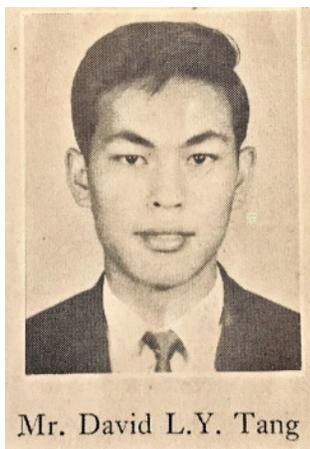




R. I. P.



Mr. David L.Y. Tang

Mr. Tang passed away in the morning on August 1st in Metro Toronto.

In 1987, Mr. Tang wrote the following paragraph for the Toronto Chapter newsletter.

I joined La Salle in 1954 as a Primary 5 pupil. I spent 9 years there as a student and 13 years as a teacher. I was an enthusiast in sports, but the only thing I could boast of was being a part-time goalkeeper in the school A grade football team for one year. I came to Toronto in May 1987 and was overjoyed to meet so many old schoolmates.

Peter Choy (1973) has a Tribute to our late teacher at

https://photos.google.com/u/0/share/AF1QipOW6ea3M2cbxXckfvqn13y6r1UN559aR9aK5_IRa2M2VYeSm9IVQ9n88x5Qs5ScO2key=anJBvmv5QndnNxiT3IEbUJem9KWmxIU3Rwc0I3.

(Please check for last minute update on the last page)

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter.

Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line : subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members :

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)
Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)
San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976), Ambrose Lee (1998)
Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver	Nick Domingo (1963), Richard Choo (1977)

Reminders

East Coast (USA)

Sunday Dim Sum Lunch

Date every Sunday
Time noon
Venue Asian Jewels Seafood Restaurant
133-30 39th Avenue, Flushing NY 11354
Tel. 718-359-8600
Contact dimsum@nylscoba.org

Global Reunion 2018

Date August 1 – 8, 2018
Website www.2018lscoreunion.com
Contact laip888@gmail.com

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Sep 1, 2017 (first Friday of each month)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date every first Sunday
Time noon to 2 pm
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park



Chapter News

Toronto Chapter

Joint Schools Alumni Soccer Tournament

Chris Fong (94)

So I have heard soccer is in the blood of all Lasallians. True for overseas old boys who left school long time ago? okay not so long time ago...

I have also heard that Lasallians never chicken out of competitions. As such, Toronto old boys had a soccer tournament with the alumni from the Salesians, Wah Yan, and our brother school St Joseph on August 13, 2017.

It all started with a warm up leisure game between Chinese University/Hong Kong University alumni and combined joint school alumni. You have no idea how young at heart these players were! Credits to Gordon Tam (77).

While the CU/HKU game was more casual, there was no shortage of skillful players from our rivals. We did quite well though and earned the champion:

	vs St Joseph OBA	vs Wah Yan OBA	vs Salesian Group
La Salle OBA	2:0	1:1	2:1

Nice to catch up with long time players: Robin (00) and Donald Siu (04), John (98) and Joe (99) Lam, Stanley Ko (01). With family commitments and girlfriends, we have not seen each other as much as we would like, we know. Welcome back Jonathan Chan (96), we miss you! Also welcome Brendon Wong (11) for the first time. He recently finished his studies in Australia and is now attending aviation school in Toronto. The sky is the limit and you are off to great places!

Last but not least, a big hand for Kevin Kwok (88) for leading the soccer activities since the beginning of time. We have ups and downs but we are never defeated!





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New York / East Coast Chapter

Dragon Boat Festival and Competition

Simon Willis (83) / Jeff Ng (96)

The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York is an annual sporting and multicultural event held in August, on Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows–Corona Park in Queens, New York, to celebrate the fifth moon of the Chinese lunar calendar. This year, it was celebrated on August 12 and 13.

We sponsored the Hong Kong School Association with our school's dragon boat team jerseys this year. Four of our youngest La Salle old boys joined the team. The spirit of La Salle and sportsmanship was shown on that beautiful Sunday morning. Even though we came in fourth place, we rowed with high spirit. We are very proud to have joined and competed this year. I am sure we will come back stronger and better next year.



The Team Members



Ready to Rock



LSC Team



Row Row Row the Boat



Special Contribution

This 10-part series, contributed by William Lai (1961), is based on his trip to Israel and Jordan in 2016. There are many Biblical quotes in the article. William wishes to note that he uses King James Version for the quotes.

Our readers are also encouraged to express their views here in the Newsletter any time. Please send your contributions to editors@lscobaedm.org. The Editorial Board of this Newsletter reserves the right to edit submissions to ensure quality and the right to make final decisions whether to publish any article or not to protect the integrity of this Newsletter.

Editors

The Promised Land (Part 4 of 10)

William Lai (1961)

Anno Domini

The Immaculate Conception

The event was predicted by Isaiah: *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14).

Then came the archangel Gabriel to effect this prophecy.

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph.....and the Virgin's name was Mary.....and the angel said unto her, fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great...." (Luke 1:26-32).

Mary was quite taken aback by this "annunciation" and she protested *"How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"* (Luke 1:34). To relieve her anxiety, Gabriel said *"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:35). To illustrate further, Gabriel gave Mary the breaking news of the pregnancy of Mary's cousin, Elisabeth, who was considered too old to conceive but somehow became pregnant with God's aid: *"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible"* (Luke 1:36-37). Elisabeth's son, of course, turned out to be John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-60).

The tour took us to the very spot that Gabriel appeared to Mary, now housed in the Basilica of the Annunciation. The site has been built over many times throughout the centuries. The current one was completed in 1969.

It is interesting to note that the angel Gabriel actually referred to the unborn Jesus as "that holy thing". Was Gabriel unsure what Mary's gestation might produce?

It was also remarkable that God was able to make women pregnant at will, starting with Abraham's aging wife, Sarah, all without the help of IVF or fertility pills or acupuncture. Other God-enabled conceptions included Samuel, born to Hannah (Samuel 1:1-20) and Samson, born to the unnamed wife of Manoah (Judges 13:2-24).

But the more admirable person in this whole affair was Joseph. Basically, Joseph was told that his fiancée was pregnant and that he had nothing to do with it. Any lesser man would have gone through the roof with this offensive affront. DNA paternity testing was not an option in those days. There was no word if Joseph held any suspicion about this Gabriel character who appeared to have spent some time with Mary privately. But Joseph did have a fleeting feeling of being cuckolded and wanted to divorce Mary, but in a quiet way: *"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily"* (Matthew 1:19). "To put her away" has been interpreted benignly as a divorce, or disengagement, since they weren't even married at the time. Who knows what else Joseph had in mind.



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Exact spot where Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her pregnancy, protected by a metal grate.
Latin inscription on side of altar "Verbum caro hic factum est" refers to John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh".
The lily-shaped ceiling symbolises Mary's purity.

But with some convincing from an "angel of the Lord" who told him in a dream: "fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost....and he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21), Joseph rolled with the punches and played along, and "did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him" (Matthew 1:24), at least for a while. He carried on with life and had some more children with Mary. Besides Jesus, they had at least four more sons, James, Joses, Simon and Judas, plus a number of unnamed sisters (Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55-56). There are some questions about the birth order of these kids and whether at least some of them were really cousins. But the gospels do suggest strongly that Jesus was not the only child in the Joseph household.



Basilica of the Annunciation

Immaculate Conception Statue and Church, Santiago, Chile



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The visitation

Having learnt of her cousin's gravidity, Mary made a trip to visit Elisabeth "with haste" (Luke 1:39). Luke did not explain why the trip was undertaken in haste. Elisabeth and husband Zacharias were living in what is now Ein Karem in Judea at the time, something like 80 miles from Nazareth. It must have been an arduous journey for a pregnant woman in those days. Both women, cousins, became pregnant under very unusual circumstances. It's probably understandable that they would like to try to find out more about each other's situation and further their family bond, and perhaps to relieve some anxiety that both must have felt. But it had been suggested that there was a more sinister reason for Mary's speedy departure from her hometown. It was feared that her pregnancy out of wedlock could be an evil excuse for an honour killing. That's a speculation, but she did stay with Elisabeth for three months until Joseph came to fetch her, presumably when things calmed down (Luke 1:56).

Remember the *Hail Mary*? When Elisabeth saw Mary, Elisabeth "spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). That's where that particular *Hail Mary* line comes from.

The exact spot where Mary visited Elisabeth is now enshrined in a church called, guess what, the Visitation Church. We were there.



Visitation Church, where Mary visited Elisabeth

Merry Christmas

We are all familiar with the story of Jesus' birth – Joseph and a very pregnant Mary having to travel to Judea from Nazareth for a census count and Mary having to give birth in Bethlehem in very harsh conditions. Allegedly, Mary wrapped the newborn Jesus "in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room in the inn" (Luke 2:7). So the legendary nativity scene was created whereby Joseph and Mary are sitting down behind a "manger" looking lovingly at baby Jesus with an infant-sized halo over his head, with the background that looks like the inside of a barn or stable.



No-so-little Town of Bethlehem

We visited the supposed exact location of the original nativity scene now housed in the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. Some idealistic images of Christmas, I must say, suffered a beating as a result of this visit to Jesus' birthplace.

Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was long but relatively hassle-free. You can't do the same thing now. Bethlehem is now in Palestinian territory and you have to go through a checkpoint to enter Bethlehem from the Israeli side. And you can see the high walls separating the Israeli and Palestinian lands all around, just like what appears in TV news images. Israeli tour guides are not allowed to cross the border into Bethlehem. Our tour guide had to hand over the tour-guiding duties to his Palestinian counterpart who told us he was a rare Arabian Christian. Despite the overt hostility between their respective countries, the two tour guides were actually quite friendly to each other and worked well in harmony.

The first thing that struck me as the tour bus entered Bethlehem was that there was no such thing as "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem". The town, with a population of about 30000, was hilly with curving streets lined with buildings some of which could be described as unsightly. There were tawdry gift stores

trying to capitalize on baby Jesus. It's not an idyllic place as portrayed in the Christmas carols, I'm afraid.

The Nativity Church is in an older part of town (of course) and the older buildings, to me, looked better than the modern ones. The Church was first built in the 300s AD, commissioned by Constantine the Great. It has been destroyed and rebuilt many times through the centuries. It was going through yet some renovations at the time of our visit. There were huge crowds lining up to see the very spot where Joseph and Mary laid down Jesus. It is marked by a silver cross. Contrary to popular believe, Jesus was not born in a stable, but in a cave. Luke says "there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). There is some debate as to what the word "inn" means. One suggestion was that the original Greek word used in this passage meant "guest room", not a hotel. The theory is



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that since Joseph was returning to his ancestral home, he would have family there with whom he could stay. But the census brought so many people home that Joseph and pregnant wife were relegated to the basement which in those days was in the form of a cave and where animals were kept as well; hence the manger part. Caves like those just described were apparently quite common, even to this day. The tour guide took us to one which he believed would be very similar to one in which Jesus was born.



Nativity Church



Jesus would likely have been born in a cave like this one



Exact spot where Jesus was born

Nearby is/was the shepherds field where *"the angel of the Lord came upon them....and said unto them....I bring you good tidings of great joy....for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord....And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:8-12).



Shepherds' Field and Chapel

It has been known for a long time that Jesus was not born in 1 AD, but rather a few years BC. Neither is December 25 thought to be Jesus' actual birthday. The Orthodox Christmas day is January 7.

The Christian concept of virgin birth is actually not unique. The virgin birth myth has existed for thousands of years pre-Christ, back to the Egyptians. Pharaoh Amenkept III who built Luxor was supposed to have been the son of a virgin Egyptian queen. This Egyptian virgin birth story paralleled the Jesus one almost exactly, complete with a period of "adoration", and visitations by Three Kings. Other religious gurus such as Buddha and the Chinese Lao Tse were believed to have been born of virgin mothers. Even the ancient Greek philosopher, Plato, was thought to have had a chaste mom.

to be continued...



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Global Reunion 2018

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT #2 - August 16, 2017

Direct Contacts for 2018 Side Trips

Item 2.1 – Direct Contact for Side Trips - Miami, Orlando and New Orleans

- For additional nights at Royal Palm Hotel, South Beach, **Miami** – please contact Peter Lai at laip888@gmail.com, he will connect you to our assigned hotel representative.
- For hotel reservation in **Orlando** and **New Orleans** – please contact **Ms. Jennifer Tsou** of Apple Express, Inc. at appleexpress2008@yahoo.com, she can also be reached at Tel: (917) 282-2090 Fax: (732) 680-0784. Once again, you will be notified as soon as the official 2018 hotel rates become available.

Item 2.2 – Travel Brochure for Cuba Side-Trip (Aug 7-10, 2018)

Details of the Cuba package is now available for your review and action. If you are interested, please contact **Ms. Karin Eckhard** of ESPIRITU TRAVEL directly and exclusively, she can be reached at karin@espiritutavel.com, and is responsible to assist you in all travel related matters.

The brochure is illustrated in Page 2 for your information and action.

Item 2.3 – 2018 Global Reunion Registration

Don't forget to make your 2018 Reunion Cruise reservation before the end of August 2017 to guarantee your cabin and cost. Many thanks in advance for your support.

ESPIRITU TRAVEL

La Salle College
Global Reunion 2018

▶ 4 Days / 3 Nights
▶ August 7 - 10, 2018



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**Bienvenido a Cuba
Welcome to Cuba**

Day One HAVANA

Dinner included
Accommodation: 4* hotel

Welcome to Cuba
A representative of Espiritu Travel greets you at the airport upon your arrival. Transfer to your hotel and check in. You have a brief orientation meeting before setting off for your city tour.

Walking tour in Old Havana
You start the walking tour in the part of old Havana that few visitors see, the real Havana. You experience the real daily life of Cuban people; visit a local market, a surprising mix between meat, fruits, vegetables and flowers, afterwards, you go to Bodega de Alimentos to understand the monthly rations system. You visit the neighborhoods where Cubans live in Old Havana.

Continuing to the historic sights of Old Havana which includes the capitol building, the historic center where you see the important squares and monuments. After, take a break to taste the best mojitos in Havana at a special place. Finishing the tour by crossing the harbor to view the city from the fortress.

Welcome to Cuba dinner at one of the many fantastic paladares in Havana

After dinner, return to your accommodation, or free evening to enjoy live music.

ESPIRITU TRAVEL

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**Know the man
behind the legend**

Hosta la victors lounge

Day Two HAVANA

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Accommodation: 4* hotel

Today your excursion is to see some of the most famous places in Havana. You begin with a visit to the Partagás Tobacco factory, one of Havana's oldest and most famous cigar factories, the landmark neoclassical Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás. After head to the gigantic Plaza de La Revolución which have the famous murals of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos. Followed by a stroll through one of the largest cemeteries in the world, Cementerio Cristóbal Colón, a walk through these 56 hallowed hectares can be an enlightening stroll through the annals of Cuban history. Finishing the morning at beautiful Hotel Nacional, an icon of Havana life during the 1940s and 50s.

Lunch at one of the many paladares in Havana.

After lunch, a short ride to Fusterlandia in Jaimanita town (15 minutes drive). Art gallery community project by Fuster, one of the most original Cuban artist who was also known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Continuing with the art theme you head back to Havana to experience Callejon de Hamel, a street that is like one big art gallery, a haven for Afro-Cuban art. Finishing the day with a ride in a classic 1950s American car to do a panoramic tour of modern Havana. The way to experience the city like a local.

Free time to enjoy on your own before dinner.

Dinner and show at one of the Buena Vista Social Clubs, a place where you hear Cuba's icons of traditional music.

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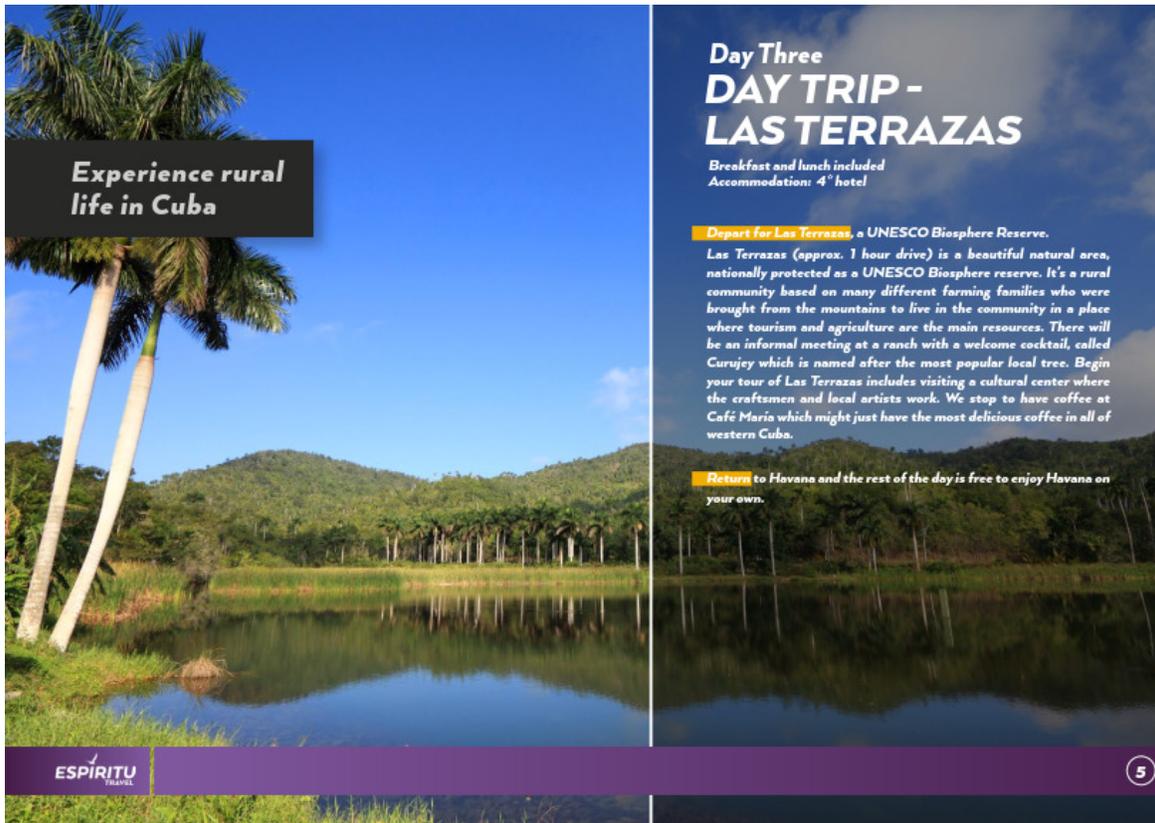
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The North American LaSallians

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Experience rural life in Cuba

Day Three DAY TRIP - LAS TERRAZAS

*Breakfast and lunch included
Accommodation: 4* hotel*

Depart for Las Terrazas, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Las Terrazas (approx. 1 hour drive) is a beautiful natural area, nationally protected as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve. It's a rural community based on many different farming families who were brought from the mountains to live in the community in a place where tourism and agriculture are the main resources. There will be an informal meeting at a ranch with a welcome cocktail, called Curujej which is named after the most popular local tree. Begin your tour of Las Terrazas includes visiting a cultural center where the craftsmen and local artists work. We stop to have coffee at Caf  Maria which might just have the most delicious coffee in all of western Cuba.

Return to Havana and the rest of the day is free to enjoy Havana on your own.

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¡Hasta luego Cuba!

Day Four DEPART

Breakfast included

*Transfer to José Martí International Airport.
¡Adiós a Cuba!*

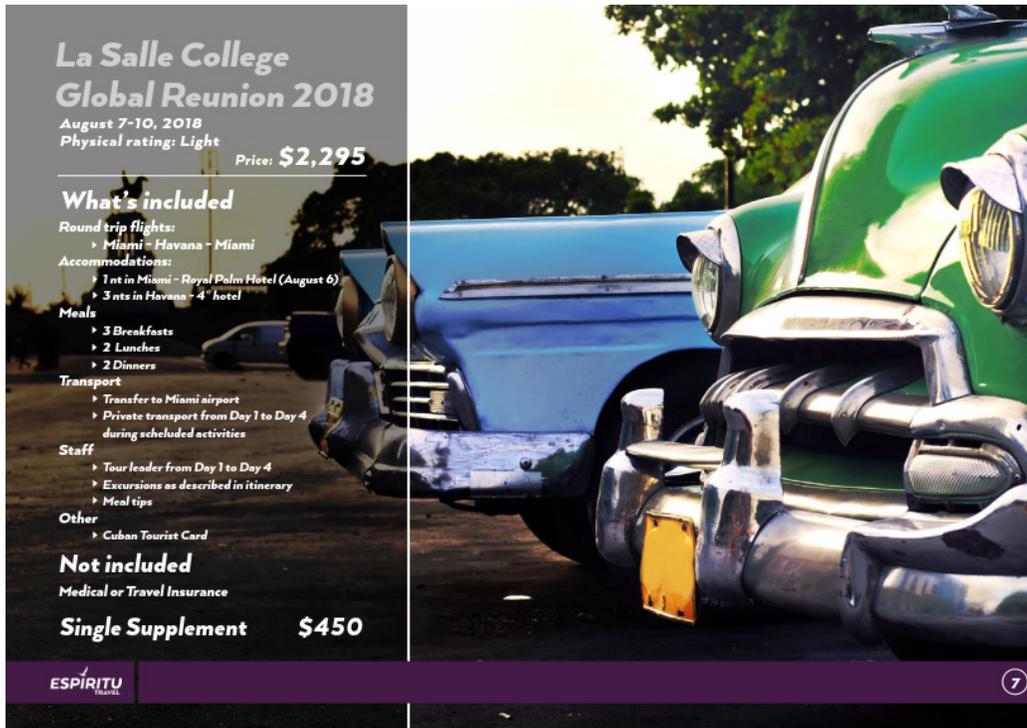
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**La Salle College
Global Reunion 2018**
August 7-10, 2018
Physical rating: Light
Price: **\$2,295**

What's included

- Round trip flights:
 - ▶ Miami - Havana - Miami
- Accommodations:
 - ▶ 1 nts in Miami - Royal Palm Hotel (August 6)
 - ▶ 3 nts in Havana - 4* hotel
- Meals
 - ▶ 3 Breakfasts
 - ▶ 2 Lunches
 - ▶ 2 Dinners
- Transport
 - ▶ Transfer to Miami airport
 - ▶ Private transport from Day 1 to Day 4 during scheduled activities
- Staff
 - ▶ Tour leader from Day 1 to Day 4
 - ▶ Excursions as described in itinerary
 - ▶ Meal tips
- Other
 - ▶ Cuban Tourist Card

Not included
Medical or Travel Insurance

Single Supplement \$450

ESPIRITU TRAVEL 7



Itinerary disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the itineraries as described, often it is necessary, or desirable to make alterations or places can be inexplicable closed without our prior knowledge. The detailed itinerary is a general guideline to the activities that will take place and in what order they will occur during your trip. Any times listed are only approximations and are subject to variations due to local circumstances.

Cuba is special; you will often hear this said by Cubans and visitors alike who have traveled to the island. Cuba tends to be very different to other areas of the Caribbean or world that you may have traveled. The country's buildings and infrastructure are generally old and may not have been maintained to an acceptable standard. Elevators, A/C, Internet often break down or are not working. Water pressure and hot water can be minimal, in general things happen slowly. Cuba is an amazing place to visit but western expectations should be left at home, an understanding and a sense of adventure should be your guide.

ESPIRITU TRAVEL 8

Last minute update

Sir David Tang Wing-cheung, an alumnus of La Salle Primary, has died at the age of 63, the Financial Times reported.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f6d8ee74-8d56-11e7-9084-d0c17942ba93>

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news.php?id=95887&sid=4>