



GUIDED BY TIM

A Culture of Arts in Cuba

Feb 13-23, 2026

Day 1 Welcome to Havana~

Am Arrival into Jose Marti International Airport. Transfer and check into our Hotel the Gran Aston.

5:00pm Orientation meeting.

6:30 pm Pick up by Classic Cars and Cruise the Malecon

7:30pm Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar

Meals: Welcome Mojito, Dinner

Day 2 Havana, A World Heritage Site

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Havana Past, Present and Future **with Cuban Architect Miguel Coyula** at the beautiful Art Deco Casa De Amistad.

11:00am **Maqueta de la Ciudad** (the scale model of the city). The Maqueta is a non-governmental organization that brings together architects, urban planners and sociologists who make recommendations, plan and implement on the future development of the Capital. Following the meeting the group will be led on a guided walking visit of Old Havana with architects who will explain current renovation projects in Havana's historic center.

1:00pm Lunch at a paladar in Old Havana.

3:00pm **Walking tour of Old Havana.** UNESCO'S World Heritage Site. Walk around the historical center of Old Havana, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982, accompanied by an architect who will explain the renovation work undergone in this area of the city, as well as important architectural features of the colonial period.

5:00pm Break and time to rest.

7:30pm Optional Drop off for dining at Café Laurent. Then we can walk to experience the architecture of the **Hotel Nacional**.

9:45pm Enjoy live Cuban Jazz at La Zora y El Cuervo.

DAY 3

Dance!

8:00am Breakfast

9.30am Salsa Dance Class!

11:00 am **Tour of Modern Havana**, showing the architectural patterns of the beginning of the century, and landmarks from this period, including a tour through the Capitol Building.

12.30pm Lunch in Old Havana.

2:00pm Learn about Dance and Arts Education at the **National Ballet School**.

4:00pm Enjoy interactive dance at the **Rosario Cardenas Dance troupe off Prado**.

5:30pm After we will walk up Prado to the renovated Gran Theatre named after Alicia Alonzo before getting picked up to return to our Hostal.

7:00pm Evening optional cultural activity: We drive to the **Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña**, known as La Cabaña (Fort of Saint Charles), is an 18th century fortress complex, the third biggest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress).

Dinner reservations at a local paladar Canonazoa. Then enjoy the Canoñazo Ceremony. It is a historical reconstruction dating back to the colonial era. Back then, the cannon fire announced the official end of the day and the time to close the city gates for the night. Here you will have a lovely view of Old Havana as the restaurant is located in Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana. At the time of its construction in the 1770s it was the largest fort the Spanish had ever built, as well as the most costly.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Cuba Through A Photographer's Lens

8:00am Breakfast

9:30 am Tour of Vedado neighborhood and **Christopher Columbus Cemetery**. This is a continuation of the tour on early century Havana architecture, specifically in the Vedado area, showing many details of eclecticism. Guided visit to the Cemetery of Havana, considered one of the richest in the world for its monumental and architectural values.

11:00am Exchange with Cuban Photographer **Roberto Salas**, about his 60 years documenting the Cuban revolution.

12:30 pm Lunch at Jardin de los Milagros.

2:30pm Exchange with a vocational training program in Havana, like **Melchor Gaspar and then visit Fototeca**.

4:30pm Enjoy a narrative rich walking tour off the side streets of Havana ending at the Art Deco Bacardi building with Cuban photographer **Adriann Garrido**.

Free time for rest and dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

Cienfuegos

7:00am Breakfast.

8:30am Departure for **Cienfuegos city**, in the province of the same name, located on the central southern part of the island. Tour of city's most important architectural sites, such as the Valle Palace, the Terry Theater, the Cathedral, and others. for questions and answers on daily life and individual perceptions of Cuba today.

1.00pm Lunch in Cienfuegos

2.30pm Continuation of the city tour. Exchange with the **Coro de Cienfuegos**.

4:00pm Leave for our accommodation (Hotel Ronda) in the City of Trinidad, or the Melia Peninsula Trinidad Resort (20 min outside of town).

Check in and free evening for dining and to enjoy the Casa de Trova!

DAY 6**Trinidad**

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- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am **Tour of Trinidad city**, in the central southern part of the island, located in Sancti Spiritus province. The historic center of city of Trinidad was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. The city shows an amazing display of well-preserved Spanish colonial buildings, mostly from the 18th and 19th centuries. A great restoration process has been underway for most of the 80's and 90's.
- 10.00am Meeting with **representative of the Restoration Office.**
- 11:30am Walking tour of the city continues .
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Visit to the **Colonial Architecture Museum**, the Casa de Aldeman Ortiz is an example of 19th century architecture.
- 3:30pm Exchange with local artist like **Judith Vidal** and her community arts and knitting project.
- 5.30pm Free time to enjoy local music and dance.
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7**Trinidad UNESCO style**

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- 8:00-11:00 am Free morning to soak up ecotourism activities like a hike to the Topes de Collantes or Playa Ancon (you can choose one) or if at resord free Beach Morning.
- 12:00pm Check out of hotel and free time for lunch.
- 1:00pm Leave for the **Sugar Mill Valley**, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Learn about the economic boom that the area of Trinidad enjoyed during the 18th century and the first half of the 19th was due, among other factors, to the production of sugar cane

that took place in this area. Ruins of old sugar mills are well preserved and show this important period of Cuban history.

Return to Havana.

Check in to the Hostal de Buen Viaje in Old Havana.

Dinner at a local paladar in Old Havana. Explore the streets of Old Havana at night.

Optional Evening Rum Tasting on our BnB's roof.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 **Community Development**

10:00am Visit to the **National School of Arts**, ENA, built in 1961 by architects Ricardo Porro, Vittorio Garatti and Roberto Gottardi. We have two reasons to visit this unique place today. First to experience the architecture and second to learn about arts education in Cuba.

12:00pm Photo opportunity and short stop at the **Plaza de la Revolucion**.

12:30pm Lunch

2:30pm Let's learn about the power of community and art at Community Arts project, **Muraleando!**

4:00pm Exchange with **FANJ**, to learn about Cuba's commitment to sustainability and how the Tarrea Vida will impact future planning and development in Cuba.

6:00pm Free time for Dinner and rest.

9:00pm If weekend optional visit to the FAC, **the Fabric de Arte Cubano**. We will be dropped off and have a tour of this incredible interactive arts space. You will cab home at your leisure.

DAY 9 **Afro Cuba & Regla!**

8:00am Breakfast

9.00am Exchange with **Cuban Filmmaker Gloria Rolando** for a short and Q & A about race and gender in Cuba. She will show one of her short films like dialogue with my Grandmother.

10:00am Visit to the **town of Regla**, and the see the Church of Regla with it's Black Madonna also known as Oshun. As we drive today, we have AltruVistas Program Director Cicely join us and share about IFA, or Santeria.

11:30am **Afro Cuban Food History Workshop** & lunch with Regla Sol. Exchange with Alexi and Magica from the Hip Hop Group Obsession.

3:00pm Exchange with our friend **Ernesto's Ile to share about his understanding of the faith.**

4:30pm Enjoy a brief visit to the Museum of Guanabacoa to learn about the Afro history. Then we stop for a Cuban coffee, and visit the Community project **Corralfaslo in Guanabacoa.**

6.00pm Evening free for cultural activities and dinner.

Eve We can also see where live music or a baseball game is

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10

Wrap – up!

9:00am Exchange with **ICAP** to discuss the future of US Cuban relations and to learn about the impact of the US Embargo on the restoration efforts in Cuba. We will also be able to talk about Cuba's housing crisis as buildings deteriorate.

11:00 am Visit to the **Convento de Belen (donations welcome here) to learn about Cuba's approach to the 3rd Age.**

1:00pm Free time for Lunch and Shopping at the San Jose de Almancenés .

3:00pm Visit to the Museum of the Revolution or **Fidel Castro Center.**

5:00pm Free time to rest.

6:30pm Classic Car Cruise!

7:30 pm Farewell Dinner!

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11

Hasta Luego!

Check out and transfer to the airport!

This Journey is Powered by...  *AltruVistas*