WLG, focusing on offering strategic advice, business intelligence, and venture options to prospective investors and companies, from around the world, who are looking at the Cuban market. Gregory is also the founding partner of Havanada Consulting Inc., which is a non-profit consulting firm, specializing on giving advice to philanthropists, charitable foundations, and development NGOs who want to undertake or fund non-profit projects in Cuba. Gregory will share his personal insights into Cuban society, the evolving political landscape and the fast-changing business and investment environment.

Remainder of Afternoon free.

Optional visit to the San Jose Arts and Crafts market, a place to interact with local, everyday artisans. You’ll find just about anything here, a great place to find souvenirs or gifts for your friends and family back home.

7:00 pm  Farewell dinner at the famous La Guarida restaurant. One of the best restaurants in Havana and famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film “Strawberry and Chocolate.” It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the 1920’s.

Day 8  Saturday, March 16 (B)

Morning free. Optional activities depending on departure time.

TBD  Check out and depart for airport.

BE SURE TO COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS FROM THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN YOUR ROOM
✓ PASSPORT
✓ VISA
✓ OFAC LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION
*Please Note:  This is a Draft “Working” Itinerary. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the Final Itinerary. All venues and artist’s studios are subject to final confirmations. Be assured that any changes made will be done to enhance the total program, and to promote a smooth operation of the tour.