13th STUDY TOUR TO CUBA (2005-2018)
VIENNA UNIVERSITY – POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME (Version 20 Dec 2017)

in cooperation with the

HAVANA UNIVERSITY (CENTER FOR HEMISPHERIC STUDIES - CEHSEU),
CATEDRA HUMBOLDT (UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE of GERMAN
LANGUAGE and CULTURE), AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HAVANA,
UNITED NATIONS MISSION CUBA,
22 March – 15 April 2018

Introduction: The Programme consists of a 33hr Academic Event/University Lecturers Cycle on Cuba’s: History (4), Internal Systems (3), External Relations (5), Culture (3), and Briefings by the Austrian Ambassador and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba plus Round Table Discussions with Cuban University students, a Career Coaching Workshop, Programme Recapitulation as well as an Intensive 30hr Spanish Language Course at three different levels. All lectures/briefings will be held in English or German (ausgezeichnete Englischkenntnisse werden vorausgesetzt). Introductory lectures and preparatory meetings in Vienna will precede the Programme in Cuba.

The Academic Programme is complemented by numerous cultural evening events, by sightseeing incl. extensive journeys to geographic and historic highlights in the Western as well as the Central part of the Island, and by recreational undertakings and facilities. (Die Verpflichtung zur Teilnahme an den Aktivitäten, insbesondere aller akademischen und kulturellen, ist Vorbedingung fuer die Studienreise Teilnahme!).

The Study Tour has been organized by Univ.Doz. Dr. Gernot Stimmer, Latin-America specialist with Cuba experience und Univ.Prof. i. R. DDr. Ingfrid Schuetz-Mueller, with specialization in International Organizations and Cuba, both from the Political Science Department, as well as DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller, former United Nations Resident Coordinator in Afghanistan, and Director, UNDP/UNOPS Environment Division, New York, with intensive professional links to Cuba. Both brothers have received the Cross of Honour for Science and Art (Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst) awarded by the Austrian President for their 30 years of work with the United Nations and their dedication for maintaining Austria’s academic link to the UN and for organizing political science study tours to UN Headquarters/New York, to the Pacific Island countries and to the University Havana, Cuba. Both have also regularly appeared on Cuba related radio and television programmes.

In Cuba, the Tour will be lead by one or two of the above, with day-to-day management assistance by former Study Tour participant Sebastian Palasser (Bsc). Coordination and information assistance in Vienna will be given by Mag. Balazs Csekő, multiple Cuba
Study Tour participant and co-manager, journalist and author of a thesis on the Cuban diaspora in the United States.

Itinerary:

**Thursday, 22 March**

**Departure** from Vienna. Airline/Flight to be chosen individually. With some Airlines like Air Canada (via Frankfurt and Toronto) the departure might already take place on 5 April.

**Arrival in Havana, José Martí International Airport.** If a majority of the group arrives simultaneously, a collective transfer by Transtur bus will be organized (for other arrivals transfer to be made individually by taxi) to:

**Hotel Colina**
Calle L entre 27 y Jovellar
Vedado District, Habana
Tel.: (+53) 7833 2065

**Friday, 23 March**

07:30  Breakfast in the Hotel *(daily included)*

08:15  After breakfast walk jointly (200m) to the historical center of the
**Universidad de la Habana**, the Campus Colina (Hügel), Vedado district, Faculty of Law (Juridica/Derecha), Building Ignazio Agramonte, Sala 6
08:30  Orientation discussion on the Academic Programme

09:00  **1. Lecture: Cuba’s History (1) – From Pre-Columbian through Colonial and Post-Independence Period until Revolutionary Beginnings:** Dr. Yoan Karell Acosta González

10:30  **2. Lecture: History (2) – Fidel Castro and the History of the Revolutionary Movement until its Victory in December 1958:** DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller

12:15  **Lunch** may be taken individually but for expediency sake may today be organized jointly for the group in the Restaurant of the Hotel Colina

13:15  Walk to the **Casa Balear** (Center for cultural exchange with the Balearic Islands in Spain) the **venue for the 30-hour Intensive Spanish Language Course**
**Location:** Avenida de los Presidentes (Calle “G”) Nr 512, corner (esquina) Calle 23, Vedado

13:30  Start of daily 3-hour **Intensive Spanish Language** Course (Lessons 1,2,3)
Beginners Course 1 (principiantes): with Profesora Myriam Gascón
Beginners Course 2 (principiantes): with Profesora Cristina Mejías
Intermediate Course 3 (intermedios): with Profesora Elisa Guinart
Advanced Course 4 (avanzados): with Profesora Rita Alfonso

16:30 Walk back to Hotel Colina

17:30 Walk jointly from Hotel Colina to the legendary Hotel Nacional,
Location: Calle O, corner (esquina) Calle 21, Vedado
17:45 for Cocktail Reception in the Hotel garden seaside, followed by the:
18:45 “Ceremonia Bienvenida”, Official Welcome Ceremony of the
Universidad de la Habana in the Salon Vedado
Dr. Jorge Hernández, Presidente Cátedra “Nuestra America” and Ex-
Director, Centro de Estudios Hemisfericos y sobre los Estados Unidos,
(CEHSEU), Havana University
Dr. José Carlos Vázquez, Dean emeritus, Havana University, Facultá para
la Filosofía y Historia, (Co-Founder of the Vienna University Study
Tour to Cuba)
Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, Presidente de la Cátedra Humboldt, University
Institute of German Language and Culture,
as well as professors, teachers, friends and Catedra Humboldt students…

20:00 Walk back to Hotel Colina

Saturday,   24 March

08:00 Breakfast
08:40 Leave Hotel Colina jointly for the Casa Balear
09:00 Spanish Language Course (Lessons 4,5,6)
12:15 Lunch may be taken individually (but for expediency sake may today
again be organized jointly for the group, this time in the Restaurant El
Carmelo which is very close to the Spanish Course venue).
After Lunch return to Hotel Colina
14:00 Departure from Hotel Colina for half-day guided Bus Sightseeing Tour
of Havana (Guide: Dr René Caparrós)
17:30 Return to Hotel

Sunday,  25 March

Any time in the morning, but not later than
09:00 **Hotel check-out**, leave the Hotel individually with all belongings for walk (or short taxi ride) to Casas Particulares (private homes with Cuban families), all in walking distance of the Hotel Colina and the University

09:45 After settling in the respective private accommodations, prepare swim-and beach gear for the afternoon visit to the Beach Club Habana and assemble again at the **Hotel Colina (which shall remain the group’s assembling point for the whole Havana stay)** for bus transfer to Plaza de Armas, Templete, Habana Vieja (Old Havana) (UNESCO World Cultural Heritage) for a

10:00 **Walk through Habana Vieja**, guided by Arquitecto Anibal del Prado (from the Oficina de Arquitectura Patrimonial on Restauration Activities in Old Havana) and by Jorge Luis Pérez Rosquete, thereby visiting Castillo Real Fuerza, Plaza Catedral, Bodeguita del Medio, Giant Fresco at Calle Mercaderes, Maqueta - architectural model of Old Havana, Hotel Ambos Mundos – Hemingway residence at Calle Obispo, Plaza Vieja (Camara Oscura), ending with…

12:30 Refreshments (or lunch) (individual) at La Cervecería (Plaza Vieja), beer restaurant with Austrian/Salm Bräu mini brewery (other lunch option: later in Beach Club Habana)

13:30 walk jointly from Plaza Vieja to Plaza de San Francisco and return from there by bus to the exclusive **Beach Club Habana**

Location: 5ta Avenida Nr 188-192, Municipio Playa. Afternoon at leisure (restaurants, bars, palm beach, swimming pools, tennis, beach volleyball, fitness center, internet)

20:00 Return by bus from Club Habana to Hotel Colina

**Monday, 26 March**

Breakfast *(included daily in all Casas Particulares)*

08:40 Walk jointly from **assembling point Hotel Colina** to the University Campus, Faculty of Law (Juridica/Derecha), Building Ignazio Agramonte, Sala 6

09:00 **3. Lecture: External Relations (1) – Latin America**: Dr. Alberto Prieto

10:30 **4. Lecture: History (3) – The First Post-Revolution Years (1959-64) with special emphasis on the Invasion at the Bay of Pigs (1961) + the Missile Crisis (1962)**: Ambassador Prof. Dr. Carlos Alzugaray
12:00 Individual luncheons

14:00 **Spanish Language Course** (Lessons 7,8,9) at the Casa Balear

17:00 Walk back to individual Casas Particulares

19:15 Departure by bus from assembling point Hotel Colina for the **Morro y Cabaña Fortaleza** (Hafenfestung) to attend historic 17th Century 9o’clock Cañonazo (cannon-shot ceremony marking the night closure of the former city gates), followed by **optional dinner** in a medieval tavern (El Bodegón) on the fortress

23:00 Return by bus to Hotel Vedado

**Tuesday, 27 March**

08:40 Walk individually from **Casa Particular** to the **University Campus**, Faculty of Law (Juridica/Derecha), Building Ignazio Agramonte, Sala 6

09:00 **5. Lecture: History (4) – The past five decades, with overview on the recent socio/economic and political changes:** Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

10:30 **6. Lecture: External Relations (2) – United States of America:** Dr. Yoan Karell Acosta González

12:00 Individual luncheons

13:30 **Spanish Language Course** (Lessons 10,11,12),

16:30 Return from Casa Balear to respective Casas Particulares

18:30 Departure from Hotel Colina for **Cultural Programme with Afro-Cuban ‘religious’ Music/Dance Tradition** (related to Santeria) performed by the famous Ladies Group "Obini Batá" at the Asociación Cultural/Yoruba de Cuba

   Location: Prado 615, Habana Vieja

20:45 Return by bus to Hotel Colina

**Wednesday, 28 March**

08:40 Walk individually to the **“Cine Infanta”** (Sala 1) Film Center located at Calzada de Infanta e/ Calle Neptuno y Calle San Miguel for the ……

09:00 **7. Lecture: Cuba’s Internal Systems (1) – The Political System:** Dr. Yoan Karell Acosta González
10:30 8. Lecture: External Relations (3) – Europe: Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

12:00 Individual luncheons

13:00 Spanish Language Course (Lessons 13,14,15), at Casa Balear until 16:00

17:00 Departure from Hotel Colina by bus for the Austrian Embassy Residency for Reception and

17:30 9. Lecture/Briefing on: “Recent Socio-economic Developments in Cuba & Work and Challenges of the Austrian Representation in Cuba” by Ambassador Dr. Gerlinde Paschinger
Location: 7ma Avenida, No. 3506, e/ 36A y 38, Miramar

20:00 Return by bus to Hotel Colina

Thursday, 29 March

08:40 Walk individually to the Cine Infanta...

09:00 10. Lecture: Internal Systems (2) - Cuba’s Social System: Dr. René Caparrós Aguiar

10:30 11. Lecture: External Relations (4) - Cuba’s Historical Relations with Austria and Germany (with special emphasis on Alexander von Humboldt): Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, Presidente de la Catedra Humboldt

12:00 Lunch

14:30 12. Lecture: Mesa Redonda - Round Table Discussion (in German) with Cuban Students from the Catedra Humboldt, moderated by Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, Presidente, Catedra Humboldt und DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller
Location: Cine Infanta (until 17:00)

17:30 Student entertainment committee preparations for the evening Fiesta

20:00 Continuation of the Round Table as joint Fiesta Cubana with the Cuban Students at the Casa Balear (with music, drinks, snacks etc.)

Friday, 30 March (Karfreitag)

08:40 Walk individually to the Cine Infanta……

09:00 13. Lecture: Cuba’s Culture (1) – Dance (Ballet): Dr. Miguel Cabrera

10:30 14. Lecture: External Relations (5) – Former Socialist Block & 3rd World Countries (“Group of 77”): Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

12:00 Lunch
14:00  **Spanish Language Course** (Lessons 16,17,18), (until 17:00)

Evening suggestions: **Fabrica de Arte** (Disco, ArtCine, Art Exhibition etc) Location: Calles 26 y 11, Vedado (smart-casual attire required!!) or **Mio & Tuyo* (Sports Bar & Disco) or **La Flauta Magica* (Zauberfloete, Sky Bar & Music) or **El Delirio** (Sky Disco top-floor Teatro Nacional) or **“1830”** Live music open-air Club at end of Malecon, or **Sala Atril** (Disco Night Club in the Teatro Karl Marx).

* No entrance fees

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**Saturday, 31 March** (Karsamstag)

12:00  Early morning at leisure  
Lunch (can also be taken near the beach)

13:00  Departure (optional) by bus from **assembling point Hotel Colina** for afternoon public beach activities at **Playa del Este, Sta. Maria beach** (in the nearby laguna: **Mi Cayito Island Inn** for food & drinks and pedal boat rental)

18:00  Return from Playa del Este to Hotel Colina

19:45  Departure by bus from Hotel Colina for a ballet evening at the 
20:30  Teatro Nacional:  **“Escuela Nacional de Ballet: Encuentro Internacional de Academias de Ballet”**

Location: Plaza de la Revolución, Municipio Plaza

22:00  Return by bus to Hotel Colina

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**Sunday, 1 April** (Ostersonntag)

(Request early breakfast at Casas Particulares!
and bring along hiking and swimming gear!)

07:30  Departure from **assembling point Hotel Colina** for full-day guided bus Excursion to Western Cuba, i.e. **Soroa, Las Terrazas and Viñales**
Guide: Jorge Luis **Pérez Rosquete**

08:45  **Soroa** – mountain hike up **Monte Mirador de Venus**, after descending
10:15  Walk to nearby Rio Manantiales **Waterfalls**
11:30  Drive to **Las Terrazas**: Lake/Bioreserve and famous architectural experiment of the 1960s for fully integrated sustainable rural village planning
12:15 **Pic-nic Lunch** (included) and swim at the **Cascadas de los Baños del Rio San Juan**

14:15 Departure for Viñales via Pinar del Rio
16:00 Arrival in the legendary **Valle de Viñales** (Cuba’s most famous picture book landscape), visit of **Cueva del Indio** (boat ride in underground cave river)
17:00 View of **Mural de la Prehistoria** (giant rock-painting)
17:15 **Los Jasmines** Hotel, best scenic view of the beautiful Viñales valley, and evening Pic-Nic continuation
20:30 Departure for Havana
22:30 Arrival at Hotel Colina

Monday, 2 April

09:40 Walk **individually** to the **University Campus**, Faculty of Law (Juridica/Derecha), Building Ignazio Agramonte, Sala 6

10:00 **15. Lecture: Internal Systems (3) – Economy** (incl. Financial and Agricultural system): Dr. Antonio F. **Romero Gómez**

12:00 Lunch

14:00 **Spanish Language Course** (Lessons 19,20,21), (until 17:00)

Tuesday, 3 April

Walk individually to the **Casa Balear** for the…

09:00 **Spanish Language Course** (Lessons 22,23,24)

12:00 Return briefly home to Casas Particulares to pick-up beach gear for…
13:00 Departure by bus from Hotel Colina for the private **Beach Club Habana** (lunch possibility) Location: 5ta Avenida Nr 188-192, Municipio Playa

Whole afternoon at leisure (restaurants, bars, palm beach, swimming pools, tennis, beach volleyball, fitness centre, internet)

19:45 Return by bus from Club Habana to Hotel Colina
Wednesday, 4 April

At Cine Infanta:

09:00  16. Lecture: Cuba’s Culture (2) – Music: N.N.
10:30  17. Lecture: Cuba’s Culture (3) – Architecture: Dr. René Caparrós Aguiar
12:00  Lunch

13:00  Spanish Language Course (25,26,27), (until 16:00)

17:15  Departure by bus from Hotel Colina meeting point for a Matinée (evening dance) in the famous “salsa temple” the Casa de la Musica
Location: Calle Galliano, entre/ Neptuno y Concordia, Centro Habana

After 21:00 return individually to Casas Particulares

Thursday, 5 April

08:30  Departure by bus from meeting point Hotel Colina for the United Nations Mission in Cuba, for Reception and

09:00  18. Briefing on United Nations (UNDP/WFP etc) Activities in Cuba, Ms N.N., United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba,
Location: Calle 18, No 110 e/ 1ra y 3ra Ave, Miramar

10:45  19. Briefing on Career Possibilities with International / UN Organizations,
Mr Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller, Former United Nations Resident Coordinator in Afghanistan and later: Director of UNDP/UNOPS Environment Division, New York
Location: same as above

12:45  Return by bus to Hotel Colina

13:00  Lunch

14:30  Final Spanish Language Course (28,29,30)
16:30  Spanish Language Tests (until 17:30)

Late afternoon and evening to be used for individual preparations for the Recapitulation session and for Student Entertainment Committee organization for the Friday afternoon Ceremonia Clausura gift presentations and Fiesta night
Friday, 6 April

09:00  20. Recapitulation and Discussions on the Academic Programme Experience moderated by Mr Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller (presentations by students)
Location: Casa Fernando Ortíz

13:00  Lunch

16:45  Walk to the Hotel Nacional, Sala ??, for the…
   "Ceremonia Clausura” formal University Farewell Ceremony
   Hand-out of Diplomas for Lectures and Language Courses by
   Dr. Jorge Hernandez, Ex-Director CEHSEU / Dr José Vázquez, Dean
   emeritus
   Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, Presidente de la Catedra Humboldt, and the four
   Profesoras de Español (who, together with the local Coordinadora Berta
   Martinez, are being thanked by the students with gift presentations and
   thereafter each profesora is being taken for dinner by their respective
   student group)

20:00  Farewell Fiesta Cubana with Cuban students/friends at Casa Balear (with
       music, drinks, snacks etc)

Saturday, 7 April

Morning at leisure for visits to Museums (e.g. Museo de la Ciudad de
   La Habana, Museo de la Revolución, Museo Nacional de las Bellas
   Artes, etc.)
   Afternoon is dedicated to follow the famous Literature Nobel laureate
   Ernest Hemingway’s tracks in Cuba where he spent a large part of his life
   and with which he developed deep bonds.

12:00  Departure by bus from Hotel Colina for a visit of Finca Vigía,
       Hemingway’s beautiful Mansion, to be followed by a visit to Cojimar
       (the Author’s fishing village and location of his Nobel Prize winning
       novel: “The Old Man and the Sea”). Thereafter continue and at

14:45  Arrive at Playa del Este, Sta Maria public beach (nearby Mi Cayito
       Lagune Island Inn for snacks & drinks and pedal boat rental)

19:00  Departure from Playa del Este and return to Hotel Colina

   Evening free for individual activities and preparations for tomorrow’s
departure from Havana
Sunday, 8 April

08:45 Leave Casas Particulares with all luggage
09:00 Assemble at Hotel Colina and load all luggage on Transtur bus for a 7day/6night guided Excursion eastwards to Central Cuba: Guamá* – Bay of Pigs/Girón – Cienfuegos – Trinidad* – Sierra de Escambray/Caburni Waterfalls - Sta.Clara/Che Guevara Monument – Varadero* - Havana (* overnight stops)

09:30 Departure from Hotel Colina for Guamá on Zapata peninsula wetland reserve, Matanzas Province
11:30 Arrival La Boca, Laguna del Tesoro marina. Visit of Crocodile Farm, thereafter optional lunch at the marina restaurant
14:00 Speedboat transfer through mangrove lined canals and swamps and across lake Laguna del Tesoro to the Island Resort Villa Guamá (Pfahlbauten)
14:30 Visit of Sculpture Park depicting Taino Indian life (bronze statues by Rita Longa)
15:00 Check into Villa Guamá Resort Hotel (Tel.: +53 45 959 100) and walk to lake lodges (cabañas)

Afternoon at leisure at Villa Guamá swimming pool and bar
20:00 Dinner (included) at the resort restaurant lodge

Monday, 9 April

07:00 Optional early morning bird-watchers boat tour around islands (5 CUC)
08:00 Luggage to be stored at reception or outside each lodge for pick-up by boat
08:15 Breakfast (included) at restaurant
09:00 Departure by speedboat from the Resort for La Boca marina
09:30 After storing luggage on the bus, Departure from La Boca
10:30 Arriving at the Bahía de los Cochinos (Bay of Pigs), after passing through Playa Larga, 1 1/4 hour stopover for snorkeling/diving at the Cueva de los Peces (small 80m deep lake with unusual marine fauna)
12:15 Arriving at Girón and visit of Museum and Invasion beach (Playa Girón – April 1961 Schweinebucht Invasion)
13:00 Lunch (individual) at Bar Playa Cristal (Spaghetti/Pizza/Hamburger)
14:00  Departure for Cienfuegos
15:45  Drive through/sightseeing of the charming city of **Cienfuegos** “La Perla del Sur”, (incl. visit with welcome drinks of **Palacio del Valle**, one of Cuba’s most famous architectural treasures)
17:00  Departure for Trinidad
18:30  Arrival in the famous colonial city of **Trinidad** (UNESCO World Heritage), Playa Ancon; check-in at **Beach Hotel Ancon** Club Amigo (Tel.: +53 41 996 146). **All meals included.**
19:30  Buffet Dinner, thereafter at 20:30 possibly Dance/Song show at the 24hr Pool Bar

**Tuesday, 10 April**

Full day at leisure for Playa Ancon beach activities

19:00  Buffet Dinner
20:30  Drive to downtown Trinidad, **Escaleras Casa de la Musica** (open-air music/dance)
22:30  Return by bus to Hotel Ancon (arr. 23:30) via the spectacular underground disco club **La Cueva** (cave) for brief visit or optional stay there and in that case return individually by taxi

**Wednesday, 11 April**

Morning and early afternoon at leisure for beach activities

16:15  Departure by bus for guided sightseeing tour of the **Valle de los Ingenios** (Sugar Mills Valley) incl. **Torre de Iznaga** (National Monument) and on to the **Historic Center of Colonial Trinidad** for guided walking tour of the old town.

20:00  Return by bus to Hotel Ancon
20:30  Dinner

**Thursday, 12 April**

07:45  Breakfast (Reiseproviant will be provided for this – the longest - tour day)
08:30  All luggage to be loaded on bus
08:45  Departure from Hotel Ancon for scenic mountain drive over the **Sierra de Escambray**
10:15 After stop at Mirador scenic outlook, arrive at mountain pass Topes de Collantes (from there drive with 4WD Russian made trucks to the start of a guided 2h descending mountain path walk to Caburní Waterfalls & Lake and climb up return)

13:30 Leaving Topes de Collantes and arrive in the city of

15:00 Santa Clara for (time permitting) individual snack lunch at pool-side grill of Hotel/Restaurant Los Caneyes, followed by visit of the Che Guevara Monument/Memorial Site

16:30 Departure from Sta. Clara for Varadero

19:00 Arrival Varadero Beach, short orientation drive on Varadero peninsula

19:30 check-in at Hotel Mar del Sur (Tel.: +53 45 61 22 46) 150 metres from beach (all meals included)

Optional evening activities, e.g. dance at Casa de la Música or Salsa Club Mambo

Friday, 13 April

Whole day at leisure for beach activities

19:30 Adios Cuba - Final Group Farewell get-together at Hotel pool side lounge

Optional evening activities

Saturday, 14 April

Most of the day at leisure for beach activities

12:00 Rooms to be vacated (luggage to be stored on bus or in Hotel storage room)

17:00 Departure by bus from Hotel Mar del Sur for Havana via Matanzas and Bacunayagua bridge (Cuba’s largest bridge, with spectacular view)

19:00 Arrival Havana, Hotel Colina (Bus will continue to Jose Marti International Airport for those who will depart that same evening)

Sunday, 15 April

Arrival Schwechat International Airport of those who left Havana last night.