



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 24th Bienvenidos a Cuba (Welcome Cocktail, Dinner)

1:40pm Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport (Please arrive on American Airlines #743 or another airline between 1 – 3 pm arrival. Southwest and United also have daily flights.

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.

