

Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation

Soane Patron's Trip to

Cuba



Soane Travels into the new world with this trip as we head to the Caribbean for the first time with a place that was first discovered in 1492. For a period in 1762 to 1763, Havana and parts of Cuba were controlled by Great Britain as British forces besieged and captured it during the Seven Years' War. With the Treaty of Paris, the island was returned to Kingdom of Spain (Charles III) as part of the negotiations with Britain's George III, who agreed to cede Havana and Manila for Florida and other lands. The island experienced amazing growth and influence following the return to the Spanish realm (this would have been during the period of Soane's lifetime). Our trip marks the 10th year of Soane Travels and is designed exclusively for current or new members of the Soane Patrons' Circle. It is reserved for up to 25 discerning travelers who are looking for an extraordinary journey exploring architecture, art and the decorative arts.

An Insider's View of Architecture and the Arts

Havana · Matanzas · Varadero · Cardenas

Saturday, 21 January to Sunday, 29 January 2012

January 21
Saturday

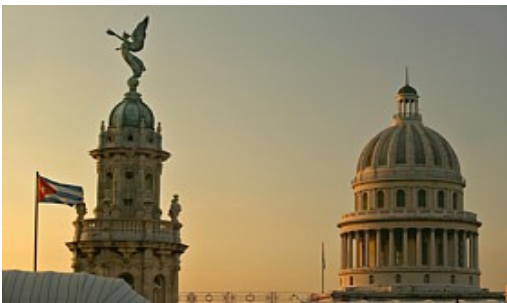
MIAMI

Depart on independent flights from your home city to Miami. Check in to the Miami International Airport hotel for the overnight. Enjoy a welcome dinner in Miami Beach at "Red, The Steakhouse," and will include a with a Cuba departure briefing about the next morning.

January 22
Sunday

MIAMI / HAVANA

Depart Miami on a scheduled morning flight to Havana on Delta Air Lines. Upon arrival at the José Martí Airport, enjoy a morning overview ride around the city. Lunch today is at the open air restaurant, El Aljibe, famous for its roasted chicken, black beans and rice. Mid-afternoon, transfer to the Meliã Cohiba Hotel and check in. Gather this evening for mojito's and a lecture on Cuban architectural history and city planning by Julio Cesar Perez, Harvard Loeb Fellow 2002. We'll walk to dinner in the neighborhood at the *paladar* L'Atelier, where we'll have exclusive use of the roof top dining area (weather permitting). *Paladares* are restaurants in private homes that operate with the special permission of the Cuban government.



January 23
Monday

HAVANA

Begin the morning with a briefing at the United States Interests Section. Meet an architectural historian for a morning walking tour of Old Havana focusing on the four main squares: the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de la Catedral. Cross under the harbor to the El Morro Fort side of the city and enjoy lunch in an outdoor garden of a *paladar*. Visits with several artists in their studios and homes. Late afternoon reception at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador, a home completed in 1958 as designed by Richard Neutra and gardens by Roberto Burle Marx. Dinner at Café del Oriente, with its elegant old-world atmosphere, in Old Havana on the Plaza San Francisco.



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**January 24
Tuesday**

HAVANA

Begin the day with a visit to the Colon Cemetery. This cemetery has such ornate tombstones that it is sometimes called the largest sculpture park in Cuba. Its many monuments commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen and novelists, including Nobel laureate Alejo Carpentier - and tombs by such famous designers like Rene Lalique for Catalina Lasa. Delve into seeing real Cuban street life as we drive southwards from the city to the town of San Francisco de Paula for a visit to Finca Vigia, the Ernest Hemingway House - where we will wander around his home and property, see his boat Pilar, climb the tower to his study. Lunch at the restaurant La Terraza in Cojimar with a beautiful views of the little harbor and out to the sea; here we'll be serenaded during lunch by a local band which typically performs at the restaurant. Plan to return to the hotel for late afternoon rest. This evening we have a private visit to the Ceramics Museum, housed in a former in-town mansion, where we will meet with Museum Director Alejandro Alonso. We then gather in the open courtyard of the house for a reception and private concert by classical guitarist Luis Manuel Molina. Evening walk through the streets of old town to dinner at El Templete, known to be the best government owned restaurant in Havana - the restaurant is known for its stuffed peppers, garlic shrimp, beef filet and seabass.

**January 25
Wednesday**

HAVANA

This morning we will have a talk at the hotel by Aurelio Alonso on "Current Cuban Reality." Then onto Deco Day to explore some of the city's finest Art Deco structures from the 1920s and 1930s. Arthur and expert Alejandro Alonso (same of the Ceramic's Museum), will lead us on this special set of visits - including public buildings, mansions, apartment building and hopefully a small original private Deco house. Lunch today at the famous Nacional Hotel, built in the 1930's to the designs of architects McKim Mead and White. Afternoon visits to include artists and the Deco Barcardi building. Free time in Old Havana with option to stop at the El Floridita, a favorite bar of Hemingway and famous for the daiquiris. Tonight visit the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts where we will have a presentation on Cuban Art. The Foundation Director will host a cocktail reception and buffet dinner on the penthouse terrace. Invited guests include Cuban artists.



**January 26
Thursday**

HAVANA

Visit to the complex of the National Arts Schools and specifically ISA, *Instituto Superior de Arte*, where we will join a professor (who is an artist) for a guided visit through the studios and work spaces of Cuba's leading art school - and we'll be viewing the students' artwork. The complex of five schools was designed by Vittorio Garatti, Roberto Gottardi (Italians) and Ricardo Porro (Cuban) on the former private country club golf course in western suburb of Cubanacan. Lunch today is at La Ferminia for grilled kebabs. Attend an informal morning rehearsal of the Contemporary Dance Company of Cuba at the Teatro Nacional, located adjacent to the Plaza de la Revolución. There will be a short visit to the Feria de la Artesania craft market, followed by a visit to the Museo de Artes Decorativas in the Vedado district, which is housed in a fine 1920's neo-classical mansion. Then onto the Museo de Artes Decorativas in the Vedado district. Tonight we gather in the hotel lobby to load into a group of historic cars from the 1950's - *a car buff's delight* - as we drive along the Malecon heading to a concert in old town at the church of San Francisco de Paola. There the classical group called Ars Longa will present a private performance for us. Dinner nearby at the elegant paladar San Cristobal.





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**January 27
Friday**

HAVANA / MATANZAS / VARADERO

Depart by private motorcoach for Matanzas, stopping en route at Bacunayagua viewpoint, with the highest bridge in Cuba, to enjoy the views of the nearby valley. Upon arrival in Matanzas in the late morning, tour the castle at San Severino, which includes a room on Santeria (Afro-Cuban religion) and one on slavery as part of UNESCO's project: "The Route of the Slave." Continue downtown to the House of the Artisan to begin a walking tour with Ercilio Vento Panosa, an official from the Office of the Historian. We will also have a chance to visit the Ediciones Vigia, where handmade books are created. Lunch is at the beautifully restored Hotel Velasco, on the main square. Continue in the afternoon with a visit to the historic 1882 pharmacy which is now the Museo Farmaceutico. Enjoy a concert on the upper floors of the pharmacy building. Conclude the afternoon with a stops at the book maker, Ediciones Vigia and a visit to artist Sergio Gtregorio Roque's studio. Then drive to Varadero where overnight accommodations are arranged at Meliã Paradisus. Dinner is at the hotel.

**January 28
Saturday**

CARDENAS / VARADERO

Spend the morning in nearby Cardenas to see the local museum and several artist studios and galleries. Head outside of town to a countryside family compound for another artist a reception visit to see her works. Lunch today will be back a hotel with some free time in the late afternoon. Farewell dinner at Xanadu, the mansion built in the 1926 as a home of the French American millionaire Eleuthère Irenée DuPont. The estate once comprised over 1,200 acres - today it is a small six-room inn and restaurant perched right on the rocks of the Atlantic.



**January 29
Sunday**

VARADERO / HAVANA / MIAMI

Depart Varadero after breakfast this morning for the Havana airport for a privately chartered flight to Miami with American Eagle.

Please note that this itinerary is subject to change.

Additionally, throughout the program we have invited special guests to join the group.

Architects, museum directors, students and others will be joining us for meals and group discussion.

You are encouraged to actively engage these individuals in conversation.



Academic Arrangements Abroad

*All arrangements are made by Academic Arrangements Abroad and their agents
on behalf of Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation*



For further information contact the Soane Foundation office at 212-223-2012 or Chas@SoaneFoundation.com
or Academic Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921

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