



OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS

Faces of Jewish Cuba...

Jan. 25 to 29, 2018

Embark on an artfully crafted journey back in time, an in-depth exploration with a fascinating mix of Cuban culture, music, history, and art await. Join OCJ on an adventure only 90 miles away!



Purposeful Travel for Passionate People

**Experience this unique culture that currently in the midst of change
See Cuba while the remains of yesteryear are becoming the Cuba of
tomorrow**

**Immerse yourself in Cuban traditions while enjoying classic cars, cigars,
cuisine and all that Cuba has to offer**

Stimulate your senses while exploring this enchanting island...

Day 1, Thursday, Havana (D)

- Today you will arrive in Havana from your home city. Take a taxi to hotel and depending on the time of everyone's arrival, our program will begin with a welcome cocktail before dinner.
- Check into your home for the next 4 nights – enjoy a welcome cocktail. You will have time for changing money and getting settled. You may want to rest a little as tonight we are going to hit the town!
- Dinner at El Aljibe; this government restaurant has been delighting both Cuban and foreign tastes for years. El Aljibe is famous for the pollo asado (roasted chicken), which is served with as-much-as-you-can-eat helpings of white rice, black beans, fried plantains, boniato fries and Cuban salad. Even Anthony Bourdain said it was the best black beans and rice he has ever tasted!
- We will continue our night with an included visit to one of Cuba's noted Jazz Clubs to hear one of the acclaimed Cuban artists.

Day 2, Friday, Havana (B, L)

- After your first Cuban breakfast, we will visit a cigar factory for a private group meeting with a specialist who will enlighten us on the process of making a Cuban cigar. While we visit the neighborhood of Cerro we will learn why Cuban cigars are world famous. You will be transfixed as you watch the making of these premium cigars. Did you know there is a difference between the leaves that are used for rolling, wrapping, and stuffing cigars?
- Next, we will explore the restored plazas of Old Havana which date back to the 16th century. You will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. This area is a bustling area where its residences, government buildings, and churches are actively being renovated. We will learn how this renaissance is having a financial impact on Old Havana. The history of old Havana will unfold as we discover how the old city developed around the plazas. During our walk we will have the chance to peak into stores, private businesses, and visit Taller Grafica printmaking studio; we will have the opportunity to talk to artists while they work at their crafts.
- After an included lunch we stop at the Holocaust Memorial which is housed at the Sefardic synagogue. Learn about the relationship between Cuba and this tragic historical period.
- We'll stop at Plaza de Revolucion which is where you see the familiar iconic silhouette of Che Guevarra and where the "bearded one" made his famously long speeches. This is a great spot for a group photo
- Next encounter is with Habana Compass, one of Cuba's most talented professional dance troupes. You will learn about the use of traditional Afro-Cuban

instruments such as the Bata, the clave, and countryside chairs as they include percussion into their performances. Delight in the fusion of many different dance forms including flamenco, Afro-Cuban, ballet, and contemporary dance as we enjoy a private rehearsal.

- Return to hotel to ready for Shabbat Services at Patronato. You will have a briefing by Adela Dworin, president of the entire Jewish Community of Cuba. She will give you a history of the Jews in Cuba and how they survived through years of religious vacuum in the island. Patronato houses Beth Shalom Synagogue where you will share Shabbat with the community, *deliver donations and Tzedakah*.
- Dinner is on your own to try one of the many new and excellent Paladars in the "new Cuba".

Day 3, Saturday, Havana (B, L)

- Breakfast at the hotel and then we depart for Muraleando, a neighborhood community project featuring artwork by resident artists who have transformed the neighborhood with street murals. We will interact with the residents, children and seniors in the area, be treated to a musical performance and have the opportunity to talk with kids as they are in art classes.
- For those who like to shop and take home local crafts - we will visit Almacenes San Jose, a former harbor warehouse restored by the Office of the City Historian to facilitate an environmental structure where craftsmen and artists can display their products. This is Cuba's flea market and where private enterprise in Cuba started. There is a new Cuban brewery next door for those who prefer to relax and try local brews.
- We will enjoy a lunch at one of the best Paladars - a privately owned restaurant. These establishments have grown tremendously in the past few years since the new economic reforms in Cuba have been in place. We will have the opportunity to discuss with the owner the challenges and rewards of running a private business in Cuba. These very professional restaurants have elevated Cuban's reputation on food preparation and culinary creativeness
- Afterwards, we will take a stroll down the Prado Boulevard and enjoy the many artists who show their wares on weekends
- During a visit at the Museo de la Revolucion we will hear the history of the triumph of the Revolution from the Cuban perspective. This museum houses the most complete exhibit of revolutionary history including the Granma Memorial, the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.
- Let your sense of whimsy unfold in Jaiminitas at Casa-Estudio de Fuster, the studio-home of Jose Fuster, commonly called the 'Picasso of the Caribbean'.

Meet with the artist's representative while exploring his unique studio and property. Fuster's art is found in many important collections all over the world. You can purchase his creations (and any Cuban art as they are allowed under the 1st amendment rules). If you like famous Spanish artist Gaudi, you will LOVE Fuster! We will make time to explore and visit with his neighbors whose homes are adorned with Fuster's ceramics.

- Dinner is on your own tonight and this is a great chance to experience the back streets and the hidden Cuba.
- For late night enthusiasts, you will have the option to see the show at Tropicana Cabaret (not included). Tropicana is Cuba's oldest and most famous Cabaret located in Havana. Known as the "Paradise under the Stars", it opened in 1931 and has been pleasing crowds ever since. Surrounded by lush vegetation, you will enjoy a glittering spectacle featuring over 200 singers, dancers, musicians and vocalist.(not included)

Day 4, Sunday (B, D)

- Enjoy your daily breakfast before driving to one of the most beautiful vintage points of Havana, The Morro Castle. From there you will be able to see why so many people fall in love with this city.
- Continue to Finca Vigia, Hemingway's former home where we will hear the Cuban perspective on Hemingway, his associations with the isle, and the difficulties of restoring and maintaining his former home as an important world heritage site. We will walk around this lush estate and view Pilar, the boat which was a "character" in his book "*The Old Man and the Sea*".
- On our way back to Havana we will visit the Jewish cemetery which houses the oldest memorial to the Holocaust in the western hemisphere.
- Lunch will be on your own
- To understand Cuba you must understand Santeria. Make a stop at Callejon de Hammel this afro-cuban inspired alley where you will be treated to a Rhumba and see works of art of the famous Salvador Gonzalez.
- During the afternoon, we will drive by the Capitolio, this building held all the seats of government prior to the revolution. Look at the astonishing resemblance to our own Capitol building in Washington. Cuba's Capitolio is actually taller than ours!
- You will enjoy a classic vintage car ride to Farewell dinner! Over dinner we will share our Cuban experience with one another and guide and driver and toast to our trip and all the friends we have made!

Day 5, Havana (B)

- Breakfast included at hotel.
- Say our goodbyes to Cuba and leave a little of our hearts with our new friends

4 NIGHT Pricing: *Please be aware that the prices are subject to change due to new US travel policy.*

Per person double occupancy from: (Depending on CASA/HOTEL)

4-6 travelers –\$3700 - 4300

7-9 travelers –\$3500 – 4100

10 -14.....\$3300-3900

Single supplement.....\$ 700

Your trip includes:

- 5 days in Cuba, 4 nights
- Accommodations in Cuba
- Included meals of 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Land transportation in Cuba by a driver with many years of service
- Services of an experienced Cuban, English speaking professional guide who has much knowledge of the Cuban community, politics, education, medical system, arts, economics, etc.
- Entrance fees to the important cultural and historic sites
- Gratuities to wait staff at included meals and bellboys in Cuba

Not included:

- Trip cancellation insurance – highly recommended. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Tips for guide and driver (SUGGESTED IS \$10 PER PERSON PER DAY FOR GUIDE, \$5 PER PERSON PER DAY DRIVER)
- Airfare to Cuba
- Excess baggage charges
- Tzedakah where is indicated

