

[Music plays throughout] [Michigan State University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies] [Madison Undergraduate Seminar in Cuba] [Photo of 3 women in front of flowers] Over spring break 2017, I spent a week with eight other MSU undergrads [photo of group holding MSU flag in Cuba] in Cuba through [Photo of pillars of a building] a James Madison college study abroad program. [Photo of mural in Cuba] With it being the first year the program ran, I didn't know what to expect. [Photo of 2 women smiling and hugging in a thatched roof structure] The trip exceeded what I could have ever imagined. [Photo looking down into a courtyard atrium in a building] Upon hearing we were staying in a convent for the week, some of us were skeptical. [Photo of courtyard with pillars and fountain] The building turned out to be beautiful and the perfect place for use to stay. Breakfast was included every morning and the nuns were helpful giving us directions around Havana. [Photo of students in a classroom] Classes while in Cuba were focused on early Cuban history, the Cuban revolution [Photo of men teaching at the front of a classroom], US/ Cuban relations and taught at San Geronimo College [courtyard at the College with statue, many plants, brown, arched walk ways] in the heart of Old Havana. San Geronimo [Photo of outside of colonial type building and cathedral] faculty are [Photo of colonial type buildings in bright colors along a street] experts on Havana's [Photo of cathedral] history and are continuously at work on the preservation of the city. [Photo of colonial building with towers and ornate carvings] The restorations were evident as we got to roam around old Havana and its beautiful buildings and plazas. [Photo of alley way] We also saw the unrestored parts of the city and saw a more realistic Cuban life. [Photo of another alley way with people walking by less kept-up buildings and car] Everyday after class and lunch, [Photo of large museum building with columns in front] we had a trip to a museum or another historical location. [Photo of group sitting on steps of museum] One of the days, [Photo of ornately decorated arched ceiling] we got an exclusive tour of the Capitol building [photo of statue] that is currently under construction and [photo of students in building with scaffolding in background] not open to visitors. Much of the building [Photo of wood paneled walls and furniture some of which is covered with cloth] still had its original furniture. [Photo of woman standing next to statue] Other days included trips to the Museum of Africa, [Photo of group around different artifacts] The Museum of the Revolution, and [Photo of columns of a large stone building with trees on either side, a few old cars and a bus are in the street in front] University of Havana. [Photo of columns and trees] A tour of the university was given by a grad student and we learned about the many differences between the Cuban education system and ours. [Photo of students on steps in the center of campus] Our class got a photo in front of the University's famous Alma Mater [Photo of students holding the MSU block S flag on the steps just down from the large statue on which the pedestal "alma mater" carved into it]. On the second day of the trip, [Photos of professor and students holding the MSU flag or the Cuban flag with the country side in the background] we took a two hour bus ride to Vinales. This countryside of Cuba is known for its tobacco production and limestone hills [Photo of lush green plants and trees and large hills]. [Photo of students walking with the countryside in background] We stopped at a family owned restaurant that produced all

of its own food and got a table with a view [Photo of the students at table overlooking the countryside.] The colorful city [Photo of student playing drums with Afro-Cuban musicians] provided us with tons of opportunity to get immersed in the culture.[Photo of singer and student dancing] Almost every restaurant had live music[Photo of restaurant with people watching students dance], many of which we participated. [Photo of group and professor at table in restaurant] Almost every meal was provided already and the food never disappointed.[Photo of ocean at night with a few buildings along] Many restaurants also included amazing views like this one over look the Malecon in Havana.[Photos of students at beach] Our spring break wouldn't have been complete without a trip to the beach. The last day we took the bus to one of Cuba's most famous beach towns, Varadero. [Photo of student next to vintage car] Overall, my week in Cuba was amazing. I learned more than I ever thought I would, [photo of students under a wooden shelter with foliage in background] gained perspective, and made great friends. [Photo of students on a stone lookout holding the MSU block S flag. Lookout is next to an elevated highway] I'm so glad I decided to study abroad and took a chance on this program on its first year running. [Written by Lizzie Ausmus, Narrated by Joy Whitten And Edited by Jessica Lundquist]