

CULTURAL TOUR OF CUBA



ITINERARY
STRINGLETTER
CULTURAL
EXCHANGE
TRIP
DECEMBER
6-13, 2025



DAY 1 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 1:00 pm Arrive at **Havana's Jose Marti International Airport**.
Bus Transfer to **Vedado**
- 2:00 pm Welcome Lunch at **Claxon**
- 6:00 pm **Welcome party** with traditional Cuban quintet, Wena Vivre. At **Skyline**.
- 7:30 pm Dinner on the balcony of **Atelier**, a beautiful private restaurant with views of the Vedado neighborhood of Havana.

DAY 2 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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| 9:00 am | Breakfast |
| 10:00 am | Behind-the-scenes walking tour of Old Havana. Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch at La Moneda Cubana. Famous for its lobster, ropa vieja and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar (private restaurant) has a rooftop deck with a wonderful view of Morro Castle and La Cabana. |
| 3:00 pm | Discussion and private performance by Yassek Manzano, the most exciting young trumpet player to come out of Cuba in the last decade. He is also a composer and has performed with major figures like Celia Cruz and the British band Simply Red. At Mamy's Café |
| 7:30 pm | Dinner at Grados. Located in the heart of Vedado, this celebrated paladar offers delicious local cuisine and libations. |

DAY 3 MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

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| 10:00 am | Breakfast |
| 11:00 am | Private performance by the celebrated percussion troupe at Habana Compás Dance. This remarkable company has performed all over the world. Their style reflects the rich history, diversity, rhythm and flow of the island. |
| 12:45 pm | Enjoy a classic Cuban lunch at Vista Mar , located on the water at Marina Hemingway. |
| 3:15 pm | Visit the home of La Reina y la Real , a prominent female hip hop/jazz/fusion dúo. The group's music and community activism address gender and racial stereotypes in Cuban society. The duo will welcome us to their modest home in Luyano, share their music, and discuss the challenges of young Afro-Cuban women. |
| 4:30 pm | Visit the home and studio of a family of artists and art professors from the most renowned art institutes in Cuba. Sculptor Yamilé Pardo, painter Edel Bordón, and photographer Pablo Bordon-Pardo will discuss art in Cuba |
| 7:30 pm | Dinner at Los Mercaderes in Old Havana |

DAY 4 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Depart for Cienfuegos**, one of the country's oldest and most beautiful cities, which is located approximately three hours from Havana (we will travel in a very modern, air-conditioned bus). Cienfuegos, referred to as the "Pearl of the South," is one of Cuba's only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country's largest Bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes, and is deeply rich in culture.
- 12:45 pm Lunch at **El Lagarto**, a picturesque, outdoor restaurant with views and breezes from the Bay of Cienfuegos. The menu features fresh seafood from neighboring waterways.
- 2:15 pm Enjoy a music performance by **Cantores Cienfuegos**, members of the National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba, followed by an interactive **discussion with the musicians**.
- 3:15 pm Tour the private **art galleries** of UNEAC members, which surround Jose Marti Park in downtown Cienfuegos.
- 4:30 pm Continue to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site, known for its history, cobble-stone streets, pastel colored homes, art and music.
- 6:00 pm Check-in at **bed and breakfasts**, known as "casas particulares," or "private homes." Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms in their family homes to foreigners. The rooms are all air-conditioned with modern amenities.
- 7:30 pm Dinner at **San Jose Paladar**, a charming, modern private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

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| 9:00 am | Breakfast |
| 10:00 am | Discussion with Nancy Benitez , the city's historian, who will provide an overview of the city's history from the 16th century. |
| 11:00 am | Walking Tour of Trinidad's Historic Center led by your guide. |
| 1:00 pm | Lunch at a farm to table restaurant in the Trinidad valley |
| <i>Afternoon free to explore Trinidad or the nearby beach, Playa Ancon.</i> | |
| 7:15 pm | Discussion with Carlos Mata , Trinidad's award-winning "Painter of the Night," and his talented daughter, Amaya, about the city's historic art scene. Carlos and Amaya meticulously restored their 18th century home, which now houses a gallery and studio. Enjoy local music and libations—try a canchanchara, Trinidad's storied, local cocktail—at a private party in the courtyard of the beautiful home. |
| 7:45 pm | Trinidad farewell dinner with music at El Secreto , located in the historic Plaza Mayor. This private restaurant is housed in a wonderful 18th century home, filled with antiques and even a Wurlitzer juke-box from the 1950's. Chef Alejandro specializes in locally sourced seafood, fruits, and vegetables. |
| 9:15 pm | Enjoy dancing and live salsa music at the popular Rincon de la Salsa. |

DAY 6 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Check-out of casas and return to Havana . Enjoy a pina colada at a private café en route.
2:00 pm	Lunch at Le Petite , a private restaurant located in the heart of Old Havana
3:00 pm	Check-in at accommodations
6:00 pm	Private musical performance by renowned guitar and ukelele player, singer, and songwriter Frank Delgado at Casa de La Bombilla Verde. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails while discussing the nueva trova movement in Cuba.

DAY 7 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:30 am	Breakfast
10:30 am	Visit Taller Experimental de Gráfica . Founded in 1962, TEGH is an institution run by artists with the purpose of producing graphic arts in the experimental field.
12:30 pm	Lunch at El Del Frente , a hip, private restaurant with rooftop dining
2:30 pm	Visit the studio of Acosta Dance . This modern dance company was founded by legendary Cuban dancer, Carlos Acosta, the current director of the Royal ballet in London.
4:30 pm	Private performance and discussion with the classical musicians of the Orquesta del Lyceum de La Habana . These 24 young musicians just returned from performances in Paris, Berlin, and Taiwan.
7:30 pm	Dinner and live music at Al Carbone , a beautiful private restaurant in Old Havana. Created by the owners of the immensely popular Iván y Justo

DAY 8 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 am Breakfast

Free time pending flight departures