CUBA

From Columbus to Castro

March 9-20, 2012 (12 days)
With guest lecturer Dr. Joseph L. Scarpaci

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Lecture series by Dr. Joseph Scarpaci, founder and Executive Director of The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy. Dr. Scarpaci has visited Cuba over 50 times.

- Visits to 4 of Cuba’s 7 cities founded by 16th century explorer Diego Velazquez: Santiago, Baracoa, Trinidad, and Havana.

- Meetings with a variety of local Cuban professionals, including Dr. Alejandro Hartmann, city historian and Director of the Baracoa Museum; and restaurant entrepreneur David Aloma.

- In-depth explorations of two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Trinidad, which is maintained as a living museum; and Havana, including a city orientation tour with an architectural historian.

- A first-hand look at the arts in Cuba with visits to the home of artists Juan Moreira and Alicia Leal and the home of art critic and dealer Cristina Vives, plus a cocktail reception at the Ludwig Foundation.

- Learning about U.S.-Cuban relations with a lecture by professor/diplomat Carlos Alzuguray and a briefing at the U.S. Interest Section in Havana.

- A performance of Cuban music by classical guitarist Luis Manuel Molina at Havana’s Ceramics Museum, plus Cuban and Afro-Cuban dance performances in Baracoa.
Day 1: Friday, March 9, 2012
MIAMI, U.S. | SANTIAGO, Cuba
Take a charter flight from Miami, Florida, to Santiago this morning, and transfer upon arrival to the recently-renovated Hotel Casa Granda, splendidly situated on Parque Cespedes. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy an orientation tour of the area north of the hotel, including the Moncada Barracks, known as the place that was stormed by Fidel Castro and 79 soldiers dressed in Cuban army uniforms on July 26, 1953. The building now houses a superb museum that tells the tale of the attack, the Revolution, and subsequent history. Drive by the Plaza de la Revolucion, dominated by a massive monument to Antonio Maceo, the hero-general of the War of Independence.

Return to the hotel for drinks on the roof and dinner. You may enjoy an after-dinner stroll around the Parque Cespedes, which is ringed by gas lamps, metal grills, and tall shade trees. The beautiful white colonial building on the north side is the town hall, from where Fidel Castro gave his victory speech on January 2, 1959. Overnight for two nights at the Hotel Casa Granda. (L,D)

Day 2: Saturday, March 10 - SANTIAGO
Take a full day to explore Cuba’s second largest city and former capital. Though the traditional architecture is mostly Spanish, for many years Santiago and the surrounding region were a clearinghouse for many different nationalities. The city’s rich racial mixture has produced some of the most exciting music, art, and architecture in the Caribbean. This port city is also an industrial city and home to the distilleries of the original Bacardi rum.

Begin the day at the Museo de Arte Colonial, housed in what is said to be the oldest house in Cuba, built in 1516 as the home of Cuba’s conqueror, Diego Velazquez. Continue on to the Jesuit Dolores College, where Fidel Castro was educated as a youth; and visit the Tomás Romay Natural History Museum and the small but impressive Botanic Garden, dedicated to ferns (many of which are endemic to Cuba). Drive south of the city to have lunch at a restaurant called El Morro, set atop the cliffs with fabulous views along the coast. Then visit the Morro Castle itself, which was originally built in 1640 to ward off pirate attacks. From the battlements of the castle (rebuilt in the late 18th century) there is a spectacular view of the harbor, and the castle houses an exhibition about pirates from the colonial to modern eras.

In the afternoon, drive to the Basílica del Cobre—Cuba’s only basilica—known as the shrine to La Virgen de la Caridad (Virgin of Charity), patron saint of Cuba. The final stop for the day will be at the Caney Rum Factory, which was built in 1868 by the Bacardi family and nationalized in 1959. Although it is not possible to tour the factory, it is possible to sample some of its “Havana Club” rums. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Sunday, March 11 - SANTIAGO | BARACOA
Depart Santiago for a spectacular drive to Baracoa, stopping along the way to pick up an escort who will accompany us to the east side of Guantanamo Bay, which overlooks the Guantanamo U.S. Naval Base, one of the oldest U.S. overseas military bases and the only one located in a communist country. Enjoy a cool drink at a café called Mirador de Malones, from where it is possible to use binoculars to look down on the U.S. base. (It is not possible to visit the base itself.) Today 7,000 U.S. servicemen and women and their dependents live here amid all the comforts of a small mid-western town, including a golf course and a McDonald’s.

Upon arrival in Baracoa transfer to the Hotel Castillo, in one of the town’s three former forts. Baracoa is an attractive town surrounded by rich, tropical vegetation. It was the first of the seven cities founded by Diego Velazquez in 1514 as a...
base for expeditions into the “New World” and, as such, is considered to be the oldest colonial city in the Americas. This afternoon we meet with Dr. Alejandro Hartmann, city historian and director of the Baracoa Museum, for a lecture on “Local History and Legends of Baracoa.” Overnight for two nights at the Hotel Castillo. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Monday, March 12 - BARACOA

This morning’s sightseeing includes a visit to the Baracoa Museum, whose displays trace the history of the region to pre-Columbian days. Continue on to the town’s cathedral, with an ochre-colored edifice, dating from 1805; and explore the charming Plaza Marti, surrounded by colonial houses and a small tobacco factory located inside a small blue house (a wonderful opportunity to learn how cigars are made).

Drive a few miles outside of town to the Duaba River for a short boat ride through lush landscapes and forests filled with more than a hundred different bird species. Enjoy a delicious lunch at the Finca Duaba, beneath the shade of palms and plantains. Our final stop for the day will be at the village of Guirito, where local farmers will perform adaptations of Cuban dance known as el nengen and el kiriba. This evening, after dinner, attend a performance of Afro-Cuban dance in the local Casa de la Cultural. Dr. Hartmann, with whom we met yesterday, will accompany us and provide background on this extraordinary performance. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Tuesday, March 13 - BARACOA | TRINIDAD

Take a charter flight from Baracoa to the city of Trinidad. Upon arrival, check-in to the Hotel Trinidad del Mar, located on the beach just outside of Trinidad. After lunch drive a short distance to explore the area known as the Valle de Los Ingenios. This is a living museum of the sugar industry, featuring 75 ruined sugar mills, summer mansions, barracks, and other facilities related to the field. Enjoy dinner this evening at the hotel. Overnight for two nights at the Hotel Trinidad del Mar. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Wednesday, March 14 - TRINIDAD

Spend the day exploring Trinidad, the fourth of the seven cities founded by Diego Velazquez. Today it is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence. It is the crown jewel of Cuba’s colonial cities, with its fine palaces, cobbled streets, and tiled roofs; and it is a national monument and UNESCO World Heritage site.

Begin the day at the Plaza Mayor, which is in the center of town and elegantly adorned with glazed earthenware urns. Around the plaza are the Museo Romantico, which houses a collection of porcelain, glass, paintings, and ornate furniture that belonged to a family of wealthy slave owners in the 18th century; the Museum of Archaeology and Natural Sciences; and the 19th century Iglesia Parroquial de la Santisima Trinidad, which is the largest church in Cuba and renowned for its acoustics. Continue on to the Museum of Colonial Architecture, which tells the history of Trinidad’s development via maps, models, and sections of houses in miniature, demonstrating city planning, colonial construction techniques, and the period’s fine craftsmanship. After exploring the Museo Romantico (see above), those who feel like a climb will have a chance to visit the Antigua Convento de San Francisco de Asis, which offers a magnificent vista. The tower and church are all that remain of the original convent. At lunch we meet with local entrepreneur David Aloma, who has taken advantage of the relaxed regulations regarding private enterprise in Cuba by opening a restaurant (called Davimart), which can seat up to 20 diners. He employs and pays three Cubans who are not family members to assist him in running this restaurant. Return to Trinidad for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)
Day 7: Thursday, March 15 - TRINIDAD | HAVANA
Depart Trinidad for Havana this morning. En route, stop in Cienfuegos and enjoy a walking tour of the area around the Parque Marti, the central square. Admire the lavish Cathedral and the town theater that was built with materials and craftspeople imported from Europe. Enjoy lunch at the fabulous Palacio del Valle. Continue on to the Bay of Pigs where, in 1962, about 1,300 heavily armed, CIA-trained Cuban exiles came ashore fully equipped to provoke a counter-revolution to topple the Castro regime. Arrive in Havana in mid-afternoon and check-in to the Parque Central hotel. Have a late afternoon meeting with Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez, who continues to blog despite threats she has received. Overnight for five nights at the Parque Central. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Friday, March 16 - HAVANA
This morning we begin exploring Havana, Cuba’s capital, whose strategic and commercial importance is reflected in the fortifications surrounding the city. Havana was declared the capital in 1519, and around its Plaza de Armas rose the center of the original city and the first government buildings. With continued attacks by the French and English, colonial authorities decided to make Havana itself a fort, and in 1633 began constructing city walls that eventually encircled what is now Old Havana.

Of all the capital cities in the Caribbean, Havana has the reputation of being the most splendid and the finest example of a Spanish colonial city in the Americas. Restoration work in the old part of the city helps reveal the glories of the past. Many of its palaces were converted into museums after the Revolution, and more work has been done since the old city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982. Restoration of the historic center is one of the city government’s priorities, and our time here will allow ample opportunity to evaluate the progress.

This morning, walk from the hotel to the center of Old Havana to view a scale model of Old Havana that serves as an excellent introduction to the layout of the city. Nearby is the Plaza de Armas, on which Havana’s Town Hall (now the city museum, offering an overview of its history) is located. Also admire the Cathedral of Saint Christopher, located on the cobbled Plaza de la Catedral, surrounded by some of Havana’s oldest buildings. End the morning at the Plaza Vieja, a stunningly beautiful old square surrounded by mansions, where caring restoration is being carried out by Habana Vieja.

After lunch in a superb restaurant with local music, enjoy a city orientation tour led by a local architectural historian. The tour (by motorcoach) will include an inside visit to the wonderful Riviera Hotel which, when it opened in 1958, was considered a marvel of modern design. The hotel has recently been restored to recapture its 1950s ambience. Drive along La Rampa, which climbs past the offices of Cubana, the Hotel Havana Libre, and art deco apartment buildings to the Parque Copelia, a large, lush park. Walk through the Colon Cemetery before returning to the hotel, stopping at the Callejon de Hamel, site of a huge, multi-dimensional Afro-Cuban mural. Drive to the Ceramics Museum for a tour and performance of Cuban music performed by Luis Manuel Molina, a classical guitar player. Dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 9: Saturday, March 17 - HAVANA
Make a morning visit to the new Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: Arte Cubano (Cuban Collection). The museum’s origins date back to 1842, and it expanded greatly after Castro took over in 1959. Our tour this morning will be accompanied by a contemporary art curator. Visit the home of Cristina Vives, a well-known Cuban art critic and dealer. Cristina will talk about contemporary Cuban art and will show pieces in her home and in a small gallery a short walk away. Cristina’s husband, noted Cuban photographer Figueroa, will also meet the group.

After lunch at El Ajibe, drive to the home of artists Alicia Leal and Juan.
Moreira for a chance to meet the artists and view their work. Alicia’s work is of a markedly narrative nature, while Juan’s surrealist paintings reflect many of the historical, religious, and cultural influences in Cuba. Attend an evening reception at the Ludwig Foundation, an organization committed to the promotion of art in Cuba, followed by dinner at a private restaurant, La Chansonier. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Sunday, March 18 - HAVANA

After breakfast this morning, enjoy a lecture by Carlos Alzuguray on “U.S.-Cuban Relations.” Then walk from our hotel to the Presidential Palace, a huge, ornate building topped by a dome. A few minutes away by foot is the Granma Memorial, which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956. The Granma, a surprisingly large launch, embodies the powerful, unstoppable spirit of the revolutionary movement. After lunch at Prado y Neptuno, admire the Gran Teatro de la Habana, Havana’s most important theater and home to Alicia Alonso’s Ballet Nacional de Cuba, as well as the national opera company. Dinner is at leisure. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Monday, March 19 - HAVANA

This morning we visit Ernest Hemingway’s home, which has been lovingly preserved by the Cuban government. The house is just as Hemingway left it, with the books on the tables and many of his favorite photographs on display. Although visitors can only admire the home from the outside, it is a fascinating visit. After lunch, return to Havana and visit an organoponico, an example of Cuba’s urban farming which has been a stunning, and surprising, success. In Havana today, 90% of the city’s fresh produce comes from these local urban farms and gardens. This urban agriculture movement materialized out of the Special Period, an economic crisis from 1990-94 when the former Soviet Union ended its food subsidies, plunging Cuba into a severe food shortage. There are currently more than 450 organoponicos in Havana, growing and selling vegetables, herbs, and spices directly to the public. Attend an afternoon briefing at the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, and gather for a farewell dinner this evening at La Guarida. (B,L)

Day 12: Tuesday, March 20 - HAVANA | MIAMI, U.S.

Transfer to the airport for our charter flight to Miami, Florida. (B)

Field Museum Guest Lecturer Joseph L. Scarpaci (Ph.D., Florida) is a broadly trained human geographer with a regional focus in Cuba and the Southern Cone. He is the founder and Executive Director of The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy. Associate Professor of Marketing at West Liberty University in West Virginia, and Emeritus Professor of Geography and former Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning at Virginia Tech. Since 1992, Dr. Scarpaci has coordinated the longest-running U.S. study abroad program in Cuba, bringing more than 500 students, faculty, and interested travelers to the island. His earlier work specialized in Latin American studies, urban affairs and planning (particularly urban geography, Latin American historic districts, and urban social movements), and urban social theory. Since 1974, Dr. Scarpaci has invested 89 months of field research in Latin America and has presented more than 100 invited lectures at universities, government agencies, and international organizations. He has published several books, including Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis (UNC Press, 2002), co-authored by Cuban architects M. Coyula and R. Segre; Plazas and Barrios: Heritage Tourism and Globalization in the Latin American Centro Histórico (U. of Arizona Press, 2005); Cuban Landscapes: Heritage, Memory and Place (Guilford Press, 2009), co-authored by A. Portella; and Advertising Without Marketing: Brand Preference and Consumer Choice in Cuba (Routledge Press, forthcoming 2011) co-authored by E. Morales. This upcoming trip to Cuba will mark Dr. Scarpaci’s 52nd visit to the island since 1990.
WHAT TO EXPECT

Cuba is a fascinating and exciting country, and we are sure you will enjoy your trip. Remember, however, that although everything possible has been done to ensure a perfect trip, the unavoidable can sometimes happen. Be aware that you are amongst a very few American travelers to visit this country on a licensed trip and tour guides are being trained, so their English is perhaps not as good as one would like in an ideal situation. We are fairly certain that there will be some changes to our plans, and we ask that you be patient and understanding, and that you appreciate how fortunate we are to be visiting this country at such an interesting time in its history. It is important to be patient, keep an open mind, be flexible, and keep your sense of humor. If you have any questions, do feel free to contact our office. The climate in Cuba is sub-tropical with average temperatures in the low 70s to mid 80s. Our group of 15 to 29 participants will be comprised of Field Museum travelers as well as travelers from The American Geographical Society and The Explorers Club.

Charter Flight Schedule (Wilson Charters)

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THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CUBAN CULTURE AND ECONOMY

The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy is an organization that offers expertise on a range of topics pertinent to Cuba. Executive Director Dr. Joseph Scarpaci is an urban geographer with a deep knowledge of all that is Cuban. On topics such as architectural planning, entrepreneurship, the role of consumer choice and branding, and contemporary art and urban renewal, the Center provides a forum for debate and discussion. In June 2011 the Center received a People to People license for travel to Cuba and is excited to promote people-to-people travel for U.S. citizens and residents to see and understand Cuba.

ABOUT OUR FIELD MUSEUM TOURS PROGRAM

Field Museum Tours offers Museum members and friends unique opportunities to join distinguished scientists and lecturers in remote locations. Based on over a century of Museum research around the world and drawing from our team of over 70 Ph.D. scientists, Field Museum Tours provides you with firsthand knowledge of environmental systems and human societies. The Field Museum Tours office reviews hundreds of proposals every year in order to develop a handful of exceptional study tour programs that are related to Museum collections, research, and public programs. We invite you to join other travelers like yourself who have a desire to travel and learn with Museum experts about the Earth and its peoples.

PER PERSON PRICES

Double Occupancy including round trip air from Miami $6,995 • Single Supplement $995

Prices based on a minimum of 15 and maximum of 29 participants.

RATES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of lecturer Joseph Scarpaci and services of a professional Trip Escort and local Cuban guide throughout
- Three charter flights between Miami-Santiago; Baracoa-Trinidad; Havana-Miami
- All hotel accommodations as listed in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated, including one drink at lunch and dinner and cocktails during the welcome and farewell dinners, and unlimited bottled water on excursions
- Surface transportation and excursions in air-conditioned motorcoach
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Cuban visa card
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters and Escort
- Local taxes and service charges
- Miami departure tax
- Group transfers in conjunction with charter flights
- Handling of two pieces of checked luggage per person throughout
- Mandatory Health Insurance and evacuation coverage required by the Cuban Government ($25,000 medical coverage and $7,000 medical transportation)
- Pre-departure preparatory information

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Airfare from home to Miami and return; passport and inoculation charges; Havana departure tax ($30 U.S.); cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; beverages except as indicated above; taxi, telephone, and fax charges.

PASSenger CANCELLATION PenALties:

All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least one hundred-twenty (120) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of three hundred dollars ($300) per person. Cancellations between one hundred nineteen (119) and ninety (90) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of one thousand dollars ($1,000) per person. No refunds will be made for cancellations received less than ninety (90) days prior to departure.

Prices are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. (An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit).

Field Museum Tours

In partnership with The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy

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ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________________________________________________

CITY: _____________________________________ STATE/PROVINCE: _____________________ ZIP: ______________________

HOME PHONE: __________________________________________________________ OFFICE PHONE: __________________________

CELL: _________________________________ EMAIL: ______________________________________________________________

☐ I/We have read the What to Expect section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

☐ Share - name of roommate

A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

PAYMENT TYPE: ☐ Check payable to: EoS Passenger Escrow - FM Cuba 3/12

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex CC# ____________________________ Exp. Date __________

3 or 4 Digit Security Code________ Name on Card __________________________

All prices and payments are in U.S. dollars. Please complete the Reservation Form above, sign the Release statement below, enclose your deposit and mail or fax to:

Field Museum Tours
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 - Fax: 603-756-2922

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour or any acts, omissions or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising therefrom. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that The Field Museum bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant’s payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant’s purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. 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In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.

Signature __________________________ Date ___________

Signature __________________________ Date ___________