



# Boca West Group Trip to Cuba

**5 Days & 4 Nights**  
April 2nd – 6th, 2020

# **Boca West Group Trip to Cuba**

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> through Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **Day 1 – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> | Fort Lauderdale – La Habana**

Meals Included: Dinner

12:00 PM Departure from Ft. Lauderdale Airport

1:00 PM Arrival to Jose Marti International Airport

3:00 PM Check-In to your lodging accommodations. Take time to explore the hotel grounds and the hotel's surroundings.

6:30 PM Dinner at a High-End Paladar in Old Havana

8:30 PM Ceremonia Del Cañonazo.

The cannon ceremony takes place every evening at Castillo de San Carlos de la Cabana and is performed by young military men. The cañonazo ceremony is a tradition started in the 17th century. A cannon would be fire to alert the community that the gates would be closed to the city.

9:30 PM Remainder of Evening Free

## **Day 2 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> | La Habana**

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

8:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM Walking Tour of Old Havana

12:00 PM Lunch at a local paladar.

1:30 PM Visit to The Cuban National Museum of Fine Arts.

It was founded on February 23, 1913 due to the efforts of its first director, Emilio Heredia, a well-known architect. After frequent moves it was finally placed on the block once occupied by the old Colon Market. In 1954, a new Palacio of Bellas Artes was opened, designed by the architect Rodriguez Pichardo. The original 1954 Palacio was recently reconstructed by the architect Jose Linares and a second building was taken over for the Museum.

3:30 PM Return to the hotel to refresh and relax.

6:00 PM Classic American Auto Panoramic Driving Tour.

American cars were imported into Cuba for about 50 years, beginning near the early 20th century. After the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. embargo was erected, and Castro banned the importation of American cars and mechanical parts. That's why Cuba is the way it is today - essentially a living museum for classic cars. The old American autos are often kept running with parts and pieces that were never intended for them. It's not uncommon to find a beautiful 1950s Chevy with a Russian engine - something that would be considered sacrilege to serious car collectors.

7:00 PM Dinner at San Cristobol

9:00 PM *(Optional)* La Zorra Y El Cuervo Jazz Club. Probably the most well-known venue for jazz in Havana, the 'Fox & Crow' offers an intimate environment in this basement venue notably marked by a red English telephone box at its entrance. Top jazz players perform here on a nightly basis.

### **Day 3 – Saturday 4th | La Habana**

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

8:30 AM Breakfast at the Hotel.

9:30 AM Visit "**Finca Vigia**" Hemingway`s Cuba Retreat.

Ten miles east of Havana is Hemingway's Cuba house - Finca Vigia, meaning "lookout house". Finca Vigia is located in the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula.

The Cuban people have always respected famous writer's choice to live in a modest town, amongst the people he fished with. Built in 1886 by a Spanish Architect Miguel Pascual y Baguer, Finca Vigia was purchased by Hemingway in 1940 for a cost of \$12,500. There, Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: For Whom the Bell Tolls and The Old Man and the Sea. A Movable Feast was written there as well. After Hemingway's death in 1961, the Cuban government took ownership of the property - either with or without the approval of Mary Hemingway. After years of neglect, restoration and preservation work has begun. Finca Vigía has made both the World Monuments Fund list of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places.

12:00 PM Lunch At **Paladar Atelier**.

In Cuba, in-home restaurants like Atelier, known as *paladares*, were legalized in the 1990s but limited by idiosyncratically enforced regulations: a maximum of 12 seats, no beef or lobster, only ingredients purchased at state stores, at least two "family helpers" as staff. Those restaurants that survived despite the restrictions possessed a speakeasy ambiance and exclusively served Cuban food. In 2011, nationwide economic reforms loosened regulations, and in short order, *paladares*—some selling comparatively exotic Indian or Spanish food—outstripped state-run restaurants in both number and popularity.

2:00 PM      **Panoramic Driving Tour** of Miramar and Embassies.

Many embassies, including the landmark Russian embassy, are located in Miramar - in particular on *Quinta Avenida* (Fifth Avenue) before called Avenida de las Américas (Avenue of the Americas) Prior to the Revolution, the neighborhood was home to many of Havana's upscale residents. There are many large houses and mansions here. This district and the Country Club (Cubanacán) were the most glamorous spaces in the Havana of the 50s. There are also some of Havana's more modern hotels such as Hotel Melia Habana, Oasis Panorama Hotel and Occidental Miramar, beaches and private rental houses (*known as casas particulares*) . Also located here is the International School of Havana. In the late 1990s and 2000s, several office blocks have been built in a complex called *Centro de Negocios Miramar* - the "Miramar Trade Center".

3:00 PM      Historic tour of the **Hotel Nacional**.

Visit one of the most historic hotels in Havana. Learn about the role that the Hotel Nacional played in the Cuban Missile Crisis. This is also a great photo opportunity.

4:30 PM      Return to Hotel to Relax

6:30 PM      Dinner at La Carboncita

Enjoy the best Italian dinner that Cuba has to offer. Located in the ritzy neighborhood of Miramar just minutes away from the Tropicana

9:00 PM      Cabaret Show At **El Tropicana**.

It was launched on December 30th, 1939 at the Villa Mina in Marianao and next door to El Colegio de Belen where Fidel Castro went to school. The Tropicana Cabaret is located in a lush, tropical garden six-acre estate.

#### **Day 4 – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> | La Habana**

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

8:00 AM      Breakfast at Hotel

9:00 AM      Tour of **Jose Fuster's Studio**.

Fusterlandia, was a natural outcropping of Fuster's artistic development. "I kept working every day to do something more and more spectacular," Fuster says. "I wanted my studio to be a place where I could live with art. That was always my illusion, my idea. And I think, little by little, it became a reality."

10:30 AM      Visit to the **Sephardic Center**.

The Sephardic Hebrew Center in Havana, Cuba, became the second synagogue in the country to affiliate to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. After the revolution in 1959, atheism was declared the official religion of the state and 90% of the Jews simply left to neighboring countries. The new law caused many to stay away from synagogues, especially if they wished to become members of the Communist Party. Things changed again in the 1990s with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Cuban government rewrote

its constitution and decided to define Cuba as a country without religion. This allowed the Jewish community to resume their practices freely.

12:00 PM Lunch at **Le Chansonnier**.

Hector Higuera reopened Le Chansonnier in October 2011. Le Chansonnier used to be a French-themed private restaurant cluttered with antiques; it was a solid, if not spectacular, place to eat. This reinvention has left little trace of the old interior of the house, which dates back to 1860. Now a haven of contemporary chic, this is not an escape from Havana, as much as the integration of the coolest elements. Beautiful young staff, happening music, sensitive lighting and thoughtful décor, as well as what must be the coolest toilet façade in Cuba (thanks to artist Damián Aquiles) give the place impeccable hipster credentials.

2:00 PM Visit to **Muraleando Project**.

Created in 2001 by the artist Manuel Diaz Baldrich, Muraleando has transformed the neighborhood into an art gallery. Children from the community and visitors to the project attend classes in pottery, painting, music, dance and engraving aimed at building and developing their artistic skills. This is a singular cultural experience and a unique look into Cuban culture, art, food and its way of life.

3:30 PM Afternoon Free to Explore.

7:00 PM Dinner at **Riomar**.

Amazingly for a city by the sea Havana has precious few places to eat with a view to the deep blue ocean. Rio Mar has a whole terrace overlooking the where the Rio Almendares flows into the sea, opposite the historic 1830 Club. This little bay is sheltered but gives you a sense and smell of the ocean without the waves.

9:00 PM Evening Free to Explore.

### **Day 5 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> | La Habana to Fort Lauderdale**

Meals Included: Breakfast

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Check Out Hotel

10:00 AM Visit Mercado San Jose (Arts and Crafts Market).

Located in a large two-story warehouse, this market features the work of hundreds of Cuban artists. It's the perfect market to buy original paintings, handmade jewelry, and hammocks. It's Havana's only covered outdoor market, so visitors can shop in the shade. Almacenes San José is a local favorite, so it won't feel as touristy as other markets.

1:00 PM Check in at Havana Jose Marti Airport

4:00 PM Depart from Havana

5:00 PM Arrive to Fort Lauderdale



6780 Congress Ave #608  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
Office: (561) 865-6047  
markp@cubafame.com

## Pricing & Package Details

Ground Package in Cuba	\$2,850.00 per Traveler Based on Double Occupancy  Single Supplement \$500.00
------------------------	--

\*\*The final itinerary may be subject to change.

### Included in package:

- Meals (as specified on the itinerary)
- Professional, bilingual guide for listed activities
- Local ground transportation for listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- Compliance with U.S. Treasury Department / OFAC regulations
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- 13% Cuban Conversion Rate
- Coordination of all listed activities

### Not Included in package:

- Airfare. Group rates may be available.
- Cuban visa
- Optional meals and activities
- Meals and activities other than listed on itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Tips for local guides, drivers, restaurant service, etc.

Registrations may be submitted online at <http://www.cubafame.com/registration>

For refund policy, and full terms and conditions please visit [www.cubafame.com/terms](http://www.cubafame.com/terms)