



**New Year's In Cuba: Celebrating Culture and
Community:
A People to People Journey for LIVIT**

Dec 31, 2018 -Jan.4th, 2019

1. Co-sponsoring organizations

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Summary:

This LIVIT 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 Year's 2019 with you and our LIVIT family and friends!

Please note below the meals that are included that day: B for breakfast, L for lunch and D for dinner.

Monday, December 31t _____ **(L, D)**

8-11am. Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport. We will have a group transfer at 1 pm.

1:30pm. Welcome Lunch and Welcome Mojito at San Cristobal Paladar. **You will be met by our AltruVistas team here for some brief orientation.**

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.

5:30 p.m. Transfer and check in to **Hotel Nacional** or your casas particulares.

6:00-8:00 Time to rest and unpack.

8:30 Dinner and Eve **New Year's Celebration with live Cuban Salsa band.**

Tuesday, Jan. 1

(B,L)

Morning free

11:00 am. *“Havana Today and Tomorrow”* Enjoy a briefing by Cuban Architect **Miguel Coyula** to understand the history and development of the Capital. Really this is not to be missed! . Learn about the historic development of the Capitol, and about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana through the salvaging of neglected buildings, old cars, tourism for restoration investment, and the accompanying social services for local residents.

1:00pm Lunch at Jardin de los Milagros, where the owner also shares what it is like to run a private business in Cuba. **Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando** who can answer your questions on Gender and Race in Cuban Media. She still share her short film with us over lunch.

City tour of modern Havana by bus continues with a stop at Revolution Square for an iconic group photo.

3:00pm. 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.

5:00pm Optional Visits and Exchange with local Cuban artists in their studios (Francisco Gordillo and others tba).

Dinner and evening are free to explore on your own. Malia will make a group reservation for those that would like close to the hotel Nacional. We will meet there to enjoy a drink on the partition before walking over at 9:30 pm for **VIP seating 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.

Wednesday, Jan. 2 (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 Afro Cuban 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. During our drive to Matanzas we will also talk about the African Diaspora in Cuba and the importance of Afro Cuban religion, Santeria.

We will request a presentation by a local Santera you can experience a **traditional Rumba and home cooked lunch in our friend Dolore’s home.**

Our afternoon finds us in the resort town of **Varadero**. Here we will have time for personal exploration on the beach and experience Cuba’s iconic tourist destination. You will learn about the booming tourist economy here firsthand, bring your suits and sunscreen.

In the evening we return to Havana and you are free to wander the streets of Old Havana at night. Or perhaps enjoy live salsa at the Casa de Music.

Thursday, Jan.3: (B, L)

9:30am Discussion at our hotel by economist **Rafael Betancourt** Rafael for the past four years was the local coordinator of the international project, “Socially Responsible Enterprise and Local Development in Cuba”, connecting international social and solidarity economy leaders with their Cuban counterparts and crafting a network for promoting SSE and social responsibility in Cuba with wide participation of activists from many sectors. We can ask him about the changing political economy and the importance of tourism.

11:00am Afterwards we will learn about the time intensive labor behind another of Cuba’s favorite exports, the Cigar, as we tour a **Cigar Factory** in Havana.

1:00pm Lunch at Hemingway’s old dive, the **Bodequeita del Medio.**

2:30pm Enjoy a guided tour of the **Bellas Artes Museum** to learn about important contemporary artists. Here we will be joined by the Cuban art historian, teacher and artist **Eduardo Santos**. He is a well-known provocative gay photographer as well.

4:00- 5:00 pm We end our day with a very special visit to the home of Cuban Photographer **Roberto Salas**. He has documented the Cuban Revolution for over 50 years (check him out on Anthony Bourdain's show on Cuba).

7:00 pm Pick up for our Classic Car Cruise to our Farewell **Dinner** at Le Chansonnier. Then we are off for our Vip entrance (for those over 18) to 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, Jan.4 **(B)**

Am Breakfast and Check out of hotel / am or pm are free to check in for return flights back home.

For those with pm flights we recommend enjoying some free time to shop at the huge local arts and craft market of the San Jose de Almancenés. Malia will bring those that decide to stay on. If you'd like to stay the day and explore the dynamic tourism infrastructure on you own for the day let us know how to support, you.

4. Prices and Inclusions:

The price in the 5-star Hotel Nacional is \$2690 per person

For those in a Casa particular the price is \$1000 less.

a.) The price:

- All confirmations in the program
- Insurance Certificate for LIVIT to be additional named
- New Year's Party
- Lodging as per the program, in casas particulares or a 5-star hotel
- On-ground transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Airport transfers or pick up and drop off on arrival and departure days only (folks that arrive early will take a taxi). One group transfer only.
- One full time leader/translator from Havana
- Preparatory reading and orientation materials.
- Admission to all programmed activities
- Funds for group donations and honoraria to NGOs , projects and speakers

- Tips for group meals
- Two meals per day, breakfast and either lunch or dinner.
- One bottle of water every day.
- Welcome Cocktail
- Luggage transfer (at owner's risk throughout). Baggage allowance depends on the airline.

b.) The price does not include the following: **

- Expenses of a purely personal nature.
- Passport fees
- Room service charges.
- Flights to and from Havana
- Gratuities to waiters eating on your own, or to your guide and driver
- Travel Insurance (We advise that each participant arrange for their own travel insurance, yet it is not required).
- Extra Beverages or snacks, and one meal a day.
- Trips

**Each participant is responsible for these charges.

c.) Single rooms will cost more, and the price will be \$800 per person or \$200 a night for the 5 * hotel and \$200 or \$50 a night for the casa particular.

Payment

- Deposit: A \$500 **non-refundable deposit and registration forms** from each individual 3 months before departure (and encouraged earlier) or by September 25th, 2018.
- Final payment: The remaining balance is due 60 days before, no later than 45 days, or October 31st, 2018.

All payments will be payable to Altruvistas and the prices quoted are cash prices. Credit cards will have a 4.5 % merchant service charge added, and invoices paid by Paypal will have a 3% admin fee added.

8. Cancellations

ALTRUVISTAS reserves the right to cancel this tour in the event that our participants' and staffs' safety and security is in jeopardy. In the event that ALTRUVISTAS decides to cancel the tour for reasons beyond their control (which term will be defined as any acts of government, war, revolution or natural disaster in the destination country, which as agreed between the parties herein will prevent ALTRUVISTAS from organizing a tour consistent with ALTRUVISTAS's own tour program standards and the requirements of the co-sponsoring organization), at any time prior to the departure date, ALTRUVISTAS will refund to each participant all moneys not already paid out, but cannot accept responsibility for any losses incurred to any participants by this cancellation although ALTRUVISTAS will make every reasonable effort to assist the passengers in recouping their losses (this is why individual travel insurance will be recommended, especially for purchased airline tickets).

It should be noted that many tour services for this tour are not provided by ALTRUVISTAS, but by host nation carriers, hoteliers, and other suppliers, who are not agents, employees, or servants of ALTRUVISTAS. All travel vouchers and other travel documents for tour services issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by such suppliers some of which may exclude their liability to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied, and to the international conventions between countries. ALTRUVISTAS and/or its agents, act only as agents for the tour participants in regard to travel by any means, and thus assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour.

In the case of airline tickets, ALTRUVISTAS accepts no responsibility whatsoever for delay, change or cancellation of flights by the airlines and any such losses or expenses incurred must be borne by the participants and each participant must make a claim for any losses incurred directly to the airline or travel agent.

In situations where substitutions can be made every reasonable effort will be made to ensure reasonable and satisfactory substitutions.

9. Penalties

Cancellations and/or amendments by tour participants must be received in writing and all cancellations will be effective on the date the written notification is received. Penalties in accordance with the following schedule:

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| <i>Date :</i> | <i>Penalty</i> |
|---|---|
| For deposits after paid registration | 100% deposits |
| For cancellations after final payment is due 45 days before | 100% of total tour cost (although considerations will be made on a case to case basis). |

10. Insurance

ALTRUVISTAS represents and warrants that it maintains comprehensive general liability insurance and all coverages required by law sufficient for the purpose of carrying out the duties and obligations arising under this Agreement.

ALTRUVISTAS will provide a certificate evidencing such insurance upon request of LIVIT and will add LIVIT to be listed as an additional named insured on such policy if requested.

11. Licensing and US Travel Restriction to Cuba

Altruvistas is a licensed tour operator in the state of California. We operate as a licensed Travel Service Provider by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Treasury Department. AltruVistas legal travel to Cuba for groups with their own specific license or for individuals who fall under the general license category of OFAC. Altruvistas organizes only legal travel and specialized in educational and people to people journeys.

Each traveler will receive a Travel Affidavit from our company to print, sign and keep for their personal records.