



Experience Jazz in Cuba

DISCOVER CUBA WITH WYPR

39th International Jazz Festival of Havana

January 13 – 20, 2019

“FANTASTIC tour. Alejandro was a terrific host. One of our best trips ever! Thank you.”

Lee and Tony A.
WYPR Travel Alumni



Join **WYPR Radio** and fellow jazz lovers for a culturally-rich musical journey to Cuba! Sponsored by famed Cuban musician Chucho Valdes and the Cuban Institute of Music, the International Jazz Festival of Havana showcases some of the biggest names in jazz, along with talented new artists. Enjoy the rhythm of Latin jazz in venues scattered throughout Havana. In addition to the festival, we'll visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, Hemingway's haunts, and attend a special jazz workshop with Cuban musicians. Stroll the famous Malecón, wander in the picturesque historic center of Havana, lounge in a doorway in your fedora and ride in a classic convertible, all to the sultry sounds of Cuban jazz!

TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Nights Havana: The Historic 1930s **** Hotel Nacional



Earthbound Expeditions

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www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

“It was an amazing trip –Alejandro was fantastic - extremely knowledgeable, provided very thoughtful, candid and comprehensive comments -he clearly enjoys what he does and worked hard to make the trip as enjoyable and comfortable for us as possible.”

Jodi D.
WYPR Travel Alumni



IT'S INCLUDED

- With WYPR Baltimore Public Radio host
- An expert bilingual Cuban guide
- A four night pass to the Havana Jazz Festival!
- A jazz workshop directed by respected Cuban jazz artists
- A rumba session
- Accommodations as listed in itinerary
- Multi-course traditional meals highlighting Cuban cuisine in Havana's hottest paladars! (all meals included except for 1 breakfast and 3 dinners)
- Bottled water daily and national drinks (local beers and mojitos)
- Transport by private motor coach while in Cuba
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Airport transfers while in Cuba
- Special insider “People to People” experiences
- Gratuities for your driver and guides

TRIP FACTS

8 Days/7 Nights

\$4,150 per person double occupancy land

\$595 Single Supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Starting at Baltimore airport on January 13, 2019

Ending in Baltimore on January 20

Optional Group Air: \$550 per person – American Air from Baltimore to Havana. Air includes Cuban government emergency medical insurance plan up to \$1,000

SAVE \$200: WYPR and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 * Reserve before August 31 and save \$50 * Pay your final balance by check and save \$50

NOT INCLUDED: Cuba visa fee * Travel Insurance above the \$1,000 mandatory medical * Extra baggage fees * Passport fees (a passport is required) * Items not mentioned in your itinerary



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YOUR WYPR JAZZ ADVENTURE BEGINS!



Day 1: Sunday, January 13 - Arrive in Historic Havana

Early this morning depart for the airport to check in for the flight from Baltimore to Havana, Cuba.

After clearing customs and immigration, we'll transfer the hotel and check into the historic 1930s Hotel Nacional located on the Malecón seafront. Relax in a comfy wicker couch on the terrace or enjoy a stroll on the waterfront before meeting your guide and host for a welcome dinner

at one of Havana's best known, privately owned paladars. *Sleep in Havana at the Historic Hotel Nacional (D)*

Day 2: Monday, January 14 - Cuba's National Art Schools

This morning we visit the Plaza de la Revolución, the Cemetery of Christopher Columbus, and the Miramar area before continuing on to Cuba's National Art Schools (Instituto Superior de Arte). These structures are considered by historians to be among the most outstanding architectural achievements of the Cuban Revolution. These innovative, organic Catalan-vaulted brick and terra-cotta buildings were built on the site of a former country club in the far western Havana suburb of Cubanacán, which used to be Havana's "Beverly Hills" and was then mainly reserved for Communist Party officials. The schools were conceived and founded by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in 1961, and they reflect the utopian optimism and revolutionary exuberance of the early years of the Cuban Revolution. Over their years of active use, the schools served as the primary incubator for Cuba's artists, musicians, actors, and dancers. The schools' design fell out of favor by 1965 and was nearly completely decommissioned until preservation efforts were mounted in force in the 1990s. Now tentatively on the list of World Heritage sites, they are in use, though still in various states of disrepair.



Lunch today is in the elegant Miramar section of Havana. In the afternoon we'll have a jazz workshop led by some of Cuba's most respected jazz artists. *Sleep in Havana Historic Hotel Nacional (B, L)*



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Day 3: Tuesday, January 15 - The History of Dance and Conservatorio Guillermo Tomas



Early birds may wish to soak up the sun and walk along the Malecón before breakfast. Then we set off to the Havana Country Club to learn about the history of music and dance in Cuba. Multiple instructors will explain how this small island became a major powerhouse when it comes to both. The Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Salsa and Merengué all come from Cuba. After a thorough demonstration you'll be invited to learn some of the dances with the instructors.

This afternoon we'll visit the Conservatorio Guillermo Tomas. There are 500 students ranging in age from 8 to 19. Gifted students enter the school at an early age, and study academic and musical subjects for the next 10 years. The 40 students that graduate every year go on to join the best symphony, chamber and popular orchestras, or become music professors for new students.

Enjoy lunch together and a free afternoon in Havana. *Sleep in Havana at the Hotel Nacional (B, L)*

Day 4: Wednesday, January 16 - A Day with Hemingway and the Museum of Fine Arts



This morning we're off to visit Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm) where North America's literary giant, Ernest Hemingway, spent twenty-one of his most important and productive years penning building blocks of English literature. Claimed by both the United States and Cuba as their son, it was Hemingway himself who declared the island his true home. Before returning to Havana we stop by the quaint fishing village of Cojimar which served as the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*.

After lunch, we will visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts), known for its international and Cuban art. The comprehensive Colección de Arte Cubano comprises three floors of art, spanning works from the 16th to the 20th centuries by prominent Cuban artists concentrating mostly on pieces from the 20th century.

Across the street from the Fine Arts Museum is the impressive Museum of the Revolution. Sitting outside you'll find the American Jeeps and planes used during the failed Bay of Pigs landing. The yacht named *Granma* that was used to transport 82 Cuban fighters and Fidel Castro to the shores of Cuba from Mexico in 1956 is also on display.

The Havana Jazz Fest kicks off tonight and we have tickets to attend! *Sleep in Havana at the Historic Hotel Nacional (B, L, D)*



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Day 5: Thursday, January 17 - Architecture Walk and Sacred Marriage Ceremony

One of Havana's many charms is the "elegant decay" of the buildings. Enjoy a stroll today that focuses on the splendid architecture of this city, unlike anywhere in the world. Have lunch together and, if available, tour a cigar factory or attend a cigar rolling demonstration. Then, you are invited to partake in a very special marriage ceremony...of rum and cigars! One can't come to Cuba without appreciating these two fixtures of Cuban culture. After dinner, head out to another show or check out the Havana arts scene with a visit to La Fábrica de Arte Cubano or FAC, an old oil factory that is now a thriving arts space in Vedado, one of Havana's residential districts.

After dinner we'll head out for another evening at the Havana Jazz Fest! *Sleep in Havana at the Historic Hotel Nacional (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Friday, January 18 - An Excursion west to Las Terrazas and Fusterlandia



This morning we leave for Las Terrazas. En-route we'll travel through the lush countryside planted with sugar cane, corn, rice, and taro. With few vestiges of modernization, the region seems set back in time with farming communities still harvesting by hand and using horse and carts to transport goods to free markets. (The horse carts date back to the 15th century when the Spaniards used them to haul sugar cane to the factories). Las Terrazas in Pinar del Rio province is now

part of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve, much of it reforested coffee plantation.

We'll have a delicious traditional lunch at a local farm.

Upon our return to Havana we stop at the private home and studio of famed Cuban artist, José Fuster who is known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Mr. Fuster is a ceramicist and painter whose work has contributed to the upgrading of his entire community. When you drive through the neighborhood which is known as "Fusterlandia," you see ceramic tiled walls in fanciful designs. As you learn about his work, you may be able to purchase his art directly if desired.

This evening we head out to enjoy the **Havana Jazz Festival!**

Sleep in Havana at the Historic Hotel Nacional (B, L)



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Day 7: Saturday, January 19 - Casa de Africa and the Museum of Rum

After breakfast, we'll visit a 17th century townhouse mansion at Obrapia #157, which originally served as a shop selling snuff. Known today as the Casa de Africa (House of Africa), it displays objects of different African cultures, especially ivory carvings, ritual and decorative masks, musical instruments, weapons, tools, and textiles and clothes. Many of these items were received by Fidel Castro as gifts from African countries.

The ground floor depicts the Cuban slave era, including objects for punishing recalcitrant slaves. On the third floor it has a collection of Santeria icons belonging to famous Cuban ethnographer and expert on Afro-Cuban culture, Fernando Ortiz.



After lunch together we will head to the Museum of Rum and learn about how real Cuban rum is made. We will also enjoy a tasting (or two). Our farewell dinner this evening will be served at a local paladar, then head out for one last night at the Havana Jazz Festival! *Sleep in Havana at the Historic Hotel Nacional (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Sunday, January 20 - Depart Cuba for Baltimore

We transfer to Havana's Jose Marti Airport where we check in for our flight to Baltimore. (*Flight time TBA*). Buen Viaje! (B)

****Please Note:** The Cuban National Tourist Agency, a department of the Republic of Cuba, has the ability to make changes to lodging arrangements and individual tour activities at any time. It is an uncommon practice, but such itinerary changes are sometimes a reality for groups traveling in this communist country. Earthbound has been leading successful trips to Cuba since 2012 and we will do our best to ensure a quality experience for you on this journey. Nevertheless, to enjoy Cuba, it is essential to have a sense of adventure, a high degree of flexibility, a spirit of adventure, and a sense of humor.

~ Itinerary Details Subject to Change ~



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The Hotel Nacional: The historic Hotel Nacional is located on the Malecón seafront. The decision to build a luxury hotel was taken in the late 1920s. The American firms McKim, Mead & White and Purdy & Henderson Co., tasked with the planning and construction, completed the palatial edifice in 14 months. The same firm designed Penn Station and Washington Square in New York. The hotel exhibits an eclectic architectural style, reflecting Art Deco, Arabic references, features of Hispano-Moorish

architecture, and both neo-classical and neo-colonial elements. There are even details from the centuries-old Californian style. The resulting unique example of so many schools of architecture is the most unusual and interesting hotel in the Caribbean region. Among its first illustrious guests were artists, actors, athletes and writers such as Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Mickey Mantle, Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Keaton, Jorge Negrete, Agustín Lara, Rocky Marciano, Tyrone Power, Rómulo Gallegos, Errol Flynn, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando and Ernest Hemingway. In February 1946, Sir Winston Churchill visited Cuba, staying in the hotel's Republica Suite, and was accorded diplomatic privileges by the Cuban government. In December 1946 it hosted an infamous mob summit run by Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky and attended by Santo Trafficante, Jr., Frank Costello, Albert Anastasia, Vito Genovese and many others. Francis Ford Coppola memorably dramatized the conference in his film *The Godfather Part II*. The Cuban government rates the Nacional hotel as a 5 star. Although it is very charming, most international travelers would agree that it is more in line with a superior 3 star in North America. That said, if traveling to Havana this is the place to be!



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Cuba is a developing country and still lacks many modern conveniences. It's not unusual to experience short power black-outs or to find that your hot water, internet, TV or phone in your hotel room does not work properly (or at all). Further, the Cuban government and incoming Havana agency has the right to change the itinerary without notice (and often does). We'll be travelling under a "people to people" license, which means that our days will be filled with many fun educational experiences. Your day will begin around 8:30am and end around 5:00pm. This is not a trip for those looking for a leisurely, five star beach holiday or a deluxe resort experience. Travelers who arrive in Havana with a sense of humor, an open mind, and are ready to be flexible, will absolutely fall in love with the people and culture of Cuba.



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RESERVATIONS

Reservations and Deposits: Early reservations are essential to guarantee space on the date you wish to travel. A per person deposit of \$500 is needed to confirm your space on most journeys. An additional deposit of \$200 is required to confirm a seat on the group flight. For our Cuba journeys we can accept payment by check or credit card. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is sent with pertinent journey details.

Final Payment: You will be sent an invoice approximately 75 days prior to departure. A non-refundable final payment, payable by money order, check or credit card is due 60 days before departure. It is the responsibility of each passenger to make a timely payment. A final packet of information will be sent approximately three weeks before departure. Mail checks to: Earthbound Expeditions PO Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, USA.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be made in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office. Deposits are fully refundable for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. A \$75 per person processing fee applies to all cancellations.

No refunds are made for cancellations after the non-refundable deposit date. It is for this reason we strongly encourage the purchase of travel insurance at the same time you reserve your journey with us. Please refer to your specific journey details, especially private and hosted journeys, as policies may differ.

Concert and Events: If a planned concert or event is cancelled for any reason, another concert or event will be included in its place. This will not be cause for refund.

Hosted Journeys: If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.



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