

# Havana Jazz Festival Tour

## January 2018

### **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)\***

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). You might find time for a quick Mojito at Hemingway's Bar around the corner. We will gain some understanding of Cuba's political history, visiting the Museum of the Revolution, housed in Batista's Palace. We will lunch in the Cafe Mercurio in Old Havana.

After lunch we will continue our tour in New Havana, visiting the famous Revolution Square, the site of Fidel Castro's famous speeches to political rallies of over a million Cubans. We return to the hotel where you can join in the fun of a 'Salsa for Beginners' lesson. This is a great ice breaker with no experience necessary.

Dinner at the Hotel. Enjoy a balmy evening with Cuban musicians serenading you into the evening.

\*(BDL = breakfast, lunch, dinner)



### **Day 3 - Havana - Cienfuegos B, L**

After breakfast we check-out early in the morning and drive to Cienfuegos.

Lunch in Cienfuegos

After lunch we will enjoy a walking tour of the city centre. The unique culture in Cienfuegos is attributed its ancestry as a French enclave. This is 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. Our tour includes the Tomas Terry



Theatre; one of the finest eclectic buildings in the region with both Spanish and French influences. It has been restored to its former glory, embellished with Carrara marble, there are two levels of seating built of hand-carved Cuban hardwoods and topped with whimsical ceiling frescoes. The theatre has seen many famous performers including Enrique Caruso, Anna Pavlova and Sarah Bernhardt. You will see several other examples of UNESCO-listed architecture in this beautiful city.

After checking into the hotel we dine in the hotel and depending on availability, may attend a cultural activity at the Tomas Terry Theatre.

### **Day 4 Cienfuegos B**

After breakfast we will visit a local print making studio where you can see print making and etching done using traditional methods. From here we'll walk to see some of the art galleries around Cienfuegos square.

Lunch in Local restaurant

After lunch we will take a ferry ride up to Castillo de Jagua. The castle was designed to be a safeguard against pirates in the first half of the 18th Century (between 1738 and 1745). You enter the

Castle by a drawbridge over a moat, which is now dry.

Dinner in hotel  
Possible cultural activity depending on availability.



### **Day 5 - Trinidad B, L, D**

After breakfast, we depart for Trinidad. It's easy to see why Trinidad is referred to as "the museum city". There hasn't been a new building added since the beginning of the 19th century, and the first road to Trinidad was opened in 1972. This meticulously preserved town offers a window into the past, from its sprawling colonial palaces and plazas to the remnants of sugar mills and slave barracks from another era. During your walking tour of this unique city, we will visit some of its fascinating museums, galleries and the artisan's market where you might pick up a few unique gifts.

Lunch in Trinidad. Check into your spectacular 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 6 Trinidad B, L, D**

Breakfast in hotel.

After breakfast we head to the Valle de los Ingenios to the unspoiled 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 spectacular panorama that the slave owners were privy to. We will visit to a local ceramic artist whose style is peculiar to this region. At lunch time return to hotel, afternoon free to soak up some sun and swim in the Caribbean or explore more of this fascinating city on your own. Make sure you catch a Caribbean sunset. Dinner at the hotel

After dinner you can enjoy an evening of music and dance at the casa De La Trova in Trinidad square.

**Day 7 Trinidad - Santa Clara B,L**

After breakfast and an early morning check-out we head to Santa Clara. See the Santa Clara memorial where Che Guevara is buried along with 29 of his fellow



combatants, killed in Bolivia in 1967. Their remains were recovered and brought here 30 years later, to be buried on the site of the Cuban Revolution's final battle, led by Guevara.

Lunch in local restaurant  
Check-In at your hotel and dine in the hotel restaurant.

After dinner enjoy a walk around the beautiful square in Santa Clara. This is a meeting

point for many of the young locals and the magnificent bandstand hosts the accomplished community band twice per week

**Day 8 Santa Clara - Havana B,L,D**

After breakfast we make our way back to Havana via Matanzas.

Lunch on route

Arrive in Havana and relax. Optional visit to an evening at the iconic Tropicana Club  
The sight of 200 performers, with an incredible variety of live music and spectacular costumes is considered a must do in Havana. There may be other cultural programs available which we can advise on whilst on tour.



**Day 9 Havana Jazz festival B**

Following breakfast we will visit Hemmingway's house ( Finca Vigia). After his death in 1961, Hemmingway's magnificent house and grounds were preserved exactly as they were. We then visit Jose Fuster who has rebuilt and decorated the fishing town of Jaimanitas in the outskirts of Havana. Jaimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster has decorated over 80 houses with ornate murals and domes and his chess



park with giant boards and tables in the style of Antonio Gaudi.

Nowadays, Fuster's art is a cherished part of Cuban culture and joins the rank of other public artworks such as that on Gaudi in Barcelona or that of Brancusi in the Romanian city of Targu Jiu. He sponsors this project by the sale of his paintings and ceramics.

Lunch in Local Restaurant

After lunch we will return to the hotel where you can enjoy a relaxing afternoon or do some individual exploration .

Dinner in the hotel. Evening Opening night at The Havana Jazz Festival. Make sure you have your pass!!



### **Day 10 Havana Jazz Festival B**

After breakfast we will visit the Partagas Cigar factory , founded in 1845 by Spaniard Jaime Partagas. It is the oldest of it's kind in Cuba. It produces, Lusitanias, Churchills, and Cohiba cigars.

Lunch in local Restaurant

After lunch you can take a ride around Havana in a Classic car or go back to the hotel to relax before the evening performances at the jazz festival. Your guide will let you know what is on and where.



### **Day 11 Havana Jazz Festival B**

This morning is free to sleep in or do some exploring around Havana. Your guide can give you some great suggestions as well as directions.

Lunch in a local restaurant

Afternoon visit to the museum of music Havana. Opened in 1971, the collections exhibited in their rooms offer a detailed overview of the development of the music and the musical instruments in Cuba from the 16th century until the present.

It also has an unique collection of original scores, old editions of musical documents, disks, strange or curious instruments, musical mechanics equipment, historical objects, piece of art and books.

Return to your hotel and relax or have a swim before the third evening at the jazz Festival

Dinner in hotel



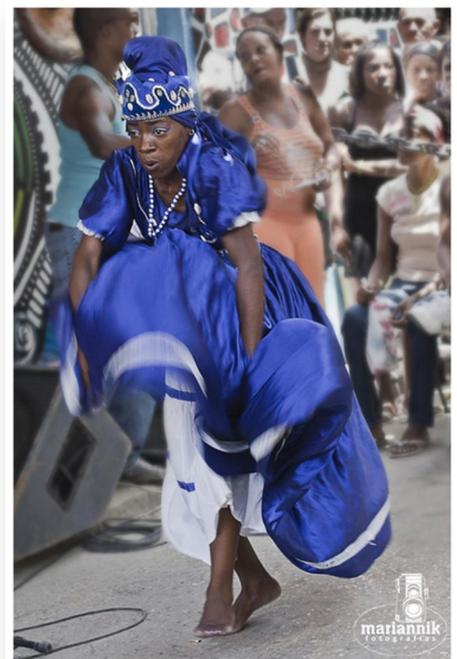
### **Day 12 Havana Jazz Festival B**

Breakfast in hotel. Free morning to catch up, on some sleep or to do some exploring yourself

Lunch

After breakfast we travel to Callejon de Hamel where we will be introduced to the "Yaruba" religion. This is a very strong part of Cuban culture and this place allows not only you to learn about the religion but photograph the dancers and drummers that are intrinsic to Yaruba ceremonies.

Return to your hotel and relax or have a swim before the third evening at the jazz Festival



### **Day 13 Havana Jazz Festival B**

After Breakfast we will have a late start and head off to the craft markets. This is where artisans sell paintings, jewellery, carvings etc.

Lunch in Old Havana

After lunch we will visit the Havana fort *Castillo de los Tres Reyes Magos del Morro* is a picturesque fortress guarding the entrance to Havana bay in Havana, Cuba. Juan Bautista Antonelli, an Italian engineer, was commissioned to design the structure. When it was built in 1589, Cuba was



under the control of Spain. Built initially in response to raids on Havana harbor, el Morro protected the mouth of the harbor with a chain being strung out across the water to the fort at La Punta.

Return to hotel for dinner and spruce up for the final evening and closing ceremony of the Havana Jazz Festival.

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

Late breakfast and morning to recover

Afternoon visit to Capitolia, the Museum of the Revolution which is housed in General Batista's old palace. Visit the iconic Prado esplanade, stroll down themaybe enjoy a cheeky cocktail at Sloppy Joes ( used in the film "Our Man in Havana") Stroll down Obispo the main shopping area, soak up the sights and sounds of this vibrant city.

Lunch on own

Return to the hotel and freshen up for our farewell dinner in Old Havana with live music and dancing.



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

After breakfast transfer to Jose Marti international Airport for your return flights.

## **N.B Some activities may change depending on availability**

On your tour you will be travelling with Antony Gullick, Cuba expert and Australian jazz educator. Antony has been taking music groups to Cuba for over 10 years. Has performed at the Monterey jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, and Montreux Jazz festival among others. He has also performed with the Ed Wilson Big Band, James and John Morrison and has been mentor to many well known musicians including Emma Pask.



## **Inclusions**

Accommodation: Thirteen (14) nights in a central, 3- 5 star hotel (subject to availability)

Airport transfers

Breakfasts: Daily as a group at the hotel ( all breakfasts)

Lunches: Six (6) as a group

Dinners: Six (6) as a group

Full-sized deluxe touring coach as required by the itinerary

Jazz festival pass

Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary

One (1) English / Spanish Speaking local tour manager with the group throughout the tour.

## **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.



## **Privacy Policy**

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