

**Join the Jewish Federation  
of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties  
On a Mission to  
CUBA**

**Mission Co-Chairs: Rachel Mehta & Jacki Skole**

**March 12-19, 2023**

(As of 2/20/23)

*Cuba: A land frozen in time - so close, yet decades away. A Jewish community dedicated to its heritage across half a century of isolation and prevalent atheism. A rich and vibrant island culture, filled with dance and song, classic cars and donkey carts, rum, and cigars. Experience all this and more as we step back in time together.*



### Day 1: Sunday, March 12, 2023: DEPARTURE

- We depart from New York on UA3542 non-stop to **Cuba!**
- We arrive at the **Jose Marti Airport** and meet our English-speaking guide and driver.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a **panoramic overview** of the city, including **Revolution Square**, dominated by the **José Martí Memorial**. This square is where Fidel Castro delivered the majority of his lengthy political addresses. We also pass by the **Rosenberg Memorial, Lennon Park, and Havana University.**
- We check into our hotel and enjoy a **welcome drink and orientation.**
- This evening, we join together for a **welcome dinner at Atelier.**

### Overnight in Havana

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### Day 2: Monday, March 13, 2023: HAVANA VIEJA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Partagas Cigar Factory**. Here, we learn about the history of tobacco and the tradition of cigar rolling in Cuba and interact with some of the rollers.
- We continue with 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. We also 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.
- We enjoy **lunch** at private restaurant **Al Carbon.**
- Next, we set out on a guided tour of the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Museum)** with a local specialist and visit the Cuban art collection.
- We complete our day with a visit to the **Patronato**, where we meet with community leaders. We tour the center and learn about the **pharmacy and Sunday school**, with time to deliver our gifts and aid.
- We return to our hotel for time to freshen up.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together at **Café Laurent.**

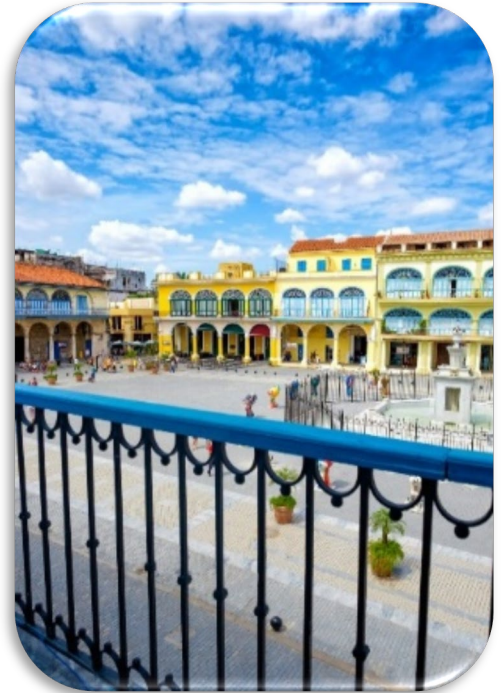
### Overnight in Havana

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### Day 3: Tuesday, March 14, 2023: HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we visit the **Sephardic Center** and meet with **Mayra Levy**, President of the congregation, as well as members of the community, who discuss the role of Sephardic Jews in the resurgence of Jewish life in Cuba. We also deliver aid to the community and interact with locals. While here, we view the first **Holocaust exhibit** displayed in Cuba.
- We depart for the **Jewish cemetery in Guanabacoa**, including a special stop at the site of the **Holocaust Memorial**.
- We stop for **lunch** at **Finca Yoandra/Il Divino** for a glimpse into this organic urban farm and community project with a private restaurant in the outskirts of Havana.
- After lunch, we continue to **Finca Vigia**, the villa that Hemingway called home for 21 years. His home is now a museum with many of his personal belongings, where we learn how Cuba influenced his writing.
- We return to Havana and our hotel for a chance to relax.
- Enjoy dinner on your own tonight.



### Overnight in Havana

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### Day 4: Wednesday, March 15, 2023: SANTA CLARA – CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we depart for **Santa Clara**, an important city founded in the 1600's. Here, in 1958, Che Guevara and his troops won a crucial battle in securing victory for the Cuban Revolution.
- Upon arrival in Santa Clara, we stop at the **Che Guevara memorial** for a photo opportunity in **Plaza Che Guevara (Che Guevara Square)**, see the eternal flame lit in his memory, then visit the **Che Museum** underneath.
- Next, we meet with **Victor Tacher**, a leading representative of the **Santa Clara Jewish Community**, where we will learn about the local community and deliver our gifts.
- We take a break for **lunch** together at **La Aldaba** paladar with Victor as our guest.
- We depart for **Cienfuegos**, Cuba's "Pearl of the South". Here, we meet with leading Jewish community representative **Rebecca Langus** to deliver our aid.
- WE continue to the beautiful colonial town of **Trinidad**, a charming city settled in 1514 and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1988.
- We check into our private home stay and refresh for **dinner** together at restaurant **San Jose**.

### Overnight in Trinidad

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### Day 5: Thursday, March 16, 2023: TRINIDAD

- Breakfast at our home stay.
- This morning, we enjoy a **walking tour of historic Trinidad**, which is 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. Along the way, we visit village landmarks such as **Plaza Mayor** and **La Parroquial Mayor Church** and watch **rumba** being played at **Palemque de los Congos Reales**. We will also visit a rationing store “bodega” and learn how locals buy staple foods.
- Next, we visit **Yudit Vidal Faife’s private art gallery**. Yudit is a native of Trinidad and we will interact with him and learn about his work and challenges.
- We enjoy **lunch** at **Los Conspiradores**.
- This afternoon, we meet with the famous **Santander family**, well-known local potters, and visit their workshop and gallery. These artists have been making handmade pottery for over 100 years.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Explore the village and purchase souvenirs from private local artisans or return to your home stay to relax.
- Dinner on own this evening, then explore the nightlife of Trinidad.



### Overnight in Trinidad

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### Day 6: Friday, March 17, 2023: A HAVANA SHABBAT

- Breakfast and check out of our home stays.
- This morning, we return to **Cienfuegos** for an interactive walking tour around the **historic center**. We will visit landmarks, including **Parque Marti**, **Palacio Ferrer** and the **Thomas Terry Theater** and learn about this UNESCO World Heritage site, founded by French immigrants in 1819.
- Next, we visit the **Cienfuegos Orchestra** at **Museo Provincial** and enjoy a performance and interaction with the artists.
- We continue to **Playa Larga**, a tranquil village set on the beach at the head of the Bay of Pigs. It was here that the failed April 1961 CIA-sponsored invasion took place.
- We stop for **lunch** together at local paladar, **Casa de Enrique**, a private enterprise featuring rooms for rent and a private restaurant.
- After lunch, we make our way back to **Havana** and check back into our hotel.
- This evening, we join the local community for **Shabbat services** at **Beth Shalom Synagogue at Patronato** followed by **Shabbat dinner** at This evening, we join the local community for **Shabbat services** at **Beth Shalom Synagogue at Patronato** followed by **Shabbat dinner** at **La Mansion Castillo**.

### Overnight in Havana



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### Day 7: Saturday, March 18, 2023: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our final day at the impressive **Fuster house/studio** to see this unique mosaic masterpiece and learn about the artist's project to beautify and help the community in which he lives.
- Next, we visit the **Habana Compas Dance headquarters** to enjoy a performance of flamenco and Afro Yoruba dances, followed by a chance to interact with the dancers and instructors.
- We enjoy **lunch** at private restaurant **Buenaventura**.
- This afternoon, we visit **Vocal Clave del Sol**, a community project aimed to develop vocal and instrumental skills and promote Cuban traditional music with children 5 to 19 years old.
- We return to our hotel to freshen up.
- We gather this evening and enjoy a **classic car ride** and a chance to meet private owners and taxi drivers of these classic cars. We also learn about the daily challenges to keep these relics running as we cruise the streets of Havana on a scenic ride in a pre-1979 classic American car on our way to our **farewell dinner** at **Vistamar**. During dinner we reminisce about all that we have experienced together.
- **Optional:** Attend the world-famous show at the **Tropicana**, an old-world Vegas-style show in production since 1939 (separate cost).



### Overnight in Havana

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### Day 8: Sunday, March 19, 2023: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We stop by the **headquarters of JDC** in Havana to learn about their projects to assist the Jewish community on the island.
- Our final stop is at the **Almacenes de San Jose market**, where we stroll through the stalls of arts and crafts made by the locals. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with the artisans, learn about their challenges and purchase some last-minute souvenirs.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to New York.

**The Memories Last Forever!!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

