



New Year's In Cuba: Celebrating Culture and Community

Dec 28, 2018 -Jan.4th, 2016

Summary:

This Altruvistas Journey will focus on Cuba's ever dynamic culture and arts. We will explore the relationship between personal expression, community development and person-to-person collaboration. We'll visit studios, galleries, World Heritage Sites of extraordinary beauty, and neighborhoods that have been revitalized through imaginative art projects. Much of our time will be spent meeting with individual artists, visiting community art projects, and seeing how art is integrated into the public sphere in Cuba's Socialist culture. Guided visits to important museums and cultural centers will also be featured. Hoping to satisfy the curious impulse of the family and friends on this celebratory trip, this journey will be a wonderful combination of cross-cultural engagement that reaches beyond cultures. Join us as we bring in New Years 2019 with you and our Cuban family and friends in community together!

Friday Dec. 28th:

(D)

am Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport. We will have a group transfer at 2 pm.

3:00pm Enjoy a **guided walking tours of Old Havana** . Learn about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana through the salvaging of neglected buildings, tourism for restoration investment, and the accompanying social plans. Additionally there will be dialogue with staff about the importance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, national patrimony, restoration and urban planning. Experience the City Historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. See buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, meet with neighborhood residents as they engage in selling arts and crafts.

5:00 p.m Transfer and check in to Hotel Inglaterra or your casas particulares You will be met with a welcome Mojito and have time to rest.

7:30 p.m. Welcome dinner at **San Cristobal Paladar** .
All together

Saturday Dec.29th:

(B, L)

9:00am After break fast you will have an **Orientation meeting** by your Altruvistas leader, Malia Everette, our local guide and program coordinators on general Cuba travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of the program.



10:30 am “Havana Today and Tomorrow” Enjoy a briefing by Cuban Architect **Miguel Coyula** to understand the history and development of the Capital.
(ALL)

1:00pm Lunch at El Bodequita del Medio at Cathedral

2:30 pm Visit **a few artists studios (including Choco)** in Old Havana. Lastly, we will visit the **Taller Grafica** printmakers’ center in the old city’s Cathedral

4:00pm Visit **the Museo de Bella Artes** , the Cuban Fine Arts Museum for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.

7:30 pm Tonight you are free to explore local **Paladares**, privately run restaurants. These are wonderful examples of Cuba’s economic changes and support of local economic entrepreneurship. We will make a reservation and invite a friend to share about LGBT realities in Cuba today.

10:00pm Join us at La Zora y el Cuervo for live Cuban Jazz (included for those over 18 years of age. We will get dropped off and you can taxi back at your leisure.

Sunday Dec. 30th: **(B, L)**

9:00am Optional **Salsa Dance lesson.**

11:00am Visit the art and photography galleries of **La Acacia and Fototeca** and chat with local artists and photographers.

Lunch at El Aljibe

2:00pm Exchange with the community arts project of **Muraleando**, 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. In a country where nothing is disposable and everything is useful, broken typewriters, old telephones, tire rims, wrought-iron chair parts - all were fair game to weld and paint and turn into sculpture. The original efforts were made in conjunction with cleaning up trash dumps that had collected throughout the neighborhood. Found art objects, parks and murals now replace piles of trash and serve as gathering places for residents and visitors. We will request to meet with local artist and co-founder of the project, Manuel Díaz Baldrich Manolo. The Muraleando Community Art Project welcomes international support and aid in the form of art and educational supplies.



3:30 pm **City tour on bus of modern Havana** including the Jose Marti Revolution Square and Playa municipality. From

4:00- 5:00 pm Learn about the incredible history of the Cuban Photographer **Roberto Salas**. He has documented the Cuban Revolution for over 50 years (check him out on Anthony Bordain's show on Cuba).

Free time to rest or explore.

7:30 Dinner is on our own but we will make a reservation at el Cocinero. So later tonight (for those over 18) we can soak up the integrative community arts and music performance space of the **Fabrica de Arte Cubano**. We will get dropped off and you can tax home at your leisure.

Monday , December 31^t **(B,D)**

9:30am Morning briefing by an anthropologist about the *African Diaspora in Cuba and the AfroCuban religious traditions including Santeria*.

11:00am Visit to the Casa de Amistad for a briefing and exchange with the representative of Cuba's Friendship Institute, **ICAP**, our official host in Cuba. will learn about the Cuban views on US/Cuban International Relations and the future of normalized relations with Cuba. Learn about life for the Cuban five back home.

Lunch break and free time at the San Jose Arts Feria

2:00pm Enjoy an architectural walking, or photographic tour, with Cuban **photographer Nestor Marti in Central Havana. Or enjoy time explore on your own.**

8:30 Dinner and Eve **New Years Celebration with live Cuban band**

Tuesday , Jan. 1 **(B,L)**

8:30 am After breakfast we depart for our day excursion to the province of Matanzas, just to the east of Havana. Matanzas known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy is called the "City of Bridges" or the Athens of Cuba". Our highlights of our full excursion are many. We stop at the **Bacunayagua Bridge** on way to Matanzas town where we will visit a book making work shop the **Ediciones Vigia** to exchange with local artists and writers. 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. We will request a presentation by the performance arts group so you can experience a **traditional Rumba!** Our afternoon finds us in the resort town of **Varadero**. Here we will have time for personal exploration



on the beach. You will learn about the booming tourist economy here firsthand. In the evening we return to Havana and you are free to wander the streets of Old Havana at night.

Wednesday, Jan. 2 **(B,L)**

9:30 am Enjoy an *Historical Overview of Cuban Music* with **Prof. Fayas and his band** at the Hotel Nacional.

11:30am Visit a modern **dance company** to experience a live rehearsal (Rosario Cardenas or ProDanza to be requested)

1:00pm Lunch reservation at a **paladar**, where the owner also shares what it is like to run a private business in Cuba.

3:30pm Visit and exchange with local Cuban artists in their studios (Francisco Gordillo and others tba).

5:00pm Enjoy a private concert with a **Cuban Jazz Band**. We will also engage with them about music education in Cuba.

7:00pm Dinner is free tonight. We will make a reservation at Jardin de los milagros and enjoy a special guest, Cuban filmmaker **Gloria Rolando, who can answer your** questionings on Gender and Race in Cuban Film. She will share her short film with us over dinner.

Thursday, Jan.3: **(B,L)**

9:00am Enjoy a day excursion to the beautiful **Las Terrazas community in the Sierra de Rosario Bio Reserve**. Enjoy a community guided visit this ecological community and environmental education center. Participants will meet with reserve officials and community and student volunteers working in the reserve. We will receive an overview of the history of the project and then have time for lunch will be at El Romero.

Afterwards we will hike through the community to meet with **local artists Jorge Duporte, Lester Campa, Henry Alamo and Ariel Pinelli**. Opportunity to interact with the local community, visit local artists

3:30pm Return to Havana and arrival at hotel or casas at 5 pm.

7:30 p.m. **Farewell Dinner** at Le Chansoire with some special guests of our Altruvistas Familia.

Monday, Jan.4 **(B,)**

Am Breakfast and Check out of hotel / Check in for return flight to Miami

