



The Black Women of Cuba

May 21 to May 29, 2011

A special program with Casa de las Américas and Pedro Pérez Sarduy, author of *The Maids of Havana*, a novel of Afro-Cuban women in 20th Century Cuba. The trip is a research exploration of the lives of Afro-Cuban women through the lens of the media, literature, music, poetry, film, the blogosphere, and in their own voices. The project will include interviews, presentations, readings, and exploration of the physical environment.

Saturday 21 May

Afternoon Arrive Havana. Transfer to hotel and settle in.

Evening Cocktails and orientation to the program with Pedro Pérez Sarduy and Caridad Tamayo Fernández (from Casa de las Américas). Readings from *The Maids of Havana*. Dinner.

Sunday 22 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

9:30 am The Social and Physical Environment: Overview of Havana by bus and on foot, through Santo Suarez, la Vibora, El Cerro, Marianao, Cubanacan, Miramar, El Vedado, Centro Habana and Old Havana.

Mid day Lunch in Old Havana.

Afternoon Visit to the home of Mavis Alvarez, in her younger days an agricultural worker with the Cuban Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), then at the age of 70 obtained a university degree, and is now well known as an author, including her book of short stories *La Loca de las Yagrumas y otras mujeres*.

Evening On your own

Monday 23 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

9:30 am Casa de las Américas . Afro-Cuban Women in the Media, Film, and the Theater

Mid day Break for lunch

Afternoon Afternoon with the films of Gloria Rolando, well known filmmaker and polemicist on Cuba, Women , Race and Afro-Cuban religion.

Tuesday 24 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

9:30 am Casa de las Américas, Afro-Cuban Women in Literature & Poetry: Presentations & Discussions

Mid day Break for lunch

Afternoon Casa de las Américas, Afro-Cuban Women in Popular Music, from *son cubano* to *timba* and *hip hop*.

Evening An evening of music and dancing at a Havana club.

Wednesday 25 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

8:30 am Depart for Santa Clara. Check in to Los Caneyes

1:00 pm Lunch in downtown Santa Clara

2:30 pm Pedro will lead the group on an exploration of the city of Santa Clara, referencing *The Maids of Havana* and introducing the group to the characters and settings that formed the social and economic face of the city in the 20th Century, including his own experiences as a child of the city and as a young student witnessing the arrival of the Cuban Revolution.

Evening Meet with Pedro's aunt, one of those lovely women featured on the front cover and in the first chapter of *The Maids of Havana* – Antonia Armenteros -- for an evening of her recollections and stories.

Thursday 26 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.

9:00 am Visit the Che Memorial and from there travel into the Escambray Mountains to the small towns and villages from which many young girls and womens made their way to Santa Clara and to Havana to

Mid day escape poverty and seek employment in the houses of the wealthy
Lunch at the Habanavilla Hotel & Resort alongside Cuba's largest manmade lake.
5:00 pm Return to Havana.

Friday

27 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel
9:30 am Casa de las Américas, Afro-Cuban women and the Afro-Cuban family in psychology and social vision
Mid day Break for lunch
2:00 pm Casa de las Americas, Afro-Cuban women in the blogosphere.
3:30 pm Review of the week and presentations by U.S. participants in the project

Saturday

28 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
Day Free to follow up on own research.
Evening Farewell party with the week's presenters and others invited as guests.

Sunday 29 May

7 – 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
Mid day Return to United States.

Among the Cuban women asked to participate in this project are:

- ***Irene Esther Ruiz, researcher and writer on topics of gender***
- ***Martiatu Terry Inés, cultural critic and writer***
- ***Georgina Herrera, poet and writer***
- ***Graciela Chailloux, historian***
- ***Sandra Alvarez, psychologist and blogger***
- ***Daysi Rubiera, historian and writer***
- ***Gisela Arandia, researcher, writer, blogger***
- ***Magia López, Hip Hop artist***
- ***Mavis Alvarez, agricultural consultant, writer***
- ***Nancy Morejón, poet and writer***