

A Road Less Traveled  
MEN'S MISSION TO  
**CUBA**  
November 5-9, 2025



## Welcome to Havana!

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

VIP Airport Services will wait with a sign featuring JFED San Diego as all disembark from the flight. The airport attendant will escort participants through passport control, luggage screening, customs, and to the airport lobby exit.

On the way into the city, briefly stop at the historic REVOLUTION SQUARE, the famous Che Guevara image site, the Jose Marti Memorial, and the location of Fidel Castro's marathon speeches.

Visit FUSTERLANDIA, the Gaudi inspired neighborhood mosaic tile project by the world renowned artist JOSE FUSTER.

#### Lunch

Group Check-in at the Gran Manzana Kempinski Hotel. The Hotel features a rooftop pool and a gym, and all rooms are equipped with hairdryers, safes, and U.S. outlets (no adapters are needed).

Dinner at IVAN y JUSTO in Old Havana. After dinner, enjoy a special RUM TASTING of aged rum only available in Cuba paired with an EXCLUSIVE CIGAR at the restaurant, with the Head Sommelier of Havana Club Rum.

Return to the hotel.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

#### BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL

Ride in CLASSIC CONVERTIBLES along the Malecon to the Cigar Factory. The professional Cultural Cuba photographer will capture the group and the cars in motion.

*Preliminary Cuba Itinerary as of 7.29.25 (subject to change).*

Tour the PARTAGAS CIGAR FACTORY, where visitors observe workers rolling tobacco leaves and the cigar production stages. The Partagas Cigar Factory Tour guide will share the factory's history and elaborate on the different stages of production.

Visit the SEPHARDIC CENTER, the only Sephardic synagogue in Havana (1954). Samuel Zagovalov, the synagogue's Vice President, will give a briefing.

Visit with artist Nerea Vera in the beautiful Neoclassical mansion she is restoring in the Vedado Neighborhood.

Or

Visit the home of Cuban artist Damian Aquiles and his wife, Pamela Ruiz, who is known as the “Peggy Guggenheim of Havana.”

Enjoy lunch at OTRA MANERA Paladar.

Partake in MOJITO MIXOLOGY and enjoy the fresh cocktails.

After lunch, return to Old Havana and stop in the PARTAGAS HABANOS CIGAR SHOP and/or next door at EL FLORIDITA, the preferred hangout spot of Hemingway and other Hollywood celebrities in the '40s and '50s, the birthplace of the daiquiri. Enjoy a round of daiquiris.

Walk across the street to the Hotel. Refresh. Enjoy the rooftop pool.

Enjoy a conversation with Mr. Camilo Garcia, a popular political science professor who served as Cuba's Cultural and Press Attaché, and with Mr. Oniel Diaz, an influential and accomplished business leader who will provide unique insights into Cuba's future and the promise the private sector holds for the island.

Ride to dinner at LA GUARIDA. Havana's most famous restaurant is in a former tenement house where the acclaimed 1994 Cuban movie Strawberry and Chocolate was filmed. After dinner, an award-winning Jazz Trio will perform for the group on the rooftop of La Guarida.

Return to the hotel.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

### **BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL**

Ride outside the city (25 mins) to the JEWISH CEMETERY and the MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST and recite the Kaddish.

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Ride outside the city to Las Terrazas National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The pioneering eco-village (similar to a kibbutz) dates back to a reforestation project started in 1968. Explore the picturesque village overlooking a small lake featuring an art community with open studios.

Lunch at a rustic restaurant that prepares local recipes from the countryside in a unique outdoor kitchen. Roving troubadours add to the experience.

Return to the Hotel. Freshen up.

Visit the heart of Jewish Life in Cuba, the Reform Synagogue BETH SHALOM. "The Patronato" is home to the JDC-supported pharmacy, as well as cultural activities and celebrations, a Sunday School, and an extensive library. Meet with Hella Eskenazi Flores, Vice President of the Jewish Community.

Attend short services, then Kiddush.

Optional Service Project - Serve dinner to the community. Chicken- an essential source of protein for the congregants-will be served. The congregation receives this meal as part of the trip funding. Participants can assist with plating, serving the congregants, and interacting with the community.

ATELIER Paladar for Dinner and live music. After dinner, stop into YARINI'S ROOFTOP BAR for live music on the rooftop.

Return to the hotel.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

### **BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL**

Embark on a WALKING TOUR OF LA HABANA VIEJA, the traditional center of Havana's commerce, industry, and entertainment. Stop by courtyards, artist workshops, and the city's many plazas to admire the Old City's faded beauty, rich history, and diverse architecture. The guide will highlight the historic Jewish Quarter and HOTEL RAQUEL as part of the tour.

As part of the walking tour, visit EL TALLER EXPERIMENTAL GRAFIKA, a place to experience Cuban art and witness artists at work.

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Stop to enjoy refreshments at BODEGUITA DEL MEDIO - the birthplace of the mojito.

Enjoy lunch in Old Havana at 5 SENTIDOS Paladar.

After lunch, visit Claudia Corrales's photo studio, whose gallery features images of pivotal moments in the country's history. Claudia's grandfather, Raul Corrales, was listed by the NYT as one of the 100 Top photographers of the 20th century. His photos served as the muse for Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Claudia's pieces color the walls of the Constante Bar in the Manzana Hotel.

Return to the Hotel. Free time. Enjoy the rooftop pool.

Ride to dinner at EL COCINERO PALADAR in Miramar. Host members of the Cuban Jewish community. 5 Members of the Jewish Community will join for Havdalah celebrations, dinner, and conversation.

After dinner, all will enjoy the VIP entrance to FABRICA DE ART. This multifaceted venue, situated within a former cooking oil factory, showcases art installations, live music, and performance art, and is one of Time Magazine's Top 50 entertainment venues worldwide.

Return to the hotel.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - DEPARTURE DAY**

### **BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL**

After breakfast, Check out. The rooms are pre-paid, but if there are any incidentals such as cocktails, mini-bar, etc., participants must pay with their credit cards (NOT CASH) at check-out.

Possible Options:

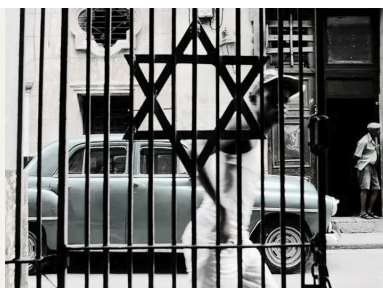
- Browse souvenirs or folk art at ALMACENAS MARKET.
- Visit Adath Israel, the only Orthodox synagogue in Cuba
- Visit the Albert Einstein Sunday School at the Patronato
- Tour the CUBAN WING OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM. The museum curator, Mr. Omar Díaz Liria, has served as an emissary of the Museum in England and the U.S., successfully encouraging a healthy cultural and artistic exchange.

Lunch at LA RESERVA Paladar. The meal will be served buffet style.

Depart for the airport for your journey home.

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# F A Q S

## **Is there a financial obligation for this trip?**

- Participation in the Men's Mission to Cuba reflects our shared commitment to strengthening Jewish life wherever it's needed most. This journey is open to men who contribute \$1,000 or more to Federation's annual campaign, directly supporting programs that uplift our local and global Jewish family. If you haven't yet made your gift, you may do so before or after the trip.

## **What is included in this trip?**

- Four nights at the Gran Manzana Kempinski Hotel
- All meals and 2 beverages pp at each meal
- All excursions
- Your Visa and all related paperwork
- Air-conditioned transportation
- A unforgettable journey, brotherhood and connection, premium cocktails, fine cigars, and guaranteed laughter.

## **Is airfare included?**

- No airfare is not included. You will be responsible for your own flights to Havana.

## **Do I have to take a specific flight?**

- **While you have the flexibility to choose any flight to Miami, it is mandatory for the entire group to be on the same reserved flight from Miami to Havana. Please note that you must be at the gate for your Cuba-bound flight at least 2 hours before departure. Flight details are listed on your registration page, so kindly refrain from booking your travel until you carefully review this information.**

## **What kind of food will there be?**

- Kosher food will not be served on this Mission. All MEALS are included and are served family and kosher-style with a choice of entrees: vegetarian, fish, non-kosher chicken or beef, no dairy served with meat, no shellfish, and no pork or pork by-products, at pre-arranged Havana's top-rated paladares.

## **Can I invite my spouse, son, or friends to go?**

- This trip is an adult, men's only trip for the San Diego community. If you would like to invite someone, please reach out to Michael Rabkin at [michaelr@jewishinsandiego.org](mailto:michaelr@jewishinsandiego.org).

## **Do I need travel insurance?**

- We strongly recommended you purchase travel insurance. Cultural Cuba, our land agent recommends Roamright Travel Insurance.

## **Do I need to get a Visa?**

- A Visa/Tourist Card is required for travel to Cuba. The cost of your Visa and associated paperwork is fully covered in the pricing and will be taken care of for you. These documents will be handed to you by our Federation staff before you board your flight from Miami to Havana.

## **What will the weather be?**

- November in Cuba will be warm, in the 70's with the possibility of the occasional brief afternoon thunderstorm depending on the humidity.

## **How many people will be going?**

- We plan on having a bus-full of 30 participants.

## **Can I use my credit card there - how do I pay for things?**

- US credit cards (cards issued by a US bank) are not accepted in Cuba. You may not pay for food or any items by credit card. USD and local currency can be used to pay for any shopping. You can't get additional cash in Cuba if you don't bring enough, so rather bring more than you think you'll need. There will also be plenty of opportunities for Tzedakah while visiting the Jewish Community.