

Travel & Learn CUBA

Spring 2024 Travel Course Travel spring break March 2-9, 2024

A collaboration between Minnesota West and Normandale Community College

Cuba is shrouded in mystery, seemingly frozen in time, since few U.S. citizens have had an opportunity to see and experience it first-hand. Cuba is teeming with unique cultural traits that will provide a rich educational context to

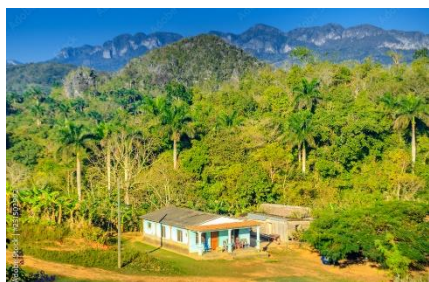


enhancing the Intercultural Communication course with an educational tour in Cuba during spring break. The week-long educational tour in Cuba's capital, Havana, with a two-day trip to the Western Cuba countryside, will allow students ample opportunity to experience and practice intercultural communication while learning about Cuba's unique history and culture and thematically will focus on the importance of the African cultural influence on modern Cuban society. Join us on an educational adventure of a lifetime.

Course Information – CMST 1120 Intercultural Communication

Spring 2024 ♦ 3 credits ♦ Meets MnTC Transfer Goals 7 and 8

This course will be co-taught online by the instructors below through Minnesota West Community & Technical College. Required pre- and post-class meetings will be held on Zoom. Will transfer to Normandale as COMM 1131.



Course Enrollment: All participants must enroll in and pay for the 3-credit course with permission by the instructors. Participants may choose one of two grading methods:

Credit – attend three zoom meetings, online coursework, and complete Predeparture Forms/Safety Orientation

Non-credit/Audit – attend first zoom meeting and complete Predeparture Forms/Safety Orientation

Financial Assistance: Scholarships for travel will be available. Financial Aid may be used to assist with tuition and travel fees. Participants 62+ years qualify for discounted tuition of \$20 per credit.

Tour Information – See next page!

Contact your campus instructor below for information and any other questions.

Kent Dahlman – Communication

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
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Aimee DuBois – Communication

Normandale Community College
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*Must be 18 or older at time of departure. PSEO students are not eligible to participate.
We invite alumni, community members, friends, family, and students from other colleges to join us!*

Tour Information

We're planning a fantastic tour to Cuba, March 2-9, 2024 with Learn from Travel

Estimated Budget

\$2775 Tour Fee*
\$686 Tuition and fees – 3 credits (for all participants)
\$3661 Total estimated budget**

* Tour fee based on current airfare and minimum of 18 participants. If tour does not reach minimum participants or airfare significantly increases, final tour fee will be adjusted and participants will be notified.

**Does not include personal spending, visa/passport fees, and required international health insurance. More information will be provided.

What's included:

- Two faculty leaders (one from each college)
- 3 course credits CMST/COMM Intercultural Communication
- Round-trip air transportation
- Ground transportation
- All activities and entrance fees as described in itinerary
- 24-hour LFT Tour Guide and emergency support
- Local Cuban guides
- Most meals, as noted in full detailed itinerary
- Accommodations in private guesthouses- double/triple occupancy
- A one-of-a-kind, fun-filled educational experience
- Credit/debit/ACH bank payment fees

Tour Highlights:

- Day 1: Fly to Havana; Old Havana tour
- Day 2: Beach day; Evening Salsa dancing lesson
- Day 3: Visit AfroCuban neighborhood; Visit botanica and participate in an optional cleansing ceremony; Afro Cuban cooking class; Witness the dance of the Orishas with ceremonial drumming
- Day 4: Head to the tranquility of Western Cuba; Las Terrazas Eco Village for informative hike & tour of coffee plantation; Take a dip in crystal clear waters of natural swimming pools with waterfalls
- Day 5: Viñales Valley National Park; Tour an organic tobacco farm by horse drawn carriage, try rolling your own cigar; Enjoy free time to shop or relax in town
- Day 6: Back to Havana to enjoy free time in the historic city center; Visit an art museum, history museum, or many historical sites; Evening musical performance
- Day 7: Work on a community project rooted in the African Yoruba culture; Join local youth to create a public art mural or sculpture; Visit Fabrica de Arte, Havana's newest and most important art and cultural spaces
- Day 8: Prepare for departure, but first, visit an outdoor gallery and community art space created by famous Cuban artist José Fuster

Full detailed itinerary can be found by scanning the QR code above.

Enrollment Steps

Step 1 Enroll on the Tour

<https://www.learnfromtravel.com/mn-west-cuba>



Step 2 Pay deposit

A deposit of \$150.00 is required to secure a place on the tour.

Space is limited.

Step 3 Submit Participant Form

Once enrolled in the tour, contact kent.dahlman@mnwest.edu for this form. Complete and return to your as soon as possible.

Step 4 Stay in touch

Watch for emails from Learn from Travel with payment reminders and from your instructors with updates, information, and course registration information. Reach out with questions.

Passport Requirement:

A U.S. Passport is required. If you don't have one good through the end of 2024, do not wait. Processing times can take months once your application is sent. If you need help, contact your campus instructor. Get instructions at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply.html>

Payments & Cancellations

\$150 due upon enrollment • A minimum of \$500 must be paid by 12/1/23 • Remaining balance of tour fee due on 1/2/24 • Payments may be made at any time.

Cancellation 91 or more days to departure, full refund • 61-90 days to departure, forfeiture of \$500 deposit • 60 days or less to departure forfeiture of full balance. Travel insurance with cancellation coverage can be purchased on your own if desired within 10 days of enrollment.

Financial Aid

If you plan to use financial aid, make an appointment with your campus financial aid office to discuss your aid qualifications. Take this document with you so the Financial Aid officer knows how to increase your semester educational expenses due to registering for this travel class.