



PRIVATE JEWISH SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE TOUR

HAVANA & LAS TERRAZAS

5 Night/6 Day ITINERARY OVERVIEW

This is an overview of the daily scheduling and logistics of the customized tour. Scheduling is subject to change. Should any activities or interactions not be available, Cultural Cuba will arrange a comparable substitution. We are happy to assist and answer all questions about the itinerary options and the greatest current needs of the Jewish Community that would benefit most from your visit.

*Please reserve the Thursday Jan 18, 2024, Jet Blue flight #1499
which departs from Fort Lauderdale (FLL) at 12:53pm and arrives in Havana at 2:15 pm
and return Tuesday Jan 23, 2024 Jet Blue flight #1500
which departs from Havana at 3:30 pm and arrives in Fort Lauderdale at 4:48 pm*

[DAY ONE – \(Thursday\) - Welcome to Havana!](#)

Upon arrival in Havana, after customs and baggage, the expert English-speaking Cultural Cuba guide and dedicated driver and private luxury transfer will be waiting at the airport to accompany the group throughout the tour.

On the drive into Havana, stop at the historic **REVOLUTION SQUARE** dominated by the José Martí Memorial and the site where former President Fidel Castro delivered most of his political addresses. The famous Che Guevara image with his well-known slogan; "Hasta la Victoria Siempre" identifies the Ministry of the Interior building.

Enjoy lunch at the historic **HOTEL NACIONAL de CUBA**. The hotel was originally designed by McKim, Mead and White which also designed Columbia University in New York City. The hotel's iconic HALL of FAME bar depicts many of the famous visitors and the small museum and trenches on the grounds of the hotel highlight the story of the Cuban Missile Crisis from Cuba's perspective.



After lunch, tour the inside of the **CAPITOL BUILDING**. The building, modeled on the Pantheon in Paris, resembles the Capitol Building in Washington DC. View the magnificent statue of La República, an enormous bronze woman symbolizing the Guardian of Virtue and Work. It is the world's third-largest indoor statue.

Check in to the centrally located hotel. Unwind, unpack, and relax.

Dinner at one of the best traditional private paladars in all of Cuba.

Return to Hotel. Enjoy the night-time views from the roof-top deck of the hotel. Casually gather to unwind post-dinner.

DAY TWO – (Friday) - Jewish Culture – History – Community

Breakfast at the HOTEL

Spend the morning discovering the past and present of the Cuban Jewish community and visit the three synagogues of Havana including **TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL**, the only orthodox synagogue in Cuba.

Visit **BET SHOLOM** synagogue and the community pharmacy run by the Temple. Bet Sholom is considered the headquarters of the Cuban Jewish community. The building also houses a Jewish library. The pharmacy provides medicine free of charge to the Patronatos neighbors and to the outlying Jewish communities.

Meet with the President of BET SHOLOM.

Visit the **SEPHARDIC CENTER** and its Community Senior Center that provides Jewish programming. The center has the only Holocaust Museum in Cuba.

Visit the Jewish-themed **HOTEL RAQUEL**.

Lunch in Old Havana private paladar.

Travel outside Havana to visit the **JEWISH CEMETERY** and only Holocaust Monument in Cuba.

Return to the hotel to freshen up.

6:00 PM – **SHABBAT Services** followed by **DINNER AT BET SHALOM**.

Post dinner optional: Walk to nearby **FLORIDITA** - home of the daiquiri and Hemingway hangout with live music or this can be reversed with the Arrival day post dinner optional activity.



DAY THREE – (Saturday) - WALKING DAY

Breakfast at the HOTEL

Embark on a 3 hour **WALKING TOUR OF LA HABANA VIEJA -OLD HAVANA** and explore the four major plazas: Plaza Armas, Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza San Francisco. With its narrow streets and overhanging balconies, residential Old Havana is the traditional center of Havana's commerce, industry, and entertainment. The city center's richly endowed historic buildings represent architectural styles from the 16th through the 19th centuries.

Mid-tour stop for Lunch at a private paladar in Old Havana

Free afternoon or other walkable activities that can be added but must be pre-arranged for the group:

- Visit to a Photography or Artist studio in old Havana
- Visit to the Cuban Wing of the Fine Arts museum with curator
- Visit to the Museum of the Revolution
- Tour of the Gran Teatro

DINNER

DAY FOUR – (Sunday) - Las Terrazas Day-Trip One hour drive each way

Breakfast at the HOTEL.

Travel 45 mins. to **LAS TERRAZAS NATIONAL PARK AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE**. The pioneering eco-village of Las Terrazas is a Unesco Biosphere Reserve, dating back to a reforestation project started in 1968. Today it's a burgeoning activity center with Cuba's only canopy tour and the site of the earliest surviving coffee plantations in Cuba.

- Explore the picturesque, whitewashed village that overlooks a small lake, featuring an art community with open studios, woodwork, and pottery workshops.
- Visit the **CASA DE POLO MUSEUM** and learn about the beloved farmer Polo Montanez who gained fame and fortune later in life as a composer and singer. His love of the land and his personal philosophies and how these are incorporated into his music are explored in the small museum.
- Lunch at a rustic restaurant known to serve the **BEST ROPA VIEJA** in Cuba

Return to Havana and visit **EL MORRO FORT** which, at one time, was the most fortified post in all the Caribbean. Enjoy the expansive view of Havana. Visit La Cabaña to see some of the aircraft and weapons used to defend the country from the Bay of Pigs invasion.

CLASSIC 1950'S CONVERTIBLE RIDE from El Morro Fort on the Malecon back to the hotel which is combined with an **EXCLUSIVE** photo shoot as the Cultural Cuba photographer utilizes Havana's



captivating lighting and the colorful cars to capture the beauty and contrasts of the experience. The trip coordinators will receive a shareable link with the complimentary edited photos within 48 hours.

FREE TIME TO RELAX. REST BEFORE DINNER.

Dinner featuring gourmet Cuban cuisine followed by a **PRIVATE RUM TASTING** with the sommelier of HAVANA CLUB RUM.

DAY FIVE – (Monday) – CIGARS, HEMINGWAY, MOJITOS, & JAZZ

Breakfast at the HOTEL

Tour one of the **OLDEST CIGAR FACTORIES** in the World to observe the different stages of the cigar making process including the hand-rolling of the best and most recognizable brands such as Cohiba, Romeo y Julieta, Partagas, and Montecristo.

Visit Havana's monumental **COLUMBUS CEMETERY**. One of the largest cemeteries in the world and full of history and mystery. Travelers from around the world attest to the healing health-influencing properties of the tomb of La Milagrosa.

Travel 30 mins outside the city to **FINCA VIGIA**, to the estate of Ernest Hemingway. This UNESCO site is part of the Hemingway Foundation and is preserved as Hemingway left the home. It was at Finca Vigía that Hemingway wrote much *The Old Man and the Sea* (1951) about a fisherman who lived in nearby Cojimar and worked the waters off Havana.

LUNCH AT A PRIVATE PALADAR in Old Havana and enjoy the **MIXOLOGY ART** of making an authentic mojito or Hemingway Daiquiri.

During lunch, enjoy conversation with the dynamic former **CULTURAL AND PRESS ATTACHÉ** (diplomat with missions 2004 - 2011), who is currently a History Professor at the University of Havana. He will join you to give further insight and a unique perspective on life in Cuba through casual conversation.

After lunch, return to the hotel for rest / free time or optional visit the historic **RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO** to see infamous mobster Meyer Lansky's resort as it was at the time of the revolution.

FREE TIME TO RELAX, ENJOY THE POOL.

FAREWELL DINNER AT **LA GUARIDA**– Old Havana. Havana's "most famous restaurant" (New York Times).

Enjoy a renowned **JAZZ TRIO PERFORMANCE** on the privately reserved VIP rooftop terrace of La Guarida with time for Q & A.



DAY SIX – (Tuesday) - DEPARTURE DAY

Breakfast at the HOTEL and check-out.

Enjoy an in-studio performance by the Dance school of **HABANA COMPAS DANCE**. Members are classically trained dancers and powerful percussionists who bring dynamic cross-cultural energy to the stage. Chairs, drums, castanets, batas and all sorts of instruments are incorporated into their lively modern performance; think front row seats to Stomp mixed with flamenco. The dancers teach young students from the community and provide free lessons to dedicated pupils.

Your guide and driver will take you to the airport. Three-hour advance check-in required FOR LARGER GROUPS IN HAVANA.

It is a suggested Itinerary and it is subject to change



Sophia Kulich | Sophia's Travel

5 NIGHTS – Group of 12 or more

January 18, Thursday – January 23, Tuesday, 2024

Cultural Cuba Support for the Cuban People Insider Private Tour

The PRIVATE CULTURAL CUBA TRIP PRICING & INCLUSIONS:

- 5 nights' prepaid Grand Aston Havana Hotel accommodations in Deluxe King or Deluxe Double Rooms including daily breakfasts and WIFI
- OFAC compliant VISAS, required record-keeping of all documents
- Mandatory Cuban Health Insurance
- VIP Havana Meet-and-Greet arrival AND departure airport transfers
- Dedicated full-time expert bilingual Cultural Cuba Guide
- Full-time air-conditioned transportation
- Private professional Cultural Cuba driver (separate from the guide)
- All meals (breakfasts at the hotel, lunches and dinners in Havana's top restaurants)
- Daytrip to Las Terrazas (45 min each way) or Vinales Valley (2.5 hours each way)
- Base gratuities for the Cultural Cuba guide and the Cultural Cuba driver
- **A completely customized itinerary that includes the costs of ALL excursions/touring, interactions, performances, museum entrance fees, and exclusive experiences.**

Items Not Included in the Pricing:

- Air to/from Havana
- Alcoholic beverages
- Costs of optional evening activities: ballet/show tickets, club entrance fees, taxis
- Supplemental Travel Insurance is strongly advised(Must be purchased within 21 days of the deposit for full coverage)

The complete pricing with **ALL** OF THE ABOVE INCLUSIONS for the customized
CULTURAL CUBA SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE INSIDER TOUR
for 12+ travelers arriving on the same flight on January 18, 2024 and
departing together on January 23, 2024
with a 5-night stay at the Grand Aston Havana in a Deluxe King or a Deluxe Double is **\$4,775/person
double occupancy. The single supplement is \$600.**
Pricing is valid for travel reserved with a deposit by Sep 20, 2023

*A \$1000 nonrefundable deposit per traveler deposit is needed to reserve and hold space on the private guided trip.
The full balance, less the non-refundable deposit, is due 60 days prior to travel.*

CANCELLATION & REFUND:

*Due to the specific nature of this small group trip, the deposit and final payments are non-refundable.
Travel insurance is strongly recommended.*

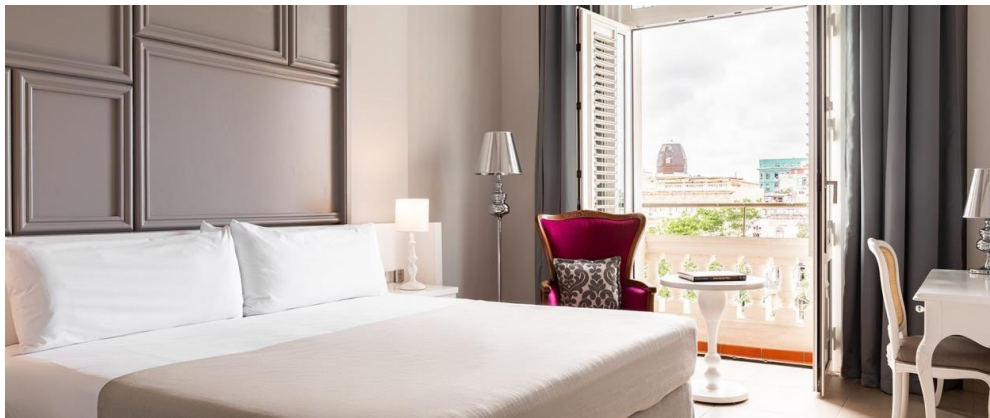


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COVID-19 and Travel with



CULTURAL CUBATM

Paladars are small private restaurants that offer private dining and social distancing.

Hotels and vetted small boutique hotels follow all safety, masking, and sanitation precautions.

All travelers have Cuban mandatory medical insurance included as part of their airline ticket purchase. This insurance provides full coverage should a traveler test positive for Covid and need to quarantine in Havana. This includes full room, board, and medical care in a special clinic only for Foreigners (Private air-conditioned Room, w private Bath and 24/7 medical staff) free of charge for the patient.