JOURNEY TO CUBA

International Sculpture Center | A Cross-Cultural Educational Exchange

December 7-11, 2018

Organized by Cuba Cultural Travel

CST 2060914-40
DAY 1  FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

TBD  Arrive in Havana from Miami. Clear immigration, customs and baggage, a process that takes about an hour and a half. As you exit the terminal you will be greeted by your CCT escort, Nelsa Farrugia, and local Cuban guide who will escort you to the bus.

Orientation drive into the city with a stop at some sights along the way.

12:00 pm  Lunch at Paladar La Foresta.

Following lunch, we will visit Fusterland located in the neighborhood of Jaimanitas. Jose Fuster has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the fishing town of Jaímanitas in the outskirts of Havana, where he lives. Jaímanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster has decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.

Visit The Merger Studio. A collaborative venture created under the name of “The Merger” consisting of artists Mario Miguel Gonzalez (Mayito), Niels Moleiro Luis, and Alain Pino. The Merger recreates ubiquitous and mundane objects on a grand scale, presenting palatable socio-political metaphors to their viewers.

4:00 pm  Hotel check-in. The Hotel Iberostar Parque Central is considered one of the finest hotels in Havana and perfectly located in the neighborhood of Old Havana, in front of the Central Park. All rooms include a safe deposit box free of charge.

Hotel Parque Central ★★★★★
Neptuno, esquina Prado y Zulueta, Havana, Cuba
Tel. 53 7 860 6627

6:00 pm  We meet in the hotel lobby and walk to Centro Asturianos for a private musical performance. The band leader is Professor Alberto Faya who has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world since 1973, winning national awards in music and musicology. He will be joined by several young musicians who will treat us to a lively journey through the history of Cuban music.

DAY 2  SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Complimentary breakfast is served daily at the restaurant on the lobby level from 7am to 10 am.

9:00 am  We depart for our walking tour of Havana Vieja, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our Cuban guide will explain the history of the city as we view prominent buildings and plazas that played a prominent role in the development of Havana as one of the most important cities in the New World. Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes!
We start at the **Plaza de Armas**, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.

Next we visit the **Plaza de la Catedral** and the **Catedral de San Cristobal de La Habana**.

We continue to **Plaza Vieja**. Learn about the massive historic preservation program which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal.

Finally, we visit the **Plaza de San Francisco**, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque **Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco** dating from 1719.

1:30 pm Lunch at Paladar **Los Mercaderes** in Old Havana.

3:00 pm Tour the **Taller de Grafica Experimental** located on the **Plaza de la Catedral**. The Taller is more than Havana's printmaking workshop. It is a studio, a school and most of all, an art institution that preserves and develops the sophisticated art of print making.

*Possible Artist Studio visits, TBD*

Return to the hotel via our bus or walking on **Obispo Street**, one of Havana's most lively pedestrian streets.

7:00 pm Depart for dinner at **Arte Tierra** in the **VIP Salon** at **Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC)**. Once a cooking oil factory, this repurposed complex is without doubt the hippest place in Havana. Part Miami Art Basel, part Williamsburg warehouse party, the FAC is taking the Cuban arts scene by storm hosting viewings, performances and exhibitions of cinema, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, architecture, graphic design, photography, and the visual arts.

10:00 pm Return to hotel. For those who would like to stay and enjoy the party at FAC, taxis are available.

**DAY 3 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

9:30 am We tour the **Museum of Cuban Art** with art historian and independent curator, **Yudith Vargas**.

11:00 am Depart to attend a performance of **Havana Compas Dance Company**.

Enjoy a rehearsal of one of the most popular companies that mix dancing and percussion to create entertainment and art.

Exchange with this passionate group of artists about Afro-Cuban percussion, the origin of the instruments, the struggles for daily rehearsals, or about the members' personal life, a group of Cuban youth who live and work for the arts.

12:30 pm Lunch at Paladar **La Casa de Lilian**.

**Afternoon** Artist Studio Visit: **Wilay Mendez**. A sculptor, painter and poet, he is one of the most exciting artists to come out of the new generation of contemporary Cuban art world. A self-proclaimed *cimarrón* or “runaway slave,” Wilay’s work utilizes commonplace materials that have been recycled and discarded; often decomposing.

*Other possible Artist Studio visits, TBD.*
4:00 pm Return to the hotel with time to freshen up and relax before dinner.

6:30 pm Depart the hotel to enjoy an unforgettable private performance by the **Orchestra Sinfonica Juvenil** (Havana Youth Orchestra). This group of supremely talented music students represents the finest artists of their generation. The 16-member orchestra, led by Director **Jose Antonio Mendez**, will perform a medley of international classical favorites as well as several Cuban compositions.

6:30 pm Depart for dinner at **Paladar Las Naranjos**.

**DAY 4  MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**

10:00 AM Bus tour of ‘Modern Architecture’ in Western Havana. Few people realize the important place Havana holds as a treasure trove of 20th Century architecture. Our tour will highlight some of the best examples to be found in this incredibly diverse area of the city where some of its most fascinating buildings were built using different architectural styles.

We’ll also see the **Plaza de la Revolucion**. The center of government, this area contains most of the offices of the main ministries and is often used for large political rallies.

12:30 PM Lunch at **Paladar Vista Mar**.

**Afternoon** Visit **Studio 3 y 31**. This new cooperative is home to three young and very talented Cuban artists: **Adrian Fernandez, Alex Hernandez & Frank Mujica**. They belong to an emerging constellation within the island’s contemporary visual arts scene working in three different mediums (photography, painting, and drawing) and refined technique; the artists explore conflicts and problems existing in present day Cuba. The artists will receive us in their studio space and discuss their work.

Artist Studio Visit: **Jose Emilio Fuentes Fonseca (JEFF)** – Visual Artist. At 13, JEFF began studying art, and he had precocious talent. At 21, he won a grant from the Ludwig Foundation to produce an installation he called “Landscape at 21.” Today he lives and works in Havana’s Buena Vista quarter. His home-studio is spacious and functional (sculpture downstairs, painting upstairs), but he prefers to see it as a kind of cultural center.
4:00 pm  Return to hotel with time to freshen up and relax before dinner.

7:30 PM  Farewell Dinner at the famous La Guarida restaurant. One of the best in Havana and famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film “Strawberry and Chocolate.” It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the 1920’s.

**DAY 5**

**Tuesday, December 11**

Morning activities may be arranged depending on departure time.

Optional visit to Arts & Crafts Market, a great place to interact with locals, everyday artisans. You’ll find just about anything here, a great place to find souvenirs or gifts for your friends and family.

Hotel check-out and depart for Jose Marti International Airport.

BE SURE TO COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS FROM THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN YOUR ROOM

- **PASSPORT**
- **VISA**
- **OFAC LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION**

Note about Purchasing Art or other Cuban products:

The U.S. Government allows U.S. travelers to bring back an unlimited amount of Cuban art and informational materials such as books and CDs. If you feel you might be interested in purchasing art during your stay in Cuba you should carry additional money to pay on the spot. Your hotel room includes a safe deposit box in which you can keep your valuables safe.

Pursuant to the regulation changes on January 16, 2015; in addition to bringing back art, U.S. Citizens are now permitted to import goods for personal consumption including alcohol and tobacco products; normal duty taxes apply.

Acquiring additional money via an ATM machine in Cuba is not possible at this time. Some of the more established artists could possibly have U.S. bank accounts in which the payment can be wired. The art can normally be brought home and payment sent at a future date. Our first recommendation is that you bring additional cash.

* Please note: This is a “working” itinerary. There may be some changes, additions and/or subtractions to the final itinerary. All venues and artist’s studios are subject to final confirmations. Be assured any changes made will be done to enhance the total program as well as to promote smooth operation of the tour.
TRIP COST

5 DAYS AND 4 NIGHTS

DOUBLE, PER PERSON: $3,500
SINGLE OCCUPANCY: $3,650

CUSTOM DESIGNED PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Itinerary design and coordination
- Compliance with US Treasury Department
- 5 Star Hotel Parque Central Havana (standard room)
- All ground transportation
- Full time private tour escort
- Daily breakfast in Cuba
- Meals as listed in itinerary (4 lunches & 4 dinners, including tips)
- Entrance fees to museums, etc.
- Private music and dance performances
- Bottled water on bus and in room
- Gratuities for restaurants, porters
- Cuban Tourist Card/Visa

EXCLUDES

- Airfare to/from Cuba and associated fees
- Airline baggage fees
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Alcoholic beverages at meals
- Individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc)
- Trip cancellation insurance

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