

# HAVANA INTERNATIONAL BALLET FESTIVAL TOUR, OCTOBER 26th to NOVEMBER 7th 2016

## Day 1 Havana (D)

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



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

After a leisurely breakfast we will head to have a guided tour of the "Castillo de los Tres reyes Magos Del Morro". This is the Spanish built fort overlooking Havana which has guarded Havana harbour since 1589. It was briefly captured by the British in 1762 but

handed back in 1763. From here we can see panoramic view of Havana. We will explore the castle and also see a display of military equipment left over from the Cold War.

Lunch in a local restaurant.



After lunch you may take a classic car ride around Havana to get an overview of the city. We will explore Havana's landmarks more fully on our return to the capitol.

Return to the Hotel for a quiet cocktail and dinner at the hotel. After dinner optional visit to the iconic Tropicana club

where you will be entertained by 200 musicians and dancers.

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

After breakfast we catch a morning flight from Havana to Santiago de Cuba, Cuba's second largest city, and the spiritual home of Afro Cuban Culture. You will meet your local guides and be taken to your hotel.

After lunch we visit the 16th century home of Diego Velasquez, Santiago Cathedral, the 17th Fortress of San Pedro and the Moncado barracks which were attacked by Fidel Castro on July 26th, 1953. This is considered the start of the Cuban revolution and the 26th of July remains the most significant day on the Cuban Calendar.

You may then elect to take a salsa lesson with an expert Cuban salsa teacher. This is a relaxed way to get an idea of this unique style that has swept the globe. Alternatively you may wish to explore the surrounds on your own or relax in the hotel.



### **Day 4 Santiago (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we visit Guantanamo for a demonstration of dance for the Comapania Danza. This professional dance troupe perform everything from traditional Afro Cuban Dance to contemporary forms

Lunch on Santiago Bay

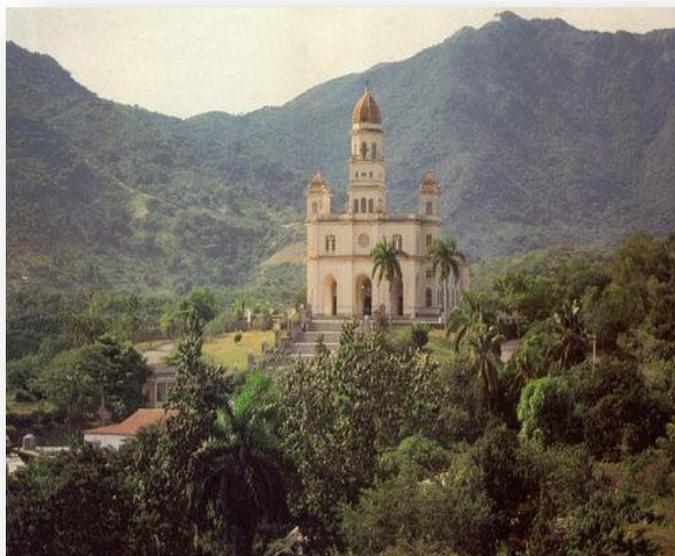
After lunch we will visit the Santiago Dance School where you will be given a demonstration of folkloric dance that is so important to both Afro Cuban culture and the Santeria religion.

Dinner at the hotel followed by an evening of traditional Cuban music and dance at the Casa de la Trova.



### **Day5 Santiago - Camaguey (B,L,D)**

Early breakfast before heading west to the Basilica of El Cobre. This is Cuba's central place of pilgrimage and was built as a shrine to honour a small statue known as the "Virgin of Charity", which was found on a beach by two Indian boys and a slave boy in 1608. It was to this icon that Hemmingway made an offering of his 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature for 'The Old Man and the Sea, which he wrote in Havana.



Lunch in Bayamo in Granma province. Bayamo is a world leader in sustainable transport with less than 15% of commuters using motorised vehicles.

After lunch travel, on to Camaguey, Cuba's third largest and most intriguingly designed city. The old city layout resembles a giant maze, with narrow, short streets always turning with no normal intersections or cross streets. After Henry Morgan burned the city to the ground in the 17th century, the new Camaguey was designed as a labyrinth so attackers would find it hard to move around the city.

Dinner at the hotel.

### **Day 6 Camaguey (B,L)**

After breakfast we visit the Camaguey Ballet Company. This is the second largest ballet school in Cuba. The dancers at this world renowned company have performed in over 40 countries and many will be preparing for the Ballet Festival in Havana

Lunch in local restaurant

After lunch we will take a bicycle taxi tour around the world heritage-listed Camaguey city central. You will then proceed on foot to explore the unique sights in this incredible city.



Dinner at restaurant at 6pm. This is a privately owned restaurant and part of the "new" Cuba

After dinner, we attend a ballet performance at the Teatro Principal (subject to dates)

### **Day 7 Camaguey - Trinidad (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we head to Trinidad through Sugar Cane Valley to the unspoilt colonial town of Sancti Spiritus, founded in 1514. From here we travel to the Iznaga Tower on the property of the Iznaga family's sugar cane empire. Slavery was at its height in the early 19th century and the culture that defines Cuba came with the many thousands of



African slaves brought to the island. From the Iznaga tower, their movements could be closely watched. You can ascend the tower and get a glimpse of the amazing panorama that the slave owners were privy to.

We continue to Trinidad for lunch

Check into your luxury all-inclusive hotel, right on the Caribbean Sea. Have a swim in these warm, gentle waters. Soak up this tropical paradise and enjoy a spectacular Caribbean sunset with a Pina Colada.

### **Day 8 Trinidad (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour of Trinidad. It's easy to see why Trinidad has been called "the museum city of Cuba." The meticulously preserved town offers a window into the past, from its sprawling colonial palaces and plazas to its remnants of sugar mills and slave barracks from another era. Soak up the rich Spanish colonial architecture during your walking tour. There hasn't been a new building added since the beginning of the 19th century and the first road to Trinidad wasn't opened until 1972!

You may wish to visit one of the many fascinating museums or galleries. There are also extensive open air artisan markets where you can purchase local handcrafts and souvenirs. We will return to the hotel lunch and some relaxation on the beach.



Dinner at "Vista Gourmet" a beautiful rooftop restaurant in Trinidad, After dinner you can enjoy an evening of music and dance at the casa De La Trova in Trinidad square.

### **Day 9 Trinidad - Cienfuegos - Havana (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we depart for Havana via Cienfuegos. The unique culture in Cienfuegos is attributed its ancestry as a French enclave. This is in fact the only French city in Cuba, with many French colonists moving here after the slave uprising in Haiti in 1791, with many more coming directly from Louisiana. The French influence is reflected in the wide streets and typical 19th century French colonial architecture. Many of these buildings have UNESCO World Heritage listing. Enjoy a walking tour of the city before returning to Havana by coach.

Lunch on route.

Check into hotel.

Dinner in the hotel. Enjoy a relaxing Havana evening with a Mojito.



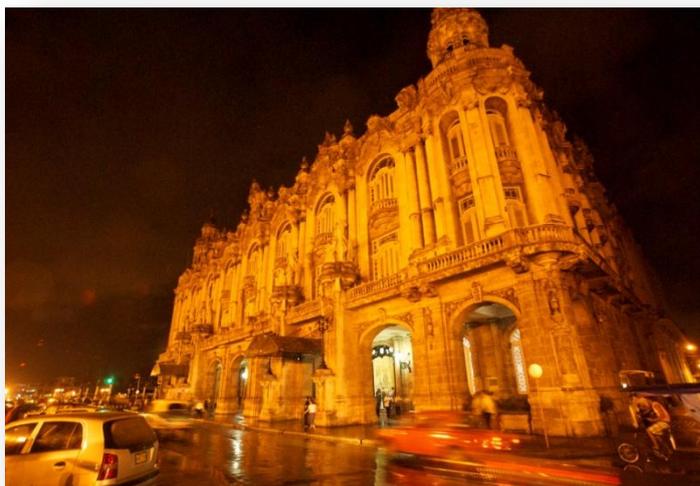
### **Day 10 Havana (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we will take a walking tour of Old Havana starting 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). You might find time for a quick Mojito at Hemingway's bar around the corner. We will then continue the tour in New Havana and see Revolution Square, the site of Fidel Castro's famous speeches to huge political rallies of over a million Cubans.

Lunch in Old Havana

After lunch we will visit one of Cuba's many ballet schools. You will see firsthand how their education fosters and encourages ballet as an art form and an integral part of their culture. Meet some of the teachers and enjoy a sample of their work.



Return to the hotel for dinner and freshen up for the opening of the Havana Ballet Festival. Make sure you have your pass!

### **Day 11 Havana (B)**

After breakfast we travel to the "Playa" district of Havana where we will visit ISA (Institute of Superior Arts). Here we will see where Cuba's finest artists, musicians and dancers study at a tertiary level. The institute was originally a country club but was converted into an arts institute in 1961 by Ché Guevara and Fidel Castro. More recent architectural additions were designed by three Italian architects headed by Vittorio Garratti. The complex is now under consideration for world heritage listing.



We then visit the home of Jose Rodriguez Fuster. Fuster has devoted his life and art to the memory of the great Spanish architect, Antoni Gaudi. He has not only turned his home into

a living art work but has engaged his whole neighbourhood in his vision!



Return to hotel. Organise your own lunch, with the afternoon free to attend any of the associated exhibitions, arts shows, lectures or cultural events associated with the Havana Ballet Festival

Dinner on own

In the evening you may attend a ballet performance at either

the Great Theatre of Havana, the Karl Marx Theatre or the Mella Theatre. With your All Access Ballet Festival Pass, you may choose which performance you wish to attend. The Ballet Pass gives you access to all ballet performances taking place in the city (taxi cost, not included). The Great Theatre of Havana is located just 5 minute walk from your hotel.

## **Day 12 Havana (B)**

After breakfast enjoy a visit to the National Ballet School. This school has come to be known as one of the finest centres for classical ballet training in the world. It has produced such dancers as Jose Manuel Carreno, Adiaris Almeida, Rolando Sarabia, Viengsay Valdes, Osiel Gounod, and Lorena Feijoo among others. Many of their alumni are in professional companies in Cuba and throughout the world.



We then visit the Museum of the Revolution. This is situated in Batista's old palace and houses much of the memorabilia from the revolution.



Return to hotel, lunch on own.

The afternoon is free to attend any of the associated exhibitions, art shows, lectures and cultural events associated with the Havana Ballet Festival

Dinner on own

In the evening you may attend a ballet performance at either the Great Theatre of Havana, the Karl Marx Theatre or the Mella Theatre. With your All Access Ballet Festival Pass, you may choose which performance you wish to attend (taxi cost, not included). The Great Theatre of Havana is located just 5 minute walk from your hotel.

### **Day 13 Havana (B)**

After breakfast we will make a late start to the artisans' market where you can purchase art works, crafts and a range of souvenirs made by local artisans.

Return to the hotel, lunch on your own.

The afternoon is free to attend any of the associated exhibitions, art shows, lectures and cultural events associated with the Havana Ballet Festival



Dinner on own

In the evening you may attend a ballet performance at either the Great Theatre of Havana, the Karl Marx Theatre or the Mella Theatre. With your All Access Ballet Festival Pass, you may choose which performance you wish to attend (taxi cost, not included). The Great Theatre of Havana is located just 5 minute walk from your hotel.

### **Day 14 Havana (B,D)**

After breakfast we have a leisurely start before visiting the National Circus School./ here you will see where Cuba's circus performers are trained. Afterwards we will have a quick visit to the Romeo and Juliet Cigar factory where you can see the famous Cuban cigars being made by hand.

The afternoon is free to attend any of the associated exhibitions, art shows, lectures and cultural events associated with the Havana Ballet Festival



As this is our last night we are having a farewell dinner followed by your final performance night at the Havana Ballet Festival.

### **Day 15 Havana - Home (B)**

After breakfast we transfer to the Jose Marti International Airport for our journey home.

**N.B Some activities can change depending on dates and availability**



# Inclusions

Accommodation: Fourteen (14) nights in a central, 3- 5 star hotel (subject to availability)  
One internal air flight  
Havana International Ballet Festival Pass  
Breakfasts: Daily as a group at the hotel  
Lunches: Nine (9) as a group  
Dinners: Fifteen (10) as a group  
Full-sized deluxe touring coach as required by the itinerary  
Sightseeing and admissions per the itinerary  
One (1) English / Spanish Speaking local tour manager with the group throughout the tour  
Taxes and tolls (where applicable)

# Exclusions

Airfare and related taxes/surcharges/baggage charges  
Ground transportation to/from your local airport and home  
Meals not indicated in the itinerary  
Excess or overweight baggage charges (if any)  
Items of a personal nature (laundry, room service, telephone fee, internet connection, mail, etc.)  
Travel Insurance  
Passport & Cuban Visa Costs  
USA Visa (if flying via Los Angeles approx. \$14 USD pp)  
Tips to Tour Guides and Coach Drivers

# Terms & Conditions

## HOW TO BOOK

Complete the online Booking Form. If you would like us to organise your Visa we will need a photocopy of the front page of your passport.

## DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Final payment is due 60 days before your lesson/tour date. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, Visa or MasterCard

## CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

### a) Cancellation by You

– Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Cuban Cultural Travel. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Cuban Cultural Travel as shown below, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more Forfeit of deposit

59 – 45 days 25% of tour cost

44 – 31 days 50% of tour cost

30 – 15 days 75% of tour cost

Less than 15 days 100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked



by Cuban Cultural Travel such as hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

#### b) Cancellation by Us

– We reserve the right to cancel a lesson/tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Cuban Cultural Travel. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Cuban Cultural Travel.

### **PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS**

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport with a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. Visas are not included in the tour cost but can be arranged by Cuban Cultural Travel. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of your visit.

### **TOUR/LESSON PRICES**

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Cuban Cultural Travel.

### **FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION**

Most of our tours require a moderate level of fitness. If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may want to have a doctor's appraisal. We are happy to discuss this at any time.

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