



**Join the Traveling University's
Tour to
CUBA**

with Professor Stephen Berk

December 4-11, 2022

(As of 9/21/21)

Cuba: 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, December 4, 2022: DEPARTURE

- We depart Florida on our non-stop flight 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 pass by the **Rosenberg Memorial**, **Lennon Park**, and **Havana University**.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy a welcome drink and **orientation** with Professor Stephen Berk. We light the last candle of Hannukah together this evening!
- This evening, we join together for a **welcome dinner** at El Mediterraneo.



Overnight in Havana

Day 2: Monday, December 5, 2022: HAVANA VIEJA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin with a lecture with Professor Stephen Berk.
- Next, we stop at the **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 and locals.
- We visit the **Sephardic Center** and meet with **Mayra Levy**, President of the congregation, who discusses 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.
- **Lunch** at Ivan Justo paladar.
- After lunch, we 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. 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.
- Tonight, we enjoy **dinner** at Café del Oriente.
- Option to attend the world-famous show at the **Tropicana**, an old-world Vegas-style show in production since 1939 (cost not included – sign up during registration).

Overnight in Havana



Day 3: Tuesday, December 6, 2022: HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a lecture with Professor Stephen Berk.
- Next, we visit 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 continue with a visit to the **Jewish cemetery in Guanabacoa**, including a special stop to the site of the Holocaust Memorial.
- We stop for **lunch** at **Fina Yoandra/El Divino** for a glimpse into this organic urban farm and community project with a private restaurant in the outskirts of Havana.
- 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. Learn how Cuba influenced his writing.
- Return to hotel to relax and refresh.
- Free evening to explore Havana's restaurant and night life culture!



Overnight in Havana

Day 4: Wednesday, December 7, 2022: SANTA CLARA TO CIENFUEGOS

- 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.
- We stop at the **Che Guevara memorial** for a photo opportunity in the square and visit the **Che Museum** underneath.
- **Lunch** together at Aldaba paladar.
- This afternoon, we 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.
- We continue to the beautiful port city of **Cienfuegos**, Cuba's "Pearl of the South".
- We check in to our hotel and refresh for **dinner** together at D'Carmelino.

Overnight in Cienfuegos

Day 5: Thursday, December 8, 2022: TRINIDAD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to the beautiful colonial town of **Trinidad**, a charming city settled in 1514 which is a UNESCO heritage site since 1988.
- 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. We learn about the efforts to preserve the city's heritage.

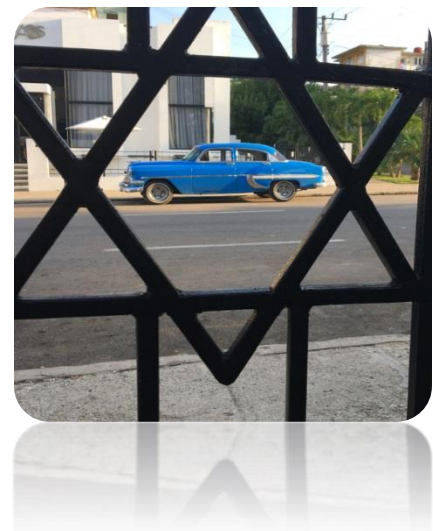


- This afternoon, we meet with the famous **Santander family**, well-known local potters, and visit their workshop and gallery. These artists have been making handmade pottery for over 100 years.
- **Lunch** at San Jose paladar.
- We return to Cienfuegos where we meet with **Rebecca Langus** and learn about the local Jewish community with time to deliver gifts.
- We enjoy a performance by **Cantores de Cienfuegos** at **Museo Provincial de Cienfuegos**.
- **Dinner** at Finca del Mar together this evening.

Overnight in Cienfuegos

Day 6: Friday, December 9, 2022: A HAVANA SHABBAT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we tour Cienfuegos including **Parque Marti** and the **Thomas Terry Theater**. We learn about this UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded by French immigrants in 1819
- We depart for Havana. Lunch on own en route.
- We stop 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.
- We check in to our hotel and refresh.
- This evening, we join together for **Shabbat services and dinner** at the Sephardic Synagogue with community members.



Overnight in Havana

Day 7: Saturday, December 10, 2022: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin with a visit the **Habana Compas Dance headquarters** to enjoy a performance and interact with the dancers and instructors.
- Next, we stop at **Almacenes de San Jose market**, where we stroll through the stalls of arts and crafts made by the locals.
- **Lunch** at Mambo.
- This afternoon, we explore 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.



- We gather this evening and enjoy a **classic car ride** from our hotel to our **farewell dinner** at Rio Mar paladar, recalling all that we have experienced together.
- Late evening visit to the artists of **Fabrica D'la Arte**, a former cooking oil factory, which comes alive on weekend nights and features the best avante garde art in the country.

Overnight in Havana

Day 8: Sunday, December 11, 2022: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to Florida.



The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

