



CUBA ITINERARY

BELIZEAN GROVE | JANUARY 26-30, 2017

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

BE SURE TO BRING: Mosquito Repellent, Sunscreen, Hat, Rain Poncho and/or Umbrella & Sports Jacket (for the Ambassador Visit) and See Weather & Dress Code Recommendations on Page 9

1:30 PM **Flight Arrival (Private Charter) (HAVANA, CUBA)**

Guests should be wearing name badges upon arrival. 4 passenger buses and 1 van will be waiting outside the airport with bottled water. Guides will be holding Belizean Grove signs.

2:00-4:00 PM **Guests claim baggage, clear customs & depart airport.**

3:00-5:00 PM **Buses drive around Revolution Square**

With a guided commentary en route to Parque Central, guests will learn the history of Revolution Square, the home of many important Cuban events. From here, Castro has addressed millions of Cubans on a wide number of occasions.

4:00-5:45 PM **Check into the Parque Central**

Welcome drinks in the lobby.

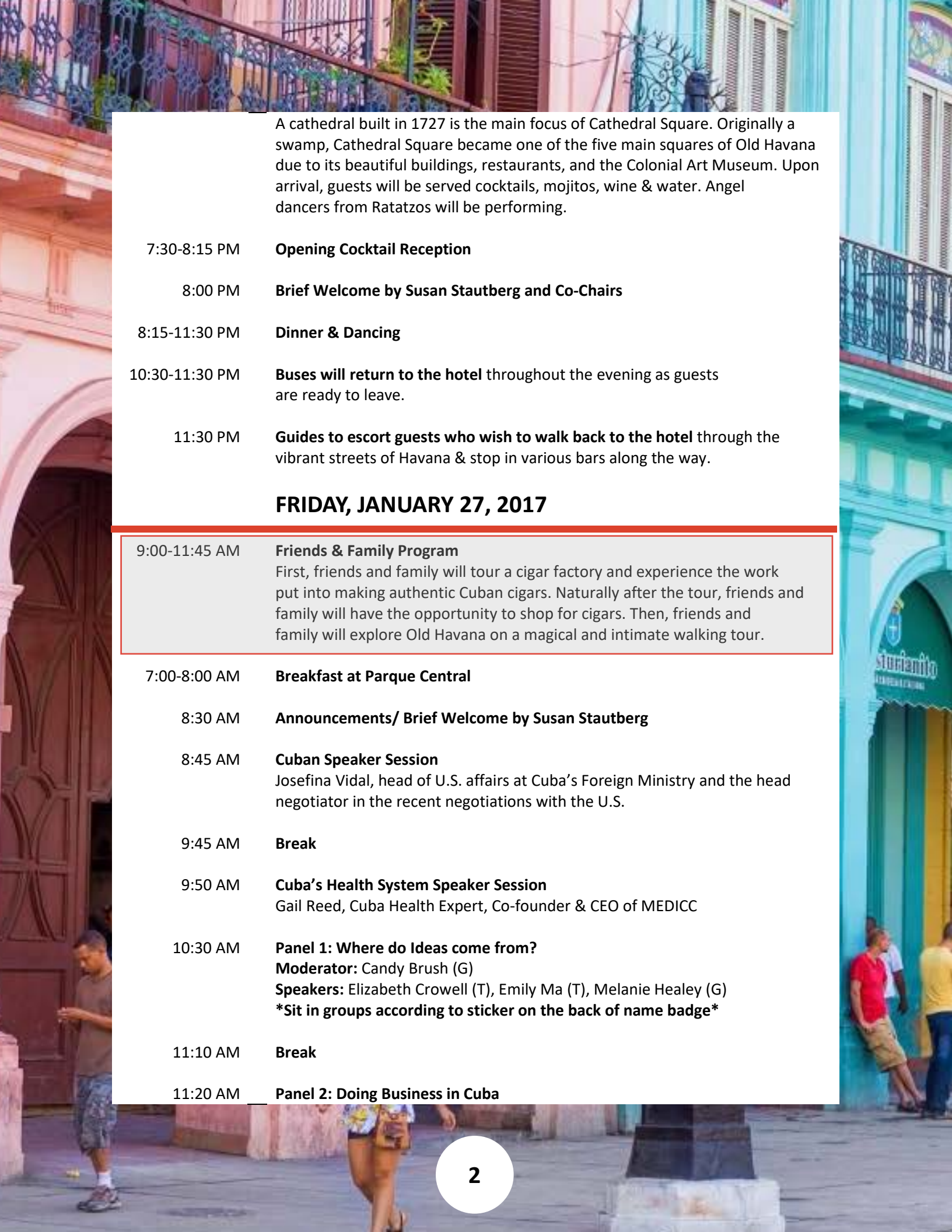
Saratoga guests will be taken to the Parque Central & once all have arrived, they will be transported on an available bus to the Saratoga (or they can opt to take a taxi if they do not want to wait) From this point forward, Saratoga guests are responsible for getting themselves to the Parque Central in time to participate in scheduled activities and back to the Saratoga after the evening's events.

Upon Arrival **Free time** to get unpacked & settled. (Your luggage will be delivered to your room) **KEEP PASSPORTS, VISAS & AIR TICKETS IN YOUR ROOM SAFE.**

6:30 PM **Guests gather in the lobby**

On first-come basis, load into antique cars (4 guests per car) for drive through Old Town to Cathedral Square.

7:15-7:45 PM **Red carpet entrance at Cathedral Square**



A cathedral built in 1727 is the main focus of Cathedral Square. Originally a swamp, Cathedral Square became one of the five main squares of Old Havana due to its beautiful buildings, restaurants, and the Colonial Art Museum. Upon arrival, guests will be served cocktails, mojitos, wine & water. Angel dancers from Ratatzos will be performing.

7:30-8:15 PM **Opening Cocktail Reception**

8:00 PM **Brief Welcome by Susan Stautberg and Co-Chairs**

8:15-11:30 PM **Dinner & Dancing**

10:30-11:30 PM **Buses will return to the hotel** throughout the evening as guests are ready to leave.

11:30 PM **Guides to escort guests who wish to walk back to the hotel** through the vibrant streets of Havana & stop in various bars along the way.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017

9:00-11:45 AM **Friends & Family Program**
First, friends and family will tour a cigar factory and experience the work put into making authentic Cuban cigars. Naturally after the tour, friends and family will have the opportunity to shop for cigars. Then, friends and family will explore Old Havana on a magical and intimate walking tour.

7:00-8:00 AM **Breakfast at Parque Central**

8:30 AM **Announcements/ Brief Welcome by Susan Stautberg**

8:45 AM **Cuban Speaker Session**
Josefina Vidal, head of U.S. affairs at Cuba's Foreign Ministry and the head negotiator in the recent negotiations with the U.S.

9:45 AM **Break**

9:50 AM **Cuba's Health System Speaker Session**
Gail Reed, Cuba Health Expert, Co-founder & CEO of MEDICC

10:30 AM **Panel 1: Where do Ideas come from?**
Moderator: Candy Brush (G)
Speakers: Elizabeth Crowell (T), Emily Ma (T), Melanie Healey (G)
Sit in groups according to sticker on the back of name badge

11:10 AM **Break**

11:20 AM **Panel 2: Doing Business in Cuba**

Moderator: Jodi Bond (T)

Speakers: Gia Colosi (T), Shannon O'Neil (T)

11:55 AM **Announcements/Preview of the rest of the day**

12:15 PM **Buffet Lunch at the Parque Central** (Table Topic Luncheon)

1:15 PM **Begin boarding buses for Tracks**
There are 6 track options to appeal to all interests!

1:30-4:00 PM **Education Tracks I**

Business Track (Bus #TBD): Offers a unique opportunity to explore Cuba's emerging private business climate. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1999 forced Cuba to expand the role of trade and tourism in its economy. Now with recent US changes towards Cuba, opportunities for commerce have taken a new importance.

Led by Economist Ricardo Torres from the University of Havana, learn how Cuba's economy is moving from total government control to operating private businesses and how companies are handling this phenomenon. Discuss investments in Cuba and visit various businesses including a nostalgic car shop, a Humidor maker, and an independent advertising & print studio.

Visit a real estate broker and development company to learn more about Cuba's recent move to allow citizens to buy and sell property. From 1959 through 2011, Cubans were only allowed to swap properties and out of this huge political shift a brokerage industry has emerged.

Art Track I (Bus #TBD): Visit art galleries and private artist homes, meet artists and curators including: Mabel Poblet, Titina at her home gallery, and the artists at 331.

History Track (Bus #TBD): Discuss the meaning of the Revolution with a short intro at the Revolution museum, followed by tours of important sites and memorials to Revolutionary heroes including the University of Havana and the National Hotel.

Salsa Dancing Track: Be ready for an afternoon of Cuban dancing. Passionate, innovative, and beautiful encapsulate the dance style of Salsa. This fast-paced dance is all about fun! Take a short walk to a dance studio for salsa dancing class led by local experts.

4:00- 5:00 PM **Free Time**

5:00 PM **Depart for cocktail party at US Ambassador's home**

5:30-6:45 PM **Briefing and Cocktails at US Ambassador's home**

An only-in-BG event! The group will receive a special welcome by the US Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis. **BRING PASSPORTS & MEN WEAR SPORTS JACKET (no tie necessary).**

6:45 PM **Depart for La Guarida**

7:30-Midnight **Dinner at La Guarida**

La Guarida is a restaurant located in Old Havana. On the top floor of a spectacularly dilapidated Havana mansion, La Guarida's lofty reputation rests on its movie-location setting (Fresa y Chocolate was filmed in that building) and a clutch of swashbuckling international newspaper reviews. The food is up there with Havana's best, shoeorning its pioneering brand of Nueva Cocina Cubana into dishes such as tuna with a sugarcane glaze.

Following dinner, we will party at La Gaurida's rooftop bar with a DJ and cigars.

10:00- Midnight

Buses will return to the hotel throughout the evening as guests are ready to leave.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017

9:00-11:45 AM

Friends & Family Program

Nature & Farm Day: Visit a Cooperative Organic Farm

7:00-8:00 AM

Breakfast at Parque Central Hotel

8:15 AM

Announcements

8:30 AM

Cuban Speaker Session

Jorge Mario Sanchez, Professor of Economics from the Universidad de La Habana, Cuba

9:25 AM

Break

9:35 AM

Panel 3: Conversation with Sandra Whitehouse (G) on Cuban Reefs

Moderator: Maggie Hanson-Muse (G)

10:10 AM

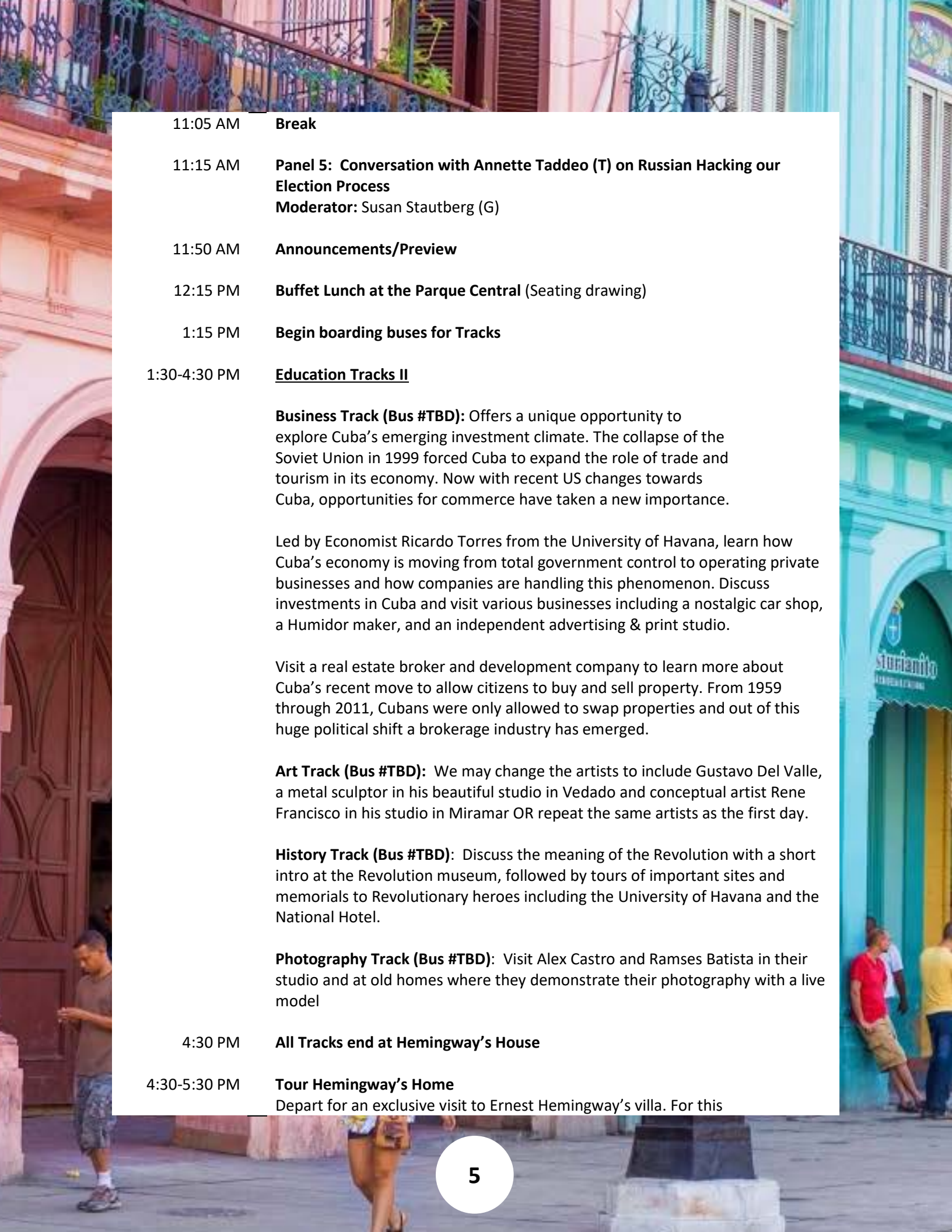
Break

10:20 AM

Panel 4: Arts & Culture – How Art Inspires Transformation in Economies, Hearts, and Minds

Moderator: Evelyn D'An (T)

Speakers: Kyun Yoon (G), Two Cuban Artists (Adrienne Fernandez, Frank Mujica, Aylet Ojeda, Curator at museum of Fine Arts)

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- 11:05 AM **Break**
- 11:15 AM **Panel 5: Conversation with Annette Taddeo (T) on Russian Hacking our Election Process**
Moderator: Susan Stautberg (G)
- 11:50 AM **Announcements/Preview**
- 12:15 PM **Buffet Lunch at the Parque Central** (Seating drawing)
- 1:15 PM **Begin boarding buses for Tracks**
- 1:30-4:30 PM **Education Tracks II**

Business Track (Bus #TBD): Offers a unique opportunity to explore Cuba's emerging investment climate. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1999 forced Cuba to expand the role of trade and tourism in its economy. Now with recent US changes towards Cuba, opportunities for commerce have taken a new importance.

Led by Economist Ricardo Torres from the University of Havana, learn how Cuba's economy is moving from total government control to operating private businesses and how companies are handling this phenomenon. Discuss investments in Cuba and visit various businesses including a nostalgic car shop, a Humidor maker, and an independent advertising & print studio.

Visit a real estate broker and development company to learn more about Cuba's recent move to allow citizens to buy and sell property. From 1959 through 2011, Cubans were only allowed to swap properties and out of this huge political shift a brokerage industry has emerged.

Art Track (Bus #TBD): We may change the artists to include Gustavo Del Valle, a metal sculptor in his beautiful studio in Vedado and conceptual artist Rene Francisco in his studio in Miramar OR repeat the same artists as the first day.

History Track (Bus #TBD): Discuss the meaning of the Revolution with a short intro at the Revolution museum, followed by tours of important sites and memorials to Revolutionary heroes including the University of Havana and the National Hotel.

Photography Track (Bus #TBD): Visit Alex Castro and Ramses Batista in their studio and at old homes where they demonstrate their photography with a live model

- 4:30 PM **All Tracks end at Hemingway's House**
- 4:30-5:30 PM **Tour Hemingway's Home**
Depart for an exclusive visit to Ernest Hemingway's villa. For this

only-in-BG event, we closed down the site so that we can have it all for ourselves- you won't want to miss this!

Located in the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula, it was built in 1886 by a Spanish architect and purchased by Hemingway in 1940. There, Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*.

A historian will tell us about the significance of this magical place, as we sip local sugar cane drinks.

5:30 PM **Depart for the hotel**

6:00-7:30 PM **Free Time**

7:30 PM **Depart for l'Atelier**

L'Atelier is a paladar owned by a powerful woman entrepreneur & hear her story. Lahabana.com wrote, *"Atelier is run by Niuris Higuera who has a passion for creating food. She is the driving force—modest, capable, and warm. She defines the style of the food as signature cuisine, an experimental culinary workshop. The food changes every day, every week, hence those handwritten menu."*

7:45-11:30 PM **Dinner & Music at l'Atelier**

10:00-11:30 PM **Buses will return to the hotel** throughout the evening as guests are ready to leave.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

9:00-11:45 AM **Friends and Family Program**

Friends and family will go on a grand tour of Havana's neighborhoods. They will venture into the Craft Market, located at a large warehouse with a vast selection of local crafts, paintings, souvenirs, jewelry, etc.- all made in Cuba. (BRING CUBAN MONEY)

Then, friends and family will go to Club Havana for cocktails. Club Havana is a private country club in a fabulously eclectic 1928 mansion once housing the Havana Biltmore Yacht & Country Club.

Finally, friends and family will go to the Fuster House, the colorful home of artist Jose Fuster. It is a mosaic wonderland. Small tiles adorn walls, stairs, rooftops, benches and every other surface of the location. His home and the surrounding homes in the community are his ongoing, ever-evolving project.

7:00-8:00 AM **Breakfast at Parque Central Hotel**

- 9:00 AM **Announcements**
- 9:15 AM **Cuban Speaker Session**
Marta Nunez, Professor in the Department of Sociology and a researcher at the Center for Studies of International Migrations (CEMI) at the University of Havana.
- 10:00 AM **Break**
- 10:15 AM **Panel 6: Remaining Frontiers: Big Issues Still Challenging Women and Girls**
Moderator: Sherry Barrat (G)
Speakers: Vicki Kennedy (G), Mary Ann Peters (G), Sandy Brock (G), Catherine Allen (G)
- 11:00 AM **Break**
- 11:15 AM **Panel 7: Personal Healing after Personal Trauma**
Moderator: Evelyn Dilsaver (G)
Speakers: Alicia Van Arsdall (T), Sally Fraenkel (G), Eileen Fusco (G)
- 12:15 PM **Announcements/Preview**
Closing of the Retreat, Future of the Grove, by Susan Stautberg
A Look Ahead: Santa Fe Mini Retreat, by Catherine Allen and Linda Donnels
- 1:00-2:15 PM **Celebratory Lunch at the Parque Central (Open Seating)**
- Free Afternoon **Free Afternoon to explore the beauties of Old Havana**
- Option 1: 2:30 PM** – Bus #TBD will depart for Craft Market. Bus will return at 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM.
- Option 2: 2:45 PM** – Bus #TBD will depart for walking tour of Old Havana and return at 4:15 PM
- Option 3: 3:15 PM** – Guests may wander around on their own or remaining guides will be available to assist guests in revisiting sites and artist’s galleries.
- *WE RECOMMEND CHECKING OUT OF YOUR ROOM DURING THIS FREE TIME**
- 6:30 PM **Depart for la Fabrica de Arte Cubano for a private tour of the art**
- 7:30- Midnight **“Mad Hatter” Dinner & Dancing at Cocinero Hosted by Pamela O’Rourke, ICON Information Consultants, LP**
This final dinner will once again be hosted by Pamela O’Rourke and ICON Information Consultants. The theme for the party is the “Mad

Hatter”, bring your favorite hat or head adornment, or pick up a new one at the market in Havana and celebrate our final night in Cuba! Dress is smart casual.

Insightcuba.com say, “*El Cocinero is just as much about the Havana arts scene as it is about food. Built into the same building as the Cuban Art Factory, this paladar pushes the limits of private industry and government cooperation in an atmosphere offering landmark views and enthusiasm for a variety of mediums.*” Dance party on famous rooftop bar with DJ Rafa & the brief auction will take place during this time.

10:30- Midnight

Buses will return to the hotel throughout the evening as guests are ready to leave.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

7:00- 8:30 AM

Breakfast at Parque Central Hotel

Empty safes

Check-out of hotel rooms (we recommend checking out the night before to avoid any delays)

8:30 AM

Guests should have their luggage in the lobby

***Guests staying at the Saratoga will need to arrive at the Parque Central with their luggage**

9:00 AM

Depart for Havana Airport Terminal 2

9:45 AM

Airport check in

11:45 AM

Flight departs (Private Charter)
Flight #BSK 615

9:30 AM

Guests who are extending their stay and attending one of the extensions will meet in the lobby to depart for their extension, see separate agenda

Times and schedules subject to change

**As always EXPECT the UNEXPECTED in CUBA
and it is all GOOD**

Weather & Recommended Dress Code

January is the perfect time to visit Cuba, before the summer heat hits! At this time of the year, Havana enjoys mild and pleasant weather, with average temperature around 81F (27C) and average lows around 63F (17C).

Days Men & Women- during the day, casual and comfortable! Jeans, kakis, and leggings are acceptable depending upon the weather; wear comfortable walking shoes or sneakers (there will be plenty of walking).

Nights Men- During most evenings, the gentlemen can get away wearing jeans and a nice button-down shirt. For the reception with the US Ambassador, slacks and a blazer are necessary for men (no tie required/ the American Ambassador will be in a suit).

Women- Dress conservatively in slacks or a dress and bring a jacket or sweater; the nights in Havana tend to cool down quickly. The feel is more urban and gritty than beachy. For the reception with the US Ambassador, women should wear dress pants or a dress (similar to a business casual event).

General Tips

- 1.) Dress in light layers and be prepared for rain.
- 2.) Don't wear clothing or jewelry that is too flashy. Most of the population is quite poor and you will feel out-of-place in anything too ostentatious.
- 3.) Many Cuban women wear flats or sandals at night, the city has many cobblestone streets so heels can be more difficult.
- 4.) While the building & arts are colorful and their possessions are exuberant, most Cubans tend to dress in black, gray, and jeans of all types.