Cultural Exchange Trip to Cuba

December 3 -10, 2022



December 3



2:30 pm	For those traveling to Havana with the group, **our charter flight is scheduled to land at 2:35 pm. We'll travel by bus from the airport and settle into our accommodations at around 4:15 pm.**
5:30 pm	**Welcome to Cuba party, featuring traditional Cuban music and mojitos.**
7:00 pm	**Enjoy a delicious meal at one of the finest restaurants in the Vedado neighborhood of Havana**.

December 4

10:00 am	**Discuss the architectural history of Havana, housing, and the current restoration programs** with an urban planner and former professor of architecture at the University of Havana.



11:30 am **Walking tour of Old Havana.** Explore the historic center and learn about the history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Venture to the side streets to witness Cuban life at local bodegas, markets and at private businesses, where we will have the opportunity to meet with several cuentapropistas (self-employed entrepreneurs) to hear about the growth of the private sector in Cuba's economic transition.

1:30 pm **Lunch at one of Havana's newest and hippest** private restaurants, which specializes in healthy foods and drinks.

3:00 pm



Visit an experimental graphics workshop: Founded in 1962 by mural artist Orlando Suarez, this studio/workshop is one of the most important graphic arts establishments, preserving the old printmaking techniques and churning out some of the most significant works of graphic art in Havana.



4:30 **Discussion and private performance by a group of young musicians, who will perform traditional Cuban classical compositions.**



4:30 pm **Visit to the home and studio of a family of artists and art professors who** will discuss their work and tell us about art education in Cuba.

7:45 pm **Dinner at** a private restaurant located in Vedado. Each dish has a history which is thoughtfully laid out by the award-winning chef, an adherent of the slow food movement.

December 5

10:00 am



We'll start our day with a private performance by a celebrated dance and percussion troupe. This remarkable private company has performed all over the world. Their style reflects the rich history, diversity, rhythm and flow of the island.



11:20 am **Enjoy a live dance performance** at Cuba's most esteemed, professional ballet company. Discussion with the dancers and director to follow.

12:45 pm **Lunch at** a Mediterranean style restaurant with its own private beach. This private paladar sits just above the canals of the Marina Hemingway.

2:45 pm **Discussion of the state of the Cuban economy** with one of the most acclaimed economists in Cuba.

4:30 pm **Visit the home of** a prominent, female hip hop/jazz dúo. The group's music and community activism focus on breaking down gender and racial stereotypes in Cuban society. The duo will welcome us to their modest home in Luyano, share their music, and discuss the challenges young Afro-Cuban women currently face.



6:00 pm



Private musical performance by a renowned activist, trova singer, and songwriter. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails while discussing the *nueva trova* movement in Cuba.

December 6

9:00 am

Depart for Cienfuegos, one of the country's oldest and most beautiful cities, which is located approximately three hours from Havana (we will travel in a very modern, air-conditioned bus). Cienfuegos, referred to as the "Pearl of the South," is one of Cuba's only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country's largest Bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes, and is deeply rich in culture.



12:45pm



Lunch at a picturesque, outdoor restaurant with views and breezes from the Bay of Cienfuegos. The menu features fresh seafood from neighboring waterways.



2:15 pm **Enjoy a music performance on the square of Cienfuegos**, followed by an **interactive discussion** with the singers.

3:15 pm **Tour the local art galleries of UNEAC members**, which surround Jose Marti Park in downtown Cienfuegos.

4:30 pm Continue to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site, known for its history, cobble-stone streets, pastel colored homes, art and music.

6 pm **Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as "casas particulares," or "private homes."** Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms in their family homes to foreigners. The rooms are all air-conditioned with modern amenities.

7:30 pm Enjoy a home cooked meal prepared by your host family. Trinidad is known for its locally sourced shrimp.

December 7



10 am **Discussion with a local architect, historian, and restoration specialist**, who will provide an overview of the city's history from an architectural, economic, and infrastructural point of view.

11 am **Walking Tour of Trinidad's Historic Center** led by your guide.

1 pm **Lunch at** a charming, modern private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

Afternoon free to explore Trinidad or the nearby Playa Ancon.

7:15 pm **Discussion with** Trinidad's award-winning "Painter of the Night," and his talented daughter, about the city's historic art scene. These two brilliant artists meticulously restored their 18th century home, which now houses a gallery and studio. Enjoy local music, appetizers, and libations—try a canchanchara, Trinidad's storied, local cocktail—at a private party in the courtyard of the beautiful home.



7:45 pm **Trinidad farewell dinner at a brand new paladar,** located in the historic Plaza Mayor. This private restaurant is housed in a wonderful 18th century home, filled with antiques and even a Wurlitzer juke-box from the 1950's. Chef Alejandro specializes in locally sourced seafood, fruits, and vegetables.

10:00 pm Enjoy dancing and live salsa music at the popular **Casa de la Musica.**

December 8

10 am **Check-out of casas and return to Havana**. Enjoy boxed lunches at a rest stop on the road.

3:00 pm Check-in at casas in Havana.

7:00 pm **Dinner at a** private restaurant is located in the Vedado neighborhood of Havana, which offers a variety of Cuban dishes, including seafood and pasta.

9:00 pm **Enjoy an evening of jazz at La Zorro y El Quervo**, a privately owned, live music venue.



December 9

10:00 am



Meeting with the owners of Cuba's most prominent, privately owned clothing company. We'll enjoy Cuban drinks and tapas while we learn about the company from its owners. We may even get a chance to print our own T-shirts with the help of their artists and designers.

12:30 **Lunch at** a private restaurant located near the Museum of the Revolution and the Museum of Fine Arts in the heart of Old Havana.

2:00 pm **Private performance and discussion with the classical musicians of the Orquesta de La Habana.** These 25 young musicians just returned from performances in Paris, Berlin, and San Francisco. At Seminario San Carlos



3:30 pm



Driving tour of Central Havana with stops at the recently renovated Capitolio, Havana's Central Park, and the Alicia Alonzo Theater.

5:00 pm **Visit Morro Castle**, one of the oldest and most important Spanish forts in the Americas.



8:00 pm **Farewell dinner at** a new, private restaurant in Old Havana. Created by the owners of the immensely popular Iván y Justo, the restaurant offers traditional Cuban dishes cooked over charcoal.

<u>December 10</u>

TBD Free time pending flight departures