



Ethical Traveler Goes to Havana: The Plaza Jazz Festival January 20-28, 2023

Summary:

This Support for the Cuban People Journey, sponsored by Jeff Greenwald and benefiting Ethical Traveler, invites you to legally visit Cuba, discover the history of Cuban music, and celebrate exceptional jazz. We'll also explore Cuba's visual and graphic arts scene, and witness how this Socialist country integrates personal expression, community development, and musical collaboration. The trip will include visit to studios, galleries, museums, and neighborhoods that have been revitalized through imaginative art projects. As our visit coincides with Havana's Plaza Jazz Festival we will have the opportunity to meet with individual musicians and artists, attend concerts, and discover how deeply music has penetrated Cuban life. Join us!

Friday, January 20th 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.

Saturday, January 21st

(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 massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. We'll see buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, and meet with neighborhood resident. Enjoy a **guided walking tour of Old Havana**.

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

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

6:00pm Break for dinner

Evening Optional Cultural Activity: **Enjoy live music at La Zorra y el Cuervo**, one of Havana's premier jazz clubs (included)

Sunday, January 22nd

(B,L)

Breakfast

10:30am 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 venue, 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)

Monday January 23rd Musical Arts Education in Cuba (B,L)

Breakfast

10:00 am Learn about music education in Cuba today with a visit to a local conservatory, or **ISA the Institute of Superior Arts in Cuba.**

12:30 am Lunch in Old Havana

2:30pm Experience the vibrance of the local modern dance company, **Rosario Cardenas.**

4:00pm **Centro de Fidel Castro**

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

Tonight is free to rest or enjoy Festival Activities on your own. We will support you of course.

Tuesday, January 24th (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)

Wednesday, January 25th

(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)

Thursday, January 26th

(B, L)

Breakfast

9:00am Free morning, or join us on a full day excursion. Enjoy a community guided visit in **Rosario Mountains bio-reserve, Las Terrazas**, an ecological community and environmental education center. We will receive an overview of the history of the project, a favorite because it is an intentional tourism community project. Then have time to meander through the community to meet with local artists and learn about the community's unique architecture. This is a fabulous opportunity to interact with the local community. Lunch will be Buena Vista. Our highlight of the afternoon is a hike in the reserve with a local CITMA scientist. He will explain the history of the community and we will enjoy a 2 hour hike learning about 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 art space: The **Fabrica de Arte Cubano**. You can taxi back to our hotel anytime you wish. This is also a venue for live music!

Friday, January 27th

(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 more music tonight enjoy the Jazz Festival on your own .

Saturday, January 28th

(B)

Breakfast and departures from Havana, Cuba back to our homes in the US. Or feel free to stay on another day or two to enjoy Havana and your people to people experience.

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