14th STUDY TOUR TO CUBA (2005-2020)
(Previous Tours under the aegis of the Institute for Political Science, Vienna University)

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME (Version 10 January 2020)

in cooperation with the

HAVANA UNIVERSITY
(CATEDRA HUMBOLDT - INSTITUTE of GERMAN LANGUAGE and CULTURE),
AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HAVANA, UNITED NATIONS MISSION CUBA,
2 – 26 April 2020

Introduction:

The Programme consists of a 21 Academic Events/University Lectures Cycle on Cuba’s: History (4), Internal Systems (4), 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 30 hr Spanish Language Course at three different levels. All lectures and briefings will be held in English or German (ausgezeichnete Englischkenntnisse werden vorausgesetzt). The Programme in Cuba will be preceded by introductory lectures and preparatory meetings in Vienna.

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 für die Studienreise Teilnahme!).

This annual Study Tour (which in the past has been under the aegis of the Institute for Political Science of the Vienna University) has been organized (and will also be accompanied) by Univ.Doz. Dr. Gernot Stimmer, Latin-America specialist with extensive Cuba experience from the Institute for Political Science, Vienna University, and DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller, former United Nations Resident Coordinator, and Director, UNDP/UNOPS Environment Division, New York, with extensive professional links to Cuba, bearer of the Cross of Honour for Science and Art (Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst) awarded by the Austrian President to him and his late brother (who has initiated and for 13 years also co-organized the Cuba Study Tours) 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 he and his brother have also appeared on Cuba related radio and television programmes.
Itinerary:

Thursday, 2 April

**Departure** from Vienna. Airline/Flight to be chosen individually.

**Arrival** in Havana, José Martí International Airport.

Upon arrival of the flight chosen by the majority of the group they will be met at the airport by our local Coordinadora **Berta González** Martinez (+53 5371 6552) and our guide Jorge Luis Pérez **Rosquete** (+53 5835 4172) who shall remain with the Group during the whole Study Tour) and a collective transfer by **Transtur** bus has been organized for that majority of the group and all those who arrive close to that time (for other arrivals transfer to be made individually by taxi) to:

**Hotel Vedado**
Calle O entre 23 y 25
Vedado District, Habana
Tel.: (+53) 7836 4072

19:15  Following an old tradition, those who are hungry may congregate at the Pizzeria of the Hotel Vedado (around the corner, as per attached site-map)

Friday, 3 April

07:30  Breakfast in the Hotel Vedado (**daily included**)  
08:15  After breakfast walk jointly (7min) to the historical center of the **Universidad de la Habana**, the Campus Colina (Hügel), Vedado district,  
08:30  In front of the building Ignazio Agramonte, Faculty of Law (Jurídica/Derecha) in the park the Group will be welcomed by the two University executives responsible since 15 years for the materialization of the Academic Programme: Dr. Iván **Muñoz Duthil** and Dr. José Carlos **Vázquez**, followed by joint walk to the

"**Cine Infanta**" (Sala 1) Film Center located at Calzada de Infanta e/ Calle Neptuno y Calle San Miguel (**where most of the briefings will take place**) for orientation discussion on the Academic Programme and the beginning of the lectures

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**

12:15 Walk (15min) in direction 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 District

12:30 Lunch will always be taken individually but for expediency sake may today be organized jointly for the group in the Restaurant El Carmelo which is just across the street of the Casa Balear.

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 Vedado

17:45 Walk jointly (5min) from Hotel Vedado to the legendary Hotel Nacional, Location: Calle O, corner (esquina) Calle 21, Vedado for Cocktail Reception in the Hotel garden seaside, followed by the: "Ceremonia Bienvenida", Official Welcome Ceremony of the Universidad de la Habana in the Sala Taganana, in the presence of:
Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthill, Presidente de la Cátedra Humboldt, Havana University, Institute of German Language and Culture,
Dr. José Carlos Vázquez, Decano emérito, Facultá para la Filosofía y Historia, Havana University, (Co-Founder of the Vienna University Study Tour to Cuba)
as well as professors, teachers, friends and Catedra Humboldt students…

20:30 Walk back to Hotel Vedado

Saturday, 4 April

08:00 Breakfast
08:40 Leave Hotel Vedado jointly for the Casa Balear

09:00 Spanish Language Course (Lessons 4,5,6)
12:15 **Lunch** may be taken individually in any of the many restaurants of Calle 23, the direct connection between the Casa Balear and the Hotel Vedado. After Lunch return to Hotel Vedado

14:00 Departure from Hotel Vedado for half-day guided **Bus Sightseeing Tour of Havana** (Guide: Jorge Luis Perez Rosquete)

17:30 Return to Hotel Vedado

**Sunday, 5 April**

It is recommended to individually leave the Hotel Vedado early, but not later than 8:30 and **walk** (or take a short taxi ride) to **Casas Particulares** *(private homes with Cuban families)*, all in walking distance of Hotel and 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 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 Dr. René Caparrós 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 *(better 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, 6 April**
Breakfast (included daily in all Casas Particulares)

08:40 Walk individually or jointly from assembling point Hotel Colina to the Cine Infanta.

09:00 3. Lecture: History (3) – The First Post-Revolution Years (1959-64) with special emphasis on the Invasion at the Bay of Pigs (Apr.1961) & the Missile Crisis (Oct.1962): Ambassador Prof. Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

09:00 4. Lecture: External Relations (1) – United States of America: Dr. Yoan Karell Acosta González

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 9 o’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, 7 April

08:40 Walk individually from Casas Particulares to the Cine Infanta

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) – Europe: Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

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 "Obiní Batá" at the Asociación Cultural/Yoruba de Cuba

Location: Prado 615, Habana Vieja
Wednesday, 8 April

Cine Infanta

09:00 7. Lecture: Cuba’s Internal Systems (1) – The Political System: Dr. Yoan Karell Acosta González


12:00 Individual luncheons

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

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

After 21:00 return individually to Casas Particulares or enjoy some more time downtown Havana

Thursday, 9 April

Cine Infanta

09:00 9. Lecture: External Relations (3) – Former Socialist Block & 3rd World Countries (“Group of 77”): Dr. Carlos Alzugaray

10:30 10. Lecture: Internal Systems (3) - Cuba’s Social System: Dr. René Caparrós Aguiar

12:00 Lunch

Cine Infanta

14:00 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

15:00 12. Lecture: Mesa Redonda - Round Table Discussion with Cuban Students from the Catedra Humboldt, moderated by Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, und DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller (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, 10 April (Karfreitag)

Cine Infanta

10:00  13. Lecture: Internal Systems (4) – Cuba and the Environment: Dr. Julio Ernesto Hernandez Martinez

11:30  Lunch

13:30  Spanish Language Course (Lessons 16,17,18), (until 16:30)

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* (Zauberflöte, 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

Saturday, 11 April (Karsamstag)

Early morning at leisure

12:00  Lunch

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 an evening at the Teatro Nacional

20:30  either a ballet performance under the aegis of: Escuela Nacional de Ballet: “Encuentro Internacional de Academias de Ballet” or a performance under the “Havana International Guitar Festival”

Location: Plaza de la Revolución, Municipio Plaza

22:00  Return by bus to Hotel Colina
Sunday, 12 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 Perez Rosquete

08:45 Soroa – mountain hike up Monte Mirador de Venus, after descending
10:15 Walk to nearby Río Manantiales Waterfalls
11:30 Drive to Las Terrazas: Lake/Bioreserve and famous architectural experiment of the 1960s for fully integrated sustainable rural village planning (developed upon the initiative of Celia Sanchez, guerillera and confidante of Fidel Castro)

12:15 Pic-nic Lunch (included) and swim at the Cascadas de los Baños del Río San Juan

14:15 Departure for Viñales via Pinar del Rio
16:30 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)
17:30 View of Mural de la Prehistoria (giant rock-painting depicting the history of Evolution, 180 x 120m) created upon the initiative of Celia Sanchez

18:00 Los Jasmín 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, 13 April

Cine Infanta

09:30 14. Lecture: External Relations (5) – Latin America: Dr. Alfredo Carballo

11:00 15. Lecture: Cuba’s Culture (1) – Dance (Ballet): Dr. Miguel Cabrera

12:30 Lunch

14:15 Spanish Language Course (Lessons 19,20,21), (until 17:15)
Tuesday, 14 April

Casa Balear

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, 15 April

Cine Infanta:

09:00 16. Lecture: Cuba’s Culture (2) – Music: Dr. Alberto Faya

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)

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

17:30 18. Lecture/Briefing on: “Recent Socio-economic Developments in Cuba & Work and Challenges of the Austrian Representation in Cuba” by Ambassador Mag. Stefan Weidinger
Location: 7ma Avenida, No. 3506, e/ 36A y 38, Miramar

20:00 Return by bus to Hotel Colina

Thursday, 16 April

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

09:00 19. Briefing on United Nations (UNDP/WFP etc) Activities in Cuba, Ms Consuelo Vidal-Bruce, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba,
10:45  **20. Briefing** on Career Possibilities with International / UN Organizations,
    DI 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, 17 April**

Cine Infanta

09:00  **21. Recapitulation and Discussions on the Academic Programme Experience** moderated by Dr. Gernot Stimmer and DI Ingolf Schuetz-Mueller (presentations by students)

13:00  Lunch

16:45  Walk to the Hotel Nacional, Sala Taganana for the”Ceremonia Clausura” formal University Farewell Ceremony
    Hand-out of 2 Diplomas, for University Lectures and for the Language Courses by
    Dr. Iván Muñoz Duthil, Presidente de la Catedra Humboldt
    Dr José Vázquez, Decano emérito, Faculta para Historia y Filosofía and
    the Profesoras de Español (who, together with the local Coordinadora Berta Gonzalez Martinez, are being thanked by the students with gift presentations followed by dinner invitation for each profesora by their respective student group)

20:30  **Farewell Fiesta Cubana** with Cuban students/friends at Casa Balear (with music, drinks, snacks etc)
Saturday, 18 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 Cojímar (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, 19 April

08:45 Leave Casas Particulares with all luggage
09:00 Assemble at Hotel Colina and load all luggage on Transtur bus for a


09:15 Departure from Hotel Colina for 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
13:30 Speedboat transfer through scenic mangrove lined canals and swamps and across lake Laguna del Tesoro to the unique Taíno Indian style pile dwellings (Pfahlbauten) Island Resort Villa Guamá, built upon the initiative of Celia Sanchez in the 1960s
14:00 Visit of Sculpture Park depicting Taíno Indian life (“Avatar-like” bronze statues by Rita Longa)
14:45 Check into **Villa Guamá Resort Hotel** (Tel.: +53 45 959 100) and walk to individual lake lodges (cabañas)

Rest of the day at leisure at Villa Guamá swimming pool until

20:00 Dinner (included) at the resort restaurant lodge

**Monday, 20 April**

07:00 **Optional** early morning bird-watchers boat tour around islands (5 CUC)

08:30 Luggage to be stored at reception or outside each lodge for pick-up by boat
08:45 Breakfast (included) at restaurant

09:30 Departure by speedboat from the Resort for La Boca marina
10:00 After storing luggage on the bus, departure from La Boca

10:30 Arriving for the first time at the **Caribbean Sea** at the **Bahia de los Cochinos (Bay of Pigs)**, after passing through Playa Larga, 1 1/2 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)

12:45 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, 21 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, 22 April**

Morning and early afternoon at leisure for beach activities

16:00 Departure by bus for guided sightseeing tour of the Valle de los Ingenios (Sugar Mills Valley). Stopover at scenic outlook with possibility of tree tops canopy tour, and on to the tower Torre de Iznaga (National Monument) and continue 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, 23 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 winding road mountain drive up 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 in fascinating rock-formation terrain to Caburní Waterfalls & Lake and climb up return)
13:30 Leaving Topes de Collantes and arrive in the city of 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 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, 24 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, 25 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, 26 April

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