Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

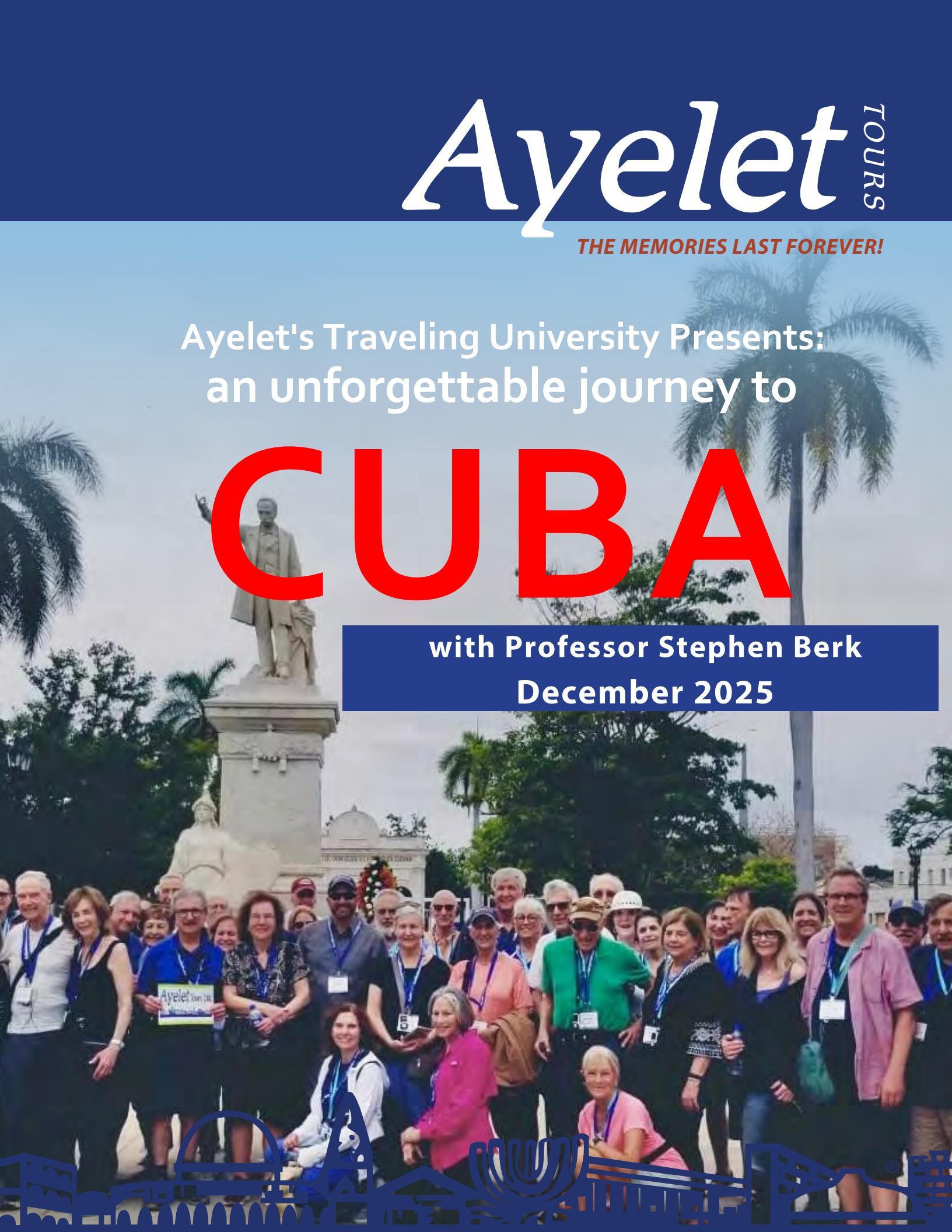
Ayelet's Traveling University Presents:

an unforgettable journey to

CUBA

with Professor Stephen Berk

December 2025



December 2025
Itinerary

Ayelet's Traveling University

Unforgettable journey to

Cuba



December 7-14, 2025

DAY 0 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
PRE-NIGHT STAY

- Pre-arrivals stay overnight at a Miami airport hotel.

Overnight in Miami

DAY 1 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
WELCOME TO CUBA!

- Pre-arrivals check out and may take a grab and go breakfast.
- We arrive at **Abel Santamaria Airport in Santa Clara** and meet our English-speaking guide and driver.
- We begin with a **panoramic tour of Santa Clara**, an important city founded in the 1600s. Here, in 1958, Che Guevara and his troops won a crucial battle in securing victory for the Cuban Revolution. We stop at the **Che Guevara memorial** for a photo opportunity in the square.
- This afternoon, we meet with **Victor Tacher**, a leading representative in the Santa Clara Jewish community, to deliver our gifts and aid and learn about the community he has lived and worked in for many years.
- We invite Victor to join us for **lunch at La Aldaba** private restaurant.
- After lunch, we travel to **Trinidad**. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and have a chance to refresh before coming together again for a **welcome drink and orientation**, followed a delicious **welcome dinner** at our resort.

Overnight in Trinidad (L, D)



DAY 2 MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025
TOURING TRINIDAD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture by Professor Stephen Berk**.
- This morning, we set out on a **walking tour of historic Trinidad**, a 500-year-old city with Spanish architecture. Only a few square blocks in size, historic Trinidad is famous for its lovely cobblestone streets, pastel houses with wrought iron grills, as well as beautiful palaces and plazas. Along the way, we visit some village landmarks, including **Plaza Mayor** and **La Parroquial Mayor Church**.
- We **watch rumba** being played at **Palenque de los Congos Reales**, then visit a rationing store "bodega" to learn how the locals buy staple foods.
- Next, we visit **Yudit Faife's private art gallery**, where we meet the artist and learn about his work.
- We stop for **lunch** at private restaurant **San Jose**.
- Following **lunch**, we head to the **workshop of the famous Santander family**, well-known local potters who have been making pottery for over 100 years.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the village and enjoy the atmosphere of this quaint town, or return to our hotel to relax.
- Tonight, enjoy **dinner** at the restaurant of your choice at our resort.

Overnight in Trinidad (B, L, D)

DAY 3 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
CIENFUEGOS TO HAVANA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Cienfuegos**, Cuba's "Pearl of the South."
- We continue with an interactive walking tour around Cienfuegos' historic center to view the landmarks such as **Jose Marti Memorial Park, Palacio Ferrer** and the **Terry Theater**.
- Next, we visit the **Cantores de Cienfuegos choir at Museo Provincial** to enjoy a performance and a chance to interact with the singers.
- After **lunch** together, we visit the **Benny More School of Art** for a delightful encounter.
- Later this afternoon, we drive to **Havana**, where we check into our hotel and freshen up. **Professor Berk lectures** along the way.
- This evening, we enjoy a **buffet dinner** at one of our hotel restaurants.

Overnight in Havana (B, L, D)

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025
GETTING TO KNOW HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture by Professor Stephen Berk**.
- We depart the hotel and visit a **cigar factory**, where we learn about the **history of tobacco** and the tradition of cigar rolling in Cuba and interact with some of the rollers and locals.
- We continue to the **Sephardic Center**, where we meet with community leaders for an update and a chance to deliver our gifts. We then walk through the Holocaust exhibit, the only of its kind in Cuba.
- After **lunch**, we set out on a **walking tour of Old Havana (Havana Vieja)**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we learn about the history of Havana as we visit highlights of the city and the colonial plazas. We also visit Jewish points of interest such as the Jewish-themed **Raquel Hotel**.
- Later this afternoon, we stop at **Almacenes de San Jose craft market**, where we stroll through the stalls of arts and crafts made by the locals, an excellent opportunity to connect with the artisans, learn about their challenges and purchase souvenirs!
- After returning to our hotel for time to relax and refresh, we set out again for **dinner** at private restaurant **Al Carbon**.

Overnight in Havana (B, L, D)

DAY 5 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025
HEMINGWAY IN HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we listen to a **lecture by Professor Berk**.
- In the late morning, we visit **Patronato Beth Shalom**, where we meet with community leaders. We tour the center and learn about the Pharmacy and Sunday school before delivering our gifts and aid.
- This afternoon, we head to **Cafe Ajiaco** and visit their organic farm for a **mojito making and tasting class** prior to **lunch**.
- Next, we visit the **Jewish cemetery in Guanabacoa**, including a special stop to see the site of the Holocaust memorial.
- We continue to **Finca Vigia**, former home of Hemingway for over 20 years, and now a museum. We peruse the museum, which is supported by several non-governmental and independent organizations and meet the caretakers to learn about his life and work as a writer in Cuba.
- We return to our hotel to freshen up before setting out for dinner on own.
- **Optional:** Attend the world-famous show at the **Tropicana Cabaret**, an old-world Vegas-style show in production since 1939 (separate cost).

Overnight in Havana (B, L)



DAY 6 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
DANCING INTO SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Professor Berk begins the day with another **informative lecture**.
- We set out for a **panoramic overview of the city**, including **Revolution Square**, dominated by the **Jose Martí Memorial** and where Fidel Castro delivered the majority of his lengthy political addresses. Along the way, we pass by **the Rosenberg Memorial**, **Lennon Park** and **Havana University**.
- We continue with a guided tour of **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts)**, including a visit to the Cuban art collection.
- This afternoon, we visit the headquarters of **Habana Compas Dance** to enjoy a performance and interact with the dancers and instructors.
- We return to our hotel for time to relax.
- As the sun sets, we join together for **Shabbat services** at **Patronato Beth Shalom** with community members, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at **La Mansion Castillo**, a nearby private restaurant.

Overnight in Havana (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025
A HAVANA SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We hear a **closing lecture** by Professor Berk this morning.
- Today, we visit the impressive **Fusterlandia** to see the unique mosaic masterpiece and learn about the artist's ongoing project to beautify his hometown.
- We continue to **Vocal Clave del Sol**, a musical education program founded in 2009 for children ages 5 to 19. We meet and discuss music with some of the students and teachers and learn about the importance of this program and how it is a positive outlet for the students.
- We enjoy **lunch** at **Buenaventura Restaurant**, then return to our hotel to relax and refresh.
- This evening, we gather for a **classic car ride** from our hotel to our **farewell dinner** at **Vista Mar Restaurant**, where we savor our final meal together as a group and recall all that we have experienced on this enlightening journey.
- The hearty among us will set out after dinner for a late evening visit to **Fabrica D'la Arte (FAC)**, a former cooking oil factory which comes alive on weekend nights and features the best avant garde art in the country.

Overnight in Havana (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to Miami.

