



Ethical Traveler Goes to Havana: The Plaza Jazz Festival January 15 - 23, 2023

Summary:

This Support for the Cuban People journey, sponsored by Jeff Greenwald and benefiting Ethical Traveler, invites you to discover the history of Cuban music and celebrate exceptional jazz. We'll explore Cuba's vibrant visual arts scene, attend dance rehearsals, and witness how this Socialist country integrates personal expression with community development. Our visit is timed to coincide with Havana's Plaza Jazz Festival, and we will have many opportunities to meet with individual musicians and artists, attend concerts, and discover how deeply music has penetrated Cuban life. Join us!

Sunday, Jan. 15th Bienvenidos a La Havana (D)

AM Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport, Havana. We will arrange two transfers this morning. **Please arrive by 1 pm.**

3:00pm Check in to our home for the week, the **Gran Aston Hotel.**

5:00pm Welcome Meet and Greet, with a Mojito of course! After a brief orientation, learn about "**A Century of Cuban Music,**" featuring a **live musical overview** of diverse genres by a Professor of Music.

8:00pm Enjoy a traditional Cuban Welcome Dinner.

Monday, January 16th (B, L)
(Breakfast included, at your leisure daily, from 7 – 9 a.m.)

9:00am We start our day with a lively **briefing by Miguel Coyula**, an architect and urban planner, for an overview of the History of Cuba and its Capital.

Lunch at Bodequito del Medio, a Hemingway favorite in Old Havana. After, we will experience the City Historian's efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for locals. We'll see buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, and meet with neighborhood residents. Enjoy a **guided walking tour of Old Havana**.

A highlight of the day is our visit at the **Taller Grafica**, an arts/printmakers collective close to the Cathedral.

4:00pm **A private musical performance with Julio Valdez and PentaJazz.**

6:00pm Break for dinner

Evening Optional Cultural Activities: **Enjoy live music at La Zorra y el Cuervo**, one of Havana's premier jazz clubs.

Tuesday, January 17th (B,L)

Breakfast

10:00am **Centro de Fidel Castro** – a new museum dedicated to the legacy of Cuba's pre-eminent revolutionary leader.

Lunch in Old Havana

2:30pm Experience the vibrant local modern dance company **Rosario Cardenas.**

5-6:30 p.m. Live private performance by the jazz/fusion group **Mezcla**

Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy dinner

8:00pm **Enjoy Pre Jazz Festival musical activities** (included, tba)

Wednesday January 18th (B,L)

Breakfast

9:30 am Learn about music education in Cuba today with a visit to a local conservatory, or **ISA the Institute of Superior Arts in Cuba.**

11:30am A presentation by legendary photographer **Roberto Salas**. Salas has documented the Cuban Revolution for more than 50 years (check him out on Anthony Bourdain's show on Cuba). Followed by a visit to the **Plaza de la Revolucion**.

Lunch

3:30pm Exchange with a **local elders Rumba Group in Pogolote** -or- enjoy matinee at the **Palace of Rumba**, a cultural institution devoted to this special tradition, full of locals enjoying Cuban dance traditions like Rumba, Guaguango and more.

Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy free time for dinner.

Evening ***Havana Jazz Festival Opening*** at venues across the city (Show included but tba)

Thursday, January 19th (B,L)

Breakfast

9:00am Extended walking tour of Old Havana around Prado, the Gran Teatro and Capitolio.

11:00am Community Development Project **Nicolas Guillen**

Lunch At the Casa de Amistad with a speaker from ICAP to discuss the impacts of the US foreign policy on artists in Cuba.

2:30pm **Visit to the National Ballet School or rehearsal at Pro Danza.**

5:00pm Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy dinner

Evening *Havana Jazz Festival* Show (included, TBA)

Friday, January 20th (B,L)

Breakfast

10:00am Free morning, -or- morning excursion to the town of **Regla**. We will take the ferry back after visiting the community and the Church dedicated to Yemaya, the Black Madonna.

- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30pm Enjoy a private exchange with the **artist Francisco Gordillo**.
- 4 pm Optional **Rum tasting** at a local bar
- 5:00pm Break at hotel.
- Evening *Havana Jazz Festival* Show (included but tba)

Saturday, January 21st

(B, L)

Breakfast

9:00am Free morning, or join us on a full day excursion. Enjoy a community guided visit in **Las Terrazas**, an ecological community and environmental education center. We will receive an overview of the history of the project, one of Cuba's intentional tourism community efforts. This is a fabulous opportunity to interact with the local community, meet with local artists, and learn about the community's unique architecture. Lunch will be at Buena Vista.

One highlight of the afternoon is a hike in the bio-reserve with a local CITMA scientist. He will explain the history of Las Terrazas, and we will learn about the bio-reserve's native flora and fauna.

4:00pm Return to la Havana.

8:00 pm **Dinner reservation and visit to FAC.** This evening we will have a reservation for you tonight at Tierra, and after we will enjoy VIP access to an extraordinary multi-venue art space: The **Fabrica de Arte Cubano**. You can taxi back to our hotel anytime you wish.

Sunday, January 22nd

(B, D)

Breakfast

10:00 am Free morning –or- Enjoy a guided visit through **the Museo de Bella Artes** (the Cuban Fine Arts Museum) for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts followed by free time for lunch and shopping in Old Havana or at the San Jose de Almancen craft market. For those of you needing coastal therapy today is your day.

6:00pm **Cruise the Malecon in Classic Cars!**

7:00pm **Farewell Dinner.** . .And if you like, hit up the closing night of the

Jazz Festival—on your own or with new friends!

Monday, January 23rd (B)

Breakfast and departures from Havana, Cuba back to our ports in the US.

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