

# Havana International Choral Festival

## July 2016

### **Day 1 Havana (D)**

Arrive Jose Marti International Airport Havana and transfer your hotel. Take a stroll to acquaint yourself with your surroundings. Relax and settle in with dinner in the hotel.

### **Day 2 Havana (B, D)\***

Breakfast in the hotel. We will have a leisurely start and take a walking tour of Old Havana beginning from the Old Square dating from 1559. Surrounded by gorgeous colonial buildings this square was a site for executions, bull fights and fiestas. Another 'must-see' is the Plaza de la Catedral (Cathedral Square). We will gain some understanding of Cuba's political history, visiting the Museum of the Revolution, housed in Batista's Palace.



After lunch. Rehearsal time to shake out some vocal cobwebs. Return to the Hotel to get ready for the opening ceremony of the festival. Evening attend the opening of the festival.

### **Day 3 - Havana (B,D)**

After breakfast, enjoy a workshop with the National Choir of Havana.

After lunch Is your first performance at the Havana International Choir Festival. The rest of the afternoon is free to hear other performers or maybe take a classic car ride around Havana

Dinner in the Hotel

After dinner optional cultural activity. This can be the National Ballet, the Buena Vista Social Club, Camerata Orchestra or the iconic Tropicana.



### **Day 4 Havana - (B,D)**

After breakfast visit Hemmingway's house. Hemmingway settled in Cuba and wrote many of his great works here. It is preserved perfectly and is as it was on the day he died. Then enjoy a demonstration of Santeria dance. This is an afro Cuban dance style intrinsic to the Afro Cuban Santeria religion

After lunch return to the festival to hear some more performances and also attend a workshop and master class for your ensemble.

Dinner in the hotel.

After dinner optional cultural activity.



### **Day 5 Havana - Matanzas - Havana ( B,D )**

After breakfast we visit the city of Matanzas. Matanzas is one of Cubas oldest and culturally rich cities. Here we will have a city tour and do an exchange workshop and performance with the Matanzas Chamber Choir.

Lunch in Matanzas.

After lunch we return to Havana  
Enjoy evening performances at the Havana International Choral Festival.



### **Day 6 - Havana (B,D)**

After Breakfast we visit the artisans market in Havana. This is where local artists, designers, clothes makers and sculptors sell their works. This is a great place to buy a souvenir or two.

Lunch in Havana

After lunch public performance at the St Francis of Asisi convent.

After your performance there will be a rehearsal for the combined choir item to be performed at the closing ceremony.

Dinner in Hotel

After dinner enjoy the Canon Ceremony. This is in the 18th century Spanish fort that overlooks Havana and has been conducted every night for over 200 years to let the citizens of Havana that all is well.



### **Day 7 Havana (B,D)**

After breakfast. Optional Salsa lesson in the hotel, this is a lot of fun and can help when the Cuban band plays at the farewell dinner in the evening. After the lesson we visit the Institute of Superior Art where the elite of Cuban musicians train.

Lunch in Havana

After Lunch enjoy some performances and take some time to explore Havana. Havana is very safe and with music emanating from every restaurant and bar is worth taking a bit of time to soak it up. Return to the hotel to change for the farewell dinner, final concert and closing ceremony. Enjoy some choral and traditional Cuban music.



**Day 8 Havana ( B )**

After breakfast transfer to Jose Marti International airport for your flight home.

