



December 27- January 4th, 2018

Wed. Dec. 27th **Bienvenidos to Cuba** (Welcome Cocktail, Dinner)

2:00pm Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport and transfer to either your casa particular or the Hotel Nacional.

5:00pm **Orientation Meeting** and overview with Cicely, your Altruvistas Havana representative and Suki John, your Cuban Arts Match at the Hotel Nacional.

7:30 PM Welcome Dinner at *San Cristobal Paladar*

Thurs. Dec. 28th **History and Architecture** (Breakfast, Lunch)

9:00a.m.: **Briefing by Cuban architect Miguel Coyula** to discuss the History and Future of Havana. Learn about the historic development of the Capitol, and about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana through the salvaging of neglected buildings, tourism for restoration investment, and the accompanying social services for local residents.

<https://www.appliedbrilliance2016.com/speakers/miguel-coyula/>

11:00a.m.: Guide tour of the contemporary arts section of the **Bellas Artes Museum**.

1:00p.m.: Lunch at *El Figaro Paladar in Old Havana*.

2:30 pm **Guided City Tour of Old Havana**. Our guided tour includes a brief history of the city's important sites with a focus on the diverse architecture of the city. Our walk takes us through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about the historic, architectural, and cultural significance of this area which was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Explore the four main plazas of the 18th-century colony: **Plaza de Armas**, which originally housed the main administrative buildings of the colony; **Plaza Vieja**, the oldest of the plazas; **Plaza de la Cathedral**, site of the baroque cathedral of Havana, and **Plaza de San Francisco**, site of the basilica of San Francisco and the old Havana stock exchange. One highlight today is a stop at **the Fototeca and the Taller Grafica** in Old Havana and then visit a few artist studios (including the well known AfroCuban artists **Choco**) in Old Havana.

5:00pm Time to rest and dinner on your own.

9:30pm Meet at the lobby of the hotel Nacional to walk over to "**La Zorra y El Cuervo**" for live Cuban Jazz.

Friday Dec. 29th History of Dance in Cuba (Breakfast, Lunch)

9:30a.m **Cuban Arts Match** briefing on the History of Dance in Cuba.

11:00am Visit and exchange with our friends at the **National Ballet School**.

12:30pm Lunch at *El Aljibe restaurant*.

2:00pm Meeting with home and jewelry gallery of the Ramírez whose triplets attend the National Ballet school to share their experiences as parents. (link about Remberto, <http://www.granma.cu/cultura/2016-04-21/remberto-ramirez-imanes-de-buen-gusto-21-04-2016-18-04-29>)

3:30p.m.: Visit and exchange with **Danza Contemporaria**.

5:00pm Time to Rest.

7:00pm Dinner reservation at *El Cocinero Paladar*.

9:00pm After walk next door to enjoy the vibrant contemporary performance and arts space of the **Fabrica de Arte**.

Saturday, December 30th History of Music in Cuba (Breakfast, Lunch)

9:30am We are off to **Centro Asturianos** for our demonstrative lecture on **Cuban Music** by **Prof. Alberto Faya** who has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world for over 20 years. He has obtained national awards due to their work in the field of music and musicology. They will be joined by a quartet of extraordinary young musicians who will take us on a musical journey thru the history of Cuba. This will be an interactive experience, with the audience encouraged to engage the lecturers and musicians.

11:30 am Tour the **National Theater of Cuba** named after Alicia Alonzo.

1:00pm Lunch at Hemingway's Old Dive the *Bodequita del Medio*.

2:00pm Enjoy free time or a visit to **UNEAC for the Sabado de la Rumba**.

5:00pm Time to Rest.

7:00pm Dinner reservation at Tale Paladar with invited speaker, the AfroCuban Poet **Nancy Morejon** and enjoy a private music performance by **Haydee Soul** and su grupo **Ache**.

Sunday, December 31st Culture and Arts (Breakfast, Dinner)

10:00am Cultural Options:

A. Photographic walking tour of Central Havana with Cuban Photographer Nestor Marti.

B. Salsa Dance Class

1:00pm Lunch is on our own but we will have an optional reservation

2:30pm Meeting with **Photographer Leysis Quesada**, whose daughter

attends the National Ballet and much of her work focuses on the school and its talented students.

4:00pm Enjoy a rehearsal and exchange with the **Las Compas Dance company**.

5:30pm Time to Rest.

8:00pm **Dinner and New Years Party** at the Casa de Amistad with live salsa.

Monday, January 1st Excursion Day (Breakfast, Dinner)

Morning free for personal exploration.

12:00noon Check out and leave for the Province of Matanzas.

1:00pm Lunch at *Jardin de los Milagros* with special invited guest, **film maker , Gloria Rolando**. She will share her experience as an artist and discuss *Race and Gender in Cuban Film* and address any questions you may have about film genres and national identity in Cuba. We are off for the provinces of **Matanzas** known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy is called the “City of Bridges” or the Athens of Cuba We stop at the **Bacunayagua Bridge** on way to Matanzas town. Next we are off to learn about the history of the region at the **Castillo de San Severino** as we walk through this fort and learn about the Slave Route and the legacy of slavery in Cuba. This fort was declared a National Monument in 1978 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Check in to our hotel in Varadero.

Evening free to engage Suki John’s friends **Danza Espiral** and the Dance community.

Tuesday, January 2nd Excursion Day (Breakfast, Lunch)

10:00am Enjoy a local traditional **Afro Cuban Dance class** and exchange with a Cabildo in Matanzas.

Lunch

2:00pm Exchange with **Danza Espiral**.

Dinner at hotel and evenings are free for local cultural performances.

Wednesday, January 3rd Community Arts (Breakfast, Dinner)

9:30 am Check out and Leave for Havana.

11:30am Visit and Exchange with **Psycho Ballet** a dance therapy that helps troubled youngsters build up self-esteem and confidence.

1:00pm Lunch and time to visit and shop at for souvenirs at the **San Jose de Almancenés arts and crafts faire**.

3:00pm Briefly visit the **Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)**. One of the few major architectural projects completed in Cuba in the early 1960s, this remarkable post- revolution campus is the premier school in Cuba for students studying music, visual arts and performing arts. Castro commissioned Cuban architect Ricardo Porro and two Italian architects, Vittorio Garatti and Roberto Gottardi for this tuition-free, educational institute built on a former golf club.

4:00pm Exchange with the **Muralleando Community Arts program** a community-based art programs in Havana, inspired originally by local

neighborhood artists who taught art “in the streets.” Outdoor murals and sculptures, depicting fanciful celebrations of Cuban life, were a natural outgrowth of these art classes.

5:30pm Time to Rest and eat.

8:00pm Performance of **Ballet Nacional de Cuba** at the Teatro Alicia Alonso.

Thursday, January 4th Hasta Luego (Breakfast)

Am Breakfast and Check out and group transfer to the airport at 10 am.

This Journey is Powered by ...

