

Cuba4u Havana Jazz Festival

2023 Tour January 22nd to 30th



Sunday 22nd Airport transfer to Casa Particular Welcome Drinks and Orientation

Monday 23rd /Breakfast in casa

Guided tour of Old Havana with its historic four squares, churches and forts.

Lunch (not provided)

Afternoon rest in casa



First night of Jazz Festival (**full access pass included**)

Tuesday 24th Breakfast in casa

Classic 50's car tour to Fusters art mosaic village, one of Cuba's preeminent artists, who creates Gaudi-esque sculptures.



Lunch on the river.

Continue to the Plaza of the Revolution for photos and a walk about the seat of Cuban government.

Visit the famous Riviera Hotel that Mayer Lansky, the mafioso built and had to abandon on December 1959 when Fidel Castro overtook the government. Time stood still here and you step back into 1960' lobby. Afternoon (weather permitting) we can relax poolside at the famous rooftop Havana Libre pool, another blast from the past.

Dinner at your own leisure (not included)



Jazz Festival activities

Wednesday 25th Breakfast in casa

Visit El Colon, the second largest cemetery in the world. Some famous revolutionaries and notable Cubans are laid to rest here among the intricate tombs and sculptures.

Onward to the Museum of Decorative Arts that was the grand home of a wealthy socialite and gives one a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the sugar barons and other elite who made their fortunes on the island. Lunch in the lovely Persian restaurant, Topoly. (**not included**)

Freshen up in the casa and head out to the Jazz Garden for drinks and music.



Thursday 26th Breakfast

Off to the beach (**weather permitting**) If the weather is not good we will exchange activities.
One must be flexible in Cuba.



Seafood lunch with fresh coconuts laced with rum.

Bring sunscreen and a good book with the blue ocean sparkling at your feet.
Freshen up at the casa

Dinner

Jazz Fest Activities



Friday 27th Breakfast

Museum of the Revolution where you will learn all about the events that led up to the current situation. The museum is housed in the former palace where Batista lived.

Then we will cross the street and visit the National Cuban art gallery, Bellas Artes, where many interesting pieces from contemporary Cuban artists are displayed.



We will lunch nearby in Old Havana and visit a local artist in his studio for an espresso and wander the maze of cobblestone back streets. Then back to rest.

Dinner

Jazz Festival activities

Saturday 28th Breakfast

Ernest Hemingway's home Finca Vigia

Lunch in Cojimar (**not included**) where he wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*

Free afternoon

Meet up for Jazz Festival



Sunday 29th Breakfast

Callejon de Hamel is an AfroCuban music and religious alleyway that is completely covered in mural and whimsical art pieces made by the famous artist Salvadore, an ardent follower of Santeria. A large percentage of the islands people adhere to the Santeria religion which originates from West Africa with the slaves who were brought over to work the cane fields.



Free afternoon for wandering or I can arrange salsa classes, music lessons or transportation for you to visit the museum of rum or the artisan market.

Farewell dinner at La Guarida, a 17th century clinic transformed into a restaurant with delicious fusion Cuban International flavours.



Monday 30th Breakfast

Transfer to airport to go home

UNLESS YOU HAVE DECIDED TO EXTEND YOUR ITINERARY THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

Drive to Trinidad, the lovely Colonial town that was on the Spanish Gold trail.

We stop for lunch and a stroll along the Malecon in Cienfuegos, where the French fled the uprising in Haiti and settled in this pretty town. We can catch a horse drawn carriage or a bicycle taxi to the marvellous Arabic house and have a cocktail in the tower.

Continuing to Trinidad where we will stay in beautiful colonial houses. The evening we will stroll and have dinner with freedom to hear music if desired.



Tuesday 31st Breakfast on our balcony.

With a guide we will explore the turrets that look out over the red tile rooftops, The buildings ooze history and the markets carry handmade embroidered linens. This is a town for wandering.



As the heat of the day increases we will catch a taxi to Playa Ancon, a stunning beach half an hour from town for lunch and a swim before returning to the casa to rest and refresh for the evening of dancing. The music continues on the famous steps off the old square or in the Casa de Trova, where the old style Cuban sounds still live. Try out your salsa and rhumba steps here with the old timers.

Wednesday February 1st After breakfast you have the option to take the old steam train to an old sugar plantation, go horseback riding to a river or catch a taxi to the Valle De Ingenio for a walk in the green farmlands.

Thursday 2nd Drive back to Havana Farewell dinner and music

Friday 3rd Airport transfer