

*Texas Jewish Historical Society*  
*January 23 - 30, 2017*



*La Habana*

Join your fellow members, family, and friends on this insightful trip of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. We will have experiences offered to few travelers to this tropical island nation. You will make a difference in the lives of our Cuban brothers and sisters.

*And you will experience Cuba*

Cuban culture's vibrancy and vitality is alive. Cuba is old, some of it is destroyed, and it feels as though time has stopped. But it is full of life from the aroma of cooking food, to the warmth of the people, to the rhythm in the way people move, to the sound of music in the air.... and the crack of the bat!



*¡Experience Cuba the Right Way!*

Cuba is changing Rapidly; Now is the Time!

### Mission package includes:

- **8 days, 7 nights in Cuba**
- Experienced driver; modern A/C bus with W.C.
- Professional English speaking Cuban guide specialized in Jewish Heritage missions
- Tips to wait staff at included meals
- Cuban Medical insurance
- Meetings with leaders and members of the Cuban Jewish Community
- Guided tour of largest Jewish Cemetery in Cuba
- Lecture, Power Point and Q&A on the history, architecture, current situation in Cuba by a noted Cuban architect
- Guided visit to the Bellas Artes museum by museum curator and member of the Jewish Community of Havana
- Guided visit to the Museo de Arte Decorativo
- Guided tour of the Museum of the Revolution
- Introduction to Afro-Cuban religion through lecture and dance
- Attendance at the rehearsal of new Cuban dance company which incorporates salsa, ballet, modern, flamenco and African styles in its presentation
- Entrance fees to museums and sites of interest as per itinerary
- A day in the Cuban country side
- Bottled water on the bus
- Tips to porters.
- Cuban Tourist Visa
- US Religious License for Travel to Cuba
- Round trip Air Miami/Havana/Miami
- MEALS: **16 meals** - Breakfast: 7 Lunch: 5 Dinner: 4
  - Not kosher – but no pork will be served
  - A fish or pasta dish will be available upon request at each meal
  - Erev Shabbat dinner will be with the Community



Accommodations at *(subject to availability)*

**Hotel Libre – VIP Level - 4 star**

The Hotel Habana Libre is one of the more emblematic hotels of Havana City; it is located in 23 and L streets, Vedado, a few meters from the Malecón. This hotel is a jewel of the urban design and boasts the best view in Havana City

The Habana Libre Hotel, rise majestically in the nerve center of La Rampa, one of the most famous corners in the center of the Cuban capital some few steps of popular Coppelia (Ice cream Cathedral).

Outside it's decked out by the Mural of that big one of the Cuban painting Amelia Pélaez. It has immense rooms distributed by 25 floors and those on higher floors have a magnificent view over city

**NOT Included in mission package:**

- Domestic Air round-trip to Miami
- Gratuity to your Guide and Driver
- Cancellation insurance
- Airline baggage charges – USA/CUBA

**Tzedakah:**

- Each participant is requested to bring at least 5 pounds of donations for the Jewish Communities - an updated donation list will be provided.
- A voluntary donation of between \$70 - \$120 per participant is requested which will be to be distributed to the synagogues and Jewish Communities in Cuba.



Price per person from Miami based on 20 participants

Double occupancy: ~~\$ 3,810~~ **Exceptional 10% reduction: \$ 3,429**

Single occupancy: \$4,600

**DEADLINES:**

**Deposit/ Registration: September 7, 2016** – Deposit is \$350 per person - no refund of your deposit after that date

**Balance Payment: November 29, 2016** – no refund of your balance payment after that date

Please note that if a written **notice of cancellation** is received by Texas Jewish Historical Society by the end of the day on the above dates – you will receive a refund of the appropriate payment

World Passage Ltd is our mission coordinator. The company has been involved in travel to Cuba for 16 years and is the oldest tour operator of Jewish missions to Cuba [worldpassage@comcast.net](mailto:worldpassage@comcast.net)

**IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION** – to participate in the mission your passport must be valid for at least six months after the mission’s arrival to Cuba on **January 23, 2017**. **IMPORTANT:** you must travel with the valid passport that you submitted for registration or your Cuban visa will be void

**QUESTIONS:**

*Vickie Vogel*

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***A GREAT MITZVAH – A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – A FUN TRIP***

Mission Itinerary - Subject to Change

Meals: B = breakfast; L= lunch; D= dinner

**BASEBALL!** - The itinerary will change to provide an opportunity for group participation at a baseball game.



**Monday January 23 (D) Miami - Havana**

- Group meets at Miami International Airport
- Flight Miami to Havana
- Visit Patronato – Largest Synagogue in Havana
- Lecture, PowerPoint presentation and Q&A by noted Cuban architect.
- Dinner at La Baracca on the Patio of the Nacional. (included meal)

**Tuesday January 24 (B, L, D) Havana**

- Tour of Old Havana
- Lunch at La Dominica in Habana Vieja. (included meal)

- El Aljibe – best criolla chicken/black beans and rice in Havana (included meal)

### **Wednesday January 25 (B, L) Havana**

- Leave Havana to the west towards Las Terrazas – part of Che Guevara’s reforestation project
- Guided visit to the Orchid Gardens in Soroa
- Visit to the Rancho Curujey information office and Ecology Research Centre for a presentation by the local guide as to the ecology of the area
- Lunch at the Casa Del Campesino (included meal)
- Dinner at your leisure



### **Thursday January 26 (B, L)**

- Rehearsal of one of the best dance troupes in Cuba blending salsa, funk, jazz and modern. A Q&A with the dancers follows the rehearsal.
- Tour of Hemingway’s home in Cuba – Finca Vigia
- Visit to Jewish Cemetery with the first Holocaust Memorial in the Western Hemisphere
- Lunch at La Divina Pastora (included meal) overlooking the Bahia de la Habana
- Visit to Craft market
- Dinner at leisure

### **Friday January 27 (B, L, D) Havana**

- Museo de Arte Decorativo – housed in the home of the richest family in Pre Revolutionary Cuba
- Sephardic Center – meet with Sephardic Center President, Mayra Levy
- Visit to the Farmer’s market
- Lunch at La Torre (included meal) a venue which offers a unique view of Havana
- Transfer as a group for Shabbat services at El Patronato

- Dinner at the Patronato with community (included meal)

### Saturday January 28 (B) Havana

- Museo de Regla – presentation on Cuban religions of African origins accompanied by authentic dancers and musicians who are practitioners of this faith – the most popular religion in Cuba
- Optional non included activities:
  - For the serious art collector tour of 2 private galleries selling some of Cuba’s best new artists – limit 10 persons – art can be taken and paid for from the states
  - Salsa lesson ( fee )
  - Rum and cigar tasting ( fee)
- Dinner at your leisure to enjoy the many wonderful private restaurants in the Capital; you will be provided with a list of a few recommendations and as always your guide is there to help. And do not forget the music!
- Optional non included activity: The Tropicana show – a Cuban experience since the 30’s – 10 pm – 12:30 am – (cost approximately \$100)

### Sunday January 29 (B, L, D) Havana

- Breakfast at hotel
- Curator guided visit of the Bellas Artes Museo – the history of Cuba through its art. Curator is a member of the Jewish Cuban Community
- Visit to Jose Rodriguez Fuster’s home and studio - the Caribbean Gaudi. His home is his art – something very special
- Lunch at La Fermina ( included meal)
- Museo de la Revolution – to understand Cuba is to know its revolution
- 5:00 pm – Optional non included activity: performance at National Theater – your guide will discuss the performance when you arrive in Cuba and will have made orchestra seat reservations for those wishing to attend ( cost approximately \$40)



- Farewell Dinner – Café del Oriente (included meal) great food and music

**Monday January 30 (B) Havana - Miami**

- Breakfast at hotel
- A few unusual stops
- Flight to Miami