

**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 6/23/22)

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

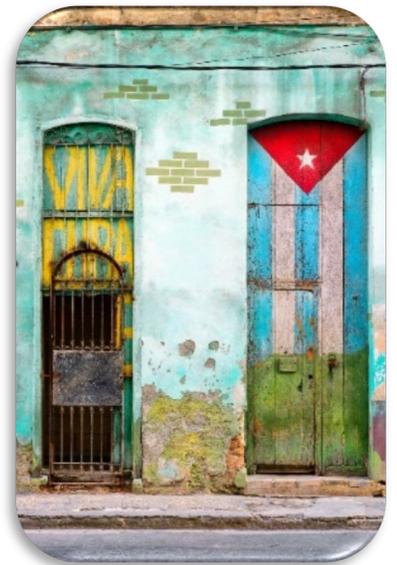
- We depart from New York on our non-stop flight to **Cuba!**
- We arrive at the **Jose Marti Airport** and meet our English-speaking guide and driver.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a **panoramic overview** of the city, including **Revolution Square**, dominated by the **José Martí Memorial**. This square is where Fidel Castro delivered the majority of his lengthy political addresses. We 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 El Mediterraneo.

Overnight in Havana

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

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day 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.
- 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 enjoy **lunch** at Ivan Justo paladar.
- After lunch, we visit **ORT Cuba** and learn about the many ways in which they serve the Jewish population in and around Havana, including running the Cuban Jewish Senior Center, offering Holocaust education, providing supplementary services such as basic needs and health care, supplemental meals at the children's center, building infrastructure maintenance and also supporting local artists (**option to instead visit JDC in Cuba**).
- 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, March 14, 2023: HAVANA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin 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 continue to 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- We enjoy dinner on our own at a local restaurant.



Overnight in Havana

Day 4: Wednesday, March 15, 2023: 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.
- We take a break for **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 into our hotel and refresh for **dinner** together at D'Carmelino.

Overnight in Cienfuegos



Day 5: Thursday, March 16, 2023: 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 World 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. While here, 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.
- We enjoy **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**.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** at Finca del Mar together.



Overnight in Cienfuegos

Day 6: Friday, March 17, 2023: 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.
- Upon arrival in Havana, we check into our hotel and refresh.
- This evening, we join the local community for **Shabbat services** at **Beth Shalom Synagogue at Patronato** followed by **Shabbat dinner** back at our hotel.

Overnight in Havana



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

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Day at leisure OR**
 - 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.



Overnight in Havana

Day 8: Sunday, March 19, 2023: DEPARTURE

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

The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

