Havana Jazz Festival  
Cuba Program  
December 11-18, 2016

**Sunday, Dec 11**

**Mid-day**  
Arrival to Havana (pending flight information).

*Upon arrival, we will take a short orientation driving tour,* stopping off at Revolutionary Square, the gathering place for political demonstrations and the home to many important government offices, and the Morro Castle, a centuries old Spanish Fortress overlooking the Bay of Havana and the city skyline.

**TBD**  
Check-in at the Hotel Parque Central, Trip Advisor’s selection as the best hotel in Havana. Located on the corner of Central Park and along Prado Boulevard, the hotel is just steps from the Capitol building, the Great Theater and the famous Obispo Street.

**7 pm**  
Welcome dinner at Paladar San Cristóbal. Located in the heart of Central Havana, this paladar has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine. Enjoy great food while the locale takes you back to the 1940s and 50s.

**9:30 pm**  
Visit to La Zorra y El Cuervo Jazz Club. Enjoy a performance by the new generation of jazz composers and musicians.

**Monday, Dec 12**

**10 am**  
Walking tour of the Old City. Wander through the Plaza Vieja, the oldest plaza in Havana, dating from the 16th century. See the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719. Visit Plaza de la Catedral and the Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana. Visit the Plaza de Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments.

**12:30 pm**  
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.

**2:30 pm**  
Private performance by the youth Symphony Orchestra. This 14-member group will leave you breathless.

**4 pm**  
Visit to the Lizt Alfonso Academy, 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. The talent and work ethic at this school is impressive.

* Dinner on your own

Evening  
Attend the Havana Jazz Festival.
Tuesday, Dec 13

9 am  **Visit to the National Museum of Music**, which displays the historical development of Cuban music and instruments from the 16th to 20th century.

11 am  **Visit to the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)** to meet with students and professors from various departments. English-speaking students will lead a tour of the facility, followed by an opportunity to engage in a question-and-answer session. You will be blown away by the talent at this school, from dance and theater to painting and music.

1 pm  **Lunch at El Aljibe**, a government-run restaurant famous for its black beans, baked chicken and large family style portions.

2:30 pm  **Visit to the home and studio of plastic artist Fuster**, who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, plastic art and other designs.

4 pm  **Visit to art studios and galleries**, including the home of curator and **art collector Milagros Borges**, who boasts one of the most comprehensive collections of established and rising artists; the studio of **emerging artists Frank Mujica, Adrian Fernandez and Alex Dueñas**; and the **Merger Gallery**, a collaborative studio of three top-of-the-line Cuban artists Mario González, Niels Moleiro and Alain Pino.

6 pm  **Private musical performance by** renowned singer and songwriter **Frank Delgado** at **Café Madrigal**. Café Madrigal, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails while discussing about the nueva trova movement in Cuba. **Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails.**

*Dinner on your own*

Evening  Attend the Havana Jazz Festival.

Wednesday, Dec 14

10 am  Check-out and **depart for Viñales**. Considered by many to be the most beautiful place in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world. The 3-hour ride is well worth it.

12:30 pm  **Enjoy lunch on the grounds of a local farm**, Finca Paraiso Agroecologica (the agro-ecological Paradise Farm), where we will learn about Cuban agriculture and tobacco production, while indulging in an organic meal.

2 pm  **Visit the home of a local tobacco farmer**, who will teach us about the cultivation and production process, followed by a rolling demo. He might even light up a cigar or two for the group.

3:30 pm  **Check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as “casas particulares,” or “private homes.”** Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, it’s a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.

6:30 pm  Enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by your host family.

8:30 pm  **Attend salsa-dancing lessons** in the town square. Side-by-side with Cuban dancers, we’ll learn new salsa techniques.
Thursday, Dec 15

9 am  Enjoy a morning hike with a local guide through tobacco fields. Talk to your guide about the possibility to try the excursion on horseback.

11:30 am  Visit to a private farm in the valley owned by the large family of Concha and Paco Hernandez. The descendants of Concha and Paco have farmed the same plot of land for many generations and their land is involved in the production of a multitude of fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Members of the family will give us a tour of this beautiful 40-acre farm before bringing us back to the farmhouse.

12:30 pm  Lunch will be at the private farm, organized by the extended family of Concha and Paco Hernandez.

2:30 pm  Check-out and depart to Habana. On the way back we will visit a small country town where Mario Pelegrin, a community activist, has created a charming neighborhood project dedicated to local children. In this tranquil setting, a collection of rustic cabins provides a home for amateur art programs. This wonderful program gives local kids the opportunity to have fun while learning new skills in the areas of music, dance, theater and art.

6 pm  Check-in at Hotel Parque Central.

Dinner on your own

Evening  Attend the Havana Jazz Festival.

Friday, Dec 16

9:30 am  Visit to the Museum of Cuban Art. We will be accompanied by Nelson Herrera, an art historian, who will provide an overview of Cuban art and artists over the last four centuries.

11 am  Private performance and lecture on Cuban Music at Bar Asturias by Prof. Alberto Faya who has been working as a musician, professor and researcher within the Cuban musical world for over 20 years. He will be joined by a quartet of some of the finest young jazz musicians in Cuba who will take us on a lively musical journey through the country’s history.

12:30 pm  Enjoy a nice Italian Meal at Bar Asturias, housed in a beautiful building along Havana’s famous Prado Avenue.

Afternoon free

6 pm  Discussion and cocktails at the home and studio of a family of artists at AltaMira art loft.

7:30 pm  Dinner at Paladar Atelier. This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy but modern setting.

10 pm  Enjoy a live music performance at Jazz Café, located in the Galerias de Paseo shopping mall overlooking the Malecón. It is a kind of jazz supper club that attracts plenty of big-name acts (optional).

Saturday, Dec 17

10 am  Discussion with the founders of Ke’ Hay pa Hoy, a cultural guide that offers information about dance, theater and music options each night. At the Hotel Parque Central.
11:30 am   Visit to the Lazaro Salsita’s paper mâché studio in Havana, with the opportunity to purchase art and interact with artists.

1 pm   Lunch at Café de los Artistas, a recently opened paladar in the Santo Angel neighborhood. Surrounded by small businesses and social programs, it’s an active area of the Old City.

Afternoon free

7 pm   Farewell dinner at El Cocinero. This lovely restaurant is housed in a former factory. Home to Havana’s hip, you might think you are in Soho or Madrid.

Following dinner walk next door for live music, art and dancing at La Fabrica de Arte Cubana. Rock star X Alfonso has turned this into meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.

Sunday, Dec 18

TBD   Check-out and depart for airport.

TBD   Return flight to the U.S. (pending flight information).