



NOTIONAL AGENDA

Inside Cuba Policy Trip December 7-14, 2014

Sunday, December 7

- 3 pm Depart Miami on American Airlines flight 9410, arriving in Havana, Cuba at 4pm
- Upon arrival we will clear customs, meet our Cuban guide and proceed to the bus for a quick **orientation driving tour of the city of Havana**
- 6 pm **Check in at the Hotel Parque Central**, Trip Advisor's selection as the best hotel in Havana. Located on the corner of Central Park and along Prado Boulevard, the hotel is just steps from the Capitol building, the Great Theatre and the famous Obispo Street.
- 7 pm **Dinner at Paladar San Cristobal**. About a 10-minute walk from Parque Central, this cozy "paladar" – a privately owned restaurant – provides great food in an elegant 1940s ambience.

Monday, December 8

- 9am **Discussion with Miguel Coyula**, architect and urban planner, about housing, purchasing power and architecture. Location: Hotel Parque Central.
- 10:30 am **Meeting with Jorge Mario Sánchez**, economist from the Center for the Studies of the Cuban economy, to discuss economy policy and recent economic reforms. Location: Hotel Parque Central.
- 12 noon **Lunch at Doña Eutimia**. Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this *paladar* made Newsweek Magazine's top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012.
- 1:30 pm **Walking tour of the Old City**. Wander through the **Plaza Vieja**, the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century. The **Plaza de San Francisco** is a cobbled plaza surrounded by 18th century buildings and dominated by the Baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco. The **Plaza de la Catedral** is home to Havana's Catedral de San Cristóbal. The **Plaza de Armas** is a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.

- 3 pm **Visit Barbershop Alley**, where “Papito” Vallares, a local barber has combined his success in the barbershop to open a hairdressing school, a playground and several private businesses, incorporating entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.
- 4 pm **Visit the arts and crafts fair in Old Havana**, to speak with local artisans and purchase art and souvenirs.
- 4:30 pm **Rest, relax and get ready for an evening out.** Those that want to spend more time at the Arts and Crafts market can make their way back individually.
- 6 pm Discussion with **Rafael Rosales**, owner of Café Madrigal, a beautiful tapas bar in the Vedado neighborhood, and **Niruys Higera**, owner of Atelier, one of the country’s most successful paladars, about the private sector in Cuba. Location: Café Madrigal.
- 7 pm **Cocktails and tapas at Café Madrigal with English-speaking graduate students from the University of Havana** in the fields of economics, international relations and law. Students will offer their opinion about everything from the higher education system to the country’s future to the delicate relationship with the United States.
- 8:30 pm **Visit to the home of art curator Milagros Borges**, who holds a diverse collection of Cuban art from established and up-and-coming artists.

Tuesday, December 9

- 9 am **Discussion with Jose Viera**, former Cuban diplomat, regarding Cuban foreign policy and U.S.-Cuba relations. Location: Hotel Parque Central.
- 12 noon **Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal overlooking the Straits of Florida at the Hotel Nacional**, Cuba’s most famous hotel, with a great view of the *malecón*, Havana’s sea wall, and the Morro, the Spanish fortress built to protect the harbor
- 1 pm **Visit with the hip-hop group Obsesión** for a discussion about race and inequality in Cuba.
- 2:30 pm **Meeting at the Archdiocese of Havana** for a conversation with Orlando Márquez, church spokesman, to discuss the changing role of the Catholic Church in Cuban society, economic reform and current events.
- 4 pm **Visit to the Liza Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for local youth**, specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group, and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on them.
- 7 pm **Dinner at Chef Ivan y Gusto.** We will be joined by **third country diplomats serving in Cuba.**

Wednesday, December 10

- 9:30 am **Visit to a Cuban home** and local market for discussion of ration card and purchasing power.
- 11 am **Meeting with Gustavo Machin**, Ministry of Foreign Relations, sub-director of the department of relations with the United States
- 12:30 pm **Lunch at El Aljibe restaurant**, famous for its roasted chicken and black beans.
- 2 pm **Visit the Latin American School of Medicine**, which is one of the world's largest medical schools, providing free or heavily discounted medical training to tens of thousands of students from over 85 countries.
- 4 pm **Visit to the whimsical home of artist José Fuster**, who has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the fishing town of Jaimanitas. Jaimanitas is now a unique work of public art where Fuster has decorated over 80 houses with colorful ornate murals and domes.
- 5:30 pm **Visit to Prive**, a hip new trova bar, for a musical discussion with **Frank Delgado**, a renowned singer and songwriter, about the *nueva trova* movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. We will enjoy light appetizers and cocktails along with the show.

Evening free.

Thursday, December 11

- 9 am **Meeting with Professor Hal Klepak**, Royal Military College of Canada, an expert on the Cuban Armed Forces and Raúl Castro. Location: Hotel Parque Central.
- 10:30 am **Visit to a local health clinic** for a tour of facilities and a discussion about the health care system.

Lunch and early afternoon free

- 3 pm **Visit to La Finca Vigía**. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, today it still houses his expansive collection of books. It was here where he wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. We will meet with experts of the museum for a discussion on restoration programs.
- 5 pm **Afternoon tea with John Caulfield, Principal Officer, U.S. Interests Section (USINT)**. While technically part of the Embassy of Switzerland, the Interests Section carries out the same functions a U.S. embassy would. Location: Principal Officer's Residence.
- 7 pm **Dinner at Paladar Atelier**. This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine.

Friday, December 12

- 10:30 am **Depart for Cienfuegos** – about a 3.5 hour drive, including a stop for sandwiches en route. **Stop at a cooperative farm along the way.**
- 2 pm **Tour of Cienfuegos by the City Historian’s Office**, including visits to the main square, the beautiful Palacio Del Valle and Punta Gorda.
- 3:30 pm **Music and cocktails** with the local chapter of UNEAC, the National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba, featuring an **interactive discussion** with photographers, musicians and other locals, followed by live music and dance. **Orlando Garcia**, president of the Cienfuegos chapter of UNEAC, will discuss freedom of expression and UNEAC’s efforts to ensure more pluralism.
- 5 pm **Enjoy a private performance by the local Cienfuegos’ choir.** Location: Back Patio of Hotel Jagua.
- 6 pm **Dinner at Las Mamparas**, a family-run paladar in the heart of town
- 8 pm Arrive in **Trinidad**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its cobble stoned streets, pastel colored homes and small-town feel. We will stay at the **Iberostar Trinidad**, the city’s finest hotel.

Saturday, December 13

- 9 am **Discussion and City Tour** with **Nancy Benítez**, a local architect, historian and restoration specialist.
- 11 am **Discussion with local priest** regarding church-state relations, religious freedom, social programs and current events. Location: Church office in Plaza Mayor.
- 11:30 am **Conversation with artist Yami Martínez** at her gallery, La Casa de los Conspiradores. Yami has achieved international recognition for her art depicting the strains of life on Cuban women. She will discuss her art, as well as her experiences running both a gallery and a “casa particular” (bed and breakfast) out of her home.
- 12 noon **Free afternoon – enjoy the beach, pool, explore the city, rest and relax.**
- 6 pm Enjoy live music at la Casa de la Trova.
- 7:30 **Dinner at los Conspiradores paladar**, located in the town center.

Sunday, December 14

- 8 am Check out of hotel
- 9:00 Visit Botanical Garden en route to airport
- 1:10 pm **Depart on flight 9537**, arriving in Miami, FL at 2:30 pm