



Culture and Jazz in Havana
A people-to-people journey with Dr. Segun Shabaka
January 24 - February 1, 2026

Saturday , January 24th Welcome to Cuba D

- TBA Flight arrival into Jose Marti International Airport. Transfer to your hotel.
- 3:00 pm Check into our hotel the iconic and beautiful Hotel Nacional.
- 5:30pm Orientation Meeting after welcome words by **Cuban poet Nancy Morejon.**
- 7:00 pm **Welcome Dinner!**

Sunday , January 25th Orientation to Cuba Today B, L

- 8:00am Breakfast at your leisure
- 9:00am Orientation Meeting and then we have a briefing by **Miguel Coyula**, a leading architect in Cuba today for a briefing on the *History and Development of the Capital.*
- 11:00am **Walking tour of Old Havana.** Here we will visit the four major historic plazas. You will learn about the history in Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 1:00 pm Lunch in Old Havana.
- 2:30pm Explore Cuban contemporary arts with a docent tour of the **Bellas Artes Museum.**
- 4:30pm Time to rest and enjoy a break for dinner.
- Eve **Opening night of the 41st international Jazz Plaza!**

Monday January 26 , AfroCuban Roots B, L

- 8:00 am Breakfast at your leisure
- 10:00 am Learn about Cuba's relationship with Africa with a visit to the **Casa de Africa**. Here we end with a dance performance! After we walk to visit a local entrepreneur at **Zulu Cuba leatherworks**.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Exchange with the **Callejón de Hammel**, a famous alley due to its murals, art and local music performances.
- 4:00 pm Learn about the African Roots of Cuban music meeting with a local musician and enjoy a **Bata drum workshop** in Pogolote, a working-class barrio where AfroCuban traditions are well preserved and practiced.
- 5:30 pm Break for rest and dinner on your own.
- 7:00 pm Dinner at Jardin de los Milagros Paladar. Here we will meet with the filmmaker, **Gloria Rolando**. She will share her experience as an artist and discuss *Race and Gender in Cuban Film* and address any questions you may have about film genres and national identity in Cuba. She is currently working on a documentary on the Buffalo Soldiers.

Tuesday, January 27 Arts Education B, L

- 8:00 am Breakfast at your leisure
- 9:30am Visit to the **Literacy Museum** to learn about Cuba's literacy campaign.
- 11:00 am Learn about the power of community with Kenia Serrano at community project **Karibuni**.
- 1:00 pm Lunch
- 2:30 pm Learn about Cuban arts education with a visit to a local conservatory, or **ISA, the Superior school of Arts**.
- 4:00pm Enjoy the drumming of **Havana Compass Dance!**
- 5:00 pm Return to Havana and free time for Dinner
- Eve **Free for our 2nd Jazz Festival Concert.**

Wednesday January 28th Matanzas! B, L

7:00am Breakfast

8:00am We are off for the provinces of **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. 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.

3:00pm Beach stop at Varadero and return to la Habana at 5pm.

Evening free for dinner and personal exploration.

Thursday, January 29th AfroCuban Sacred Expressions B, L

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am **Connect with Santeras as their casa templo** to learn about the legacy of African spiritual roots (this will be a living shared explanation of Ifa and Santeria. We end with group purification ceremony).

11:30am Visit to the **Church of Regla**, that houses the Black Madonna, also known as Yemaya, the Orisha of the Seas.

1:00pm Lunch with **Regla Sol community project**. Here we will exchange with Magica, about hip hop culture.

3:30pm To end our day we meet **Afro-Cuban painter Francisco Gordillo**. He will share with us about the patakines and the symbolism of the ancestors and the Orishas.

5:30pm Return to the hotel and time for dinner and rest.

Evening **Enjoy our 3rd Jazz Festival Concert!**

Friday, January 30th Community Health and Futures B, L

8:00am Breakfast at your leisure

- 10:30am Meeting with **ICAP, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People.**
Discuss the impacts of the embargo on Cubans today.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Enjoy an exchange with **Proyecto Sociocultural Cabildo Quisicuaba.**
Learn about their community work and food kitchen.
- 4:00pm Enjoy a private conversation with a Cuban Musician to talk about life in
Cuba today. Or visit to the Fidel Castro Museum.
- 5:00pm Return to hotel for rest and dinner.

Evening free for our **last Jazz Festival Concert!**

Saturday, January 31 Wrap up! B, D

- 8:00am Breakfast at your leisure
- 10:00 am Explore the **San Jose de Almacenes Artists' Fair** to see local artists sell
their sculptures, products and paintings. Free time for lunch in Old
Havana.
- 2:00pm Learn about the importance of sugar production at the Museo de Ron.
- 3:00pm Return to the hotel.
- 5:00pm **Wrap-up meeting.**
- 6:30pm **Classic Car Cruise.**
- 7:00pm **Farewell Dinner**

Sunday , February 1st Hasta Luego Havana (B)
Am Breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport!

This Journey is Powered by ...

