

A Culture of Jazz, Arts and Dance in Cuba: A Support for the Cuban People Journey for Jeff & Friends

January 24- February 4, 2025 12 days / 11 nights

This "Support for the Cuban People" trip will focus on Cuba's wide-ranging arts, and explore the relationship between personal expression, community development, and collaboration. We'll be visiting the island during one of the most vibrant times of the year: the annual Plaza Jazz Festival. Join us as we visit art studios and dance schools by day, and attend amazing jazz concerts by night! We'll tour World Heritage Sites of extraordinary beauty, and see neighborhoods that have been revitalized through imaginative art projects. We'll also make a three-day side trip south to Cienfuegos and Trinidad, two of Cuba's cultural capitals.

This trip is designed for people with a creative spark and a deep curiosity about Cuba. Our small group will get an insider's view of Cuba's arts, and witness the resiliency of the human spirit!

Friday, January 24 th	Bienvenidos a Cuba	(Welcome Cocktail, Dinner)
1:40pm	Arrival into Jose Marti Internation	onal Airport (Please arrive on American
Airlines #743 or another airline between $1-3$ pm arrival. Southwest and United also		
have daily flights.		
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4:00pm Check in at the Hotel Grand Aston, a 5-star property in the Vedado area.
6:00pm Welcome Orientation Meeting and mojito with Jeff Greenwald.

7:30pm Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar

Saturday, January 25th Havana History, Art & Architecture (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast served in the hotel at your leisure daily from 6-8:30 am. 9:00am Interactive briefing about the "History and Future of Havana" by brilliant Cuban architect Miguel Coyula. Learn about the historic development of the Capitol, and the master plan for the restoration of Old Havana.

11:00am Guided Walking Tour of Old Havana, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982. Our exploration includes a brief history of important landmarks, with a focus on the diverse architecture of the city. We'll visit Havana's

oldest neighborhoods, including the four main plazas of the 18th-century colony: Plaza de Armas, which originally housed the main administrative buildings of the colony; Plaza Vieja, the oldest of the plazas; Plaza de la Cathedral, site of the baroque cathedral of Havana; and Plaza de San Francisco, site of the basilica of San Francisco and the old Havana stock exchange.

1:00pm Lunch in Old Havana

2:30pm Enjoy a docent led overview of diverse Cuban contemporary arts and artists at the wonderful Bellas Artes Museum.

4:00pm Time to rest, and dinner on your own.

8:00pm Experience the dynamic interactive music and arts space of the Fabrica

Del Arte Cubano.

Sunday January 26th Havana Immersion (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast

9:30 am A vibrant introduction to Cuban Music by Alberto Faya, who has been working as a musician, professor, and researcher in the Cuban musical world for more than 20 years. Prof. Faya will be joined by a quartet of extraordinary young musicians who will take us on a musical journey thru the history of Cuba. This will be an interactive experience, with the audience encouraged to engage the lecturers and musicians.

11::30am An interactive drumming experience with Havana Compass Dance.

1:00pm Lunch in Old Havana

3:00pm Get Dancing : Basics of Salsa Dance Class.

4:30 pm Time to rest, and dinner on your own.

9:45pm Enjoy live Latin Jazz at la Zora y el Cuervo (Fox and Crow).

Monday, January 27th Dance in Cuba (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast in the Hotel

9:00am An intimate visit to the National Ballet School, followed by a conversation with Tomas, a ballet teacher, on the History of Dance in Cuba.

11:00 am Exchange with local artists at work, at the Taller Graffica.

1:00pm Lunch in Old Havana.

3:00pm Thrill to a powerful dance rehearsal and interactive exchange with

members of Rosario Cardenas Contemporary Dance

4:30pm Walk through the recently restored and reopened Gran Teatro, named after primer ballerina Alicia Alonso.

5:30pm Free time to enjoy the hotel's pool, stroll the streets of Old Havana or walk along the Malecon breakwater.

Evening Opening Night of Jazz Plaza!

Tuesday, January 28th

Art Education in Cuba

(Breakfast, Lunch)

9:00am Exchange with AfroCuban film maker Gloria Rolando. We will view one of her shorts, and she will speak about her new film about the Buffalo Soldiers. She'll discuss race and gender in Cuba, and discuss her film education.

11:00 am Visit to ENA (National Arts School)- or- ISA (Institute of Superior Arts) for an overview of visual arts and music education in Cuba.

1:00pm Lunch at El Aljibe.

3:00pm Enjoy a walking tour of street art and murals with Photographer Adrian Garrido.

5:00pm Free time to rest and enjoy dinner. Evening Our 2nd night of Plaza Jazz Festival!

Wednesday, January 29th

To Cienfuegos

(Breakfast, Lunch

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am We check out of our hotel and our journey southeast to the beautiful town of Cienfuegos. This winsome, seafront city has such an ethereal allure that it's known as the "Pearl of the South."

12:30 pm Lunch at Fiest Campesina.

1:30 pm After lunch, we set out to walk part of the city's charming waterfront and colonnaded streets.

3:00pm Exchange with choral conductor Honey Morelia, and experience the transcendent vocals of the Coro de Cienfuegos.

4:30 pm Depart for Trinidad, where we check into the legal Melia Peninsula.

6:30 pm Evening free to rest and dine at the resort together.

Evening Enjoy another exclusive tradition: Jeff's annual Cuban rum tasting!

Thursday, January 30th

Trinidad

(Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast

9:30 am We set out on a leisurely walking tour of Trinidad.

11:30am Visit the Academia de Arte Óscar Fernández Morera. (In-kind donations of art supplies for the youths studying here are welcomed, but not obligatory!)

1:00pm Lunch

3:00pm Exchange with local artists in their galleries and studios. One highlight is our visit with Judith Vidal. We will learn about her work and her community embroidery and arts program. End the day with a visit to the ceramic shop of the Santander family.

5:30pm Free time for dinner and evening to explore this beautiful town! After your dinner, join Jeff for an evening of live music (and mojitos!) at the Casa Trova.

Friday, January 31st

Coastal Beauty (A Day of Leisure)

(Breakfast, Dinner)

8:00am Breakfast

10:00am Today we enjoy the day resting and enjoying nature at our resort.

Those who feel like an outing have the option to visit and hike the Topes de Collantes, a National Park with a lovely waterfall.

Dinner at the resort at your leisure. Evening... Music at resort.

Saturday, February 1st A la Habana (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast in the Hotel

9:30am Check out and return to Havana via the town of Santa Clara, where we

will stop visit the Che Guevara Memorial. We will have lunch along the way.

3:30pm Return to the Hotel Gran Aston.

Free evening, and time to rest, see live music, and/or explore Havana by night!

Sunday, February 2nd A la Habana, la Bahia (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast

9:30am A brief overview of the popular religion Santeria, and a presentation of

symbolism and motifs with a Santera at the Orimula Project.

11:15am Visit to the Church of Regla the black Madonna, also known in Ifa (or

Santeria) as the Orisha Yemaya.

12:30 pm After an Afro-Cuban food workshop and lunch we travel to the Guanabacoa Community for the municipal museum for history of Afro-Cuban roots and

also an Afro-Cuban dance presentation

4:30pm Time to rest

Evening Enjoy our 3rd Jazz Festival Concert!

Monday February 3rd Wrap Up (Breakfast, Dinner)

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Free morning for shopping and exploring old Havana.

(Option for Playa de Este or the Fidel Castro Center.)

1:30pm Visit to the Callejon de Hamel, a colorful Santeria center.

3:00pm A dynamic house concert with Grupo Mezcla, led by Pablo Menendez.

6:00 pm Cruise in Classic Cars to the Christ of Havana: a large sculpture

representing Jesus of Nazareth, on a hilltop overlooking the bay in Havana, where we

snap our last group photos.

7:30pm Farewell dinner!

Tuesday, Feburary 4th Hasta Luego (Breakfast)

Early morning Breakfast and Check out and group transfer to the airport at 10 am. Or feel free to extend your trip a day or two for personal exploration!

