



**The Fund for Reconciliation and Development in Association with Ethical
Traveler Present:**

Interactive Art Delegation to Cuba with Jeff Greenwald

A People to People Tour Cuba

11 days | April 6-16, 2013

Interactive Art Delegation to Cuba is an 11-day tour combining visits and dialogues with local artists, arts organizations and musicians to gain a first hand understanding of contemporary and folkloric art and culture in Cuba. Participants will have unique opportunities to take drawing workshops with local artists and free time to draw and sketch on their own of the beautiful historical and cultural sites in Santiago de Cuba, Havana, Vinales Valley and Holguin. Interactive Art Delegation includes visits to local arts education and sustainable development organizations, and numerous optional evening opportunities to partake in Cuba nightlife.

This special journey is led by Jeff Greenwald, Executive Director of Ethical Traveler, a global alliance of travelers dedicated to human rights and environmental protection. Jeff is also the author of six best-selling travel books, including Shopping for Buddhas, The Size of the World (for which he created the first international blog), and Snake Lake.

Interactive Art Delegation to Cuba is organized by Fund for Reconciliation and Development in association with Ethical Traveler and facilitated by Vaya Sojourns, a licensed Travel Service Provider (TSP) by the Office of Foreign Assets Control. This is a unique opportunity for Americans to visit Cuba legally and explore the future of US-Cuban relations.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Sat, April 6 | Arrive in Havana

- 6:00 am American Airlines
- 9:00 am Arrive in Havana Jose Marti International Airlines
- 11:00 am Walking tour of Old Havana. Participants will walk through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about its historic, architectural, and cultural significance. The area was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Learn about the City Historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. See buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, meet with neighborhood residents.
- 1:00 pm Lunch in Old Havana
- 4:00 pm Transfer to hotel and brief time to rest.

Evening Optional Cultural Activities:

Traditional Cuban Music in the style of the Buena Vista Social Club at the Hotel Nacional.

Meals: L, D Hotel: TBD

Day 2 | Sun, April 7 | In Havana

- 9:00 am Orientation Meeting and Overview of Program
- 10:00 am Invited Speaker to hotel to give a historical overview of the development of Havana (Requested architect and urban planner Miguel Coyula).
- 12:00-5:00pm Leave for the Murrealeando Arts Project. We will learn about this project and its history as a community development project. Exchange with the community. Time for drawing, sketching, and writing.
- Evening Dinner on your own to explore local paladares
Invited Speaker, Carlos Alzugaray, to hotel to talk welcome here about Culture and A Changing Cuban Society.

Meals: B, L Hotel: TBD

Day 3 | Mon, April 8 | In Havana

- 10:00 am Visit the Convento Belen community development project. (Donations welcome here). Drawing Workshop or hands-on crafts time with the community in the Convento.
- 1:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Engage representatives of the Ludwig Foundation. The LFC is an autonomous, non-governmental and non-profit institution in Cuba created to protect and promote contemporary Cuban artists and culture, develop research works and new technologies applied to the artistic field, and encourage dialog with both Cuban and international cultural communities. LFC acts as a cultural center to encourage the creation of bridges of understanding in Cuba and abroad.
- 4:30pm Visit to the Bellas Artes Museum to learn about this history of contemporary arts in Cuba.
- Dinner On your own.

Eve: Enjoy Opera de la Calle at El Cabildo, which has an outdoor theater, bar and 150-seat restaurant, is a throwback to life before Cuba's 1959 revolution, when Havana teemed with cabarets and theaters. It has nightly entertainment, anchored by an eclectic troupe called "Opera of the Street" that mixes traditional opera with Cuban song and dance and popular music from abroad.

Meals: B, L Hotel: TBD

Day 4 | Tue, April 9 | In Santiago de Cuba

- 9:00 am Visit to the Centro Wilfredo Lam and learn about the promotion of arts in Cuba and the Bienal Arts Festival. Here we will see paintings of main contemporary Cubans and other countries artists' are exposed. Wilfredo Lam was a Cuban painter that knew Picasso in the 1930s and whose art influenced it deeply.

- 11:30 am Exchange with artists at the Taller Experimental de la Grafica.
 Lunch Restaurant TBD
 2:30 pm Receive an overview of AfroCuban Culture and Santeria in Cuba by a representative from the Callejon de Hamel. Then we are on the way to our visit at the Callejon de Hamel. Here we will have an opportunity to sketch and draw.
 5-7:00 pm Rooftop music. Overview and conversation with Pablo Menendez from Grupo Mezcla.
 Dinner On your own to explore but we will get dropped off in Old Havana and Malia will take you to explore a few popular venues.
 Meals: B,L Hotel: TBD

Day 5 | Wed, April 10 | Depart for Vinales Valley

- 10 am Meeting with the Foundation for Nature and Humanity(Fundación Antonio Jimenez) and projects on permaculture, environmental preservation and restoration and community involvement. Here we will learn about Cuba's innovation in sustainable development.
 Lunch At Casa de Amistad.
 Leave for the province of Pinar del Rio. We will check into our hotel in the picturesque Vinales Valley, a world heritage site. Along the way we will stop at local farmers market and see the urban agricultural farms. Afternoon walking tour of Vinales and dialogue with the town historian (and request meeting with his mom on the literacy program) to learn about the history of this region and on tourism development.
 Evening Free for group discussion circle with guide.
 Meals: B, D Hotel: TBD

Day 6 | Thu, April 11 | In Vinales Valley

- 8:00am Drawing workshop time from our hotel lookout.
 10:00am Optional walking tour of farms in the Vinales valley and meet with tobacco producers.
 Lunch Restaurant TBD
 3:00 pm Visit to the town of Pinar del Rio and engage with the community arts program called Art and Hope that serves the needs of Downs Syndrome populations. (Donations welcomed here). Here there will be time to do some hands on work and enjoy a community exchange. Return to Havana and check-in to hotel (requested Santa Isabel).
 Dinner Free to explore local Paladares.
Evening Optional Cultural Activities: Ballet, Jazz, etc
 Meals: B, L Hotel: TBD

Day 7 | Fri, April 12 | Depart to Santiago de Cuba

- TBA am Check-out of hotel. Fly to Santiago de Cuba

Arrive in Santiago de Cuba from Havana and enjoy a city tour. We will highlight important world heritage, historical and cultural, sites including Santa Ifigenia cemetery, San Pedro de la Roca Castle (el Morro) and more.

Lunch Requested at El Morro and enjoy time for sketching here.

4:30 pm Transfer and check -in at hotel (CASA GRANDA requested)

Meet with a representative of UNEAC to learn about the National Union of Writers and Artists in Cuba to discuss promotion and arts education.

Dinner On your own

Evening Optional Cultural Activities: Casa de Tradiciones

Meals: B, L Hotel: TBD

Day 8 | Sat, April 13 | In Santiago de Cuba

10:00 am Meet with a representative of the Casa del Caribe (Raul Miyares requested) for an overview of Santiago's rich cultural history. Here we will talk about the years of work in the field of anthropology, culture and national identity in Cuba.

Lunch Restaurant TBD

3:00 pm Visit to the African Cultural Center "Fernando Ortiz" to learn about and discuss national identity in Cuba and cultural heritage in Oriente.

5:00 pm Visit to local artist studios.

Dinner Free to explore local paladares.

Optional Cultural Activities: Enjoy the Cocuye folkloric group. Learn about Afro-Cuban religions, the history of slavery in Cuba, and the survival of African cultural traditions, music, and dance. Dance and see music performances by the Cocuye folkloric group.

Meals: B, L Hotel: TBD

Day 9 | Sun, April 14 | Depart to Cobre

10:00 am Leave for the town of Cobre. Here we will explore the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity. This is the patron Saint of Cuba and a place of devotion for most Cubans. There will be an overview of Santeria and the history of this popular religion in Cuba. Time to sketch this unique vista. Enjoy a short visit to the Barcardi Rum Factory to learn about the history of this important product and export.

Lunch On your own

Dinner Restaurant TBD

Evening Engage with a member of "El Grupo Bayaté", a professional organization of the leading naïve artists of Cuba, most of whom were concentrated nearby Santiago de Cuba. Cuban naïve art is a unique blend of mysticism, local rituals and religion, as well as dreams, nature and everyday life. It derives inspiration from the country's hardworking townspeople and field workers, and from the local landscape, architecture and history.

Meals: B, D Hotel: TBD

Day 10 | Mon, April 15 | Depart for Holguin

- 8:30 am Check-out of hotel
- 9:00 am If possible we will visit to a special education school in Cuba, a School for the Deaf.
- 11:00 am Visit to the Moncada Barracks, attacked by Fidel Castro and a group his followers in 1953, now turned into an educational center. Historical overview of Cuba during the 50's and the reasons that led to the attack.
- Lunch On your own
- 3:00 pm Explore the Carnival Museum. This very colorful museum tells of the historical perspective of Carnival and the five centuries of its tradition in Cuba. Expect old costumes, photos, drums and other percussion instruments, huge papier-maché masks and examples of the massive modern costumes now worn. There is a folkloric presentation at 4 pm. The group will have time to sketch here with a local artist.

Leave for Holguin about 100 KM away. Christopher Columbus discovered Cuba on October 27th, 1492 in Gibara, a province of Holguin located in the eastern part of Cuba. Home to famous Cuban music, Holguin is a charming place with lush vegetation and nice beaches. It is known for its wide variety of ecotourism excursions. Check-in to hotel (requested Playa Costa Verde).

Dinner Farewell Dinner

Meals: B, D Hotel: TBD

Day 11 | Tue, April 16 | Depart Holguin

Breakfast at hotel.

- Morning (Beach time)
- 11:30 am Transfer to airport for flight to Miami, Departs Holguin at 2:30pm for Miami and arriving at 3:30 pm).

Meals: B

Price & Inclusions

Tour Prices:

- 10-11 participants | \$3658 per person
 12-14 participants | \$3565 per person
 *Single rooms are available for an additional \$500

If you are a single traveler, we will try to match you with another solo traveler of the same sex for twin share accommodations.

Tour price is inclusive of the following:

- Ⓜ Accommodations at 4-star hotels

- Ⓜ Accommodations on a double occupancy basis
- Ⓜ Meals as indicated in itinerary
- Ⓜ Local English speaking guide accompanying the group throughout the tour
- Ⓜ Program activities as specified in itinerary
- Ⓜ All entrance fees to sites as specified in itinerary
- Ⓜ Honoraria for speakers and donations to community groups and organizations in itinerary
- Ⓜ Vehicle transport as specified in itinerary
- Ⓜ Miami-Havana-Santiago; Holguin-Miami flights
- Ⓜ Cuba visa
- Ⓜ TSP fee
- Ⓜ People to People license
- Ⓜ Donations to organizations visited in itinerary
- Ⓜ Honoraria to guest speakers in itinerary
- Ⓜ Bottled water
- Ⓜ A year subscription to the Earth Island Journal, published by the Earth Island Institute (EII). Ethical Traveler is a project of the EII.

Tour price does NOT include of the following:

- Ⓜ Alcoholic, soft drinks and imported mineral water
- Ⓜ International flights and airport tax
- Ⓜ Services not mentioned in the program.
- Ⓜ Meals not mentioned in the program
- Ⓜ Expenses of a purely personal nature.
- Ⓜ Room service charges.
- Ⓜ Transportation of luggage in excess of weight allowance.
- Ⓜ Conveyance fees used for private purposes.
- Ⓜ US airport taxes
- Ⓜ Travel Insurance (We strongly advise that each participant arrange for their own travel insurance).
- Ⓜ Optional activities specified in the itinerary

For more information or to book the tour

Contact:
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About Ethical Traveler

Ethical Traveler (ET) is the first grass-roots alliance uniting adventurers, tourists, travel agencies, and outfitters — everyone who loves to travel, and sees travel as a positive force in the world. ET feels that all travelers are, in effect, freelance ambassadors. Ethical Traveler also believes that we have the ability to join our voices, and to use our economic power to

strengthen human rights and protect the environment. For more information on Ethical Traveler, please visit www.ethicaltraveler.org.

About The Fund for Reconciliation and Development

The Fund for Reconciliation and Development builds bridges between the United States and Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Cuba. Our non-partisan programs have sought since 1985 to heal the wounds of war by fostering mutual understanding and respect and by addressing lessons and legacies of conflict. We encourage and facilitate cooperation in education, trade, people-to-people exchanges, and humanitarian and development assistance, working in partnership with foundations, other not-for-profit organizations, business, academic institutions and governments.

About Jeff Greenwald

Jeff Greenwald is the Executive Director of [Ethical Traveler](http://www.ethicaltraveler.org), a global alliance of travelers dedicated to human rights and environmental protection. Jeff is also the author of six best-selling travel books, including *Shopping for Buddhas*, *The Size of the World* (for which he created the first international blog), and *Snake Lake*. His work has appeared in many print and online publications including *Afar*, *Islands*, *Outside*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* and *Salon*. Jeff's critically acclaimed one-man show, "Strange Travel Suggestions," premiered in San Francisco in 2003. To read dispatches about his previous Cuba trip, please visit www.ethicaltraveler.org/explore/dispatches/