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Traveling University Humanitarian Tour of CUBA

With Professor Stephen Berk

March 18-25, 2018

Day 1 Sunday March 18, 2018: WELCOME TO CUBA!

- Depart Miami on our flight to Cuba.
- Arrive at the Cienfuegos Airport and meet our local guide and driver.
- Check into our hotel and enjoy a welcome drink and orientation lecture with Professor Stephen Berk.
- Listen to a moving performance by **Cantores de Cienfuegos at Museo Provincial de Cienfuegos**, welcoming us to Cuba!
- We enjoy a **welcome dinner** together at Los Laureles.

Overnight in Cienfuegos

Day 2 Monday March 19, 2018: **HISTORIC TRINIDAD AND CIENFUEGOS**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Depart to the beautiful colonial town of **Trinidad,** a charming city settled in 1514, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. Professor Berk lectures on the way.
- Enjoy a **walking tour of historic Trinidad**, a 500 year old city with Spanish colonial architecture. Only a few square blocks in size, historic Trinidad is famous for its lovely cobblestone streets, pastel houses with wrought iron grills, as well as beautiful palaces and plazas. You will learn about the efforts to preserve the city's heritage.
- Meet with the famous **Santander family**, well-known local potters. Visit their workshop and gallery. These artists have been making handmade pottery for over 100 years.
- Enjoy **lunch** at El Dorado paladar.
- Return to Cienfuegos.
- Tour of Cienfuegos including **Parque Marti** and the **Thomas Terry Theater**. Learn about this UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded by French immigrants in 1819.
- Meet with **Rebecca Langus** and learn about the local Jewish community with time to deliver gifts and aid.
- **Dinner** at Villa Lagarto.

Overnight in Cienfuegos

Day 3 Tuesday March 20, 2018: SANTA CLARA TO HAVANA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart for **Santa Clara**, an important city founded in the 1600's, where Che Guevara won a significant battle, leading to the triumph of the revolution in 1959.
- Stop at the **Che Guevara memorial** for a photo opportunity in the square and visit the **Che Museum** underneath.
- Meet with **David Tacher**, a leading representative of the Santa Clara Jewish community, where we will learn about the local community and deliver our gifts and aid.
- We depart for **Havana**. On the way, Professor Berk discusses the impacts of the US embargo on Cuba and the history of US/Cuban relations.
- Late lunch en route (on own).
- Check in to our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- We meet for **dinner** at Café Del Oriente.

Overnight in Havana

Day 4 Wednesday March 21, 2018: JEWISH HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture with Professor Stephen Berk.
- We take in a panoramic overview of the city and stop at **Revolution Square**. The square is dominated by the **José Martí Memorial**. This famous square is where Fidel Castro delivered the majority of his lengthy political addresses.
- Next we visit the **Sephardic Center** and meet with **Mayra Levy,** president of the congregation. Deliver aid to the community and have the opportunity to interact with some of the seniors served by the synagogue.
- Visit the **Holocaust Exhibit**, opened in 2011 at the Sephardic Center.
- **Lunch** at El Ajibe
- Next, we stop at **Hotel Conde de Villanueva**. Here we learn about the **history of tobacco** and the tradition of cigar rolling in Cuba. Interact with some of the rollers and locals.
- Enjoy a **walking tour of Old Havana** (Havana Vieja), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We learn about the history of Havana as we visit highlights of the city and the colonial plazas. Visit Jewish points of interest such as the **Raquel Hotel**, a Jewish-themed hotel, and **Adat Israel**, the Orthodox synagogue, where we will meet with Jacob Berezniak to deliver our gifts and aid to the community.
- **Dinner** together at La Casa paladar.

Overnight in Havana

Day 5 Thursday March 22, 2018: HISTORY OF HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture with Professor Stephen Berk
- We begin the day with a visit to **Finca Vigia**, the villa that Hemingway called home for 21 years. His home is now a museum with many of his personal belongings. Learn how Cuba influenced his writing.
- **Lunch** at Finca Yoandra /Il Divino. Take a glimpse into this organic urban farm and community project with a private restaurant in the outskirts of Havana.
- Continue to the **Jewish cemetery in Guanabacoa**, including a special memorial service at the site of the Holocaust Memorial.
- Free evening to explore Havana's restaurant and night life culture!

Overnight in Havana

Day 6 Friday March 23, 2018: EXPLORING HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture with Professor Stephen Berk
- Today we visit **Patronato**, where we meet with the President of **Temple Beth Shalom**, Adela Dworin, and other community leaders. Tour the center and learn about the Sunday school and pharmacy, and have time to deliver our gifts and aid.
- Continue with visits to the **Rosenberg Memorial, Lenin Park**, and pass by **Havana University**.
- **Lunch** at Il Palio.
- Stop at the impressive **Fuster house/studio** to see this unique mosaic masterpiece. Learn about the artist's project to beautify and help the community he lives in.
- As the sun sets, we participate in **Shabbat** services, followed by **dinner** at the Sephardic Center.

Overnight Havana

Day 7 Saturday March 24, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we visit the **Cuban Art Collection at the Fine Arts Museum**
- Next we visit the **Museum of the Revolution**, where we gain an understanding of the momentous change that has occurred in Cuba due to the Revolution over 50 years ago.
- **Lunch** at Café Laurent.

- Stop at **Almacenes de San Jose market**, where we stroll through the stalls of arts and crafts made by the locals.
- We enjoy a **classic car ride** from our hotel to our **farewell dinner** at Rio Mar paladar as we recall all that we have experienced together.

Overnight Havana

Day 8 Sunday March 25, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We have the morning at leisure for last minute shopping on our own.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to Miami.

The Memories Last Forever!

**Itinerary subject to change*

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