



OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS

Taste of Jewish Cuba in 6 nights ...2018

Embark on a journey back in time. Be part of this exploration of music, art, history and culture. Be part of a mitzvah and visit the synagogues in Havana!



"Purposeful Travel for Passionate People"

Cuba in the midst of change...and its happening fast!

Experience Cuba during the most fascinating time in the past 50 years

Join in the transition while immersing in Cuban culture

Enjoy classic cars, cigars, salsa, Cuban cuisine and all that Cuba has to offer with behind the scenes access...

Awaken your five senses on this trip of a lifetime!

Itinerary

Day 1, US/Havana (L,D) Thursday

- Today we arrive in Havana after a short flight from the US from your home city. The guide will be airport to greet you.
- En route to Havana, 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 from this largest square in Cuba. A great spot for a group photo.
- 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
- Lunch included unless the flight is an afternoon arrival.
- As time allows, we will take a panoramic city tour of the Capri hotel which was owned by Santos Trafficante and the Hotel Riviera which was built by Meyer Lansky. Did you know that the Mafia had history in Cuba? They played a big part of building the Cuban skyline.
- Check into your hotel or casa; enjoy a welcome cocktail, time to unpack, change money, etc.
- Tonight we get acquainted with real Cuban food at El Aljibe which is known for its traditional black beans and rice, chicken and other local specialties.

Day 2, Havana (B,L,D) Friday

- After breakfast at the hotel, we learn about one of Cuba's most well-known exports the Cigar. We will visit one of Cuba's most prominent cigar factories to watch how they are made. This work of art in action will leave you amazed at the skill and precision of the workers. Afterwards a chance to buy cigars. With new US rules, you can bring back cigars to the USA.
- Continuing, we will make our way to Old Havana – a UNESCO Heritage site which dates back to the 16th century where you will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. Here 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 the new bakery in the Plaza de la Cathedral you will meet with the bakers, and many more interactive opportunities. You will feel the warmth and kindness of the Cuban people and begin learning about their life and culture during these morning's visits.

- We will visit an art workshop, Taller Grafica, where some of the country's most important engravers got their start. This studio founded in 1962 is one of the most important graphic arts establishments, preserving the old printmaking techniques and turning out some of the most significant works of graphic art in Havana today.
- Lunch is included at the famous and iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Built in 1939 this historical hotel was visited by many mobsters along with famous personalities. Enjoy the old world glamour, grounds of the hotel and the views of the Malecon. The hotel has one of the best cigar rollers on the island – a female at that! It also boasts of having great Mojitos!
- Shopping anyone? We will meet with local artists when we visit the San Jose crafts market. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk with locals about procuring materials, inspirations and all things art and a way to support the Cuban people.
- Return to the hotel for a rest from your first full day in Cuba as you get ready for dinner.
- Begin your Jewish Cuba journey as you visit the main center of Judaism in Cuba, the Patronato. Have a briefing with leaders of the community who will give you an insight of history before, during and after the Revolution of how Jews came to the island. Visit the Synagogue, Beth Shalom, and the Private Pharmacy housed in this building. Deliver aid (they share with Jews throughout the island and more)
- As today is Friday, we will celebrate Shabbat with the Jewish Community art Beth Shalom and interact with members of the community.
- Tonight, dinner is included. If not too tired, you may choose to continue your night by listening to some of Cuba's famous Jazz at the Fox and Crow or the Jazz Café.

Day 3, Vinales (B,L) Saturday

- 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.
- Upon our return to Havana dinner is NOT included. With a long day of travel and a huge lunch, you may just want a snack! Tonight could be a great night for you to

reserve a place at the famous Tropicana night club, think Ricky Ricardo and Babaloo!

Day 4, Havana (B,L) Sunday

- After breakfast, another great day in Havana!
- Continue your Jewish Journey. If you would like to attend early morning services at the Orthodox synagogue this is optional.
- Continuing, we marvel at the architectural gems as we drive through the neighborhood of Miramar, home to beautiful mansions owned by private individuals before the revolution.
- And now, a Santeria inspired art when we visit Callejon de Hame, an alley way conceived by Cuban artist Salvador Gonzales who ties the Afro-Cuban theme throughout.
- Be wowed by our colorful and whimsical experience at 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. Time to take photos of the neighborhood and talk with the locals.
- As dinner is on your own, we suggest that you make time to visit the music, art and bar venue of the Factory. This new trendsetting establishment is a glimpse of the "New Cuba" for all ages alike.

Day 5, Cojimar/Havana (B,L) Monday

- Breakfast at hotel before we drive east to see a different landscape ... Continue learning about the Jewish past in Cuba as we visit the resting place of many departed Jewish souls at the Ashkenazi Jewish Cemetery on the outskirts of Havana. Pay your respect at the monument to the Shoa that dates from 1947 (oldest in the Western Hemisphere) where it is rumored that 6 grains of soap made with human fat from the victims of the concentration camps are buried.
- In the spirit of Hemingway –we head to his home in Havana on the outskirts of the city. You will see his artifacts left intact along with his boat, Pilar and many of his prized hunted animals as we visit his Finca Vigia, now a museum.
- Continuing on, we will drive through the village of Cojimar, a place that was frequented by Papa Hemingway and was made famous in his "Old Man and the Sea". We will visit a statue of the famed writer before we have an included lunch at a local and fabulous paladar.
- On our return to Havana, the beautiful view from the Morro fortress. We will stop at the impressive Morro fortress set on a cliff at the entrance to the bay. This is the best vantage point to see the total cityscape.

- Now let's see Cuba from a different vantage point... from the gardens of the iconic Hotel Nacional. In the Bar of Fame you will see who else has spied the very same view.
- Tonight dinner is not included and is another opportunity to explore on your own. Maybe the music of the Buena Vista Social Club?

Day 6, Havana (B,D) Tuesday

- After your breakfast at hotel we will start at the Sefardic synagogue where we will have a chance to deliver aid and meet with members of the community. Also we will peak into the Holocaust exhibit to “hear” about the connection between this tragedy and the island.
- Let’s learn about the dual currency when we stop at an agro-market. Not only another great photo opportunity but also a great people to people interactive experience.
- Next, we visit to the Cuban National Art Collection at the Bellas Artes Museum to see their extensive collection of works from colonial through contemporary periods.
- Today's lunch is on your own. We will leave time this afternoon for you to visit art galleries or visit more in depth things that you have experience while visiting. We can also continue our P2P encounters as we walk on the Prado, the tree lined boulevard which comes alive on weekends with art and projects.
- Don't forget your scarfs! We ride to dinner Cuban style! Tonight, take an old yank-tank to our farewell dinner where we will toast the new friends we met along the way!

Day 7, Home (B)

- After our last breakfast at hotel we will check out and make last stops as time allows
- Transfer to airport for return flight at one specific time. If your flight is not near to our transfer time you will have time to explore these last hours on your own.

Trip licensed by Other Cuban Journeys, LLC which complies with the Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which authorizes registered guests of our programs to legally travel to Cuba, to participate and engage in a full time schedule of authorized exchange activities in Cuba, which will involve meaningful interaction between our travelers and people in Cuba. Trip itineraries are subject to change due to factors outside of our control but if any changes need to take place, we will substitute with something just as interesting!

Prices below are for individuals and small group:

(If this is a larger group of 10 or more the pricing is different than shown)

Casa Particulars (private home stay)

Per person (double occupancy) from:

2-3 travelers \$ 5600

4-6 travelers \$ 4200
7+ travelers.....\$ 3700
Single supplement..... \$ 600

Hotel (depending on availability)

Per person (double occupancy) from:

2-3 travelers -\$6100
4-6 travelers -\$4700
7+ travelers -.....\$4200
 Single supplement..... \$ 1200

Your trip includes:

- 7 days in Cuba, 6 nights
- Hotel/casa accommodations in Cuba
- Meals of 6 breakfasts, 5 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/guide with many years of service as a 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
- 1 bottle of water daily

Not included:

- Trip cancellation insurance – highly recommended. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Airfare to Cuba
- Tzdakah to synagogues
- Tips for guide and driver

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



- Your passport must be valid for 6 months from date of departure.
- 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 8 weeks to receive.
- Trip cancellation is highly recommended.
- All payments are by check only.
- Each traveler must sign the enclosed liability form.
- 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.
- As a participant on this people to people trip, you are required by OFAC to participate in the full time activities of this itinerary.