

***A Culture of Arts & Photography in Cuba***  
***Joe Guerriero***  
***October 14-23, 2024***

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 2024****Bienvenidos**

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| am     | Arrive by 2 pm to HAV, to Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. Group transfer.                            |
| 3:00pm | Check-In to the hotel Gran Aston, a 5-star property on the Malecon waterfront. Free time to relax at the hotel. |
| 5:30pm | Orientation and Meet and Greet Session with a Welcome Mojito with Joe & your Cuban guide Joel.                  |
| 7:00pm | Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal   |

**Meals Included : Dinner**

**Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 :****History of Havana**

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|---------|---|
| 8:00am  | Breakfast is at the hotel daily 7-10 am.  |
| 9:00am  | Explanation of the history and development of Havana by an architect/urban planner, explanation of the social and political effects on the development of the Cuban Capital ( <b>Architect Miguel Coyula</b> requested).  |
| 11:00am | Enjoy a guided <b>Walking City Tour of Havana</b> , 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. |

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- 1:00pm Lunch at la **Doña Eutemia** paladar in Old Havana.
- 3:00pm Learn about Cuban Contemporary Arts on our guided tour of the **Bellas Artes Museum**.
- 4:30pm Enjoy a **film short and conversation with film maker Gloria Rolando**.
- 6:00pm Free time to rest.
- 8:00pm Dinner reservation at **Flor de Loto** in Chinatown.
- Optional Cultural Activity: Tonight we recommend the phenomenal **Fabrica de Arte Cubano**. We will drop off those that like, & you can cab back to the hotel.
- Meals Included :** Breakfast & Lunch

### Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 Cultural Roots

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 10:00am Visit to **Fototeca**, with its inspiring photography (request to meet Lisette Rios Lozano).
- 12:30pm Free **Time to lunch and to shop for local arts** in Old Havana or at the San Jose de Almancenenes.
- 2:30pm Enjoy a photo walk & studio visit with **Cuban Photographer and artist Adrian Garrido**.
- 4:30pm Exchange with a **Community Development Project** like **Art Brut Project Cuba** is an art project created by RIERA STUDIO with the purpose of promoting and supporting singular art expressions, that share a stylistic distance from the existing visual culture based on academic or intellectual training; and whose makers have no knowledge of intellectual artistic issues.
- 6:00pm Break
- 8:00pm **Dinner at Casa Mia Paladar.**
- 9:45pm Join us for live **Cuban Jazz at la Zora y El Cuervo!**
- Meals Included :** Breakfast & Dinner

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**Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** Viñales Valley

- 8:30 am Check out of the hotel and depart for Viñales Valley.
- 10:00am Leave for **Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** for an excursion to “Las Terrazas” / Pinar del Rio Eco-Community and Sustainable Development site in the Sierra del Rosario Mountains – a UNESCO designated “Bio-Reserve” area. Engage with representatives from CITMA (the Cuban Ministry of Technology and the Environment) to learn about Cuba’s efforts to promote sustainable development. Dialogue about how communities in habitat reserve areas and mountain and coastal zones are involved in environmental and habitat protection, and to learn about local environmental pressures and conservation efforts by the Cuban people. Visit local artists & learn about the reforestation here.
- 1:00pm Lunch at Romeros
- 3:00pm Depart for our casas particulares in the **beautiful town of Viñales Valley**. Stop for panoramic views and a group picture.
- 5:00pm Check in and Rest
- 7:30pm Dinner reservation at Don Tomas in Viñales together.
- Meals Included :** Breakfast and Lunch

**Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2024** Viñales Valley

- 8:00am **Walking tour of local farms in the valley.** Enjoy a morning hike through farmlands and see local crops . Learn more about the simple lifestyle here and see first-hand the farmers who grow tobacco for some of the most expensive cigars (Benito!).
- 12:30pm Lunch and Farm visit at **El Paraiso and tour their farm.**
- 3:00pm Visit to the **Cueva del Indio.**
- 5:00pm **Free time for dinner & cultural activities in town**
- Meals Included :** Breakfast and Lunch

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**Saturday, October 19 , 2024**

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- 8:00am Check out of the hotel and depart for Havana
- 11:30am Upon arrival we will meet and exchange with the **Cuban Photographer Raul Cañibano**.
- 1:00pm Lunch at a Paladar.
- 3:00pm Enjoy a cultural interactive exchange with the **Rosario Cardenas dance troupe**.
- 5:00pm Mojitos and Conversation at our hotel with **Sonia Baez**, a friend of Joe's, we will enjoy an intimate conversation about life and arts under the Revolution. She will share about the promotion of culture in the country and open for our questions.
- 6:15pm **Check back into the Gran Aston. Free time for dinner and cultural activities.**
- Meals Included :** Breakfast and Lunch

**Sunday, October 20th :** Athens of Cuba

- 8:00 am Check out of the hotel and depart for the provinces of **Matanzas** known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy is called the "City of Bridges" or the Athens of Cuba. This will be a 3.5-hour drive.
- 11:30am Enjoy a brief city tour upon arrival. Visit **to Ediciones Vija**, book making artist collective.
- 1:00pm Lunch reservation at a local paladar.
- 3:00pm Check back into your Varadero resort **the Gran Muthu**.
- 5:00pm Free time for dinner at the resort and cultural activities.
- Meals Included :** Breakfast and Dinner

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**Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2024:**

- 8:00am Breakfast and leisure time at the coast.
- 11:00am 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. **Enjoy an AfroCuban dance performance.**
- 1:00pm Lunch reservation at a local paladar. You can order here off the menu.
- 3:00pm After we will enjoy an **exchange with a local Cabildo in Matanzas.**
- 5:00pm **Free evening for dinner at hotel and cultural activities.**
- 6:15pm **Meals Included :** Breakfast and Dinner

**Tuesday, October 23, 2024:****Wrap Up**

- 8:00am Free morning
- 11:00am Check out and depart for Havana. We will stretch our legs to enjoy the Sculpture Garden Walk and visit El Garabato art studio. Lunch stop along the way.
- 4:00pm Check in to our hotel in Havana the Gran Aston or Muthu, both legal 5 star.
- 6:30pm Enjoy a **Classic Car ride** through Havana, the Malecon & for a photo opportunity at Revolution Square.
- 7:30pm **Farewell Dinner** at Los Mercederes Paladar. We will stroll the magical lit up streets of Old Havana after.

**Meals Included :** Breakfast and Dinner

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**Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Departure**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport in Havana

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