

EXPERIENCE  
JAZZ  
IN

Cuba



## DISCOVER CUBA WITH WYPR

### 38<sup>th</sup> International Jazz Festival of Havana

### January 22-29, 2023



Join WYPR Radio host **Andy Bienstock** and fellow jazz lovers for a culturally-rich musical journey to Cuba! Sponsored by famed Cuban musician Chucho Valdes and the Cuban Institute of Music, the **International Jazz Festival of Havana** showcases some of the biggest names in jazz, along with talented new artists. How do we do it? By ensuring we take part in the “Support for the Cuban People” travel category courtesy of Earthbound Expeditions. We’ll enjoy performances in venues scattered throughout Havana and also be hosted at private concerts where we’ll meet the musicians. In addition to the festival, we’ll visit social projects aimed at helping disadvantaged youth, take salsa dance lessons from private instructors, eat in private paladar restaurants to support local

families and attend a special jazz workshop with Cuban musicians. Stroll the famous Malecón, wander in the picturesque historic center of Havana, lounge in a doorway in your fedora and ride in a classic convertible, all to the sultry sounds of Cuban jazz. Join us and celebrate jazz and support the Cuban people at the same time! Note: Earthbound Expeditions has been operating in Cuba since 2012.

#### TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Nights Havana: \*\*\*\*Hotel Melia Cohiba Habana



**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 WYPR Baltimore Public Radio host Andy Bienstock
- ❖ An expert bilingual Cuban guide
- ❖ A four night pass to the Havana Jazz Festival!
- ❖ A jazz workshop directed by respected Cuban jazz artists
- ❖ Salsa dancing and drumming lessons
- ❖ Four star hotel accommodations as listed in itinerary (approved by new OFAC regulations)
- ❖ Multi-course traditional meals highlighting Cuban cuisine in Havana's hottest private paladars! (all meals included except for 1 breakfast and 3 dinners)
- ❖ Bottled water daily and national drinks (local beers and mojitos)
- ❖ All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- ❖ Airport transfers in Cuba
- ❖ Special insider “Support for the Cuban People” experiences
- ❖ Certification of travel to Cuba under the U.S. Department of the Treasury general license
- ❖ Gratuities for luggage handling at hotel, drivers, guides and restaurants
- ❖ Transport by private motor coach while in Cuba

## TRIP FACTS

8 Days/7 Nights

\$4,175 per person double occupancy land

\$775 Single Supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Trip begins: January 22, 2023 in Havana, Cuba

Trip ends: January 29, 2023 in Havana, Cuba

*\*Save \$250- details below*





**Group airport transfers will be included for those arriving in the morning and afternoon today!**

### **WAYS TO SAVE \$250**

WYPR and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 \* Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 \* Reserve by September 20<sup>th</sup> and save \$50

### **NOT INCLUDED**

Cuban Tourist Card (aka visa) fee of \$100 \* Travel Insurance (in addition to included \$1,000 mandatory medical coverage) \*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:**



#### **Melia Cohiba Hotel Habana**

*(OFAC US Treasury Department Authorized hotel)*

Set one block from 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 four restaurants and several bars including a Cuban cigar and rum sampling bar for connoisseurs. Hotel amenities include an outdoor pool, as well as a fitness room, a sauna and a beauty salon.

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## **YOUR WYPR ADVENTURE BEGINS!**

### **Day 1: Sunday, January 22 - Arrive in Historic Havana**

The optional group flight departs from Washington, DC late this morning. 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 Melia Cohiba Hotel (D)*



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**Day 2: Monday, January 23 - 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 with the Director of the school 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 at the Melia Cohiba Hotel (B, L)*

**Day 3: Tuesday, January 24 - 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 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 fans for their rehearsal room! ("Gift" suggestions will be included in your pre-departure information).

Enjoy lunch together and a free afternoon in Havana. *Sleep in Havana at the Melia Cohiba Hotel (B, L)*



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#### **Day 4: Wednesday, January 25 - Hemingway, Organic Garden and Open Air Market**

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. We will meet with a local Hemingway expert to discuss his life.

We will also visit an organic farm and local market and with the assistance of your guide, meet and converse with growers, vendors and shoppers.

The Havana Jazz Fest kicks off tonight and we have tickets to attend! *Sleep in Havana at the Melia Cohiba Hotel (B, L, D)*

#### **Day 5: Thursday, January 26 - Architecture Walk and Sacred Marriage Ceremony**

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 learn the art of making a humidor. Later, you are invited to partake in a very special marriage ceremony...of rum and cigars. One can't come to Cuba without appreciating these two fixtures of Cuban culture.



After dinner, you can 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 or join the group for another night at the Havana Jazz Fest! *Sleep in Havana at the Melia Cohiba Hotel (B, L, D)*

#### **Day 6: Friday, January 27 - 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. With few vestiges of modernization, the region seems set back in time with farming communities still harvesting by hand and using horse 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 a delicious traditional lunch and also visit a medical center where you can bring medical-related gifts.

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 are will also be able to purchase some of his art. This evening we head out to enjoy the Havana Jazz Festival! *Sleep in Havana at the Melia Cohiba Hotel (B, L)*



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### Day 7: Saturday, January 28 - Santeria and Muraleando

After breakfast, we'll visit a private Santeria house where we'll converse with local believers about the religion, which is a system of beliefs that 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 head out for one last festive night at the Havana Jazz Festival!

*Sleep in Havana at the Melia Cohiba (B, L, D)*

### Day 8: Sunday, January 29 - 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 high degree of flexibility, a spirit of adventure, and a keen sense of humor.

~ Itinerary Details Subject to Change ~



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## \*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 of 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 60 days before departure. 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 fully refundable for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. A \$150 per person processing fee applies to all cancellations.

No refunds are made for cancellations after the non-refundable deposit date. 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.



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## YOUR WYPR HOST: ANDY BIENSTOCK



Andy Bienstock is that rare radio bird who's spent almost his entire career on the same frequency. As an undergraduate at The Johns Hopkins University, he polished his radio skills at the student-run WJHU, the best little 10-watt station ever. After a brief stint doing weekend jazz at WBJC, he joined the 10,000 watt WJHU in October of 1986, - when it went on the air as an NPR affiliate doing a Sunday night jazz show and hosting the local portion of Morning Edition. In the summer of 1990 he began his nightly jazz program, and hasn't budged since. When the station became WYPR in 2002, Andy added Program Director to his portfolio, and is excited to help shape Your Public Radio's future. A native New Yorker, he is still learning to deal with the Yankees' loss of omnipotence, though Oriole fans should still stay clear of him until the Birds manage to finish ahead of his beloved

Bombers. He shares an 1891 house in Annapolis with the most wonderful woman in the world, and the meanest cat in the world. His hobbies include reading, martini making, martini drinking, and trying not to kill the fish and plants in his backyard water garden.

## RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

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