ICFAD PRESENTS: A CULTURAL TASTE OF CUBA:
A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Dates: JUNE 3-8, 2017 // Extension Tour: JUNE 3-11, 2017

Cuba, a subject of mystery, fascination and deliberation for decades, it has been forbidden to American travelers – until recently. We are pleased to offer you an exceptional opportunity to visit Cuba yourself on a remarkable 9-day exploration. In this people-to-people exchange, you will discover Cuba through the resource that has kept the country vibrant through decades of political strife and isolation from the world: The Cuban people. Their joys, challenges and unique world outlook will unfold for you through personal meetings and enjoyment of their arts and culture in this program. Encounter Cuba through intriguing excursions, informative discussions led by knowledgeable experts and personal contact with a variety of Cubans including university professors, painters, artists, dancers, musicians and everyday people. Explore Havana’s timeless streets, architecture and famous landmarks. Venture into Cuba’s countryside across impossibly verdant landscapes to plantations and a socialist community. Savor local cuisine, talk with Cubans about their way of life and visit their homes, universities, and places unavailable to individual travelers. This program will show you Cuba’s unexpected delights and the very real struggles of its people. We hope that you will jump at the chance to experience this amazing country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

✦ 5 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE 5-Star PARQUE CENTRAL - Old Havana
✦ 3 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATIONS AT CASA PARTICULARES- TRINIDAD
✦ MOST MEALS AS INDICATED IN ITINERARY
✦ DINNERS AT SOME OF THE BEST PALADARS IN HAVANA
✦ PRIVATE PERFORMANCE AND DINNER – LOS HERMANOS ARANGOS
✦ EXPERIMENTAL PRINT WORKSHOP ✦ HISTORIC CANNON CEREMONY
✦ UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SIGHTES ✦ REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUM
✦ VISIT TO CIENFUEGOS ✦ HOMESTAYS IN TRINIDAD ✦ MAYOR PLAZA ✦ NATIONAL FINE ART MUSEUM-CUBAN COLLECTION ✦ CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CEMETERY ✦ NACIONAL HOTEL TOUR ✦ VISIT AND LUNCH AT COFFEE PLANTATION ✦ ISA- INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE ARTE ✦ GRAND NATIONAL THEATRE ✦ RUM AND TOBACCO SHOPS ✦ LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS WITH HAVANA UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
✦ LOCAL ART, CERAMIC AND POTTERY STUDIOS
PARQUE CENTRAL HOTEL *****
Located on beautiful Central Park in the heart of Havana, the Parque Central comprises two buildings, a colonial section and modern tower, linked by a stylish, underground tunnel. Both sections have independent lobbies, restaurants, and rooms.

The newer tower is sleek, chic and contemporary, with a wood, glass and steel design theme set off by bright colors and textured fabrics. The colonial part is classic elegance: what you’d expect to find in a 5-star hotel in any global capital city. At the Parque Central, you are assured comfort and superior service.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks can be enjoyed in several restaurants in the complex, each dedicated to a different cuisine.

The roof terraces of both sections have pools – among the most inviting in the entire city – and make the Parque Central an attractive option for families with children who want to stay in the city center. The views are unparalleled and guests consistently praise the massages here. Pull up one of the comfortable chaise lounges for total relaxation.

Parque Central is also considered an oasis, given its location in Havana’s most culturally-vibrant and densely-populated areas.

Day 1 – 6/3/17 (D)
NON-STOP FLIGHT FROM FT. LAUDERDALE TO HAVANA. B6 # 1499 FLL-HAV 1:49 PM- 3:15 PM.

IN CUBA:  Pass through customs- meet our guide and board our motorcoach. Panoramic tour of Revolutionary Square, the U.S. Embassy, the famous Melecon, the statue of Christ and more.

After checking in to our hotel, we head to the famous NACIONAL HOTEL and tour the HALL OF FAME and enjoy our first authentic mojito! The Hall of Fame where in the 1950’s celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Nelson Rockefeller and Ava Gardner roamed the hallways. In the 1930’s, mobsters like Santo Trafficante and Meyer Lansky also frequented the Nacional Hotel. Enjoy complimentary cocktails and dinner at LA BARRACA Restaurant located in the gardens of the Nacional Hotel with one of the best views of the bay of Havana. We will enjoy a feast of local chicken and pork dishes. We start with our first meal in Cuba with local cuisine and work our way through the culinary delights of this country has to offer.
After dinner roam the beautiful grounds of the Nacional, change money, listen to the music that is playing everywhere and watch the peacock overlooking the bay.

Day 2– 6/4/17)-SUNDAY (B, L, D) Breakfast is served at your hotel from 7:00 am-10:00 am

*Old Havana Walking tour

This morning, a GUIDED WALKING TOUR of Old Havana, a.k.a. Habana Vieja. This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with local Cubans going about their everyday lives on the city streets.

In 1982 Old Havana was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site and it’s brimming with a variety of historical landmarks and interesting things to do. Just walking the streets in this area is a favorite pastime and will surely result in an unforgettable experience with plenty of chances to meet the locals and to take advantage of myriad photo ops. The four squares including a visit to **LA CATEDRAL, THE COLNIAL ART MUSEUM, AND HAVANA MODEL SCALE.**

**LUNCH** at the infamous **CAFÉ DEL ORIENTE** restaurant. After lunch we will continue the walking tour and visit the rum factory and cigar shops A great opportunity to purchase fine cigars and Cuban rum.

We will visit **TALLER DE GRAFICA**-an experimental design studio. This is one of the most important graphic arts establishments preserving techniques and churning out some of the most significant works of graphic art in Havana.
Early dinner this evening at **LA MORALEJA**. This restaurant is close to the famous evening traditional cannon ceremony which is promptly at 9:00 pm

After dinner we will experience the “CANONAZO A LA CABANA” or shooting of the cannons. The second oldest fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies. Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana (Fort of Saint Charles). Colloquially known as La Cabana, is an 18th century fortress complex, the third-largest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot (60M) hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress)

**Day 3- (6/5/17) –MONDAY ( B,L,D)** Breakfast is served at your hotel from 7:00 am-10:00 am

This morning we will visit **ISA - INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE ARTE**. The University of Arts of Cuba-Instituto Superior de Arte was established on September 1, 1976, by the Cuban government as a school for the arts. Its original structure had three schools: Music, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts. At present, the school has four schools including Arts and Communication Media.
Lunch at **LA BONITA** - a very new, delicious and modern paladar.

After lunch we visit **COMPAS DANS**. With percussion, sticks and chairs, this amazing troupe puts their own stamp on contemporary dance. You will fall in love with these young people.

If time permits, we will stop by **HAMEL’S ALLEY**. *Callejón de Hamel* is known for the fascinating arts and dance project created by Salvador Gonzales Escalona in this run down Cayo Hueso neighborhood. There are painted large bright Afro-Cuban murals on the walls of Calle Hamel, combining a mixture of abstract and surrealist design with phrases giving advice and warnings about danger, death and life. Salvador describes it as a community based project.

Dinner this evening at the wonderful **RIO MAR** - where the ocean meets the river. This evening you may wish to enjoy an optional performance at the **GRAN NACIONAL TEATRO** (performance TBA)

**Day 4 - (6/6/17) - TUESDAY (B,L)**  Breakfast is served at your hotel from 7:00 am-10:00 am

After breakfast we will take some time for history at the **REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUM**.

Next on our agenda is the **MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES**. **Visit the Museum of Fine Arts**. It was founded on February 23, 1913 due to the efforts of its first director, Emilio Heredia, a well-known architect. After frequent moves it was finally placed on the block once occupied by the old Colon Market. In 1954, a new Palacio of Bellas Artes was opened, designed by the architect Rodriguez Picardo. The original 1954 Palacio was recently reconstructed by the architect Jose Linares and a second building was taken over for the Museum. It is a Cuban treasure. Dinner this evening in the home of Los Hermanos Arangos en Guanabacoa-center of Afro-black Cuban history. (additional fee may be required) (Omar confirmed)
Lunch this afternoon will be an interesting change at **LA CALIFORNIA**! After lunch we will go to **Wilfredo Lam**, meet with Dannys Montes de Oca, the director for a visual presentation.

Afternoon and evening free.

**Day 5 - (6/7/17) – WEDNESDAY (B,L,D)**  
Breakfast is served at your hotel from 7:00 am-10:00 am

University of Havana for a workshop with Dr. Marta Nunez or another esteemed Cuban professor to learn about the changes in Cuban Society, U.S./Cuba relations and more. Lunch at **CAFÉ L'AURENT**.

A walk down Prada Avenue with a stop at the **GRAN NACIONAL TEATRO** and tour of the beautiful theatre. There are wonderful art exhibits and wine tasting on the lower levels. We take time for a bit of retail therapy at **SAN JOSE MARKET** where you will find all things Cuban under one roof. Souvenirs, jewelry, clothing, humidors, art and more. Our dinner will be at **LA FORESTA** which is a new modern and wonderful paladar. Those of you who wish to view the famous Tropicana show can do so on your own this evening. We can assist with tickets and transportation. Some of you may wish to see what is playing at the Gran Nacional Teatro.

Day 6 - (6/8/17) – THURSDAY (B,L,D)  
Breakfast is served at your hotel from 7:00 am-10:00 am

Entire group will have checked out of the hotel. We will drop those who will be departing Havana today at the airport, the rest of the group will continue on to **CIENFUEGOS**. An historical stop at Playa Giron, the Bay of Pigs then a walking tour of Cienfuegos to take in the French architectural influence. Visit Palacio de Valles and the University of Cienfuegos.

After arriving in Trinidad we will enjoy a wonderful lunch then meet in the town square to connect with our homestay families. Most homes will be within a few blocks of each other. Dinner this evening one of the great local restaurants in Trinidad.

Day 7 - (6/9/17) – FRIDAY (B,L)  
Breakfast at your casa

Visit to Azarial Santander Alcantara. Guided walking tour of Plaza Mayor including stops at several art and ceramic studios. Lunch at a great local paladar then we visit to the museum of colonial architecture. Afternoon we had to Manaca Iznaga Sugar Plantation and talk with the owner, a former sugar cane plantation owner. We can climb the 44 meters high bell tower that was a lookout tower for slaves. Return to Trinidad. Dinner on your own this evening. After dinner, listen to music, enjoy a mojito, take a salsa lesson or spend time with your casa family.

Day 8 - (6/10/17) – SATURDAY (B,L,D)  
Breakfast at your casa

This morning we visit Hacienda Codina Coffee Plantation and enjoy a lovely lunch at the plantation. Walking tour of the area, admire the beautiful landscapes. This evening we have our Cuba farewell dinner at **SOL Y SON**.
Day 9- (6/11/17)- SUNDAY (B)  Breakfast at your casa.

Today we say goodbye to our host families and our new Cuban friends. Breakfast with our host families then time to mingle around the town before departing for the airport in SANTA CLARA.

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**FLIGHT SCHEDULE:**

June 3rd  8:30am check-in. Flight departs FLL at 11:55am, arrives Havana at 1:00pm
Jun 11th  11:30am check-in Flight departs SNU (Santa Clara) at 2:02pm arrives FLL 3:28pm

**TOUR PRICING AND INCLUSIONS FOR GROUP #1**  $3299.00
**TOUR PRICING AND INCLUSIONS FOR GROUP #2**  $3899.00
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:**  + $1100.00

*Your Visit to Cuba includes:*

*Round-trip non-stop air from FLL to Cuba*
*5 Nights 5-Star Parque Central Hotel  *3 Nights at casa particulares  (subject to availability)*
*Meals as indicated here-in*
*English Speaking Guide and private motor coach transfers in country*
*Several UNESCO World Heritage site visits, all tours, museums, entrance fees listed herein*
*Daily exchanges with local people, lectures, discussions, topics as requested*
*Medical Insurance while you are in Cuba (included)*
*Cuban Tourist Visa and OFAC required People to People authorization letter*
*Escorted by professional representative from Carlson MTM Travel*
*Escorted by representative from ICFAD*

**Insurance:** Required Cuban medical insurance is included. Additional cancellation, delay, and baggage insurance is strongly recommended and will be offered at the group rate of $242.00 per person.

**Documentation:** Valid passport with at least 6 months’ validity required of all U.S. citizens, Cuban Visa, Authorization Letter, Travel Affidavit, Charter Ticket.

Participants should know that Cuba is a special destination, and so please understand that all elements of this itinerary are subject to change and that times and activities listed below are approximate. Please remain flexible as there are often circumstances beyond our control and changes may be necessary. The tour leader reserves the right to make changes to the published itinerary whenever, in his sole discretion, conditions warrant, or if he deems it necessary for the comfort or safety of the program. Be assured that all efforts will be made to provide a comparable alternative should an item on the itinerary need to be changed or cancelled.

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**PAYMENTS:**  A $750.00pp deposit is required to hold your space. Act now, this tour will sell out quickly!
Final payment is due by Mar 04, 2017

**CANCELLATIONS:** Once payments are sent to the air and land suppliers, they become non-refundable. Cancellation insurance is strongly recommended and is offered on a group rate for this package.
**DOCUMENTATION:** Passports with at least 6 months’ validity after date of travel are required. Tourist visa is required for each passenger and will be provided to you. This fee is included in your price.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Gratuities to our servers for lunch and dinners. Approx $2-4 CUC’ per person per day. Optional cancellation insurance, items not mentioned herein, items of a personal nature. $25.00 per person departure tax, baggage fees.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**
Carlson Maritime Travel and its employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns, neither own nor operate any person or entity which is to, or does, provide goods or services for these trips or tours. Because Carlson Maritime Travel does not maintain any control over the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers, CMT assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the tour suppliers, or other employees of agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, instrument owned, operated or otherwise by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful, or negligent act or omissions on any part of any other party not under the supervision or control of the Operator (4) sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, OFAC changes in regulations, regulations changed by either government, the closing of either the U.S. or Cuban Embassy resulting in the inability to obtain visas, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. CMT is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the trips arranged by CMT. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy.

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