

JAZZIN' CUBA

January 15-21, 2019

**Six Nights
Seven Days
Exploring
the music
and art of
Havana,
Trinidad &
Cienfuegos
Includes
All-Access
Havana Jazz
Fest pass!**



Presented by OCJ OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS



Discover Cuba with Jazz 88.3 KCCK

Highlights & Experiences

- Melia Cohiba (or like property) close to Jazz Festival and clubs.
- Old Havana Walking Tour UNESCO
- Plaza of the Revolution
- Recording studio, Nacional Hotel
- Hemingway's Farm, Cojimar
- Cigar Factory, Salsa lesson
- Home & Studio of artist Jose Fuster
- San Jose Craft Market
- Trinidad walking tour UNESCO
- Bay of Pigs Museum, wetlands
- Havana Jazz Festival
- Morro Fortress, Colon Cemetery

Inclusions

- Professional bilingual guide
- Hotel transfers*
- 6 nights hotel, 13 meals
- Baggage handling, daily bottled water
- Interactions per itinerary
- Deluxe Air Conditioned motor coach
- All Access Havana Jazz Festival pass
- Gratuities for hotel porters, wait staff at included meals, and most People-to-People interactions.

*One group bus transfer from Jose Marti Airport to our hotel is available if flight arrives by 2:00 p.m., otherwise taxis are available. A Visa for Cuba must be purchased with your airfare.

Accommodations

4 nights Melia Cohiba, Havana or like property
2 nights Rancho Luna, Cienfuegos

\$3950 pp dbl

\$600 single supplement

Hotels, itinerary, inclusions and people-to-people visits are all subject to change.

OUR JAZZY TRIP BEGINS IN HAVANA.

Important notes

- A valid U.S. Passport is required for this program and is the responsibility of each passenger. Passports should be valid for a minimum of six (6) months beyond the travel dates. All names submitted on reservation form must be exactly as they appear on passenger passports.
- Airfare is reserved by passenger but we can assist. We have some seats already reserved. Email: Jazztravelers@gmail.com Deposit of \$1,000 per passenger is due September 10, 2019. Final payment is due October 22.
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended. This is not a strenuous trip, but you have to get on and off a bus and many elevators in museums may not be working.



Reservation forms and daily itinerary at www.kcck.org/travel/cuba

We do Cuba with heart!

Space is limited: Each traveler must fill out and sign our Liability and Application form. Please initial the bottom of each page. Return with one clear copy of your photo page of passport. **Checks only.**

Please make checks to Other Cuban Journeys, LLC

Mail reservation forms for all travelers plus passport copy and payment to:

Lisa Baum

Jazz Travelers

P.O. Box 1811

Iowa City, IA 52240

phone: 319-330-8595

email: jazztravelers@gmail.com

"Purposeful Travel for Passionate People"

Cuba in the midst of change...and its happening fast!

Experience Cuba during the Jazz festival with an all access pass.

See the new transition on the island, 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) Tuesday, January 15, 2019 arrival time is 2 p.m.

- Today we arrive in Havana after a flight from the US from your home city. The guide will be at the airport to greet you.
- En route to Havana, we'll stop at Plaza de Revolucion which is where you see the familiar iconic silhouette of Che Guevara and where the "bearded one" made his famously long speeches from this largest square in Cuba. A great spot for a group photo.
- As time allows, we will take a tour of the Capri hotel which was owned by Santos Trafficante and the Hotel Riviera which was built by Meyer Lansky. Did you know that the Mafia had history in Cuba? They played a big part of building the Cuban skyline.
- Check into your hotel; enjoy a welcome cocktail, time to unpack, relax, change money, etc. Rest up so that tonight you can hear your first bit of Cuban jazz.
- Tonight we get acquainted with real Cuban food and Cuban music at your included welcome dinner.
- After dinner, why not check out the Fox and Crow or Jazz Cafe – a couple of quintessential Cuban jazz clubs.

Day 2, Havana (B,L,D) Wednesday, January 16, 2019

- After breakfast at the hotel, we learn about one of Cuba's most well-known exports, the Cigar. We will visit one of Cuba's most prominent cigar factories accompanied by an in house guide who will explain how cigars are made. This work of art in action will leave you amazed at the skill and precision of the workers.

Afterwards a chance to buy cigars. With new US rules, you can bring back cigars for your own personal use into the USA.

- Continuing, we will make our way to Old Havana – a UNESCO Heritage site which dates back to the 16th 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. You will feel the warmth and kindness of the Cuban people and begin learning about their life and culture during these morning's visits.
- 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.
- After an included lunch you will try your step with an authentic salsa lesson. It is true; Cubans can dance before they can walk!
- Our next visit is to one of Cuba's famed recording studios. A tour of the facility awaits, and if we are lucky and there is a group recording, we will be able to quietly and discreetly listen.
- Lunch is included at the famous and iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Built in 1939 this historical hotel was visited by many mobsters along with famous personalities. Enjoy the old world glamour, grounds of the hotel and the views of the Malecon. The hotel has one of the best cigar rollers on the island – a female at that! It also boasts of having great Mojitos!
- Return to the hotel for a rest from your first full day in Cuba as you get ready for dinner.
- Tonight, after our included dinner is the opening of the Jazz festival. You will have an all access pass included in your tour.

Day 3, Havana-Cienfuegos (B,L,D) Thursday, January 17, 2019

- After breakfast check out of our hotel by 8:00 am.
- We now drive to the historical city of Cienfuegos, discussing politics, education, the medical system, housing, etc. along the way.
- Our first stop on the way will be the Bay of Pigs. 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 museum to learn about this failed US attempt from the Cuban point of view; quite different than the history we learned!
- Lunch is included before we visit the museum to learn about this invasion from the Cuban point of view.
- We continue our drive to Cienfuegos which is known for its colonial era buildings. 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.
- We will see the Palacio de Valle, 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!
- A private musical performance awaits! Cienfuegos is the home of Beny More.
- Check in, time to unpack and ready for an include group dinner.

Day 4, Trinidad (B,L) Friday, January 18, 2019

- After breakfast at hotel, we will drive east 1.5 hours 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 of the Sugar industry in Trinidad and how it played in the history of Cuba and the impact it made on this region.
- Visit 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 the Museum Romantico or Cantero, Santisima Trinidad Church (one of the oldest in the island!), or view a Santeria ceremony.
- Continue your interactive Trinidad visit and stop at the local craft market, famous for their linen handmade table cloths and more.
- Return to Cienfuegos
- Dinner tonight is not included; your guide will help you with recommendations and reservations. We suggest that you catch Bicitaxis (a private service done by young locals) to take you to dinner and that way continue to interact with locals and learn firsthand about their lives.

Day 5, Cienfuegos/Havana (B,L) Saturday, January 19, 2019

- Breakfast at hotel before we get an early start continuing our Cuba adventure!
- As we return to Havana, we will visit to home of one Cuba's most famous American – Ernest Hemingway. In the spirit of Hemingway –we head to his home in Havana on the outskirts of the city. You will see his artifacts left intact along with his boat, Pilar and many of his prized hunted animals as we visit his Finca Vigia, now a museum.
- Next, 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".
- An included lunch before 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!
- As time allows, we will plan a visit to the Colon cemetery to learn about history of Havana from those who have departed. Also a visit to one of Cuba's most famous graves. If not now we will do it another time.

- Check into the Havana hotel.
- Tonight dinner is on your own. Check out some of the best paladars in the city!
- You will use your Jazz pass tonight to hear music at the venue of your choice.

Day 6, Havana (B,D) Sunday, January 20, 2019

- As you no doubt had a late evening last night, take your time with breakfast this morning.
- We will start this morning by driving to the outskirts of Havana to the quaint neighborhood of Jaiminitas. Be wowed by the colorful and whimsical experience at Casa-Estudio de Fuster. This is the studio-home of Jose Fuster, better known as 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.
- A visit with another local artist where we can enjoy the art, visit the studio and have a drink to unwind and talk with the artist, her representative and staff.
- Now onto another kind of art – Callejon de Hammel. This Afro-Cuban inspired alleyway has Sunday rumbas. To understand Cuba you must learn about the Santeria religion!
- How about 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!
- As lunch is not included today ... you can continue to shop on your own or grab a bite before you head back to the hotel to get ready for farewell dinner.
- Don't forget your scarfs tonight! We ride to dinner Cuban style! Take an old yank-tank to our farewell dinner where we will toast the new friends we met along the way!
- But wait there is more...tonight is the closing event of the Jazz festival!

Day 7, Home (B) Monday, January 21, 2019

- After our breakfast at hotel we will check out of hotel and visit sites as time allows.
- Transfer to airport for return flight

Trip licensed by Other Cuban Journeys, LLC which complies with the Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which authorizes registered guests of our programs to legally travel to Cuba, to participate and engage in a full time schedule of authorized exchange activities in Cuba, which will involve meaningful interaction between our travelers and people in Cuba. 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!

Price:

Per person (double occupancy): \$3950

Single Supplement: \$600

Your trip includes:

- 7 days in Cuba, 6 nights
- Hotel 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
- All access pass to the Jazz festival
- 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. We have some sources.
- Airfare to Cuba but we can assist you with this.
- Tips for guide and driver

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.
- 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.