

# Just the Havana jazz festival

## Day 1 • Tuesday • Say hello to the city of music

- Collect your luggage and proceed through Cuban customs to the arrivals lobby.
- Consider purchasing Cuban Convertible Pesos at the airport exchange bureau (CADECA), or later at your hotel.
- Our airport concierge or your tour guide will arrange tour bus or private taxi transfers from the airport to your hotel located in El Vedado, the heart of Havana's cultural district. Your hotel check-in is pre-arranged, you simply present your passport.
- Time at hotel to settle in and freshen up.
- Dinner is served at your hotel's restaurant.
- The Havana Jazz festival organizing committee greets us with a nice surprise. Tonight you will be enjoying the first musical notes of the 2020 Havana Jazz Festival. Choose among events taking place at several different venues (transportation NOT INCLUDED)

## Day 2 • Wednesday • Old Havana + Havana Jazz Festival performances

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast served at your hotel.
  - Followed by a private walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll visit four historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere. Together they contain the largest collection of remaining Spanish colonial-era architecture in the world.
  - Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture, Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana was built by the Jesuit order.
  - Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:
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- Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.
- Palacio del Segundo Cabo [Palace of the Second Lieutenant] dates from 1770.
- We continue onto San Francisco Square, one of the oldest plazas in the historical quarter. The square is named after magnificent Iglesia y Monasterio de San Francisco de Asís dating from the 16th century. The basilica is a striking example of Cuba baroque architecture.
- On to Plaza Vieja, the only civic square of colonial times. Absent are churches and government buildings. The plaza is surrounded by opulent aristocratic 17th century residences.
- Welcome lunch at the private restaurant Mojito-Mojito. Ideally situated in Plaza Vieja, its friendly atmosphere, and delicious food makes it rank high on TripAdvisor. The restaurant's slogan: "A single mojito is not enough."
- Return to your hotel and freshen up.
- Dinner at the private restaurant Los Naranjos. Located in the heart of Vedado in an expansive 1930s mansion, its Chef Ernesto specializes in fusion style dishes combining Cuban, Italian and Spanish influences. Los Naranjos' ambiance is fun and light, its food wonderful, authentic and fresh, and staff upbeat and attentive. Its a favorite among TripAdvisor reviewers.
- Havana Jazz Festival Performances. Transportation included.

### **Day 3 • Thursday • Cuban dance + Festival Events**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Morning visit to a Cuba dance company to meet performers and discuss their art.
  - Group lunch at the private paladar El Atelier where the Obama family dined in 2016.
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- Return to your boutique accommodations to freshen up.
- Dinner not included – an occasion to sample Havana’s stellar private eateries.
- Havana Jazz Festival Performances. Choose among events taking place at several different venues. Transportation not included.

#### **Day 4 • Friday • Rum, art, crafts + Festival Events**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Learn to make a mojito hand in hand with a Cuban master mixologist at the Museum of Rum.
- Meet with private Cuban artisans and craftworkers at Almacenes de Depósito San José, a giant dream market offering thousands of handmade objects and paintings.
- Lunch at private restaurant La Moneda Cubana.
- Return to your boutique accommodations to freshen up.
- Dinner not included – an occasion to sample Havana’s stellar private eateries.
- Havana Jazz Festival Performances. Choose among events taking place at several different venues. Transportation not included.

#### **Day 5 • Saturday • Afrocuba, Hemingway farm + Festival Events**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Visit the Afrocuban influenced Callejón de Hamel to discuss cultural and religious beliefs.
  - Visit Ernest Hemingway’s Finca Vigía home and meet the docents and curators who maintain his vast library, manuscripts, and personal belongings.
  - Lunch at Ajiaco paladar considered one of the best private eateries in the country.
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- A brief visit to the village of Cojímar, a small fishing community and discuss the influence of Hemingway on the local population.
- Return to your boutique accommodations to freshen up.
- Dinner not included – an occasion to sample Havana’s stellar private eateries.
- Havana Jazz Festival Performances. Choose among events taking place at several different venues. Transportation not included.

### **Day 6 • Sunday • Art and the Capitol + Festival Closing Finale**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Visit Cuba’s National Capitol Building, a Latin American architectural treasure. Meet Cubans who maintain the facilities and learn about its recent restoration.
- Discuss the art and history of Cuba with docents and artists at Palacio de Bellas Artes, Havana’s Museum of Modern Art.
- Lunch at the private Restaurante Cuba 54 in Old Havana.
- Return to your boutique accommodations to freshen up.
- Group welcome dinner with your guide and tourmates at the private five-star restaurant Mediterráneo Havana.
- Havana Jazz Festival Closing Finale. Transportation included.

### **Day 7 • Monday • Goodbye to Havana – missing Cuba already**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Transfer to Havana’s José Martí International (HAV) airport for flights home.
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