



21st Century Cuba

with Art of Diplomacy Tours

January 25-29, 2024

Thursday, January 25

Arrival to Havana, Cuba (pending flight info). **Meet your CET representative** at the exit of the airport terminal and transfer to lodging. Mid-morning arrivals are encouraged to take advantage of the day's activities.

Check-in at privately run, boutique hotels in the Vedado neighborhood. You will have an opportunity to grab a light lunch at your hotel.

Conversation with Miguel Coyula, Cuba's "Explainer in Chief."

Urban planner and professor Miguel Coyula lays a foundation of knowledge for you, with his account of the last 500 years of Cuba and Havana's evolution. As an architect and urban planner, his perspective will provide your group with the base to begin your inquiry into how Cuba looks and why.

Havana rooftop jam session. Get down with Cuban music and watch the sunset while jamming out with local musicians.

Welcome dinner reservation at La Guarida paladar, famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film *Strawberry and Chocolate*. It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambience of the early 1900s. (meal not included – pay cash).

(D)



Friday, January 26

The Cuban Economy with private sector consultant Oniel Diaz. Get an update and insider thoughts on the state of the Cuban economy: currency reform, foreign investment, and economic changes. Diaz is one of the leading experts on the Cuban private sector.

Visit small and medium-sized Cuban businesses.

Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar. Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek Magazine's top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. The restaurant's location in the beautiful cathedral square is unbeatable.

Discussion with officials from Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINREX).

Tour of the Lizt Alfonso School, a women-led dance company and school for local youth, specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on them.

Reception at the residence of Ambassador Benjamin Ziff, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Havana. Ambassador Ziff has run the U.S. Embassy in Havana since July 2022.

Dinner at Atelier, one of Cuba's first female-led paladars. Housed in the former Cuban Senator's home, Atelier is beautifully decorated to create a charming ambience that matches the delicious home-cooked food.

(B, L, D)



Saturday, January 27 (part one)

Behind-the-scenes walking tour of Old Havana. Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982, as well as off-the-beaten path stops to learn more about living conditions and the local economy.

Cuban Entrepreneurship. Interactive lunch with leading voices in Cuba's private sector, who will discuss Cuban government policies, the impact of U.S. policy and the ins-and-outs of running a private business in Cuba.

Visit a workshop where the **Nostalgic Cars** team, husband and wife Julio and Nidialys, repair classic American cars for their car service.

Havana mansion visit for a better look at the challenges of home-restoration s in a city where housing has received little or no maintenance since 1959.



Saturday, January 27 (part two)

Unraveling the Cuban Cigar: A private tasting and education with a cigar specialist will explain the cultural staple's history and importance to Cuban culture.

Dinner reservation on the Rooftop of El Cocinero.

Located underneath the imposing brick chimney of the same name, this bar/restaurant has a renovated industrial space look, good music, nice décor and has attracted a mixed crowd of affluent young Cubans. (meal not included – pay cash)

Enjoy art, music and dancing at Fabrica de Arte Cubano.

The brainchild of Afro-Cuban musician X-Alfonso, this is one of Havana's finest cultural projects, an intellectual and artistic nexus that draws Cuban and international visitors. Explore the multi-media gallery spaces and catch a live performance.

(B, L)



Sunday, January 28

Discussion on race and gender at the home of female hip-hop duo, La Reyna y Real, in the Luyano neighborhood.

Behind-the-Scenes Art & Light Lunch. Visit the homes and studios of independent Cuban Artists. Enjoy a light, healthy lunch along the way at one of the galleries.

Creative Cuba Engagement: Choose one of the following options, which you'll enjoy in small groups:

Afro Cuban percussion lesson

Printmaking class

Discussion with independent journalist

Visit to the private gallery of Esterio Segura, one of Cuba's top artists, who is internationally known. Admire both sculptures and paintings, while **enjoying sounds of a youth Quartet**, who will blow you away with their talent.

Farewell dinner at Yarini. Situated in the middle of Havana's new Art District, San Isidro. This bar restaurant is located on top of the art Gallery Taller Gorría.

(B, L, D)





Monday, January 29

Check-out of boutique hotel.

Tour of La Finca Vigía. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, it still houses his expansive collection of books and his boat El Pilar.. Then depart directly for the airport in order to arrive 2.5 hours prior to departure.