



A Culture of Arts in Cuba with Ethical Traveler

APRIL 9-17, 2016

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Overnight Fly to Miami and Overnight.

7 p.m. Welcome Meeting with Tim Tendick, your Ethical Traveler representative.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

(L, D)

TBA a.m. Group check in at Miami International. Departure to Jose Marti International Airport. Meet our Cuban guide and take a brief city tour on our way into Havana.

1 p.m. **LUNCH** at Tres Monedas Paladar in Old Havana, and meet the City Historian to learn about Havana's extensive efforts to restore the city and improve social services for its residents while managing foreign investment and tourism in a Cuban way. See buildings in different stages of reconstruction and meet neighborhood residents as they engage in selling arts and crafts.

3 p.m. Enjoy a **guided walking tour of Old Havana**. Learn about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana, including the importance and use of tourism revenue to restore neglected buildings and provide social services to Havana residents, the importance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, national patrimony, and urban planning.

4 p.m. Bus transfer and check in to the **Hotel Nacional** where we will enjoy our welcome mojito and some downtime to rest or explore the historic hotel and its ocean breezes.

7:30 p.m. Welcome **DINNER** at **La Torre Restaurant**. Afterwards, you may opt for a Saturday evening stroll along Havana's famous seaside **Malecon**. (Tim's favorite!)

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

(B, L)

- 9 a.m.** After **BREAKFAST** you will have an Orientation meeting with your Ethical Traveler leader Tim Tendick, the local guide, and Altruvistas program coordinator Cicely Sanchez on general Cuba travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of the program.
- 10:30 a.m.** Visit **the Museo de Bellas Artes**, the Cuban Fine Arts Museum, for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.
- 1 p.m.** **LUNCH** at Bodequita del Medio, right off Cathedral Square.
- 2:30 p.m.** Visit artist studios in Old Havana. Then visit the **Taller Grafica** printmakers' workshop in the old city's Cathedral Square for an assortment of Cuban artists and their craft.
- 4:30 p.m.** Engage a community project dedicated to music education and performance.
- 10 p.m.** Free for cultural activities, including reservation at the **Fox and the Crow** jazz club near the hotel.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

(B, D)

- 9:30 a.m.** Meet with **Cuban Architect Miguel Coyula** for an overview of the history and development of the Capital.
- 11 a.m.** Visit the art and photography galleries of **La Acacia and Fototeca** and chat with local artists.
- 12:30 p.m.** **LUNCH** Reservation at **Paladar Nao**.
- 2:30 p.m.** Home visit to the well known Cuban Revolution photographer, **Roberto Salas**.
- 4 p.m.** **City tour Part Two** on bus of modern Havana including the Jose Marti Revolution Square and Playa municipality with architecture and urban planner. Optional drop off at the Colon Cemetery.
- 7 p.m.** **DINNER** at **El Divino Paladar**. Then a free evening to enjoy contemporary music and dance at the **Casa de la Música**. You can also visit a dance club frequented by Cubans to learn about contemporary musicians and interact with up and coming local artists. Participants will witness the interaction and contradictions between a closed economy and the influx of tourism.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

(B,L)

- 8 a.m.** Say *hasta luego* to the Nacional, and head into the provinces on the highways where classic car "yankee yachts" from the 1950s and Soviet Ladas from the 1960s move around motorcycle sidecars and sugarcane trucks. We'll head to a UNESCO Bioserve to visit the **Las Terrazas** community, where we'll have a guided visit of this ecological experiment and environmental education center. We'll meet with reserve officials and volunteers for an overview of the project's history before walking through it to meet artists like Lester Campa, Ariel Pinelli, Henry Alamo, and Jorge Duporte.
- 1:30 p.m.** **LUNCH** at **El Romero** and continue day at las Terrazas, walk by the local school and polyclinic.
- Evening** **DINNER** Transfer to Viñales Valley and check in to our *casas particulares* to see firsthand one of the primary ways that Cuba is responding to increased tourism without losing sight of the commitments of the revolution. And meet your new Cuban best friends. Later we will meet to enjoy a community block party with a local CDR, a Committee for the Defense of the Revolution.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

(B,L)

- 9 a.m.** **Walking Farm tour** in the Valley. Enjoy a guided stroll through local farms. Meet with different farmers (including tobacco) and their families as you learn about Cuban agriculture and small scale farming. Option to rent bicycles or horses. Then we will reconnect for lunch.
- 2:30 a.m.** After **LUNCH** we will make a brief visit to the UNEAC supported project of **Art and Hope**. This community arts project started by a well known Cuban Artist Carreta, works with Down's syndrome children. Time to explore Pinar Town and request to visit the studio of **Pedro Pablo Oliva Rodríguez**. We will also visit the **Galeria Korda** to explore local art and photography.
- Evening** **DINNER** and Eve free in Viñales, exploring the town, getting to know your casa particular hosts, or resting in preparation for returning to Havana.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

(B, L)

- 8:30 a.m.** Check out and return to la Havana. We'll play it by ear during the day, adjusting to fit the group's interests and energy, or leaving the day free for your own exploration of your old friend, Havana.
- Evening** **DINNER OPTIONAL** with **Giselia Arandia**, from UNEAC, including her expertise and insight into race and gender in Cuba. (20 cuc)
- Evening** Optional visit to **Opera de la Calle**, which has an outdoor theater, bar and 150seat restaurant, and is a throwback to life before Cuba's 1959 revolution, when Havana teemed with cabarets and theaters. It has nightly entertainment, anchored by an eclectic troupe that mixes traditional opera, Cuban song and dance, and popular music from abroad.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

(B L)

- 9:30 a.m.** Visit to the home and studio of artist **Francisco Gordillo** to see how he blends the African and Cuban traditions in his dignified and potent artwork.
- 11:30 p.m.** Explore one of the Cuban Revolution's most remarkable achievements: the dramatic eradication of illiteracy, at the **Literacy Museum**.
- 1 p.m.** **LUNCH** is at the **La Casa Paladar**
- 3 p.m.** Meet with a representative of CENESEX, Cuba's remarkable Center for Sex Education, and learn about the impact of tourism, and the movement for gay rights in Cuba.
- 4:40 p.m.** Visit **Prodanza**, ballet school, directed by the daughter of the famous Cuban prima ballerina Alicia Alonso. Donations are welcome, for more info contact Tim Tendick (timtendick@gmail.com)
- Evening** **DINNER AND EVENING ARE FREE**. Recommended visit to the **Fabrica de Arte** where a variety of contemporary Cuban art forms are on rotation, from architecture to fashion and theater.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

(B,L)

- 10 a.m.** Visit the award winning and inspirational **Muraleando Community Art Project**, Community Art Project, where neighborhood artists and teachers improved their neighborhood while celebrating and continuing the Cuban traditional love of art. Donations in the form of art and educational supplies are welcome.

12 p.m. **LUNCH** at **Jardin de los Milagros Paladar**.

2:30 p.m. We will have a briefing and exchange with the representative of Cuba's Friendship Institute, **ICAP**, our official host in Cuba, where we will hear a Cuban perspective on US/Cuban International Relations and how the US embargo impacts Cuba's development and its art community.

4 p.m. Visit the **Viter Cintero community project**, where neighborhood volunteer members teach various arts to local children. We'll meet with the leaders who inspired this project, as well as their students.

5-7 p.m. Private performance by a professional Cuban band as we ponder how inexplicable it is that we only have one full day left, then dance away our sorrow.

Evening **DINNER AND EVENING ARE FREE** for cultural activities, baseball, and plotting how to come back as soon as possible.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

(B, D)

9 a.m. Visit the **Callejon de Hamel** for whatever face of Cuba's AfroCuban Santeria culture and art the residents of this unique neighborhood choose to show that day. We will spend 2 hours with Elias Aseff Alfonso who works closely with the Callejon community's founder, Salvador Gonzales Escalona. He will share the history and day to day realities of art, culture and religion in Cuba.

11:30 a.m. Visit to **Organoponico of Alamar**, where we'll visit a farm like none other you've ever seen, tucked among the Soviet style tenement housing, and see firsthand one of the lessons post petroleum fertilizer Cuba has to share with America, regarding the possible production of food in an urban setting. Unless your city already grows organic fruit, vegetables, ornamental plants, seedlings, timber, medicinal and spiritual plants, dried herbs, condiments, garlic paste, tomato sauce, pickles, vermi compost, goat and rabbit meat, mycorrhizal funghi, and assorted other products among the housing blocks? And guess where we're having **LUNCH**.

4 p.m. As we leave Alamar we will stop to visit the other areas included in Havana's World Heritage Site status. We will visit la **Fortaleza de La Cabaña** whose construction began in 1763 and learn about the history of war between the Spanish and English Empires as they struggled for control of the New World.

8 p.m. **FAREWELL DINNER** at **San Cristobal Paladar**.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

(B)

TBA a.m. **BREAKFAST** and check out of hotel, bus transfer to airport / check in for return flight to Miami.