

CULTURAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF

CUBA



Colorado College Faculty Leader



Ryan Raul Bañagale is Associate Professor and Chair of Music at Colorado College, where he also serves as Director of the Crown Center for Teaching. A

Colorado College graduate, Ryan earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and is an internationally recognized scholar of American music. His research and teaching explore how music changes meaning across time, place, and performance, blending historical insight with a deep appreciation for lived musical experiences.

At CC, Ryan has led innovative, interdisciplinary projects that connect the arts with cultural history, politics, and place. A passionate traveler and educator, he has guided alumni, students, and colleagues in discovering how music both reflects and refracts the societies from which it emerges. Ryan is the author of *Arranging Gershwin*: Rhapsody in Blue and the Creation of an American Icon and co-editor of "We Didn't Start the Fire": Billy Joel and Popular Music Studies. His critical edition of the original 1924 arrangement of Rhapsody in Blue, published as part of the George and Ira Gershwin Initiative, is performed regularly around the world.



Plaza Vieja, Havana



Dear Colorado College alumni and friends,

I invite you to join us for this **immersive**, **eight-day cultural journey to explore Cuba**'s deep artistic, musical, and political history, and visit agrarian and ecological sites. Discover firsthand the indigenous, African, and Spanish influences that make Cuba a vibrant island nation.

Spend five nights total in **Havana** experiencing the sights, sounds, and flavors of this thriving city; and two nights in the countryside town of **Viñales**, located in the Pinar del Rio Province, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy **private concerts by El Septeto Nacional**, masters and great innovators of Latin music; and **Coro Lucecita**, a renowned community children's choir; plus attend a **private performance by "Mi Compania,"** one of Cuba's top contemporary dance companies.

Explore how art has been woven into the fabric of Cuba's society through its history, politics, and revolutions. Visit Havana's **Obispo Street**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that blends colonial architecture, vibrant art, and the rich culture of local life; see contemporary Cuban art exhibits at **El Centro del Desarollo de Arte Contemporánea** and **la Fototeca de Cuba**; and visit **Fusterlandia**, an entire neighborhood transformed into a Gaudí or Brancusiesque wonderland.

After our first four nights in Havana, we drive to **Viñales**, stopping along the way at **Finca Paco y Concha**, a 3rd-generation tobacco farm. Once in Viñales, enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience staying in rooms at host families' **bed-and-breakfast villas** for two nights. Our time in the countryside includes a **guided hike** through verdant forests; a walk through farms and landscapes to learn about history, geology, and fauna; and visits to two very different working farms. Return to Havana, and enjoy our last night in Cuba as we travel to dinner at sunset in a **1950s American convertible car**.

Not only is Cuba known for its performing and fine arts, but it is also known for its cuisine. You will have a couple of evenings to explore Cuba's food scene on your own, but we will also enjoy meals together, sampling **Cuban-Mediterranean**, **traditional Cuban**, **modern Cuban**, and **farm-to-table** fare.

If you have ever wanted to visit Cuba, now is the time to go! We will be traveling under the *General License for Support for the Cuban People*. This program is limited to 20 guests, plus a tour manager and a local Cuban guide, so I suggest that you reserve your spot today by contacting Eos Study Tours, the specialty tour operator who has worked with us on designing this trip. Email **tigertravel@studytours.org** or call toll-free **(800) 856-8951**.

Sincerely,

Ciady Hyman

Cindy Hyman '82

Associate Vice President for Engagement



ITINERARY

B= Breakfast • L= Lunch • D= Dinner

Thursday, April 16, 2026: Fly to Havana, Cuba | Welcome dinner Arrive at Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV), where you will be met by your Cuban tour guide and your tour manager, and transferred to our hotel in Havana. After checking in, we gather for a welcome dinner at El del Frente, the hippest restaurant in Habana Vieja (Old Havana). Four nights at the Calis Habana boutique hotel. (D)

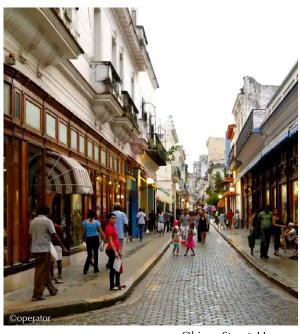
Friday, April 17: Havana: Capitolio neighborhood/Obispo Street/ Habana Vieja walking tour, private concert by El Septeto Nacional, time at leisure | Rooftop concert

After breakfast, we tour Havana's grandest neighborhood: Capitolio. El Prado is one of the most exquisitely designed major avenues in all the Americas and is home to architectural mastery ranging from Colonial to Baroque to Neoclassical to Art Deco. Next, we walk down the pedestrian promenade of Obispo Street, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that blends colonial architecture, vibrant art, and the rich culture of local life. We finish the morning portion of our walking tour in the historic core of Havana, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit Plaza Vieja to see contemporary Cuban art exhibits at El Centro del Desarollo de Arte Contemporánea and la Fototeca de Cuba; and then Plaza San Francisco de Asís, a public square built facing the Havana port in the 16th century.

After a light lunch of fresh, locally sourced food at El Café, continue to la Plaza de las Armas, Havana's first square and the site of the city's first settlement. Continue to the last public square on our walking tour, Plaza de la Catedral, to visit Taller de Gráfica, a graphic arts workshop established by Pablo Neruda and Che Guevara at the beginning of the revolution as a co-op, where artists could work on printmaking. After viewing an exhibit at the Wilfredo Lam Center, attend a private concert by El Septeto Nacional, masters and great innovators of Latin music over the past 80 years. Spend some time at leisure until we gather for dinner at La Guarida, one of the most popular restaurants in Cuba. Wrap up our evening with a rooftop concert by Ramoncito Valles, one of Cuba's greatest jazz musicians. (B,L,D)



Musicians in Havana



Obispo Street, Havana



Havana



Mi Compania



Classic convertible cars



Ramoncito Valles, Cuban jazz musician

Saturday, April 18: Havana: Guest speaker Marc Frank, Partagás Factory, Visits with Afro-Cuban spiritual leaders, Time at leisure

After breakfast, we meet with Marc Frank, a well-known American author and journalist who will discuss the ways in which Cuba's planned economy and political system work and don't work. Next, we tour the Partagás Factory, a cigar factory located in central Havana. Lunch today is at Manteca, a stylish, rooftop restaurant at Tribe Caribe, accompanied by a fascinating conversation with renowned music producer and entrepreneur Andres Levin. We then make once-in-a-lifetime visits to the homes of two Afro-Cuban spiritual leaders, a "palero" (Palo del Monte) and a "babalawo" (Santería). We will learn about and discuss their religious practices, steeped in Congolese and Nigerian worldviews combined with Catholicism, and the great importance these belief systems continue to have in Cuban culture. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

Sunday, April 19: Havana: Private performance by "Mi Compania," Art curator Cristina Vives, Private Coro Lucecita concert, Time at leisure | La Fábrica de Arte Cubano

After breakfast, attend a private performance by "Mi Compania," one of Cuba's top contemporary dance companies, under the direction of Susana Pous. This will take place at a beautiful house transformed into her private dance school and company headquarters. After lunch at Grados Paladar, we attend an opening at the gallery of Cristina Vives, Cuba's most respected independent contemporary art curator. She played a significant role in the success of many contemporary Cuban artists who are now active in the international art world.

Continue our afternoon with a private concert by Coro Lucecita children's choir. Afterward, we have the opportunity to meet with the choir members, gaining insight into their musical journey, the choir's important role in their lives, and the power of music to inspire and transcend cultural boundaries. Spend time at leisure until we gather for dinner at Tierra, a restaurant that is just as much about the Havana arts scene as it is about food. Tierra is located in La Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), Havana's trendiest new magnet for the urban and chic: an old peanut oil factory that has been transformed into a multi-level, multi-purpose, and virtually limitless art and music venue. Take time to check out a concert happening in FAC's Nave 3. (B,L,D)



Viñales Valley

Monday, April 20: Pinar del Rio Province: Las Terrazas ecocommunity, Finca Paco y Concha | Viñales: Optional night of dance and music

This morning we depart Havana and begin our journey to Viñales, with a scenic drive through the western province of Pinar del Rio, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a pinepopulated, red-soiled, tobacco-growing region of Cuba. We stop along the way at Las Terrazas, a unique eco-community. Meet the locals as they welcome us to their community and learn about their lifestyle, its artistic heritage, and its reforestation efforts. Next, we take a guided hike through the verdant forests, providing stunning views of the surrounding landscapes. End our tour with a hearty, locally sourced lunch at a paladar. Afterward, we visit Finca Paco y Concha, a 3rd-generation tobacco farm, and learn about the process of creating the world's finest tobacco. We continue driving to Viñales, where we check-in to our bed-andbreakfast villas—rooms in country homes in the center of town. Dinner this evening is with our host families. Afterward, we have the option to gather with locals and visitors alike to dance and listen to Cuban rhythms. Two nights at family-run bed-andbreakfast country homes. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, April 21: Viñales: Countryside walk, Finca Agroecológica El Paraiso, PM at leisure

After breakfast, we walk through the Cuban countryside with Ricardo Alvarez, City Historian of Viñales. Together we will stroll through small farms, stunning landscapes, and geological wonders. Next, we have lunch at Finca Agroecológica El Paraiso, a fourth-generation-owned and -operated organic, sustainable farm. Join in a farm-to-table, family-style meal with a magical view of the Viñales Valley. After lunch, we tour the farm (finca) with the farmers. Return to Viñales for the balance of the day at leisure, perhaps watching the sun set over the valley from a rooftop terrace, and/or having dinner in town while listening to traditional, live music. (B,L)



Finca Marta, an agroecological farm



Attend a private concert by El Septeto Nacional in Havana

What to Expect



MODERATE: Must be able to walk one to three miles per day on mostly flat, but often uneven, terrain.

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. Any participant showing signs of illness will be asked to wear a mask when in close proximity to others. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you.

At the time we visit we can expect generally sunny weather, with an increase in summer heat during the day and pleasant evenings. Average daytime temperatures will be in the mid- to high 80s F, perhaps even touching the low 90s, and nighttime temperatures will be in the low 70s F. The humidity in this region can be high and the sun is strong, so lightweight layers and plenty of sun protection is recommended. There is always a chance of pop-up showers and participants should be prepared. *Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants*.



Las Terrazas eco-community

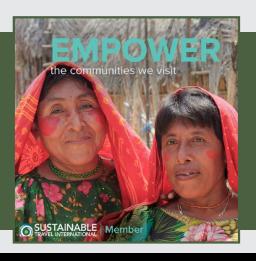
Wednesday, April 22: Caimito: Finca Marta | Havana: Fusterlandia, Classic convertible car ride | Farewell dinner

This morning we depart Viñales for Havana, stopping just outside of Havana to visit Finca Marta, a small, experimental, agroecological farm demonstrating a focus on biodiversity and intensive management. Enjoy a farm-to-table lunch and then tour the farm with its founder, Dr. Fernando Funes-Monzote, a renowned Cuban agronomist. Arriving in Havana, we venture into Fusterlandia, an entire neighborhood transformed into a Gaudí or Brancusiesque wonderland of sculptures, mosaics, and murals by ceramicist José Rodríguez Fuster.

Check-in to our hotel and get settled. Near sunset, enjoy a scenic, classic convertible car ride from our hotel to our farewell dinner location at artist Kadir Lopez's house. Lopez's home and gallery includes a neon shop and studio for neon sign restoration (Habana Light Neon Studio). Experience a home-cooked Cuban meal and hear Kadir discuss neon, some of the restoration projects in the city, and efforts to restore the post-war heritage of Havana. Close out the evening with live music by singer-songwriter duo Nueve. *Overnight at La Reserva Vedado*. (B,L,D)

Thursday, April 23: Fly home

Transfer this morning to José Martí International Airport (HAV) for flights home. (B)



Sustainable Travel

Eos Study Tours is a member of Sustainable Travel International, a globally recognized organization dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism practices. This partnership highlights our commitment to responsible travel and aligns with Colorado College's commitment to nurture an ethic of environmental sustainability.

Learn more at www.studytours.org/sustainability.







Plaza Vieja, Havana



Sea wall and harbor in Havana

Tour Prices Per Person (7 nights)

Double Occupancy (15-20 participants)	.\$4,295
Double Occupancy (12-14 participants)	.\$4,595
Single Supplement	. \$365

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (*limited availability*). With fewer than 12 participants, a small group surcharge may be applied.

Prices Include:

- Colorado College faculty leader Ryan Bañagale, an expert tour manager, and a local guide
- Group arrival and departure airport transfers on program dates
- **Seven nights accommodations:** Five nights total in historic, centrally located hotels in Havana; and two nights at a bed-and-breakfast with a host family, where you will have a private room and bathroom, with air conditioning
- **Delicious meals:** Breakfast daily, 6 lunches, and 5 dinners including welcome and farewell dinners. All meals include water and coffee/tea. Depending on the restaurant, meals may include a choice of a soft drink, local beer, rum beverage, or freshly squeezed juice
- Transportation via private, air-conditioned vehicles, with water available at all times
- All gratuities for the tour manager, local guide, waitstaff for all included meals, and hotel staff
- Entrance fees as per program, and local taxes
- Enrollment in the Cuban visitor's health insurance agency Asistur
- Appropriate Cuban Tourist Visa and U.S. licensing paperwork for *General License for Support for the Cuban People* and all legal documents and guidelines set by the U.S. Treasury
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, access to an itinerary app on your phone, and packing list

Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. Airport transfers (individual and/or group, based on flight schedules) on program arrival and departure dates, from/to Jóse Martí International Airport (HAV) in Havana, are included in the tour prices. We will suggest a departure flight (TBA) to confirmed participants. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can assist with flight arrangements for this tour. You may contact them directly at 866-200-6172 or email studytours@vwti.com. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your flights independently or through your preferred travel agent. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; airport arrival or departure transfers not on program dates; passport fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; tips and baggage handling at bed-and-breakfast; meals and alcoholic or other beverages other than those listed; items of a personal nature such as personal tips, laundry, medical expenses, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; and other items not listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "Eos COL-Cuba4/26." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit, you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by Eos Study Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure (October 18, 2025) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations received from 179 through 91 days prior to departure (January 15, 2026) will forfeit their full deposit of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received from 90 through 76 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 75 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Note: Prices are based on group rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and staff 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 participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions are available upon confirmation or upon request.

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Eos Study Tours, PO Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608



CULTURAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF



April 16-23, 2026 (8 days | 20 guests) with Associate Professor Ryan Bañagale

"All personnel were excellent and contributed to a top notch experience."

- Suzanne, Connecticut



To fill out an online reservation form, <u>click here</u>. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.



Signature (participant #2)

TIGER TRAVEL

- RESERVATION FORM -

CULTURAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF

CUBA

April 16-23, 2026 (8 days | 20 guests) with Associate Professor Ryan Bañagale

	with Associate Professor Ryan Banagaie	
o hold your reservation for seven days while this form	n and your deposit are in the mail,	please contact us at (800) 856-8951 or tigertravel@studytours.o
Participant Name 1	Colorado College Class of:	
(as it appears on passport) Participant Name 2	Colorado College Class of:	
(as it appears on passport)		Colorado College Class Of.
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Phone (home)	Phone (cell)	
Email(s)	1	
☐ I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section	n and am/are physically able to	o participate fully on the program.
Are you traveling with any other parties on th	- , ,	,
How did you hear about this tour? ☐ eNewsletter ☐	mailing • website • friends/family	□ other
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CC#		
Exp. Date	3- or 4-Digit Code	
Name on Card		
Please complete this reservation form	, choose/enclose your method Submit via email, mail, or	d of deposit, and sign the release statement below.
	s Study Tours - P.O. Box 9 x: 603-756-2922 • Email: tigo	38, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 ertravel@studytours.org
By signing this form, you are acknowledg	ing that you have read and agro	ee to all Terms and Conditions delineated throughout.
Signatura (participant #1)		Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

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Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. PRICES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of publication and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations, or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION: Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant's option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsors/Operator will agree to dispute resolution in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. U.S. STATE **DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL**: Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices and https://travel state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html. ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Participants agree to fully accept all known and unknown risks, including the potential risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses or other illnesses, viruses, diseases, or conditions. Participants understand and agree to hold Sponsors/Operator, their officers, vendors and suppliers harmless and not liable for any real or perceived symptoms of any disease, virus, illness, or condition, nor for exacerbating any existing symptoms of any illness, virus, disease or condition, quarantine requirements, disability, and other short-term and long-term health effects, including death. MISCELLANEOUS: Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. <u>APPEARING IN PHOTOS</u>: Photos from Colorado College trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future Colorado College tour promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes. <u>ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT</u>: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Dispute Resolution Agreement. The participant affirms that he/she has not received or relied upon any oral representation of Sponsors/Operator as a basis for executing this Release.