



OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS

Faces of Jewish Cuba...

***Embark on an artfully crafted journey back in time,
Be part of a mitzvah when you visit the synagogues in Havana
Enjoy this in-depth adventure with a fascinating mix of Cuban
culture, music, history, and art. Join OCJ on an adventure of a
lifetime.***



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 arrive in Havana after a flight from the US from your home city.
- Now it is time to check into your hotel or casa; enjoy a welcome cocktail, time to unpack, relax, change money, etc.
- Your guided journey will begin at 6 pm at the hotel lobby where you will meet your group and guide.
- Tonight we get acquainted with real Cuban food at one of Cuba's best paladars, privately owned restaurant.
- After dinner we will take those who have the energy to FAC –the newest and trendiest food/art/music venue (this is optional and you will take your own transportation home if you chose to stay).

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

- After your first Cuban breakfast, we will begin our Jewish Cuba Journey as we visit Adath Israel, the Orthodox Synagogue in Havana. We will meet with leaders who will give you a short history of how Jews have survived in Cuba with no rabbi or teachers for decades. Deliver Tzedakah and donations
- 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.
- Lunch included at a private establishment (Paladar)
- We will have the opportunity to meet with private business owners and support their efforts to learn about our American way of life and how to aspire for more independence in their fields.
- Return to hotel to ready for a briefing at Patronato, we will meet with leaders of the entire Jewish community of the island. Patronato acts like the JCC of Cuba. This building houses many projects that keep Jewish life active. The leaders are lay people; they devote their professional lives to keep the many synagogues and houses of worship throughout the island connected and organized. At Patronato, you will find a private pharmacy and facilities for the Jewish youth.

- Beth Shalom synagogue is also in this building. We will celebrate Shabbat Services with the community, *deliver donations and Tzedakah*.
- We will join the local community for a Shabbat Kiddush and Dinner. This is a great opportunity to interact with members (many speak English) and find out about their lives and they yours!

Day 3, Saturday (B,L).

- After breakfast, we will visit a fun and meaning community project which has helped beautify a neighborhood, teaches art to kids and seniors and mixes in Cuban music. Murelando is a wonderful place to buy local art and support this community. Put on your dancing shoes as the music by neighborhood musicians may make you want to move!
- Visit an agromarket – one of the finest in Havana. This is where Cubans get their produce and meats. Learn about the dual currency system. Experience what is available to Cubans with their own earned currency. They can buy at these establishments which supplements what they get at the ration stores.
- Stop at Centro Sefaradi–meet with community leaders to lean about Sephardic life on the island. Discover how they help the aging community with the senior day center which is housed here. We will tour the "newest" Holocaust exhibit in Cuba to hear about Cuba's connection with the Shoah. While at Centro make sure not to forget to look and purchase some of the beautiful needle work Shabbat covers that the senior make to help fund the Center. Deliver donations and Tzedakah.
- Lunch at Paladar
- Drive by Rosenberg Memorial, a curious monument in Havana. Also stop at John Lennon Park and ask about the history of the Beatles in Cuba.
- Be wowed by a colorful and whimsical experience at Casa-Estudio de Fuster in Jaimanitas. 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. This neighborhood is now known as Fusterlandia as many of the neighbors have opened their private shops and have taken advantage of the many guests that Fuster attracts. This is how Cubans literally make lemonade out of lemons. If the local Pina colada vendor is there....do not miss this treat! The best deal on the island!
- Dinner will be on your own to try the paladars and cuisine of your own.

Day 4, Sunday (B,L, D)

- Enjoy your daily breakfast starting the day.
- We will travel east of Havana when we visit one of the 2 Jewish cemeteries. The caretakers will meet us and show us the reconstruction efforts that are being made by the historians of the city.
- We will say kaddish at the oldest Holocaust Memorial in the Western Hemisphere. Learn why this site was chosen when the Jewish community established in the early 1900's
- The view of Havana from the Morro is not to be missed! Take in the magnificent entire view of the bay and how the city of Havana was so important in the early history of the who conquered the city
- Continue interacting with locals at a stroll down the Prado, famous avenue with a park in the middle. On weekends, you will find kids in art classes, artist selling their wares and locals enjoying fresh air and companionship
- Have you heard of Afro Cuban religion, Santeria? We will visit Callejon de Hammel which comes alive on Sunday. Civil society's efforts continue here!
- Lunch will be included at another delicious Paladar
- 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.
- Over dinner we will share our Cuban experience 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

PRICING

Per person (double occupancy) in a 5* Hotel :

Per person (double occupancy) from:
4-5 travelers\$ 3800

6-8 travelers.....\$ 3500
9-12 travelers.....\$ 3100
Single supplement.....\$ 500

Your trip includes:

- 5 days in Cuba, 4 nights
- Accommodations in Cuba
- Included meals of 4 breakfasts, 3 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
- Tzedakah