

 **OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS**

***Hanukah in Havana and beyond!  
December 12-17, 2017***

***Embark on a journey back in time...  
An in-depth exploration of music, art, history and culture  
Immerse yourself in cars, cigars, cuisine and visits with the Jewish community.  
Light candles and bring donations (Latke mix!). Be part of an adventure ...only 90  
miles away!***



**Cuba in the midst of change...  
Experience the most fascinating time Cuba has seen in the past 50 years  
The Cuba that remained frozen in time is rapidly changing...enjoy it while you  
can.**

**Join OCJ for a Hannukah of a Lifetime”!**

# Hanukkah in Havana

## **Day 1, Tuesday: Miami / Havana (D) December 12, 2017**

- Today you arrive in Havana after your trip from your home city to Havana. You will take a taxi to the hotel and depending on the time of your arrival - get acclimated to the area near your hotel, exchange money, take a walk, visit the pool, etc. Get ready for your Cuban Journey!
- Meet your group and guide at the hotel when we officially start our trip with a welcome cocktail before dinner.
- Before dinner, we will drive by the Plaza de la Revolution – where we start learning about the history of revolution and Cuban Nacional heroes.
- Tonight as we get acquainted with our fellow travelers, we will enjoy our first Cuban meal at El Aljibe which is known for its traditional black beans and rice, chicken and other local specialties. We will invite a member or two from the community to join us for dinner so you can start learning about the Jewish community of Havana and the island
- After dinner, if not too tired, check out one of Cuba's famous jazz clubs! (optional)

## **Day 2, Wednesday: Havana (B,L,D) December 13,2017**

- After breakfast at the hotel, we will make our way to Old Havana – a UNESCO Heritage site which dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- In the Old city, we begin our Jewish learning when we visit with leaders at Adath Israel – the Orthodox synagogue and hear about the kosher butcher, mikvah, and life for Jews, before and after the revolution, *deliver donations*
- Make sure you have on comfortable walking shoes as we will spend the rest of the morning walking in Old Habana. Here you will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. We we will stop at many local sites and have the opportunity to interact with Cubans; at Plaza de Armas you will meet with old book collectors, at Taller Experimental de Grafica you will meet with artists while they work. You will feel the warmth and kindness of the Cuban people and begin learning about their life and culture during these morning's interactions.
- Lunch is included at a paladar – We will have the opportunity to discuss with the owner the challenges and rewards of running a private business in Cuba. Paladars are newly opened private restaurants allowed under new Cuban economic reforms. These restaurants have elevated Cuba's reputation of food and culinary creativeness. OCJ knows the best and newest paladars and our trips have become known as gastronomic delights!
- Learn the history of Cuban political development from the Cuban perspective at Museo de la Revolución. This fascinating visit houses the most complete exhibit of revolutionary history including the Granma Memorial, the vessel that brought

Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.

- We finish our art day at a whimsical journey to Casa-Estudio de Fuster in Jaiminitas. This is the studio-home of Jose Fuster, commonly called the 'Picasso of the Caribbean. Explore the unique studio, property, and neighborhood whose homes are adorned with Fuster's ceramics.
- Return to hotel with some time to relax before dinner.
- After an included dinner, why not check out the Buena Vista Social Club show?(optional)

### **Day 3, Thursday: Pinar del Rio / Viñales / Havana (B,L) December 14, 2017**

- After breakfast at hotel we drive west for 2.5 hours through the stunning province of Pinar del Rio discussing politics, education, the medical system, and housing along the way
- Head to the western province and town of Pinar del Rio and learn about the history of cigar production, tobacco growing and the daily life of tobacco farmers.
- Stop at the home of a tobacco and coffee farmer, meeting with the family. Participate in conversation over homemade coffee about life in the interior and later discuss the hardships of farming in Cuba as we watch the making of a fresh cigar.
- Afterwards, explore the Valley of Viñales, arguably the greenest and most beautiful region in all of Cuba.
- We'll eat lunch at the home of an organic farmer, meet with his family, learn about organic farming and sustainability while taking in the breathtaking views and learning about Cuba's Green Revolution.
- Return to Havana.
- Tonight dinner is NOT included; this is a great chance to explore on your own and possibly take in the world famous Tropicana.

### **Day 4, Friday: Havana (B,L,D) December 15,2017**

- First stop after breakfast is Finca Vigia, Hemingway's home in Cuba where we will hear about the Cuban perspective on Hemingway, his associations with the isle, and the difficulties of restoring and maintaining his former home which is now a museum. It was Hemingway himself who proclaimed that Cuba was his real home and the Cubans endearingly named him Papa.
- Continuing, we make a stop at the Jewish cemetery where we will see the oldest monument in the western hemisphere to the Shoah. We will say kaddish for those who have departed and no longer have family to visit them. Look at many of the graves...you may see your name or recognize others.
- A must stop is the Morro fortress perched high above the entrance to the bay...another great place for a group photo. Whoever said one cannot fall in love with a city has not seen Habana from this view.

- By now, you should be ready for lunch (included).
- After lunch we will visit the studio and community project of a Cuban Jewelry designer. This is a People to People project and these encounters are a way to interact and discover a "new" Cuba. This young Cuban entrepreneur set goals and accomplished a successful private business even before the idea of marketing hit Cuba. You will have a chance to talk with her workers and also look and buy her creations.
- Shabbat services at the Patronato with Cuban Community.
- Visit Patronato – the Jewish community center and home of Beth Shalom. Meet with leaders and discuss Jewish life and learn about freedom of religion in Cuba.  
DELIVER DONATIONS
- *(After services will either eat with the community or go to a paladar. This will be determined depending on the Hanukkah activities at the synagogue)*

### **Day 5, Saturday: Havana (B,D) December 16,2017**

- First stop of the day is a musical event... Habana Compass dance troupe will wow us with a private performance. They incorporate many sounds from flaminco, to afro-cuban to son and use many instrument's in their routine.
- Now that you have seen the dance moves... how about trying some out yourself? Salsa anyone? Cubans learn to dance before they walk... we will show you a few of these steps in a salsa lesson! It promises to be fun for all!
- Then on to 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.
- Lunch is on your own
- The rest of the day is yours to walk on the Prado (famous promenade) where artists have works on display and for sale. Many different art classes are taught on the Prado during the weekend. This will be a time when our group can have people to people encounters on the promenade. The Prado is the place where the "newly allowed real estate sales" take place! This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the housing hardships in Cuba and how "permutas" (house swaps) take place.
- Farewell dinner – time to reflect on our Cuban Jewish adventure.

### **Day 6, Sunday: Havana (B) December 17, 2017**

- After our last breakfast at hotel we will check out of hotel
- Say our goodbyes to Cuba and leave a little of our hearts with our new friends

*THIS IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOUR FINAL ITINERARY WILL LOOK LIKE. BE AWARE THAT THINGS CHANGE  
CONSTANTLY IN CUBA AN WE WILL MAKE ADJUSTMENTS ACCORDINGLY.*

**Price:** *(be aware that due to new regulations the price may be changed-please inquire)*

10-15 travelers - .....	\$4500
16-20 travelers - .....	\$4300
21 + travelers -.....	\$4100
<i>Single supplement</i> .....	\$ 1100

**Your trip includes:**

- 6 days in Cuba, 5 nights
- Hotel accommodations in Cuba
- Meals of 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 4 dinners  
Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Transportation and program in Cuba by a driver/guide with many years of experience 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
- Airfare and visas
- Excess baggage charges
- Tzedakah to Jewish communities



**Important Information:**

- Your passport must be valid 6 months from date of return.
- If you are Cuban born and departed Cuba before December 31, 1970, you will need a special visa and must notify OCJ as soon as possible.

This is a timely and lengthy process and can take up to 12 weeks to receive. You must let us know immediately so we can give the contact information.

- Trip cancellation is highly recommended as once within cancellation period there are no exceptions.
- Each traveler must fill out an application, liability form, travel affidavit and reservation form and we must have the originals. Faxed or emailed copies will not be accepted.
- There is no Kosher food in Cuba but we will request either a fish or vegetarian option at each restaurant.
- Cuban health insurance is included (and compulsory) in the cost of the trip. It covers medical expenses in Cuba due to illness and accident up to \$25,000 and repatriation and transport up to \$7000. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.
- Cuba is not a non-smoking country. If you have issues with smoke, be aware that even non-smoking accommodations and establishments may still have smoke. If you have bad asthma or allergies to smoke this may not be the trip for you.
- Although this is not considered a very strenuous trip, you have to get on and off a bus, walk on streets in Old Havana that are cracked and with cobblestones and many times the elevators in museums may not be working and you will have to take steps. You must be in somewhat satisfactory walking condition.
- If you use a CPAP machine you should bring an extension cord as many hotels do not have outlets next to the bed.
- You will receive all travel documents in the Miami airport morning of departure – air ticket, visa, letter of authorization and copy of OCJ license.
- Please refer to the bottom of the itinerary for what is and is not included in your journey.