



DIMAGGIO-KALISH ITINERARY - CUBA FROM THE INSIDE OUT

November 4 -11 , 2019

(Itinerary is Subject to changes)

Monday, Day 1 Bienvenidos a Cuba (D)

PM Arrival into Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. Transfer to our hotel, the Presidente.

7:00pm Orientation Meeting with Welcome Mojitos!

8:00 pm Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar .

Tuesday, Day 2 Historical Overview of the Capital (B,L)

9:30am Enjoy a briefing by the insightful architect, Miguel Coyula to discuss the history and development of the city. <http://www.american.edu/americanoday/campus-news/20101123-cuba-scholar-Miguel-Coyula.cfm>.

11:30am Our welcome to Havana begins with a Walking City Tour of Old Havana. Our guided tour includes a brief history of the city as we visit to important sites throughout Havana. View the diverse architecture of the city. Participants will walk through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about its historic, architectural, and cultural significance. The area was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Learn about the City historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. The group will 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; and Plaza de la Cathedral, site of the baroque cathedral of Havana. This site visit will include other important places such as Plaza de San Francisco, site of the basilica of San Francisco and the old Havana stock exchange.

We break up the day with lunch in Old Havana at the Moneda Cubana before a stop at Hemingway's, Bodeguita del Medio and to exchange with local artists at the Taller Grafica. We end our day with a visit to the recently restored Capitolio and a local Synagogue.

5:00pm Break and free time to explore local venues for dinner.

9:45 pm Join us for VIP access to hear fabulous Cuban Jazz at La Zora y El Cuervo club (you will taxi back to the hotel at your leisure).

Wednesday, Day 3 A Culture of Arts (B,L)

9:00am Visit to a local school of the arts, like ENA or ISA to learn about arts education in Cuba.

11:00am Chat with Pepito at his Barber shop, and engage the community at Arte Corte, a local community development project.

1:00pm Lunch at El Figaro Paladar.

2:30pm Exchange with local artists at a studio in Old Havana.

4:00pm Visit to the ProDanza Ballet School and engage with the students after seeing one of their rehearsals.

5:30pm Free time and drop off at our accommodations.

7:30pm Optional: Drop off at the Hotel Nacional to enjoy dinner, a live outdoor performance (like Opera) or to enjoy the Hotel Nacional's Parisian Cabaret.

Thursday, Day 4 The Countryside and Mogotes (B, L)

9:00am Today head east towards the beautiful Viñales Valley – situated in one of the most picturesque parts of Cuba, among the limestone “mogotes” hills of the Pinar del Rio province. It is a small and culturally rich rural village, with friendly and welcoming residents. Upon reaching Viñales, we'll visit a hilltop organic farm and learn about sustainable farming in Cuba. Their family will show us around and explain the workings of the organic farm he has created. With the beautiful views as our backdrop, we will enjoy a deliciously fresh organic meal prepared by the family— a truly authentic farm-to-fork experience! We will also visit a local polyclinic to learn about the preventative health care model in Cuba.

Return to la Havana with time free for dinner and cultural activities, or a baseball game!

Friday, Day 5 **The Revolution Today** (B, D)

9:30am Visit to a Cigar Factory to learn about the production of this important crop.

Lunch at the Gran Teatro de la Havana Alicia Alonso restaurant with an invited guest that will share about the “Fruits of the Cuban Revolution and the new Constitution”.

2:30pm We learn special education with a visit to a Down syndrome children's school.

4:30pm Exchange with the US born, Cuban photographer Roberto Salas in his home. See his photos first hand and learn of his incredible life documenting the Cuban Revolution. After we will have optional time to visit and photograph the Colon Cemetery. Free time for a photo walk along the Malecon.

8:00 pm Transportation and drop off at the Fabrica de Arte Cubano for dinner reservations at Tierra followed by VIP access to this interactive arts and music venue.

Saturday , Day 6 The “Athens of Cuba” (B)

8:00am After breakfast we depart for 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. We will meet with a local historian, anthropologist Israel Moliner Castañeda, to share about the history of Cuba, visit the Ediciones Vigia cooperative book making studio and the artisan gallery of de la ACAA (Asociación Cubana de Artesanos Artistas).

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. Here we will enjoy a performance of Afro Atenas, and enjoy a local Rumba.

In the afternoon we will have time to explore the Dupont mansion and then enjoy the beautiful Varadero Beach. We return to Havana where you can rest and enjoy dinner on your own.

Sunday, Day 7 Community Arts (B, L, D)

Am tba Enjoy an optional photo walk along the picturesque Malecon and after we will have free time to shop and engage with local artists and crafts persons at the San Jose de Almancenés faire.

11:00am Enjoy a guided tour of the Museo de Bella Artes, the Cuban Fine Arts Museum for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.

12:30pm Lunch and exchange with the vibrant local community arts project, Muralleando.

3:00 pm Enjoy a visit to the home studio of Francisco Gordillo, artists, or another.

4:30pm Afternoon walking and photographic tour with architectural photographer Nestor Marti of Centro Havana.

6:00pm Break

7:30pm Get picked up in Classic Cars to Cruise to our Farewell Dinner

Monday day, Day 8 Departure back to USA (B)

Departure back to USA