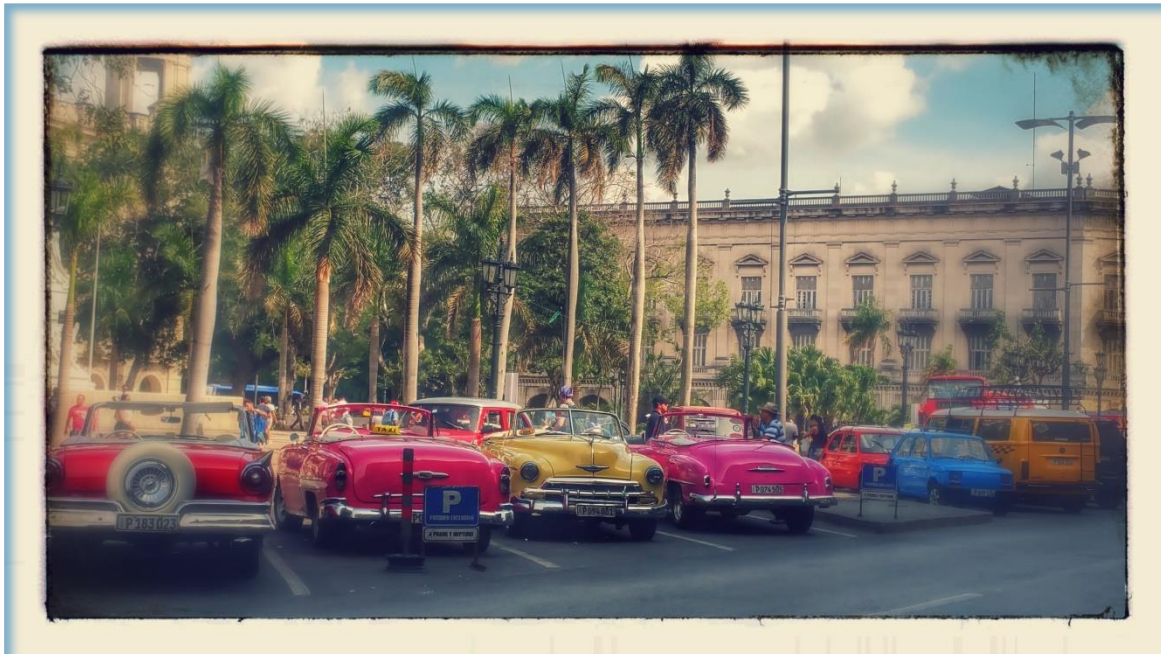




# OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS

## ***Jewish Cuba in 6 nights (Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad)***

***Embark on a journey back in time. Visit your Cuban brothers and sisters at synagogues in Cuba and the interior. Be part of a mitzvah while you explore music, art, history and culture.***



### ***“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 (D) THURSDAY**

- Today you arrive in Havana after a flight 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, guide, and driver for the entire stay in Cuba
- Tonight we get acquainted with real Cuban food at a paladar, this is privately owned restaurant. These establishments have flourished as the government has allowed private citizens to privately own some businesses. They have elevated Cuban cuisine in the last years!
- If you still have the energy after the day of travel, why not try out some live Cuban Jazz at the Fox and Crow or the Jazz Café? (optional)

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

- After breakfast at the hotel, we start our Jewish education and supporting the Jewish community when we visit Adath Israel. This is the Orthodox synagogue in Old Havana. This synagogue houses the only Mikvah on the island. Seniors are gathered in the mornings and we will meet with them and bring donations.
- Continuing, on foot we will make our way to the rest of 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 locals, also at the new bakery in the Plaza de la Cathedral and more stops, you will have the opportunity to support the Cuba people and have open discussion about how life in the US compares.
- 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. Again a chance for Q and A where your answers can encourage and promote thought.
- Lunch is included at a privately owned restaurant.
- 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!

- Return to the hotel for a short break before we make our way to "El Patronato"
- 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, Havana-Cienfuegos (B,D) SATURDAY**

- Breakfast at hotel and then check out for two nights (you will bring your bags with you). We drive to the historical city of Cienfuegos, discussing politics, education, the medical system, housing, etc. along the way.
- Our first stop will be in the town of Santa Clara which is where the island's newest synagogue is located. Meet with David Tacher, the Moses of Cuba; learn about Jewish life in the interior and how this self-taught orator has brought Jewish life to the middle of the island.
- If time allows, make a short stop at the Jewish Cemetery and the Holocaust Memorial erected just a few years ago. This memorial was partly made possible by an the artifact brought by OCJ! You will be supporting the Jewish community with Tzedakah and donations that you have brought
- During our visit to Santa Clara we will stop at the memorial which houses the remains of Che Guevara. Santa Clara was very important to the victory of the Revolution. You will hear this part of the history from the Cuban side.
- Lunch is not included and we will make a stop at a roadside stand or elsewhere for you to grab a quick bite.
- We make our way to Cienfuegos which is known for its French influence. These architecturally outstanding French influenced buildings were built with support and money from affluent sugar barons who were the founding patrons of the city. Cuba's

“Pearl of the South”, was founded in 1819 and is considered one of the chief seaports of Havana. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, chosen for the best existing 19th Century Early Urban Planning.

- Check in for a 2 night stay and time to unpack.
- By now, after a day of travel, you will be ready to enjoy an included dinner with the group.
- .After dinner, visit one of the local venues for music . Cienfuegos was the home for the acclaimed musical personality Beny More.

#### **Day 4, Trinidad (B,L) SUNDAY**

- After breakfast at hotel, we will drive east for about an hour to the historic center of Trinidad, a UNESCO heritage site since 1988. This 500 year old city with Spanish colonial architecture is only a few square blocks in size. Historic Trinidad is famous for its lovely cobblestone streets, pastel houses with wrought iron grills, as well as beautiful palaces and plazas.
- Trinidad is a photographer's dream as you will find many interesting sites, objects and people to "shoot"... from antiques that adorn homes to the faces of those on the street. This city has a very traditional Cuban ambiance.
- Our guide will discuss the importance that the Sugar industry in Trinidad played in the history of Cuba and the impact it made on this region.
- Visit to a private workshop, learn about the deep seeded roots of the family Santander, well-known potters; visit their workshop and gallery. These artists have been making handmade pottery for over 100 years and perhaps you will have the chance to sit at the wheel! You can also buy their creations.
- Take a walking tour of Trinidad where you will have time to stop and interact with talented local artists and others. You may want to follow the lead of locals and go to Casa de la Trova where you can find great music and practice your dance. Don't forget to order a Canchanchara drink!
- Lunch included at a local Paladar and then some time to visit a Santeria ceremony and learn about Afro Cuban religion
- Return to Cienfuegos in time to take a peek into the Palacio de Valle as the sun goes down. This building is an architectural jewel located in Punta Gorda peninsula of Cienfuegos. Its amazing architecture was influenced by Spanish- Moorish art with touches of Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque periods. You would never believe you are in Cuba!
- Dinner on own tonight to try a Paladar of your choice

#### **Day 5, Cienfuegos/Bay of Pigs/Havana (B,L) MONDAY**

- Breakfast at hotel and check out before we continue on our interior Cuban adventure!
- First we peak into the home/Jewish community center of Rebecca Langus – the president of the small Cienfuegos Jewish community. Her son David is a local artist and if are lucky we will be able to look at his art! Deliver Tzedakah and art items
- Before returning to Havana, we will drive through historical Bay of Pigs in the Zapata Peninsula, the largest of Cuba's 15 provinces but the least populated.
- We will stop at the Bay of Pigs museum to learn about this failed US attempt from the Cuban point of view; quite different than the history we learned!
- This region has some of the most beautiful blue water. Our lunch will be at the home of a private entrepreneur. We will interact with this member of the civil society of Cuba and how owning his own business is allowing him to live a better life. Ask him about the challenges he faces with private ownership in a communist country while he help to support his business.
- Continue to Havana along the way discussing many topics with your guide, ie. Economics, health care, culture, family life, politics, dual currency, education, all aspects of how Cuba and Cubans live and make lemonade out of lemons!, . The more you know about Cuba, the more you will want to know.
- Arrive in Havana and check into your Havana hotel.
- As you may be tired from a travel day, we have not planned a group dinner. You have the night on your own to explore.
- If you are night owl, you may want to do dinner and the Buena Vista Social Club or visit the famous Tropicana

### **Day 6, Havana (B,L,D)TUESDAY**

- After your breakfast at hotel we will visit 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.
- Havana has two Jewish cemeteries and we will visit the Ashkenazi one in the neighborhood of Guanabacoa . 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

- Continuing, 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”. Meet with the musicians and locals and learn about this sleepy fisherman town. There are many local private businesses to visit
- Our drive will take us by the the Morro Fortress, perched on the opposite side of the harbor from Old Havana; it dominates the port entrance to the harbor. Take in the amazing view!
- After an included lunch at a paladar...
- 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! Also a chance to support the local private businesses.
- Don't forget your scarfs tonight...we ride to dinner Cuban style! We will take a ride in an old yank-tank to our farewell dinner
- At our farewell dinner tonight; we will be accompanied by our land team. We will toast the new friends we met along the way and marvel at this amazing country and its incredible people!

### **Day 7, Home (B)**

- After our last breakfast at hotel we will check out of hotel
- Transfer to airport for return flight

### **Prices from:**

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

Per person (double occupancy) from:

4-5 travelers .....	\$ 4400
6-8 travelers.....	\$ 3900
9-12 travelers.....	\$ 3500
Single supplement.....	\$ 600

### **Your trip includes:**

- 7 days in Cuba, 6 nights
- Hotel/casa accommodations in Cuba
- Meals of 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 4 dinners which include beverages
- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Private A/C land transportation in Cuba by an experienced driver.

- English Speaking guide with many years of service for the entire program He /she will enlighten you in all things Cuba.
- Entrance fees to the included 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
- Tips for guide and driver
- Tzedakah to Jewish venues



**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.

