



## ***Taste of Cuba...4 nights***

*Embark on a journey back in time...  
An in-depth exploration of music, art, history and culture  
Immerse yourself in cars, cigars, cuisine and countryside. A world away ...in just  
90 miles!*



**Cuba in the midst of change...  
Now is the most fascinating time in the past 50 years  
The Cuba that has remained frozen in time is rapidly changing...  
See this transition with OCJ.  
Join us for the "Journey of a Lifetime"!**

# Itinerary

## Day 1, Arrival in Havana (D)

- Today you arrive in Havana on a commercial flight from the US...meet your Cuban guide/driver for the duration of your journey.
- 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. It IS also where his recent memorial service was held. A great spot for a group photo.
- Depending on the time of your arrival, we will have lunch or if time doesn't allow, we will move today's lunch to day 4.
- Let's learn about the revolution! Next is Museo de la Revolution. Learn about history of Cuban political development from the Cuban perspective. This fascinating visit houses the most complete exhibit of revolutionary history including the Granma Memorial, the vessel that IN 1956 brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba. We will learn about the historical background which led to the revolution.
- As time allows we may venture to Callejon de Hamel, where a Santeria inspired art alley comes alive. Artist Salvador Gonzalez, the world renowned artist painted life size murals on this fascinating street which you will visit to learn about Afro-Cuban culture and its rituals. Certain days of the week a live rumba takes place...if we are lucky we will have a chance to experience this!
- Now it is time to check into your casa (or hotel) with time to unwind, unpack, and relax.
- Welcome dinner tonight is included...if not too tired, we suggest a visit the Fox and the Crow jazz club – it is a quintessential Cuban, down under, jamming smoky jazz joint!

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

- After breakfast at the hotel, we will make our way to one of Cuba's most famous exports- a Cigar Factory. Here you will see the art of making some of the worlds most coveted cigar brands – Cohiba, Partagas, Romeo and Juliet.
- Continuing, we spend the rest of the morning in Old Havana – a UNESCO Heritage site which dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Plaza Vieja there are new coffee cafes, at Plaza de la Cathedral you can visit a new bakery and on Obispo street you peak into the stores that Cubans and foreigners alike shop at. You will feel the warmth and kindness of the Cuban people.

- Ever wondered what the Hotel Nacional de Cuba reminds you of? It is the sister hotel to the Breakers in Palm Beach built by the same architects McKim, Mead and White. We will visit this historic hotel perched above the famous Malecon and learn about the role it played during the days of the Mafia in Cuba. You will then be treated to an included lunch in the gardens of the hotel.
- Next is the Colon Cemetery, the largest cemetery in the Caribbean. While learning about this 4th most important cemetery in the world, we will see many mausoleums, many of them made with Carrera marble and Lalique glass. You will gain insight into the wealth that once lived on the island. If fortunate we will interact with locals who make a pilgrimage to one of the most visited grave sites in Cuba.
- In addition to today's scheduled visits, we can visit a synagogue to know more about the Jewish community on the island. We bet you did not know there are 3 active synagogues in Havana and more throughout the island.
- Tonight dinner is at a Paladar- these privately owned restaurant raised the bar of Cuban Cuisine in the island and OCJ knows the best!

### **Day 3, Pinar del Rio / Viñales / Havana (B,L)**

- After a hotel L breakfast we drive west to the UNESCO Biosphere reserve of Las Terrazas. This idyllic community set in a nature preserve will give you an idea about life outside of the city. Our local guide will enlighten us on life in the rural community.
- After a welcome cocktail we will to tour the local town, visit the home of artists and one of Cuba's most well-known musicians. We will visit Marias coffee shop before having lunch in the Sierra del Rosario mountain range.
- Before returning to Havana we will take a stroll along the river – bring your swimsuit if you want to get wet.
- Upon returning to Havana we will visit the 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
- After our day of the outdoors, dinner is NOT included; this is a great chance to explore on your own and possibly take in the world famous Tropicana or the new hip and trendy art, music and drink venue known as FAC (Fabric de Arte Cubano).

## **Day 4, Havana (B,D)**

- After breakfast we will head to the east of Havana to the municipality of Guanabacoa and the Morro Fortress. This fortress is perched high above the entrance to the Havana Bay, the view of the city from this vantage point is stupendous!
- We will continue to Cojimar and walk down the malecon of this charming little fishing town, Cojimar is where Hemingway kept his famous boat Pilar and fished with the locals. We cannot learn about Hemingway without visiting Finca Vija, Hemingway's home in Cuba. We will hear about the Cuban perspective on Hemingway, his associations with the island, 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.
- Next...Mureleando, a heart-felt community project in which art is used to inspire the neighborhood and involve many of the youth of this area.
- Lunch is not included today (unless we did not have it on day one).
- Who likes to shop? We do not want you to leave Cuba without the chance to support the local economy. We will visit the San Jose Crafts market and give you time to find that perfect gift while engaging with Cubans.
- As the rest of the day unfolds we will visit the Prado- a tree lined boulevard which is home to Cuba's real estate market and the Capitolio - similar to our Capital only Cubans like to boast theirs is larger!
- Tonight our farewell dinner is included at one of OCJ's favorite paladars; enjoy this last supper with your guide and say a toast to your Cuban experience.

## **Day 5, Havana (B)**

- Breakfast and then as time allows see sites or transfer to airport
- Say goodbye to your new friends and take home a little piece of Cuba in your Heart!

*Our itineraries meet OFAC requirements and give you a fulltime itinerary. 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!!!*

## **Your trip includes:**

- 4 nights (5 days)
- Casa or hotel accommodations in Cuba
- Meals of 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba, recommended by OCJ – we know the best!

- Land transportation in Cuba by a driver with many years of service
- Services of an experienced Cuban, English speaking professional guide/driver who is very well versed and is willing to share knowledge on Cuban community, politics, education, medical system, arts, economics, etc.
- Entrance fees to the important cultural and historic sites
- Tips to bellboys and at included meals
- One welcome cocktail and one more drink with each included meal

**Not included:**

- Trip cancellation insurance – **highly recommended**. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Tips for driver/guide
- Flight to Cuba

**4 NIGHT Pricing:** *(based on the above itinerary)*

**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 .....	\$ 5150
4-6 travelers .....	\$ 3750
7+ travelers.....	\$ 3350
Single supplement.....	\$ 400

Hotel (depending on availability)

**Per person (double occupancy) from:**

2-3 travelers .....	\$5550
4-6 travelers .....	\$4150
7+ travelers .....	\$3750
Single supplement.....	\$ 800

**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.