

CUBA: EXPLORING MUSIC, DANCE, & THE VISUAL ARTS



MARCH 11–17, 2017

▶ **MIAMI → HAVANA, THEN FULL HAVANA CITY TOUR / Saturday, March 11, 2017**

- American Airlines Flight #1447 departs **Miami International Airport** for Havana at 9:26 AM
- Arrive Havana's **José Martí International Airport** at 10:45 AM. We'll meet our local guide, who will welcome us warmly outside Baggage Claim. Here at the airport we'll exchange money, receive a brief orientation, and make our way to our luxury coach.
- Immediately on exiting the airport, we will begin a full guided city tour – first by coach for an overview of Miramar, Vedado, & other modern neighborhoods – and then on foot in **Old Havana**, a UNESCO World Heritage site & the city's 16th-century crown jewel.
- Transfer to the 4-star Hotel Riviera in Havana's central **Vedado** district (<http://www.hotelhavanariviera.com/>) near the world-famous 'Malécon' seawall.
- Unpack and settle in. Our guide will offer initial tips on fun things to see and do going forward in the evenings.
- Group dinner at private restaurant **La Moneda Cubana**. (Dinner own account.)
- **After-dinner entertainment suggestion:** Visit **San Carlos de la Cabaña fort** to enjoy historic cannon firing ceremony at 9:00 PM / Over-night at the **Hotel Riviera**.

► **LAS TERRAZAS ECO-COMMUNITY, A UNESCO WORLD BIOSPHERE IN WESTERN CUBA / Sunday, March 12, 2017**

- Breakfast at the hotel, then morning visit Havana's **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**
- Departure from the cathedral to the stunning **Las Terrazas eco-community**, west of Havana, where we'll learn of Cuba's efforts to preserve its rainforests – and where we'll visit the studio of **Lester Campa**, a renowned local visual artist. (Sr. Campa will offer us a broad overview of Cuba's robust commitment to promoting the arts in daily life.)
- Lunch at **La Casa del Campesino**
- **Afternoon time to enjoy beautiful Las Terrazas town, where artists' studios abound!** (Stroll at your leisure to observe the range of visual art on display, to enjoy it – and, if you like – to purchase fine works for gifts or your own home.)
- Return to the Hotel Riviera in Havana.
- Dinner on our own. (Try **Bodeguita del Medio!**)
- Overnight at the Hotel Riviera.

► **AFRO-CUBAN ART & ITS IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY CUBAN CULTURE / Monday, March 13, 2017**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Interactive dialogue at the **Casa de Africa** museum, where we'll address Africa's historic influence on Cuban music, dance, and visual art. Casa de Africa focuses on Cuba's complex historical ties with Africa, reflecting religion, art, and emancipation battles. Casa conducts workshops for youth, and hosts theoretical events, art exhibits, and music & dance performances of various types.
- Observe an **Afro-Cuban dance performance.**
- Lunch at restaurant **Tres Monedas.**
- Walking tour of **Callejón de Hamel**, Havana's Afro-Cuban commercial district. Hamel boasts funky street murals, psychedelic art shops – and lively rumba music with interlocking drum patterns and powerful rhythmic chants.
- Visit the studio of **Salvador González, Cuban muralist**, for an explanation of his work and the opportunity to create under his guidance/mentorship.
- Visit the studio of **Lazarito**, an artist who uses recyclable materials to create imaginative works across the genres.
- Group dinner at the Yoruba Association of Cuba, featuring live music and dance lessons from the highly regarded **Afro-Cuban band Dulce María.** (Own account.)
- Overnight at the Hotel Riviera.

► **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, PICASSO'S INFLUENCE, COLIBRI STUDIO & CUBAN CINEMA / Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided tour of the **National Museum of Fine Arts**, with an emphasis on La Vanguardia Cubana.
- Visit the **Wilfredo Lam Center** to learn about Picasso's outsized influence on contemporary Cuban artists.
- Lunch at El Templete restaurant
- Visit **Colibrí & Abdala Music Studio**
- Visit the **Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art & Industry (ICAIC)** – and enjoy a late-afternoon private screening of the film 'Suite Havana, with commentary by ICAIC film experts.
- Dinner on our own. (Try **Tocororo!**)
- Overnight at the Hotel Riviera.

► **JOSÉ FUSTER'S WHIMSY, STUDIO VISITS & DIALOGUE WITH CUBAN ART STUDENTS / Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Interactive dialogue at the **University of Cuban Art** with students, arts faculty, and practicing artists. We'll learn of the value that Cuba places on promoting music, dance, and the visual arts in school at all levels.
- Visit the home of **José Fúster**. Sr. Fúster's studio is filled with paintings, ceramic sculptures, and magical-realism works of various genres. In recent years, Sr. Fúster has expanded his home art project to his entire 'Jaimanitas' neighborhood, painting houses, gates, and walls across several city blocks. It's festive, fantastic stuff – and we'll assist Sr. Fúster in his efforts to create new building art!
- Lunch with Sr. Fuster at his home studio.
- Visit **Studio and Art Gallery Santacana** to observe the work of Cuban contemporary artist Beatríz Sala
- Visit the studio of the artist **Kcho**, and learn about his community project in the 'Romerillo' district.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on our own. (Try **Café Laurent!**)
- **Evening entertainment suggestions:** Attend an evening performance of the **Ballet Nacional** (est. ticket price: \$25) or the **Conjunto Folklorico** (est. \$5), a prestigious company that presents classical dances reflecting the traditional culture of Cuba.
- Overnight at the Hotel Riviera.

► **UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA, CUBAN WRITERS & CUBAN TRADITIONAL CRAFTS / Thursday, March 16, 2017**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the **University of Havana's Vedado campus** for a lively conversation with a select group of students and professors about Cuban history & politics, Cuba's recent reforms, and Cuba-US relations
- Lunch on or near the U-Havana campus (own account)
- Visit the **Cuban National Association of Writers (UNEAC)**. Here, we will meet with Alex Pausides, a writer & poet – and UNEAC's vice president. Sr. Pausides will introduce us to a clutch of his colleague-writers for a roundtable chat.
- Visit the seaside **Centro Cultural Antiguos Almacenes de Deposito San José** arts & crafts mall. Here, we'll have the chance to make a few final purchases for ourselves – and, of course, our friends & family back home.
- Dinner own account.
- **Group Farewell Dinner at Ajiaco private restaurant!**
- Overnight at the Hotel Riviera.

► **HAVANA → MIAMI / Friday, March 17, 2017**

- Early breakfast at the hotel, then depart for José Marti International Airport
- American Airlines Flight #1334 departs Havana for Miami at 11:45 AM
- Arrive Miami at 12:58 PM