



Nueva Havana (New Haven) to Old Havana:

Sustainable Development and Cultural Exchange in Cuba

October 9 – 17, 2022

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 October.

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.

Sunday , October 9th 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 your casa particular or the Sheraton, you can let us know what you prefer.
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.



Monday October 10th 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 a 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

Tuesday October 11th Sustainable Development in Cuba (B, L)

9:00AM 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 Musuem** 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 Voyageing Society visited Havana March 2106.

11:00 am We will visit to one of their eco community projects.

1:00PM Lunch

3:00-5:00 PM

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 Hatian grandmother 's story.

Tuesday October 12th Environamental Education (B,L)

9:00AM Exchange with a member of **CITMA** to learn about how climate change will impact Cuba and what the government's plans are for sea level rise.

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**, to learn about eco education.

5:00PM Free time.

9:45PM For those of you up to it, join us for VIP seating to hear live **Cuban jazz at la Zora y el Cuervo.**

Wednesday October 13th Viñales Excursion (B, D)

8:00AM Breakfast and Check out of Hotel.

9:00AM Enjoy a two 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 Viñales 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 visit and have lunch at Finca Paraiso.

In the afternoon, we'll have a briefing with the town historian in Viñales to learn about rural development in this beautiful town, its history, and how they are trying to keep tourism small and community based.

4:00PM Depart for Las Terrazas and Check into the Hotel La Moka

7:00PM Dinner

Friday October 14th Las Terrazas (B, L, D)

8:00AM Breakfast

9:00AM 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 exchange and hike with local **CITMA staff and scientists** to see the reforestation.

Lunch will be at **El Romero**. We end our day with visits to local artists' studios. Then you have free time to relax, zipline or horsebackride.

7:00pm Dinner at Buena Vista and overnight at La Moka.

Saturday October 15th Agroecology (B, L)

8:00AM Breakfast and check out of hotel.

9:00AM Enjoy an exchange with an organic urban farm and exchange with local gardeners at **FINCA MARTA**.

12:30PM Lunch

2:30 PM Return to Havana and enjoy free time to enjoy the streets of Havana, walk the Malecon, or souvenir shop at the **San Jose Almecenes Artisan faire**.

5:00PM Check in to Hotel Nacional

7:30PM Dinner and evening are free, however if you like join us for a dinner reservation at **El Cocinero** or **La Tierra**. Then afterwards we can walk to the **Fabrica de Arte**.



Sunday, October 16th Immersion into Guanabacoa and World Food Day (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 Aljibe 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 Farewell Fiesta de Comunidad with Jesus Puerto and Cubanakoia with music and food.

Monday, October 17th Hasta Luego! (B)

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

