

EXPERIENCE  
JAZZ  
IN

Cuba



## Travel to Cuba with KNKX!

~February 21 - 28, 2024~



Join me, Freddy "Fuego" Gonzalez, KNKX host of "Jazz Caliente," along with a dynamic group of fellow jazz lovers, on our tailor-made KNKX Public Radio adventure to Havana! Our personalized jazz adventure will include special concerts featuring Cuba's top jazz artists, a private tour of the legendary Havana Recording Studio and a visit to a music school. In addition, we'll attend a rumba session and delve into Cuba's Afro-Cuban roots including the influence of the Santeria religion. Everybody enjoys a cruise along the Malecon in a classic 1950s car, or seeing Ernest Hemingway's historic home.

We'll also dine in Havana's top paladars (private restaurants), stroll through the historic old town and learn how to salsa dance. We hope you'll join us in support of the Cuban people while we celebrate jazz with KNKX on our 8<sup>th</sup> trip to Cuba with Earthbound Expeditions! Space is limited.

### TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Nights Havana: Hotel Grand Aston ☆☆☆☆



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

*“What is interesting in this is the exchange of music that occurred between New Orleans and Cuba, I mean, they had ferries that would go from one port to another.”*

*Ruben Blades*

## IT'S INCLUDED

- ❖ With KNKX Jazz Caliente Host and guest artist, Freddy “Fuego” Gonzalez
- ❖ An expert bilingual Cuban guide
- ❖ A jazz workshop directed by top Cuban jazz artists
- ❖ A tour of the legendary Havana Recording Studio
- ❖ Salsa dance lessons
- ❖ Accommodations at the beautiful ☆☆☆☆ Grand Aston (on the famous Malecon)
- ❖ Multi-course traditional meals highlighting Cuban cuisine in Havana’s hottest private paladars! (all meals included except for 1 breakfast and 2 dinners)
- ❖ Bottled water daily and national drinks (local beers and mojitos)
- ❖ All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- ❖ Airport transfers for those arriving on February 21, 2024
- ❖ Special insider “Support for the Cuban People” experiences
- ❖ Gratuities for luggage handling at hotel, drivers, guides and restaurants
- ❖ Transport by private motor coach while in Cuba

## TRIP FACTS

8 Days/7 Nights

\$4,495 per person double occupancy land

\$875 Single Supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Trip begins: February 21, 2024 in Havana, Cuba

Trip ends: February 28, 2024 in Havana, Cuba

*\*Save \$200- details below*





### WAYS TO SAVE \$200

KNKX and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 \* Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 \*

**NOT INCLUDED:** Cuban Tourist Card (aka visa) fee \* Travel Insurance \* (\$1,000 mandatory medical coverage included in most Delta and American airlines tickets) \* International Airline tickets and luggage fees \* Beverages with meals (other than those mentioned in itinerary) \* Meals not mentioned \* Laundry/room/mini-bar service \* Gratuities for housekeeping staff \* Items of a personal nature and anything not listed in the “It’s Included” section above.

### WHERE YOU WILL STAY: The new, 4-star Hotel Grand Aston

(OFAC- US Treasury Department Authorized hotel) Set one block off of the famous Malecon, this upscale hotel is in the Vedado district. The modern rooms have spectacular views of the ocean, the city and the majestic Malecon ocean drive. There are several restaurants and bars in the hotel. Amenities include an outdoor pool, as well as a fitness room, a sauna and a beauty salon.

---

## Your KNKX Adventure Begins!

### Day 1: Wednesday, February 21 - Arrive in Historic Havana

After clearing Cuban immigrations and customs, you are welcomed by your Cuban National guide outside the terminal, who will assist with a private transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a stroll on the waterfront or relax by the pool with a mojito before meeting your guide and host for a welcome dinner at one of Havana’s best known, privately owned paladars. *Sleep in Havana at the NEW Grand Aston \*\*\*\* Hotel (D)*



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



### **Day 2: Thursday, February 22 - Cuba's National Art Schools**

This morning we'll see the Plaza de la Revolución and the Miramar area before arriving at the National Art Schools (Instituto Superior de Arte). These structures are considered by historians to be among the most outstanding architectural achievements of the Cuban Revolution. These innovative, organic Catalan-vaulted brick and terra-cotta buildings were built on the site of a former country club in the far western Havana suburb of Cubanacán, which used to be Havana's "Beverly Hills" and was then mainly reserved for Communist Party officials. The schools were conceived and founded by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in 1961, and they reflect the utopian optimism and revolutionary exuberance of the early years of the Cuban Revolution. Over their years of active use, the schools served as the primary incubator for Cuba's artists, musicians, actors, and dancers. The schools' design fell out of favor by 1965 and was nearly completely decommissioned until preservation efforts were mounted in force in the 1990s. Now tentatively on the list of World Heritage sites, they are in use, though still in various states of disrepair. We'll tour the facility and meet with art students and have an opportunity to purchase some of their art work. Lunch today is in the elegant Miramar section of Havana. In the afternoon we'll have a jazz workshop led by some of Cuba's most respected jazz musicians.

*Sleep in Havana Grand Aston Hotel (B, L, D)*

### **Day 3: Friday, February 23 - The History of Dance and Conservatorio Guillermo Tomas**

Early birds may wish to soak up the sun and walk along the Malecón before breakfast. Then we set off to learn about the history of music and dance in Cuba. We'll meet with multiple instructors and learn to dance the Cha Cha, Rumba, Salsa and Merengué.

This afternoon we'll visit the Conservatorio Guillermo Tomas. This music school has 500 students ranging in age from 8 to 19. The 40 annual graduates go on to join the best symphony, chamber and popular orchestras, or become music professors for new students. This is your opportunity to bring music-related donations or other items most needed. One year we bought electric fans for their rehearsal room. ("Gift" suggestions will be included in your pre-departure information).

Enjoy lunch together will be followed by a private tour of the legendary Havana Music Studio.

*Sleep in Havana Grand Aston Hotel (B, L)*

### **Day 4: Saturday, February 24 - Hemingway and Havana's Community Center**

This morning we're off to visit Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm) where North America's literary giant, Ernest Hemingway, spent twenty-one of his most important and productive years penning building blocks of English literature. Claimed by both the United States and Cuba as their son, it was Hemingway himself who declared the island his true home. *Sleep in Havana Grand Aston Hotel (B, L, D)*



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



**Day 5: Sunday, February 25 - Architecture Walk and A Jazz Workshop**

One of Havana's many charms is the "elegant decay" of the buildings. Enjoy a stroll today that focuses on the splendid architecture of this city, unlike anywhere in the world. Discuss with local experts, then have lunch together, after which we will experience the "marriage of cigars and rum." Later, you are invited to partake in a very special jazz workshop with some of Cuba's top jazz artists.

After dinner, the energetic may wish to check out the Havana arts scene with a visit to La Fábrica de Arte Cubano or FAC, an old oil factory that is now a thriving arts space.

*Sleep in Havana Grand Aston Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 6: Monday, February 26 - An Excursion west to Las Terrazas and Fusterlandia**

This morning we leave for Las Terrazas. En-route we'll travel through the lush countryside planted with sugar cane, corn, rice, and taro. You may feel you are traveling back in time, as these farming communities still harvest crops by hand and use horses and carts to transport goods to free markets. Las Terrazas is located in the Pinar del Rio province and is now part of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve, much of it reforested coffee plantation. We'll visit with the local farmers who will serve us a delicious traditional lunch.

Upon our return to Havana, we stop at the private home and studio of famed Cuban artist, José Fuster who is known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Mr. Fuster is a ceramicist and painter whose work has contributed to the upgrading of his entire community. When you drive through the neighborhood which is known as "Fusterlandia," you see ceramic tiled walls in fanciful designs. You'll learn about his work and will also be able to purchase some of his art. *Sleep in Havana Grand Aston Hotel (B, L)*



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

### Day 7: Tuesday, February 27 - Santeria and Muraleando

After breakfast, we'll visit a private Santeria house where we'll converse with local believers about the religion, which merges the Yoruba religion (brought to the New World by enslaved West Africans sent to the Caribbean to work on sugar plantations) with Roman Catholicism and Native American traditions.

After lunch together we will head to Muraleando, a cultural community center that has transformed a neighborhood into an art gallery. Created to build artistic skills in children, classes are offered in pottery, painting, music, dance and engraving. This visit will serve as an exceptionally inspiring high note on which to end the tour. Our farewell dinner this evening will be celebrated at a local paladar, after which, we'll be treated to a jazz performance. *Sleep in Havana at Grand Aston Hotel (B, L, D)*

### Day 8: Wednesday, February 28 - Depart Cuba for the US

Transfer to Havana's Jose Marti Airport and check in for your return flight to the States. *Buen Viaje! (B)*

**Please Note:** The Cuban National Tourist Agency, a department of the Republic of Cuba, has the ability to make changes to lodging arrangements and individual tour activities at any time. It is an uncommon practice, but such itinerary changes are sometimes a reality for groups traveling in this communist country. Earthbound has been leading successful trips to Cuba since 2012 and we will do our best to ensure a quality experience for you on this journey. Nevertheless, to enjoy Cuba, it is essential to bring a spirit of adventure, a high degree of flexibility, and a keen sense of humor.



## RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

206.842.9775

[info@earthboundexpeditions.com](mailto:info@earthboundexpeditions.com)

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

~ Itinerary Details Subject to Change ~



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)

## **\*THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...**

**This legal Cuba tour** is operated under the OFAC (The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control) general license, section 31 CFR § 515.572(a)(1) which allows us to provide travel services to U.S. travelers to Cuba, in the category of "**Support for the Cuban People.**" It requires that each traveler utilizing this authorization engage in a full-time schedule of activities that enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people's independence from Cuban authorities and that result in meaningful interactions with individuals in Cuba. The traveler's schedule of activities must not include free time or recreation in excess of that consistent with a full-time schedule in Cuba. For a complete description of what this general license authorizes and the restrictions that apply, see 31 CFR § 515.574.

Cuba is a developing country and still lacks many modern conveniences. It's not unusual to experience short power black-outs or to find that your hot water, internet, TV or phone in your hotel room does not work properly (or at all). Further, the Cuban government and incoming Havana agency has the right to change the itinerary without notice (and often does). We'll be travelling under a "Support for the Cuban People" license, which means that our days will be filled with independent activities intended to strengthen civil society in Cuba. Your day will begin around 8:30am and end around 5:00pm. This is not a trip for those looking for a leisurely, five-star beach holiday or a deluxe resort experience. Travelers who arrive in Havana with a sense of humor, an open mind, and are ready to be flexible, will absolutely fall in love with the people and culture of Cuba.

### **RESERVATIONS**

**Reservations and Deposits:** A per person deposit of \$500 is needed to confirm your space on most journeys. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is emailed with pertinent journey details.

**Final Payment:** A non-refundable final payment by check or credit card is due January 15, 2024. It is the responsibility of each passenger to make a timely payment. A final packet of information will be emailed shortly before departure.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be made in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office. Deposits are refundable until January 12, 2024 minus a \$150 per person cancellation fee. Full and final payment is due January 15, 2024 and is not refundable. It is for this reason we strongly encourage the purchase of travel insurance at the same time you reserve your journey with us.

**Concert and Events:** If a planned concert or event is cancelled for any reason, another concert or event will be included in its place. This will not be cause for refund.

**Hosted Journeys:** If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

# Your KNKX Host ....

Freddy "Fuego" Gonzalez is a trombonist, composer, and educator from New York City.



He has performed in over 30 countries, playing alongside award-winning artists such as Ruben Blades, Eddie Palmieri, Arturo O’Farrill, and Melissa Aldana. He was a featured soloist on the Latin Grammy-winning album "Sirope Vivo" (2016) and featured on Wu Tang Clan’s album “A Better Tomorrow” (2014). Since moving to Seattle in 2018, Freddy has been an active performer and music educator.

## RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

206.842.-9775

[info@earthboundexpeditions.com](mailto:info@earthboundexpeditions.com)

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)