



Nueva Havana (New Haven) to Old Havana

Sustainable Development and Cultural Exchange in Cuba

April 17-24, 2020

Knowing that arts, education and good environmental stewardship are essential to build a sustainable future for our children and that cultivation of best practices for our future leaders is needed today, Soul de Cuba Cafe's founder, Jesus Puerto, invites you to visit Havana, Cuba this November.

Specially crafted for community leaders of New Haven, let Jesus' counterparts in Havana guide you in exploring Cuba's advancements in building sustainable communities while also immersing yourself in the vibrant Food and Arts Culture of Havana and Jesus' ancestral home town, Guanabacoa!

Our Journey is hosted by the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity and together we will learn about the remarkable expedition the late Dr. Núñez Jiménez led on river through the jungles of the Amazon all the way to Cuba on canoes. This extraordinary scientific endeavor, which was the highlight of Dr. Núñez Jiménez life, greatly influenced his work, and propelled him to become one of the main explorers of the 20th century worldwide. Thirty years after this historic journey, his vision that is possible, through a "Culture of Nature, to achieve harmony between society and its environment", has acquired strength and validity. We will visit the Hatuey Canoe museum where one of the vessels used in this journey is housed and there, experts will provide insights into Dr. Núñez Jiménez's vast scientific accomplishments and his personal life.

Additional highlights of the program includes in-depth tour of historic Guanabacoa, the once sacred homeland of native Cuban Indians, to Finca Marta farm which provides many local restaurants and families fresh, organic produce and honey, and we will have a presentation by Afro-Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando.

The tour will also include tobacco farm and rum factory visits to allow you to connect with local people in their place of work and receive insight into not just the production processes of these products but also learn about workplace culture in Cuba. This tour is specially designed to allow you to connect and engage with your soon to be friends and family in Guanabacoa and Havana as you will be able to dine and jazz through the evenings with them or just relax to a tranquil Cuban bolero at a bar nearby the centrally located hotel.

Proceeds will go to the Cubanakoa Foundation which seeks to support the sustainable revitalization of Guanabacoa creating jobs and projects in areas including cultural preservation, organic farming, workforce development training and leadership and peace education and the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity.

Friday April 17th Arrival and Orientation (D)

AM Check in for Departure from USA

2:00PM Transfer for the group from Jose Marti International Airport.

4:00PM Transfer to Hotel Inglaterra (to be requested- or to your casas particulares).

Enjoy a small break to check in, shower, and rest.

6:00 PM **Orientation Meeting & Briefing-** engage in an overview of our delegation together in Cuba. We will review health and safety issues, petty crime, culture and group dynamics in Cuba!

7:30PM **Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal, with special guests.**



Saturday April 18th Historical Overview of Cuba (B,L)

- 9:00 AM **Invited Speaker** to hotel to give a historical overview of the development of Havana (Requested architect and urban planner **Miguel Coyula**).
- 11:00 AM Enjoy a guided **Walking City Tour of Havana**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Delegates also have time to engage with Cubans at their art studios, galleries and markets where participants will meet with Cuban artists and find out first hand how artist negotiate between the tourist market, a socialist economy and new opportunities for individual entrepreneurship. Visit the four major historical squares of Cuba. 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. Learn about how tourism impacts economic good.
- 1:00PM **Lunch in old Havana at El Figaro Paladar.**
- 2:30 PM **Visit to the Musuem of the Revolution.**
- 4:00 PM Enjoy a vibrant exchange with a local **Community Arts project Muraleando.**
- 5:30PM Free Time to rest.
- 7:30PM Dinner and evening are free, however if you like join us for a dinner reservation at **El Cocinero**. Then afterwards we can walk to the **Fabrica de Arte**.

Sunday April 19th Immersion into Guanabacoa (B,L,D)



- 9:00 -10:30AM Visit to a local **Cigar Factory** to learn about this important agricultural product and commodity.
- 11:00AM Presentation by Roberto Perez , from Fanj , about Sustainability in Cuba today.
- 1:00 PM Lunch at El Ajibe restaurant
- 2:30PM Travel to **Guanabacoa where we will have a Cultural Community Exchange in the museum.** Learn about the history of this town and the importance of the African Diaspora and Santeria.
- 5:00 PM **Fiesta de Comunidad with Jesus Puerto and Cubanako** with music and food.

Monday April 20th Arts and Education (B,L)

- 9:00AM Exchange with a member of MINED, **the Ministry of Education** to learn about public education in Cuba.
- 11:00AM Enjoy another cultural immersion with **Havana Compas Dance.**
- 1:00PM Lunch
- 2:00-3:00 PM Enjoy a docent lead visit to **the Museum of Bellas Artes** where we will focus on Cuban Contemporary arts.
- 3:30PM Visit to **a local School**, the Fine Arts School, or afterschool program to learn more about education.
- 10:00pm For those of you up to it, join us for VIP seating to hear live **Cuban jazz at la Zora y el Cuervo.**

Tuesday April 21th

(B, L)

9:00AM Exchange with **ICAP**, **The Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples**, to discuss the impacts of the US Embargo on the Cuban population and the current state of US/Cuba international relations under the Trump Administration.

11:00AM Visit and briefing by the **Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity** (FANJ) is a cultural and scientific non-governmental institution, dedicated to research and promotion of programs and projects for the protection of the environment as it relates to culture and society. Dialogue and exchange with staff about important issues facing Cuba today. Learn about environmental education, science, urban agriculture and food security in Cuba. (*requested meeting with Roberto Perez*) A highlight is the **Canoe Museum** here, and we can see how ancient ways of navigation connected the Amazon to the Caribbean. This was a highlight with the Hokulea and the Polynesian Voyaging Society visited Havana March 2106.

1:00PM Lunch

3:00-5:00 PM **Visit to the Rafael Trejo Boxing Gym** to learn about sports education and boxing in Cuba.

Dinner and evening are free for personal exploration. But we will have the option of dinner at a local paladar with special guest **Documentary Film Maker Gloria Rolando** she will share a recent documentary of her Haitian grandmother's story.

Wednesday April 22th

(B, L)

8:30am Enjoy a day excursion through Pinar del Rio Province to scenic **Vinales Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1999. Encircled by mountains and interspersed with dramatic rocky outcrops, traditional agricultural techniques, particularly of tobacco, are still practiced here. The quality of this cultural landscape is enhanced by the vernacular architecture of its farms and villages where a rich multiethnic society survives, illustrating the cultural development of the islands of the Caribbean and Cuba. In the late morning, we enjoy a guided walking tour through the farms in Vinales Valley. We'll meet with different farmers, including **tobacco farmers**, and their families to learn about Cuban agriculture and small scale farming. Following the tour, we'll have lunch in the town of Vinales. In the afternoon, we'll have a briefing with the town historian in Vinales to learn about rural development in this beautiful town, its history, and how they are trying to keep tourism small and community based. We return to Havana after our visit in Vinales. You're free to explore dinner options and evening activities on your own this evening.

Thursday April 23th

(B, L, D)

9:00AM Enjoy an exchange with an organic urban farm in Alamar, on the outskirts of Havana and exchange with local gardeners. At the **Organopónico Vivero Alamar** we will engage with one of Havana's largest and most successful urban garden, a Unidad Básica de Producción Cooperativa (Basic Unit of Cooperative Production). Covering 11 hectares in Alamar, a residential suburb, the allotment's rows of vegetables are overshadowed by grey Soviet-style blocks of flats. Though small, the garden (really more of an urban farm) is incredibly productive. As well as fresh vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants, seedlings, timber and medicinal and spiritual plants, the cooperative also produces dried herbs, condiments, garlic paste, tomato sauce and pickles; vermicompost, compost and substrates; goat and rabbit meat and mycorrhizal fungi. The Organopónico also welcomes tourists and holds workshops and courses in organic agriculture. Products are sold to local restaurants and directly to community members from the farm shop. We will have lunch with the community of farmers.



Lunch Ajiaco Paladar in Cojimar.

2:30 PM Enjoy a community environmental exchange in Cojimar and then we will have some free time to enjoy the streets of Havana, walk the Malecon, or souvenir shop at the **San Jose Almecenes Artisan faire**.

7:00 PM Depart for our **Farewell Dinner at El Divino, a social enterprise on a lovely garden**.

Friday April 24th

Hasta Luego!

(B)

9:30am Check out of Hotel and Transfer to Airport for your departure back to US.

