



Cultural Exchange Trip to Cuba December 14 - 21, 2024

Saturday, December 14

2:00 pm Air Charter arrives at **Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. Bus Transfer to Vedado**

2:30 pm **Welcome Lunch at Claxon.**

4:00 pm **Check into our four star accommodations**

6:00 pm **Welcome party with traditional Cuban quartet, Wena Vivre. At Skyline.**

7:30 pm Dinner on the balcony of **Atelier**, a beautiful, private restaurant with views of the Vedado neighborhood of Havana.



Sunday, December 15

10:00 am **Discussion with Miguel Coyula**, professor of architecture at the University of Havana. Professor Coyula will discuss the 500 year history of Havana, focusing on the development of the city, housing, infrastructure, investment, and restoration programs.

11:30 am **Behind-the-scenes walking tour of Old Havana.** Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. Stops along the way at various new, private businesses, including Dador and Clandestina, where we will meet with the owners to discuss the triumphs and challenges of the new cuentapropistas (entrepreneurs) in Cuba.



1:30 pm **Lunch at La Moneda Cubana.** Famous for its lobster, ropa vieja and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar (private restaurant) has a rooftop deck with a wonderful view of Morro Castle and La Cabana.



3:00 pm **Driving and walking tour of Central Havana. Stops at the Prado, the Capitolio, Central Park, Grand Theater.**

5:00 pm



Discussion and private performance by Yassek Manzano, the most exciting young trumpet player to come out of Cuba in the last decade. He is also a composer and has performed with major figures like [Celia Cruz](#) and the British band [Simply Red](#). At Mamy's Café

7:45 pm **Dinner at Paladar Los Mercedes.** Located in the heart of Old Havana, this celebrated paladar offers delicious local cuisine and libations.

Monday, December 16

9:00 am Breakfast

10:00 am We'll start our day with a talk **by Professor Camillo Garcia Lopez-Trigo, an economic historian and former UN Ambassador.**

11:30 am **Private performance by the celebrated percussion troupe at Habana Compás Dance.** This remarkable company has performed all over the world. Their style reflects the rich history, diversity, rhythm and flow of the island.

12:45 pm Enjoy a classic Cuban lunch **at Vista Mar,** located on the water.



3:15 pm



Visit the home of Afro-Cuban activists, La Reina y la Real, a prominent female hip hop/jazz dúo. The group's music and community activism addresses gender and racial stereotypes in Cuban society. The duo will welcome us to their modest home in Luyano, share their music, and discuss the challenges young Afro-Cuban women currently face

4:30 pm

Visit the home and studio of a family of artists and art professors from the most renowned art institutes in Cuba. Sculptor Yamilé Pardo, painter Edel Bordón, and photographer Pablo Bordon-Pardo will discuss art history and education in Cuba

7:30 pm

7:30 pm Dinner at **Grados**, a private restaurant that specializes in farm to table ingredients.

Tuesday, December 17

8:00 am

Breakfast

9:00 am

Depart for Cienfuegos, one of the country's oldest and most beautiful cities, which is located approximately three hours from Havana (we will travel in a very modern, air-conditioned bus). Cienfuegos, referred to as the "Pearl of the South," is one of Cuba's only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country's largest Bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes, and is deeply rich in culture.



12:45 pm

Lunch at El Lagarto, a picturesque, outdoor restaurant with views and breezes from the Bay of Cienfuegos. The menu features fresh seafood from neighboring waterways.

2:15 pm

Enjoy a music performance by Cantores Cienfuegos, members of the National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba, followed by an **interactive discussion** with the musicians.

3:15 pm

Tour the local art galleries of UNEAC members, which surround Jose Marti Park in downtown Cienfuegos.

4:30 pm

Continue to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site, known for its history, cobble-stone streets, pastel colored homes, art and music.

6 pm

Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as "casas particulares," or "private homes." Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms in their family homes to foreigners. The rooms are all air-conditioned with modern amenities.

7:30 pm

Dinner at **San Jose Paladar**, a charming, modern private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

Wednesday, December 18

- 9:00 am Breakfast
- 10 am **Discussion with Nancy Benitez, the city's historian**, who will provide an overview of the city's history from the 16th century.
- 11 am **Walking Tour of Trinidad's Historic Center** led by your guide.
- 1 pm **Lunch at Adita Cafe**, a charming, modern private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

Afternoon free to explore Trinidad or the nearby Playa Ancon.

- 7:15 pm **Discussion with Carlos Mata**, Trinidad's award-winning "Painter of the Night," and his talented daughter, Amaya, about the city's historic art scene. Carlos and Amaya meticulously restored their 18th century home, which now houses a gallery and studio. Enjoy local music, appetizers, and libations—try a canchanchara, Trinidad's storied, local cocktail—at a private party in the courtyard of the beautiful home.

- 7:45 pm **Trinidad farewell dinner at El Secreto**, located in the historic Plaza Mayor. This private restaurant is housed in a wonderful 18th century home, filled with antiques and even a Wurlitzer juke-box from the 1950's. Chef Alejandro specializes in locally sourced seafood, fruits, and vegetables.

- 10:00 pm Enjoy dancing and live salsa music at the popular **Casa de la Musica**.



Thursday, December 19

- 9:00 am Breakfast
- 10 am **Check-out of casas and return to Havana**. Enjoy a pina colada at a private café en route.
- 2:00 pm Lunch at **Le Petite**, a private restaurant located in the heart of Old Havana
- 3:00 pm Check-in at accommodations
- 6:00 pm **Private musical performance by** renowned activist, singer, and songwriter **Frank Delgado at Café Madrigal**. Café Madrigal, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails while discussing the *nueva trova* movement in Cuba.



Friday, December 20

8:30 am Breakfast

9:15 am **Discussion with Professor Norma Norma Guillard, a founding** member of ARAAC (the Cuban branch of La Articulacion Regional de Afrodescendientes de Latinoamerica y el Caribe), an activist group that works for racial equality. Professor Guillard is a psychiatrist and was a leader in the literacy campaigns of the 1960s.

10:30 am Visit the **Museo de Bella Artes**, Cuba's fine arts museum. We will be accompanied by Cuban art historian **Claudia Laguna**

12:30 pm Lunch at **El Del Frente**, a hip, private restaurant with rooftop dining

2:30 pm Visit the rehearsal studio of the renowned **Malpaso Dance Company for a private performance**. This company is just returning from performances in Calgary, San Francisco, and NYC.



4:30 pm



Private performance and discussion with the classical musicians of the Orquesta del Lyceum de La Habana. These 24 young musicians just returned from performances in Paris, Berlin, and San Francisco. At Seminario San Carlos

7:30 pm

Dinner at Al Carbone, a beautiful private restaurant in Old Havana. Created by the owners of the immensely popular Iván y Justo

Saturday, December 21

9:00 am Breakfast

TBD Free time pending flight departures