



Mister Latin Jazz Goes to Havana!

Festival Jazz Plaza aka Havana Jazz Festival

January 26th – February 3rd , 2025

Do you love Afro-Cuban drumming? Join Arturo Riera, Mister Latin Jazz, as he creates percussion-focused events deep inside Havana's Afro-Cuban drumming community! This Support for the Cuban People Journey provides you with a way to legally travel to Cuba while learning about the history of Cuban music with a focus on the drum. Our journey will include many private performances, select Havana Jazz Festival concerts, docent-led art and architectural tours, and a group salsa lesson! We will take you deep inside the alleys and among communities with drumming traditions unique to Havana and Cuba. Explore the percussion of diverse musical genres and cultural traditions such as Son, Rumba, Abakua, Bata, and contemporary Jazz from Cuba's top musicians.

What makes Cuban culture so rich and exciting? You will get a chance to experience Cuban music, art, and architecture curated just for our group. 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 and musicians, enjoying community-made musical events, and experiencing how deeply music and art is integrated into Cuban culture.

Sunday January 26th Bienvenidos a La Havana (D)

AM Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport, Havana Cuba. We will arrange two transfers this morning. Please arrive by 3 pm.

- 4:00pm Check in to our home for the week.
- 5:30pm Welcome Cocktail & Meet and Greet.
- 7:30pm Enjoy Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar!

Monday, January 27th **(B, L)**

Breakfast is at your leisure daily 7 – 10 am.

9:00am Get to know Havana with a **briefing by architect Miguel Coyula**, an architect and urban planner for an overview of the History of Cuba and its Capital.

11:00am Walking Tour of Old Havana. 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. See buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, meet with neighborhood residents as they engage in selling arts and crafts. 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.

1:00pm Lunch at the Calessa Real Paladar.

3:00pm Enjoy a docent guided visit through **the Museo de Bella Artes**, the Cuban Fine Arts Museum for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.

Free time to rest and enjoy Dinner

Eve Opening Night: Festival Jazz Plaza, aka, Havana Jazz Festival

Tuesday, January 28 **(B,L)**

Breakfast at your leisure daily at the hotel's restaurant.

9:00am Optional Salsa Dance Lesson!

11:00am Experience a “A century of Cuban Music” through a live musical overview of diverse genres by Prof. Fayas at the beautiful Casa de Amistad.

12:30pm Lunch in a local paladar

2:30pm Learn about music education in Cuba today with a visit to a local conservatory, or ISA the Institute of Superior Arts in Cuba.

4:00pm Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert 1: Septeto Nacional de Ignacio Piñeiro led by Cuba’s top Bongos player, Frank Oropesa!

Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy dinner

8:30pm Cruise the Malecon in Classic Cars!

9:45pm Enjoy live Latin Jazz at la Zora y el Cuervo

Wednesday , January 29th **(B, L)**

Breakfast

10:00am Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert #2 We meet with elders of the Abakua in Havana which originally developed as a male secret society for self-protection during slavery. The Abakua make music with a bell, shaker, marimbula and three handheld drums called èkömö . Our focus today is on the èkömö drums and the percussion and dance of the Abakua.

11:30am Enjoy a walking street art and mural tour with Cuban photographer Adrian Garrido.

1:00pm Lunch in Old Havana

3:00pm Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert #3 : Los Hermanos Abreu is comprised of Cuba’s top conga drummer, Yaroldi Abreu, and his two sons Diego y Fabio Abreu González.

5:00pm Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy dinner

Eve Havana Jazz Festival Night 2

Thursday, January 30th

(B,L)

Breakfast

9:30 am Experience the labor-intensive production of Cuba's cigar industry with a visit to a Tobacco Factory.

11:00am Visit to the amazing Escuela Nacional de Ballet!

12:30pm Lunch

2:00pm Enjoy a visit with the artists at the Taller Graffica and free time to meander the array of local art studios and shops in the area.

4:00pm Break at the hotel to rest and enjoy dinner

Eve Havana Jazz Festival Night 3

Friday, January 31st

(B,L)

Breakfast

11:00am Visit to the EGREM recording studio to learn about music production in Cuba. EGREM was the first label created in Cuba after 1959 and remained the only one for several decades.

12:30pm Lunch

2:00pm Learn about Cuba's historic production of sugar and rum with a visit to the Rum Museum.

3:30pm Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert #4-Performance by an all-female music and dance group.

5:00pm Break at hotel.

Eve Enjoy a tour then free time to explore the interactive music and arts space, the FAC-the Fabrica de Arte Cubano.

Saturday, February 1st

(B,L)

Breakfast

8:00am Depart for our day excursion to Matanzas, known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy is called the “City of Bridges” or the Athens of Cuba. We stop at the Bacunayagua Bridge on way to Matanzas town. We will 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.

12:30 pm Lunch

2:30pm Enjoy a local traditional Afro Cuban Dance class and exchange with a Cabildo n Matanzas.

4:00pm Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert #5-Los Muñequitos de Matanzas. The most iconic Rumba performers of Cuba will perform for us!

5:00pm Return to Havana.

7:00pm Evening free for dinner and rest.

Saturday, February 2nd

(B, D)

Breakfast

10:00am Free for personal exploration. Or enjoy free time shopping at the San Jose de Almancen Craft market in Old Havana and visit with local artists. Or enjoy beach time at the Playas del Este.

3:00pm Visit the dynamic live drumming and rumba at the Callejón de Hamel.

5:00pm Break

7:00pm Farewell Dinner Paladar at Las Mercedes

Eve Jazz Plaza Closing Concert

Sunday, February 3rd Hasta Luego! (B)

Breakfast and departures from Havana, Cuba back to the US.

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