

CUBA IN SOLIDARITY

A Journey Through Art, Music & Community

January 23 - February 2, 2027 | 11 days / 10 nights

Havana • Bay of Pigs • Trinidad • Camagüey • Santiago de Cuba • Guantánamo

Travel with HotHouse. Experience Cuba in solidarity.

Join Chicago's HotHouse for **Cuba in Solidarity: A Journey Through Art, Music & Community**, an 11-day journey, during the **2027 Havana Jazz Festival**. From January 23 to February 2, we'll experience Cuba through its music, artists, neighborhoods, and the people who welcome us into their communities.

We begin in Havana as the city comes alive with jazz. Festival performances and late-night music sessions set the rhythm for visits to artists' studios, conversations about life in Cuba, and meals shared around the table. Then we travel across the island through Trinidad and Camagüey to Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo, discovering the musical traditions and local stories that make each place distinct.

This journey is also part of **HotHouse's fundraising effort to bring medical and energy aid to Guantánamo**, where communities face particular challenges in receiving assistance. Our time there will create opportunities to meet local hosts and connect the purpose of the fundraising effort with the people it is intended to support.

Come for the music. Join us for the connections. Travel with HotHouse, to experience Cuba at a remarkable time—and help carry the spirit of solidarity beyond the festival.

The journey | Havana to Trinidad

The first days bring us into Havana's artistic life before the road turns south toward the Bay of Pigs and Trinidad.

DAY 1 | JANUARY 23 | ARRIVE IN HAVANA

On arrival, we transfer together to our Havana accommodations. Welcome cocktails and a trip orientation set the tone for the days ahead, followed by dinner at Chef Iván Justo and an evening of jazz jamming at César's Jazz Club.

Stay: Hotel Boutique 25 y G or Hotel Boutique Vieja Habana. Welcome dinner included.

DAY 2 | JANUARY 24 | OLD HAVANA, ART & JAZZ

Walk the streets and plazas of Old Havana, then gather for lunch at Arrecife. Dr. Jorge Mario Sánchez joins us for a conversation on Cuba's economy. Later, visit galleries and studios to meet the work and perspectives of local artists. The evening opens onto the Havana Jazz Festival and its opening ceremony.

Breakfast, lunch and opening ceremony tickets included. Other evening activities at leisure.

DAY 3 | JANUARY 25 | MARKETS, RUMBA & THE KITCHEN

Explore farmers' markets and emerging entrepreneurial projects before entering the colorful world of Callejón de Hamel and its rumba traditions. At La Bodega, a hands-on cooking experience becomes our lunch. The evening is yours to follow the sounds of the festival.

Breakfast and cooking-class lunch included. Rumba performance schedule to be confirmed.

DAY 4 | JANUARY 26 | BAY OF PIGS TO TRINIDAD

Leave Havana for Playa Girón and visit the Bay of Pigs museum, where the events of 1961 become tangible through local perspectives. Gather for lunch at a private Cuban restaurant in the area before continuing to Trinidad. Dinner is reserved at Café San José, followed by music at Casa de la Trova.

Breakfast and lunch included; dinner reserved but excluded. Stay: Casa Lola or Casa Los Altos de Lola.

The journey | Across the island

From Trinidad's colonial streets, the route moves through Sancti Spíritus and Camagüey toward Santiago de Cuba.

DAY 5 | JANUARY 27 | TRINIDAD & THE COAST

Hike amid the landscapes of Topes de Collantes, then return for lunch at La Esquina 373. A walking tour reveals Trinidad's architecture and everyday life, followed by a visit with the Ancón coastal community. Keep the evening open for your own discoveries of dinner and music.

Breakfast and lunch included; dinner at leisure and excluded.

DAY 6 | JANUARY 28 | SANCTI SPÍRITUS TO CAMAGÜEY

On the road east, stop in Sancti Spíritus for a guided walk through one of Cuba's historic cities. Continue to Camagüey and settle into Hostal Boutique Apodaca. The evening is free for dinner and exploration.

Breakfast included; lunch and dinner excluded. Stay: Hostal Boutique Apodaca.

DAY 7 | JANUARY 29 | CAMAGÜEY TO SANTIAGO

Get to know Camagüey from a bicitaxi before traveling onward to Santiago de Cuba. Visit Foco Cultural Conga Los Hoyos for an encounter with Santiago's vibrant community music tradition. Cocktails on Casa Blanca's veranda welcome us to the city. After dinner at El Palenquito, step inside Casa de la Trova Santiaguera for an evening steeped in live music.

Breakfast and dinner included; road lunch excluded. Stay: Hostal Boutique Heredia.

DAY 8 | JANUARY 30 | INTO GUANTÁNAMO

Travel east to Guantánamo for lunch at Patio de Dr. Adela and a planned delivery of aid and donations. The night brings a changüí dinner and community party: an opportunity to share in a living musical tradition with local hosts.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included. Stay: Hostal Campos.

The journey | Community & farewell

The closing days leave room for exchange in Guantánamo and a final celebration of Santiago's layered cultural heritage.

DAY 9 | JANUARY 31 | YATERAS COUNTRYSIDE

Travel from Guantánamo to the neighboring Yateras community for a full day in the Cuban countryside. A ranch experience brings us close to the land and to local hosts, with a farm-to-table lunch and an afternoon of regional music and culture. Return to Guantánamo for the evening.

Breakfast, farm-to-table lunch and dinner included.

DAY 10 | FEBRUARY 1 | RETURN TO SANTIAGO

Travel back to Santiago de Cuba. After a lunch stop at A Lo Cubano, experience Tumba Francesa, a remarkable tradition of music and dance. Raise a glass at Santiago Rooftop Bar before a farewell dinner at La Hiedra Restaurant.

Breakfast included; A Lo Cubano lunch excluded. Farewell cocktails and dinner planned; inclusion to be confirmed. Stay: Hostal Boutique Heredia.

DAY 11 | FEBRUARY 2 | DEPARTURE

Enjoy a final morning at leisure, flight schedule permitting. We transfer to Santiago de Cuba's international airport for departure.

Breakfast included. Airport transfer provided.

A few planning notes

Accommodation choices shown are alternatives pending confirmation. Some performances, venues and community visits depend on local availability and may be refined while preserving the journey's artistic and solidarity focus.