



A Culture of Arts in Cuba

March 1- 8, 2026

Sunday, March 1 Bien Venidos (D)

TBA. Arrival in Jose Marti International Airport.

3:00 pm Bus transfer and check into the Hostal Buen Viaje in Old Havana where we will enjoy our welcome mojito and some downtime to rest or explore the historic hotel and its ocean breezes.

5:00 pm Meet and Greet Orientation meeting with your Temple leaders, your local guide Joel, and AltruVistas program coordinator Cicely Sanchez to discuss general Cuba travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of the program. Next we learn about **Havana, Past, Present and Future with Cuban architect Miguel Coyula.**

7:30pm Welcome Dinner at **San Cristobal Paladar.**

Monday, March 2 Historical Overview (B, L)

9:00 am Meet with **Cuban Architect Miguel Coyula** for an overview of the history and development of the Capital.

11:00 am Enjoy a **guided walking tour of Old Havana.** Learn about the Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana. This includes the use of tourism revenue to restore neglected buildings and provide social services to Havana residents, the importance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, national patrimony, and urban planning.

1:00 pm Lunch at Doña Eutemia at Cathedral Square.

2:30 pm After lunch we will visit the **Taller Grafica** printmakers' workshop in the old city's Cathedral Square to meet a variety of Cuban artists. We may also visit other local galleries.

3:30 pm We end our day at the **Convento de Belen**, a senior care project, and return to the hotel for free time.

Dinner is on our own but we will make a reservation for those who wish.

10:00 pm Enjoy live **Cuban jazz at the La Zora y el Cuervo** just 2 blocks away from our hotel.

Tuesday, March 3 : Arts Education (B, L)

9:00 am After breakfast enjoy a **walking tour of Centro Havana**, to experience everyday life and diverse architecture with Cuban photographer Nestor Marti or Adrian Garrido.

11:00 am Visit the **Museo de Bellas Artes**, the Cuban Fine Arts Museum, for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.

1:00 pm Lunch in Old Havana

2:30 pm Visit to the enjoy a special visit to **the Superior Arts Institute (ISA)** to learn about arts education in Cuba.

4:00 pm Exchange with the award-winning and inspirational **Muraleando Community Art Project**, where artists and teachers have rejuvenated their neighborhood by celebrating and continuing the traditional Cuban love of art. (Donations in the form of art and educational supplies are welcome.

5:30pm Break at the hotel.

9:45pm Live Cuban Jazz at la **Zora y el Cuervo**.

Wednesday, March 4 Music Education (B, L)

9:00 am Learn about "**A century of Cuban Music**" through a **live musical overview** of diverse genres by Prof. Fayas at the Hotel Nacional.

11:00 am Visit to the **Amadeo Roldan Conservatory** to learn about music education.

1:00 pm. Lunch at a Jardin de los Milagros with invited guest Pablo Menendez from Grupo Mezcla to share about life as a Cuban musician.

2:30pm Meet with **UNEAC , the National Union for Writers and Artists** in Cuba, for a discussion on the promotion of the arts in Cuba.

4:00pm Free time to relax!
6:00 pm Evening Free.

Thursday March 5th Dance! (B,L)

9:00 a. m **Optional Salsa Dance** Lesson at our hotel for those interested.

11:00am Visit to the **National Ballet School** to learn about dance education in Cuba.

1:00pm Lunch

2:30pm Exchange with the **Rosario Cardenas Dance Troup!**

4:00pm We end our day with a tour of the **Alicia Alonso Gran Teatro**, home to the ballet.

7:00pm Dinner reservation at a local paladar and evening are free for your own interests. For those that would like, at 8:00pm we will visit la **Fortaleza de La Cabaña**, where construction began in 1763. We'll learn about the history of conflict between the Spanish and English Empires as they struggled for control of the New World. Then we will experience the nightly Canon firing ceremony.

Friday, March 6th Matanzas (B,L)

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.

After we will enjoy some coastal beauty at Varadero Beach before returning to Havana.

Evening Free.

Saturday, March 7th

(B,D)

9:00 am **Exchange with Francisco Gordillo** for an overview of Santeria, and the patakines in his visual arts!

11:00am Enjoy a brief tour of the Callejon de Hamel for whatever face of Cuba's Afro-Cuban Santeria culture and art the residents of this unique neighborhood choose to show that day! We will spend an hour with Elias Aseff Alfonso, who worked closely with Salvador Gonzales Escalona, the Callejon community's founder. Elias will share the history and day-to-day realities of art, culture, and traditional religion in Cuba.

1:00pm Free time for lunch and shopping at **the San Jose de Almancenés** arts and crafts fair.

3:30 pm Break to rest.

5:00pm Exchange with Gloria Rolando, Cuban Filmmaker.

6:00pm Wrap up meeting.

7:00pm **Classic Car Cruise**

8:00 pm **Farewell Dinner**

Sunday, March 8th

Hasta Luego

(B)

AM (TBA) Breakfast and Check out of hotel, bus transfer to airport for return flight home.

This Journey is Powered by ... 