

Havana Jazz Festival

Cuba4U Havana Jazz Festival 2020 Tour



Roberto Fonseca

Havana Jazz Festival Tour 2020

January 11th Saturday

You will be picked up from **Jose Marti** airport and driven to your Casa in the heart of Havana's tree lined **Vedado** district. Welcome cocktails and orientation will create a soft landing. Depending on what time your flight arrives you will be able to rest or we can get a light bite to eat at a local Cuban restaurant.

January 12th Sunday

Let the fun begin! **Breakfast in the casa is included every day.** You will be served fresh tropical fruit, bread and eggs along with delicious Cuban coffee in the relaxed atmosphere of your own Colonial home away from home.



Dayme Arozena

Our adventure begins with a walk along the famous **Malecon to Old Havana.**

You will enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the casa, after which we will make our way to **Callejon Hamel**, the alley in Central Havana, painted top to bottom, by the artist Salvadore, where an **AfroCuban** drum and dance event will give you a glimpse into the world of Santeria. Among the painted images of the gods of Santeria, such as Yemaja, the goddess of the sea and Shango, the god of male prowess, you will experience the music that is such an integral part of many Cubans spiritual life.

If anyone has trouble walking long distances (a one hour stroll) I will put you in a taxi.

Our well informed guide, Maria-Rose will explain the history of each of the 4 squares that define this **15th century UNESCO site**



January 13th Monday



After breakfast our classic American car chariots will take us on a top down cruise along the Malecon to an artist studio in the town of **Jaimanitas**, unlike any you have seen. **Fuster** has turned his entire neighbourhood into a mosaic dream. We will visit the **Riviera Hotel**, built by the infamous gangster, Meyer Lanski, where you can see how time stopped on New Years Eve 1960 when the Americans fled in the wake of Fidel Castros victory ride.

Our chauffers will then take us to the **Eastern Beaches** where we can swim and have lunch fresh from the sea.

Then it is time for the rich musical treats to begin with a night at **La Zorra y el Cuervo**, for a late night of jazz at one of the best clubs in the world.

January 14th Tuesday (2 Hour Drive)



Our driver will pick us after breakfast.

Vinales awaits us. We will get an early start after breakfast for the 2 hour drive to this strange and wondrous valley with the worn limestone hills called Mogotes. We will have lunch at an organic farm overlooking the fertile valley.

After lunch take a horse ride into the sunset with a Cuban cowboy and stop at a tobacco plantation where you will be educated in the process that goes into rolling the **worlds finest cigars**. Smoke a 'puro' on the land where it was cultivated. You can explore caves or walk the back roads of the town where friendly Cubans will greet you.

Night life is music in the downtown main street or lounge on the roof top of our casa and watch the stars come out while sipping a 10 year old rum.

Your evening will be free to stroll the town with its many restaurants or have a home cooked meal and a cold beer on your roof top.

January 15th Wednesday

We return to Havana after breakfast.

You have a free afternoon in Havana and I can supply you with guides or suggestions.

This evening is the opening night **GALA of the Jazz Festival**. Let the music begin!

January 16th Thursday

After breakfast our driver will take us to the famous **Cementerio Colon**, the second largest cemetery in the world. Here we will explore the intricately carved tombs of famous Cubans, including revolutionary heros and members from the **Buena Vista Social Club**.



We will walk back home through the **Vedado neighbourhood** where the sugar barons built magnificent mansions that are now in various states of renovation or disrepair, lending to the charm of the years of architectural history on display.

We will meet for dinner and head out to the Jazz Festival for another night of music.

January 17th Friday

Cuba boasts many fine visual artists, both from the past and current visionaries. Today you will visit the **Bellas Artes**, the contemporary museum of art and we will visit various art studios with lunch in Old Havana. This is a good day to do some shopping at the artisan market and to discover small shops and bars.

We will all flex our dancing skills this afternoon with a **private salsa class** conducted by some of the best dance instructors. Prepare to laugh and wiggle your hips.

Jazz Fest activities continue this evening.

January 18th Saturday

Visit the real Cuba today.

Spend the morning as you wish, shopping, taking photos or reconnecting with new Cuban friends.

Early afternoon we will travel to the typical suburb of Arroz Arena to cook and share lunch with Maria's family in her yard. Learn how to **cook Cuban style** and mingle with the neighbours as you go to the market to buy yucca and sweet potatoes.

Return to Havana in time to freshen up and take in the final **CLOSING GALA OF THE JAZZ FESTIVAL**.



Alexis Abreu



January 19th Sunday (3.5 hour drive)

People departing today will be picked up by our driver and chauffeured to the airport.

Those who are remaining for the extended tour will depart for **Cienfuegos** this morning.

Lunch will be in the French influenced, tranquil town of Cienfuegos, a calm oasis of Cuban life. We will visit the exotic Arabic style mansion where we will have a mojito on the tower, walk the pleasant malecon and get chauffeured around by bicycle taxi and horse carriages. The main square of Cienfuegos is a lovely place to have a rest and pay a visit to the original 18th century theatre.

We will continue to the town of **Trinidad, a 15th century**

UNESCO HERITAGE SITE, nestled between the Caribbean sea and the Esprey mountain range.

There is much to explore in Trinidad, including the two towers that serve as museums now and afford a magnificent view of the entire valley. markets offer linens and handiwork made by the local women. Invest in a table cloth or table runner for your dining pleasure back home. We will go to **Playa Ancon** for the afternoon for a few hours of nothing but gorgeous sand and sea before going back to freshen up for the evening activities.

The Music is the heart of Trinidad night life and the choices are abundant, from the outdoor **Casa de la Musica** on the famous steps in the main square to the cozy, old school style of the The Casa de la Trova where you can practice your Rhumba and Salsa steps with locals eager to twirl you around the floor.

Other options include horseback riding in the countryside or a steam train voyage to an old sugar plantation.



January 20th Monday

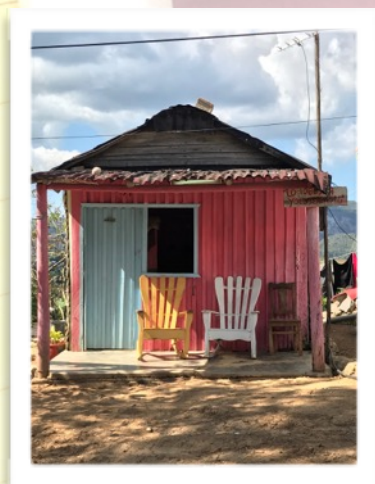
Playa Ancon is a pristine beach a half hour from Trinidad. You will have the chance to relax and swim after exploring the historical wonders of Trinidad.

We can visit the **disco in the cave** just to see the marvelous stalacites and witness the young Cubans at play.

January 21st Tuesday

Drive to Havana

Free afternoon with the options of salsa class, Museum of Rum, Cigar Factory tour or just stroll the streets and people watch. I can provide guides or drivers as desired.



January 22nd Wednesday

Transfer to airport.

\$2500.00 Price for 8 Day Tour (double occupancy) includes:

All accommodation, double room with breakfast in high quality Casas with private bathrooms.

Airport pick up and drop off.

All breakfasts

Welcome Dinner & cocktails

Lunch in Vinales

Lunch on Saturday the 18th (cook like a Cuban)

Jazz Festival Pass

Horseback Trail ride

Salsa Class

Transportation within Havana for all group excursions

Private transportation to Cienfuegos, Trinidad and back.

All museum and art gallery entry fees.

Classic car tour to Miramar, Fusters art village and Playa de L'Este beaches.

Guided tour of Old Havana and Cienfuegos

Does not include extra excursions, dinners or lunches that are not marked as included, tips and alcohol.)

\$3100.00 Price for 11 Day Tour (double occupancy)

Includes: All of the above and

Lunch in Cienfuegos

2 night stay in Trinidad

Flights not included.

Gabriella has been immersed in Cuban culture for 25 years and her connections in the arts and culture sector will guarantee some special surprise events for her guests.



Pablo Menendez with Gabriella at the Vancouver Folk Festival 2019