

Cuban Music and Culture: The Best of Havana



About Us

Cuba Educational Travel (CET) is a leader in cultural travel to Cuba. CET unlocks the best of Cuba by providing access to the country's top artists, academics, tastemakers, and cultural figures. CET's tailor-made programs enable clients to experience Cuba's vibrant culture and gain a deeper understanding of the island, while ensuring full compliance with all U.S. regulations.

CET has been on the frontlines of cultural collaboration, helping to bring Cubans to the U.S. and Americans to Cuba. From Yoga retreats to concerts to dance performances, CET has wide-ranging experience and contacts. Recent highlights include organizing the Diplo Major Lazer concert in Havana, which drew a crowd of over 500,000 people and bringing Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba, the country's top dance group, to perform at the Latin Grammys.

By leveraging this business expertise and curated travel capabilities, Cuba Educational Travel offers a product that is unrivaled. This combined with the beauty and intrigue of Cuba make for truly unforgettable experiences. CET has designed and executed executive retreats, board meetings, quarterly business reviews, incentive trips, industry specific investment delegations and conferences for some of the world's most respected companies and organizations.



www.cubaeducationaltravel.com

Support For the Cuban People

The U.S. Government permits legal travel to Cuba under 12 different categories that range from professional meetings and sporting competitions to religious and humanitarian travel. One of the broadest and most common categories of travel is “Support for the Cuban People,” which requires travelers maintain a fulltime schedule of activities that involve meaningful interaction with individuals in Cuba and that those activities help Cubans become more independent. There are many ways in which travelers can easily fulfill this requirement while having an incredible experience in Cuba and being thoughtful, respectful and kind with the many Cubans you interact with during your travels.

Cuba Educational Travel (CET) has a long history of working with entrepreneurs, cultural groups, religious organizations, community projects and families and individuals that are involved in interesting and exciting initiatives in Cuba. Our trips have always been aimed at supporting the Cuba people through connecting them with travelers visiting the island, so that all parties can benefit from the friendships and professional relationships that result. Moreover, we believe strongly in supporting innovative and impactful businesses and social and cultural initiatives and make sure there are economic benefits to our partners on the island.

Your program will vary based on your specific interests, number of days on the island and other factors, but will include activities that directly benefit the Cuban people through conversations, knowledge sharing, follow-up initiatives, donations, normal business dealings and a variety of other actions. Excessive free time and recreational activities are not permitted, and travelers are required to work with CET and our local partners to maintain a full-time program that includes incredibly fun and interesting site visits, discussions, performances, tours, happy hours and meals that help our incredible neighbors on the island.



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Day 1 – Thursday

Arrival to Havana. Upon arrival, please take a yellow taxi at the exit of the terminal to your accommodations.

Afternoon **Check-in at accommodations.**

5:15 pm **Orientation talk with your local guide:** overview of the agenda, discussion about local transportation, nearby markets, internet access and other logistics.

6 pm **Enjoy cocktails and a private performance by Yassek Manzano, one of Cuba's top Jazz musicians.** Yassek is a Cuban trumpeter endowed with a virtuosity recognized in Cuba and other latitudes and was a student of Winston Marsalis.

8 pm **Dinner at Paladar Atelier.** This private restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy but modern setting. Prior to the meal, **take a tour of the kitchen and meet Atelier's owner**, Niuris Higuera, for a talk about running her private business in Cuba.

Day 2 - Friday

9:30 am **Walking tour of the Old City.** Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. **Venture to the side streets to meet and support local families and organizations** (opportunity to donate supplies). *Visits include:*

- **A home in Old Havana and discussion with the family** about the ration card and purchasing power, jobs, *el paquete*, transportation, and other social issues and topics of their daily life.
- **Barrio Habana**, a nonprofit organization that leads a community sports-arts program in Old Havana for children, at-risk youth and elderly people, while also contributing to preserve the heritage of the city.

***Travelers will have the opportunity to make donations, including clothes, sporting equipment and school supplies.

12 pm **Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar.** Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek Magazine's top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. Following the meal, we'll be joined by the chef and owner to discuss entrepreneurship in Cuba, and the challenges and opportunities facing the business.

1:30 pm **Spend the early afternoon with some of Havana's top thinkers and startups.** Depending on your interests and experience, we'll arrange visits with some great private businesses and the creatives that run them. CET will offer guidance on different ways of supporting their businesses during and after your visit. Examples:

- **Dador:** Havana's hottest new clothing brand with fresh fabrics and Cuban-made clothing. Founded and owned by three Cuban women.
- **Capicua:** a recently open fashion shop run by two young Cuban designers: **Sandra and Laila**, who founded Wasasa (fanny packs), a stylish and practical product that is taking Havana by storm.
- **El Oficio**, a magazine dedicated to Cuban art and literature that focuses much of its work on emerging artists. Discuss the project with the Oficio team and check out the **Oficio Art Gallery**.

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- 3:30 pm **Visit to the Liza Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for local youth,** specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on them. The talent and work ethic at this school is impressive.
- 5 pm Return to accommodations.
- 7 pm **Jam session with Victor Campbell and his jazz band.** Victor is one of the most talented pianists in Cuba, having played with all of the island's top musicians, and is currently recording his first solo album.
- 8:30 pm **Dinner reservation at Mas Habana,** a modern private restaurant in Old Havana which has become very popular amongst locals and visitors. Calle Habana, 308 e/ San Juan de Dios and O'reilly (dinner not included – to be paid in cash on the ground)

Nightlife suggestions:

Music and dancing with locals at SangriLa, one of the most popular bars in Havana.

Authentic Cuban jazz at La Zorra y El Cuervo, where the local talent plays nightly.

Day 3 – Saturday

- 9:30 am **Coffee and discussion with a family of artists.** Enjoy delicious home-made coffee and an incredible view of Havana while sharing information and ideas with this interesting and captivating family.
- 10:30 am **Visit a centuries-old mansion in Vedado neighborhood.** Step inside this stately residence to discover what lies behind the crumbling facades of Havana's impressive mansions. Josie, who has lived in the house for over 60 years, will show us around and explain its rich history.
- 12 pm **Culinary experience and lunch at a paladar.** Enjoy a wonderful meal in a beautiful setting, followed by a visit to the kitchen and a discussion with the owner and chef about running a private restaurant in Cuba.
- 2 pm Return to accommodations or explore on your own.
- 6 pm **Spend the early evening at Café Madrigal with Frank Delgado,** renowned singer and songwriter, for a discussion about the *nueva trova* movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. **Café Madrigal,** owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails.
- 7 pm **Rum and cigar tasting.** A local expert will explain the qualities and traits of fine Cuban rum and cigars, pairing them together for the perfect match. At Café Madrigal
- 8:30 pm **Dinner reservation at Mediterraneo Havana,** a modern, family run paladar in the Vedado neighborhood. This cozy paladar produces much of what it serves at a nearby farm in Guanabacoa Cuba, including the vegetables and dairy products. Calle 13 #406 entre F y G, Vedado (dinner not included – to be paid in cash on the ground)

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Nightlife suggestions:

Attend a live performance by the Buena Vista Social Club at the Hotel Nacional.

El Gato Tuerto, one of Cuban's most famous jazz clubs, for an evening of authentic Cuban jazz.

Live music and dancing at Café Cantante Mi Habana, at Teatro Nacional.

Day 4 – Sunday

- 10 am **Farm Time and Lunch in Artemisa.** Spend the morning with farmhands at a local farm 15 miles to the west of Havana, in Artemisa. Explore the farm on foot and horseback and learn about local production, followed by an organic farm-to-table meal. Your memorable visit will help support sustainable agriculture.
- 2 pm **Discussion and private performance by La Reyna y Real**, a female hip hop/jazz duo. The group's music focuses on breaking down stereotypes in Cuban society, including machismo, healthy relationships, gender relations and race. They will share info about their interesting musical journey and insight into the challenges and opportunities young Cubans face.
- 3:30 pm Return to accommodations.
- 7 pm **Enjoy a ride in American Convertibles from the 1950s.** Classic cars are one of Cuba's first private businesses that emerged after the new economic changes, becoming an important source of income for local families.
- 7:30 pm **Private tour of La Fabrica de Arte Cubano**, the brainchild of Afro-Cuban fusion musician X-Alfonso, this is one Havana's finest new art projects, an intellectual nexus for live music, art expos and fashion shows that has turned into a meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.
- 8 pm **Dinner reservation at Tierra**, Havana's newest international dining spot. Located inside a container in the Fábrica de Arte Cubano, the restaurant mirrors the eclectic crowd, serving dishes from around the world. Calle 26, between Calle 11 and 13, Vedado (dinner not included – to be paid on the ground)
- Suggestion* Following dinner, **enjoy live music, art and dancing at La Fábrica de Arte Cubano**. Rock star X-Alfonso has turned this into meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.

Day 5, Monday

Check-out and depart for the airport (2 ½ hours before your flight departs) or contact CET to discuss options for extending your trip to see another part of the island.

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MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING / SALES AGREEMENT Cuban Music & Culture: The Best of Havana April 16-20, 2020

Please carefully read our company policies listed below. It is your responsibility to inquire about, and fully understand, change and cancellation policies regarding your travel arrangements.

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING:

	<u>Private Apartment</u>	<u>High-End B&B</u>
Double Occupancy:	\$ 2,300 per person	\$ 2,550 per person
Single Occupancy:	\$ 2,600 per person	\$ 2,950 per person

**Please contact CET for pricing & availability for compliant 4- or 5-star hotels in addition to the options above.*

INCLUDED

- 4 nights' accommodations in Havana, Cuba
- Daily breakfast
- Meals (as specified on the itinerary)
- Meal reservations (as specified on the itinerary)
- Professional, bilingual guide for listed activities
- Local ground transportation for listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- Compliance with U.S. Treasury Department regulations
- Speaker fees
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities

NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare
 - Cuban Visa (*visas for non-Cuban born travelers are available for purchase from U.S. airlines. In some instances, CET can process your visa for \$100 per traveler*)
- Meals and activities other than listed on itinerary
- Individual house or hotel expenses (*mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.*)
- Tips for local guides, drivers, restaurant service, etc.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

PAYMENT:

- A deposit of \$1,000 per person is due at time of booking.
- A signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding must be turned in with the deposit.
- Final payment will be due 90 days prior to departure: January 17, 2020.
- Please inquire if you are interested in purchasing trip insurance from a certified, third party.

Payment can be made with a check, cashier's check, or money order. Credit cards are not accepted. Checks should be made out to Cuba Educational Travel and mailed to:

Cuba Educational Travel
Attn: Cuban Music & Culture
42 Fire Island Ave., Suite 100
Babylon, NY 11702

CANCELLATION and REPLACEMENT POLICIES:

- The sale is final.
- Cancellations made before 120 days prior to the trip are eligible for a full refund.
- Cancellations made 119-91 days prior to trip departure are eligible for a 50 percent refund.
- Cancellations made within 90 days of trip departure are not eligible for a refund.
- In some instances, time permitting, a different traveler can take the place of a scheduled participant for a processing fee of \$350.
- ***If U.S. policy is altered to make it so that the trip is not compliant with U.S. law regarding travel to Cuba, a full refund will be granted. This will ONLY be the case if there is no legal avenue for travel to Cuba that would allow for the trip to move forward.***

UNUSED SERVICES & REFUNDS:

No refund or adjustment can be made for any portion of the services not used such as voluntary non-usage of hotel accommodations, scheduled meals or any planned activity described in your itinerary.

PASSPORT AND VISA:

All travelers are required to carry a valid passport and a Cuban visa. Those without a valid passport and visa will not be allowed to enter. Travelers who were born in Cuba may require a special visa in order to enter the country. Passport should be valid for a minimum of 6 months after departure date. You may obtain a visa from CET or the airline and CET will advise on the process.

IMPORTANT:

Your trip is designed and implanted to comply with U.S. regulations on travel to Cuba as well as local laws in Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is not responsible for violations as a result of travelers ignoring advice, altering programs on the ground or breaking Cuban law.

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RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Cuba Educational Travel serves only to assist in making necessary travel arrangements for its participating members, and in no way represents, or acts as agent for, transportation carriers, hotels, and other suppliers of services connected with this tour. Therefore, is not liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strike, hostilities, wars, natural disasters or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Cuba Educational Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation or delay incurred by the purchase of an airline ticket. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Cuba Educational Travel reserves the right to make changes in the published itineraries whenever, in its sole judgment, conditions so warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants.

Cuba Educational Travel also reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in the tours, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such an action is determined by the appropriate Cuba Educational Travel representative to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group, or of the individual participant.

The undersigned has read carefully the schedule of activities for this tour. The undersigned recognizes that there is a moderate level of physical activity involved in the tour and the tour may require participants to walk long distances and climb stairs. The undersigned accepts any risks thereof and the conditions set forth therein. The undersigned agrees to release and hold harmless Cuba Educational Travel any of their officers or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries or death, or for the loss of or damage to, his/her property however occurring during any portion of the program.

Client Name _____

CET Representative _____

Date _____

Date _____

Client Signature _____

CET Signature _____

Trip Name Cuban Music & Culture

Trip Date April 16-20, 2020