



Art, Culture & Community: An Interactive Art Delegation to Cuba with Jeff Greenwald / April 10-19, 2015

Summary:

This people-to-people delegation will focus on Cuba's visual and performance arts, exploring the relationship between personal expression, community development and interactive collaboration. We'll visit studios, galleries, World Heritage Sites of extraordinary beauty, and neighborhoods that have been revitalized through imaginative art projects. Much of our time will be spent meeting with individual artists, visiting community art projects, and seeing how art is integrated into the public sphere in Cuba's Socialist culture. Guided visits to key museums and cultural centers will also be featured. As the delegation will consist mainly of working artists, each day will include time for painting, drawing, journaling and/or photography—alone, in studios, or under the guidance of Cuban artists.

This wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural engagement will reach beyond art and into the creative spirit. Participants will bring their own supplies, and be ready to sketch or watercolor at viewpoints, in squares and old forts, possibly even with Cuban models.



April 10th

(L, D)

6:30 a.m. Group check in at Miami International (tentative flight times) a.m.
Departure from Miami International (TBA)

9:30 am Departure from Miami International Airport

10:45 am Arrival Jose Marti, International Airport. Partial City Tour by bus on way into Havana.

1:00 p.m. Lunch at a restaurant in Old Habana and experience the City Historian's massive efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. See buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction, meet with neighborhood residents as they engage in selling arts and crafts. Enjoy a **guided walking tour of Old Havana**. Learn about the



Master Plan for Restoration of Old Havana through the salvaging of neglected buildings, tourism for restoration investment, and the accompanying social plans. Additionally there will be dialogue with staff about the importance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, national patrimony, restoration and urban planning.

- 4:00 p.m.** Transfer and check in to Hotel Nacional (requested).
5:00 p.m. Welcome Cocktail and time to rest.
7:00 p.m. Welcome dinner

Eve Free for optional cultural activities - After our welcome dinner some of us may take in live Cuban music from the heirs to the Buena Vista Social Club, for an unforgettable night of Cuban music and dance at the Hotel Nacional's Compay Segundo Hall. The Nacional's spacious patio also features live music – or, some might prefer to take a Saturday evening stroll along Havana's famous seaside Malecon.

April 11th:

(B, L)

- 9:00am** After break fast you will have an **Orientation meeting** by your Ethical Traveler leader, Jeff Greenwald, the local guide and program coordinators on general Cuba travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of the program.
10:30am Visit **the Museo de Bella Artes**, the Cuban Fine Arts Museum for an overview of Cuban contemporary arts.
1:00pm Lunch at El Patio Restaurant at Cathedral Square
2:30 pm Visit a few artists studios (including a special request to meet with the well known **AfroCuban Artist Choco**) in Old Havana. **Lastly, we will visit the Taller Grafica printmakers' center in the old city's Cathedral Square.**
(Request to meet with director: David Sosa)
4:30 pm **We leave old Havana to explore the Colon Cemetery.** Named for Christopher Columbus, the cemetery is noted for its many elaborately sculpted memorials. Its opening was at 70th decade of XIX century, its architect was Calixto de Loira, he was one of the first bodies buried in this new cemetery at that time on September 29, 1872. **Interactive Arts Time-** Here we will have a full hour and half to **wander or sketch.**

Dinner -Tonight you are free to explore local **Paladares**, privately run restaurants. These are wonderful examples of Cuba's economic changes and support of local economic entrepreneurship.

Eve **Free for cultural activities, including the Jazz Café, a Malecon stroll –or- the Fox and the Crow.**

April 12th

(B, D)

- 9:00am** Meet with the teachers and staff of **PRODANZA**. Here we will visit this wonderful ballet school and see a rehearsal. (donations are highly welcome here). After we will visit the art and photography galleries **of La Acacia and Fototeca** and chat with local artists.
12:30pm Lunch at La Imprenta Restaurant



2:30pm Explore how tourism benefits urban renewal as you exchange with the community at the **Convento de Belen**. The Belén Convent project serves to inspire in all, a love of community, life and spirituality through music, arts, science, literature, health, engagement, productivity and learning. The ongoing development of Belén Convent is made possible in part by generous humanitarian support and volunteerism by organizations and individuals from abroad. The Belen Convent provides: housing for the elderly; health clinic and pharmacy; shelter from natural catastrophes; services for disabled youth; choirs and bands; mass and religious ceremonies; eye care and glasses; computer and internet training; physical therapy and exercise; occupational training for all ages; art, crafts, music and cultural activities; meals for those in need; community outreach and support for single mothers. The Belen Project serves not only the 300,000 practicing Catholics in Cuba today but also the Cuban secular community in need. (Donations can be brought to this organization)

4:30 pm **Exchange with Cuban Photographer Roberto Salas** in his home. Salas has been one of four of the Cuban Revolution's important photographer. This is an incredible opportunity to see images of Che, Fidel and others, including Heminway, since the 1950.s.

5:30 pm We drive to the Forteleza ortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña, known as La Cabaña (Fort of Saint Charles), is an 18th-century fortress complex, the third biggest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot (60 m) hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress). **Interactive Arts Time**

7 pm **Dinner La Divina Postora.** Here you will have a lovely view of Old Havana as the restaurant is located in Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana. At the time of its construction in the 1770s it was the largest fort the Spanish had ever built, as well as the most costly. Following the occupation by the British, who used this location to secure the port for their side, the Spanish set about building Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana. We will also enjoy live music.

8:30pm Option to see the **Canoñazo Ceremony**. Soldiers dressed in 18th century uniforms fire a cannon over Havana bay at precisely 9 p.m. o'clock. It is a historical reconstruction dating back to the colonial era. Back then, the cannon fire announced the official end of the day and the time to close the city gates for the night.

Eve Free to enjoy contemporary music and dance at the **Casa de la Música**. Participants will visit a dance club frequented by Cubans to learn about contemporary musicians and interact with up-and-coming local musicians. Participants will learn about the contradictions between a closed economy and the influx of tourism.



April 13:

(B,L)

9:00 am Visit to the **School of Arts (ISA)** or another school of arts, and meet with the Rector, faculty, staff and students to learn about art education, youth, arts, arts funding, freedom of expression, teachers and unions in Cuba.

11:30am Excursion with the **Muraleando Community Art Project**, a community-based art programs in Havana, inspired by local neighborhood artists who taught art "in the streets." Outdoor murals and sculptures, depicting fanciful celebrations of Cuban life, were a natural outgrowth of these art classes. In a country where nothing is disposable and everything is useful, broken typewriters, old telephones, wrought-iron chair parts - all were transformed into sculpture. The trash dumps that had collected throughout the neighborhood have been reimagined, and now serve as gathering places for residents and visitors. We will meet with local artist and co-founder of the project, Manuel Díaz Baldrich Manolo. The Muraleando Community Art Project welcomes international support and aid in the form of art and educational supplies. We will have lunch here.

Interactive Arts Time to draw and exchange with local artists.

3:00pm Visit to the Casa de Amistad for a briefing and exchange with the representative of Cuba's Friendship Institute, **ICAP**, our official host in Cuba. We will learn about the Cuban views on US/Cuban International Relations and also hear about how the US embargo impacts Cuba's development and the arts community.

4:30pm An unforgettable private musical performance with **Grupo Mezcla**.

Eve Optional Cultural Activity: Enjoy **Opera de la Calle at El Cabildo**, which has an outdoor theater, bar and 150-seat restaurant, is a throwback to life before Cuba's 1959 revolution, when Havana teemed with cabarets and theaters. It has nightly entertainment, anchored by an eclectic troupe called "Opera of the Street" that mixes traditional opera with Cuban song and dance and popular music from abroad.

April 14 :

(B,L)

8:30am Leave for Trinidad making a stop off in the **city of Cienfuegos**. City tour of Cienfuegos known as the Pearl of the South. The group will learn how the local architecture reflected the prosperity of sugar, tobacco and fruit trading, as well as about the 19th-century European influence.

Small City tour with a visit **Benny Moré Art School** to meet with its director Federico Cortese and students studying music, dance, or art and their teachers.

Lunch **Casa del Chef in Cienfuegos** with a buffet lunch prepared by local chefs to highlight typical cuisine of the Cienfuegos area

2:30 p.m Visit and exchange with the **Cienfuegos Choral Group** for a special rehearsal and briefing with **Honey Morales at the Tomas Teddy Theatre**.

4:30p.m. Continue on to **Trinidad**, a World Heritage Site located in Cuba's south



central region. We'll learn about the history of this beautiful town, admire the architecture, and have plenty of **Interactive Arts Time** to draw and exchange with locals and artists in the old square and town streets.

Check in at hotel and time for rest!

Dinner we will enjoy a local paladar and wander about musical Trinidad.

Evening Optional cultural activities - The group will walk over to the **Casa de la Trova** where wonderful traditional live music is played.

April 15th: **(B, L)**

9:00am Check out of hotel, start morning with a guided **city tour** of this popular colonial town. We will receive a mini-education in Trinidad's architecture and restoration, urban planning, and colonial to revolutionary history. Plenty of time to engage with Cubans in their art studios, galleries and at a local cigar factory where participants learn first hand how artist negotiate the tourist market in a socialist **economy**.

For lunch we will visit the finca of "horse whisperer" and photographer, **Julio Munoz** and there will be **Interactive Arts Time** to sketch, write or exchange with locals.

3:00pm After we are off to **Topes de collantes** and another famous UNESCO World Heritage site the **Valley of the Sugar Mills**. Like Trinidad city, it is a living examples of early 17th century wealthy colonial Cuba.

Dinner at hotel after we check in and rest. This evening Jeff and your Cuban guide will facilitate a "discussion" of an important Cuban export: Rum!

April 16th: **(B D)**

9:00 am Check out and leave for the **Zapata Peninsula a UNESCO** bioserve. Today is a full day. We will visit the **Bay of Pigs Museum** and checkin to our hotel at **Playa Larga**.

4:00pm We'll enjoy an afternoon visit to environmental reserve, Bermejas Preserve, which took the brunt of Hurricane Michelle in November 2001. Local conservationists have been assisting the natural recovery process here under park supervision.

Dinner is at the hotel.

April 17th **(B,L)**

9:00am Breakfast and check out of hotel.

9:30 am Exchange and visit with the **Korimakao Community Arts Group**- Korimakao, an indigenous word that means "man who carries his house on his back".



12:00pm Visit to the beautiful **Caleta Buena**, and the ocean to explore local marine ecology. Lunch is at the Calenta.

4:00pm Return to Havana and check in to hotel

Dinner and Eve Free for optional cultural activities from the ballet to baseball.

April 18th

(B,L D)

9:00am Exchange with the **Callejon de Hamel** community. We will take a 2 hour with Elias Aseff Alfonso who works closely with the community's artist founder Salvador Gonzales Escalona. He will share the history and day to day realities of arts, culture and religion in Cuba. Here you will learn about the African roots in Cuban Culture and its popular religion Santeria.

11:30.a.m Visit and exchange with the **Cuban Artist Francisco Gordillo**. Here we will also learn about the importance of African elements in contemporary Cuban art.

4:00pm Visit the **Coloreando Mi Barrio community project**. Exchange with this wonderful community project that teaches children arts and painting. Meet and dialogue with community leaders who inspired this project and exchange with the students. Then we will enjoy some free time to research, paint, journal or to visit the Artists Faire in Havana.

7:30 p.m. Farewell Dinner

EVE Free for optional cultural activities from salsa dancing to ballet.

April 19th

(B, L)

a.m. Breakfast and Check out of hotel / Check in for return flight to Miami, scheduled for **12:15 pm** with

1:30 p.m. - Scheduled arrival back in Miami.

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