

CUBA

Rhythm and Views

A CULTURAL EXPLORATION LIKE NO OTHER!

Chuchito Returns!

VIP TRAVEL TO CIENFUEGOS AND HAVANA
with Cuban Jazz and Piano Master,
Chuchito Valdés

Enjoy VIP Delegate Status for a Special
March 28 Performance Celebrating the 200th
Anniversary of Cienfuegos and Chuchito's
historic April 2 homecoming concert at the
Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

LEGAL,
SANCTIONED
TRAVEL TO
CUBA

Cuba is just a few miles south of the United States, but to most Americans it might as well be the far side of the moon. As the diplomatic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cuba evolves after 58 years of embargo, the sanctioned People-to-People cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries are now the only legal opportunity for Americans to visit Cuba. And, there's much to see, learn and inspire you.

Now in its sixth year of taking People-to-People delegations to Cuba, CR&V is pleased to present this once-in-a-lifetime experience to travel with celebrated Cuban pianist and jazz master, Chuchito Valdés, as he returns to perform in Cuba after a ten-year hiatus.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019: Depart Miami

March 27 - 29: Meliã Hotel Jagua, Cienfuegos

March 29 - April 3: Meliã Cohiba, Havana

Wednesday, April 3, 2019: Return to Miami

Cost: \$5,150 Double Occupancy
\$6,150 Single Occupancy



Visit www.cubarhythmandviews.org
for info, reservations, video and FAQs

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 5 nights in Havana's most prestigious 5-star hotel, Meliá Cohiba. In Cienfuegos, it's the beautiful bayside Meliá Hotel Jagua
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners (4 NIGHTS and 3 AFTERNOONS for you to explore local dining options on your own)
- Roundtrip airfare between Miami-Varadero and Havana-Miami. All land transportation via luxury coach.
- A different private performance most days with Cuba's most celebrated performers in all genres
- VIP seating for two historic concerts with Chuchito Valdés and Cuba's most celebrated musicians
- All activities and events include admissions and ground transportation
- Baggage transfers and handling at airport and hotel arrival and departure
- Cuban visa fees, departure tax, and medical insurance while in Cuba

NOT INCLUDED:

- U.S. domestic airfare & passport
- 4 dinners and 3 lunches so you may explore local dining options
- Independent and private transfer for activities not on the itinerary
- Any baggage charges or fees
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone services, laundry

ELIGIBILITY

Any music-lover or patron of the arts, be it jazz, classical, dance, folklórico, son (not exactly salsa, but close), and choral music are welcome to travel with us on this historic tour. The group size will be limited to enhance your intimate experience. To secure your space, please fill out the on-line application packet by downloading to your desktop, or call **602.679.0590** to make your deposit. Priority will be based upon the order in which we receive deposits.



Neil Birnbaum & Woody Wilson

WHY CHOOSE CUBA RHYTHM AND VIEWS?

This trip is different from all the others. Our delegations experience distinctive and intimate artistic exchanges in private residences, exclusive performing spaces not generally accessible to Americans, behind the scenes at Cuba's great concert halls, and visits to leading arts schools and conservatories. This 7-night trip includes the finest hotels and private restaurants (paladares), in addition to offering up close and personal experiences with Cuba's most revered musicians, dancers, and visual artists. Our group size is limited to ensure that the experience is unique and memorable. And, our seasoned ground staff of guides and translators, who accompany our delegates to every event throughout the week, are the absolute best in Cuba.

This is the only People-to-People trip designed for passionate lovers of music and the arts... and Cuba has some of the best in the world. Other trips may, on the surface, appear to be less expensive, but we encourage you to take a closer look and examine hotel accommodations, whether your visa and round-trip Cuba airfare are included, the number of days of the trip, etc. Once you compare, we are confident you will conclude that Cuba Rhythm & Views is an incredible opportunity and a great value!

Your hosts, veteran music producers Woody Wilson and Neil Birnbaum, have more than 70 years of combined experience presenting the world's finest music and artists. Together, they have spent the past six years exploring Cuba's creative arts, engineering major cultural exchanges, and building cultural bridges that have helped to break down the barriers between our countries. Both men are dedicated to offering the highest attainable artistic excellence and a truly distinctive experience. The result is a cultural exploration of Cuba that is the new benchmark for People-to-People tours of this remarkable and isolated nation.

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Chuchito Valdés

On March 27, 2019, a special CR&V delegation will leave Miami for Cuba to celebrate the long-awaited public concert performances of Cuban jazz pianist, composer and bandleader, Chuchito Valdés. It has been nearly a decade since this international ambassador of Cuban music has performed for his Cubano audience and CR&V is producing these important shows for not only for our delegation, but for the people of Cuba.

In Cienfuegos on March 28, Chuchito will perform a special concert to mark the Bicentennial of the City of Cienfuegos. Our CR&V delegates will be VIPs for this important performance in Cienfuegos — the Pearl of the South.

And, in Havana on April 2, Chuchito will perform with a Who's Who of Cuba's musicians in a long-awaited homecoming concert at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Havana. This historic event will be the talk of Havana before and after the concert. And you, our delegates, will be there witnessing a milestone moment in Cuban musical history.

An eight-time Latin Grammy nominee, Chuchito Valdés is Cuban music royalty. He follows in the footsteps of his legendary father, Chucho Valdés and grandfather, the great Bebo Valdés. Chuchito continues the generational legacy of exalted piano players from Cuba and his return is a cause for national celebration. He will also conduct masterclasses for some of Cuba's most promising musicians at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana and the Benny Moré School of the Arts in Cienfuegos.

With influences of Caribbean rhythms and jazz, Chuchito creates an exciting and inspiring blend of infectious music that drives his audiences around the world wild. He has recorded and performed with the world-renown Cuban band, Irakere, which he led for two years. He has also performed at festivals, clubs and arena concerts throughout the world: from Cuba and the Caribbean to North America, South America, and Europe.

If Cuba and its music is on your bucket list, please join us for Chuchito Returns, a revealing and historic insight into his music and cultural life in Cuba.



ITINERARY OF ACTIVITIES

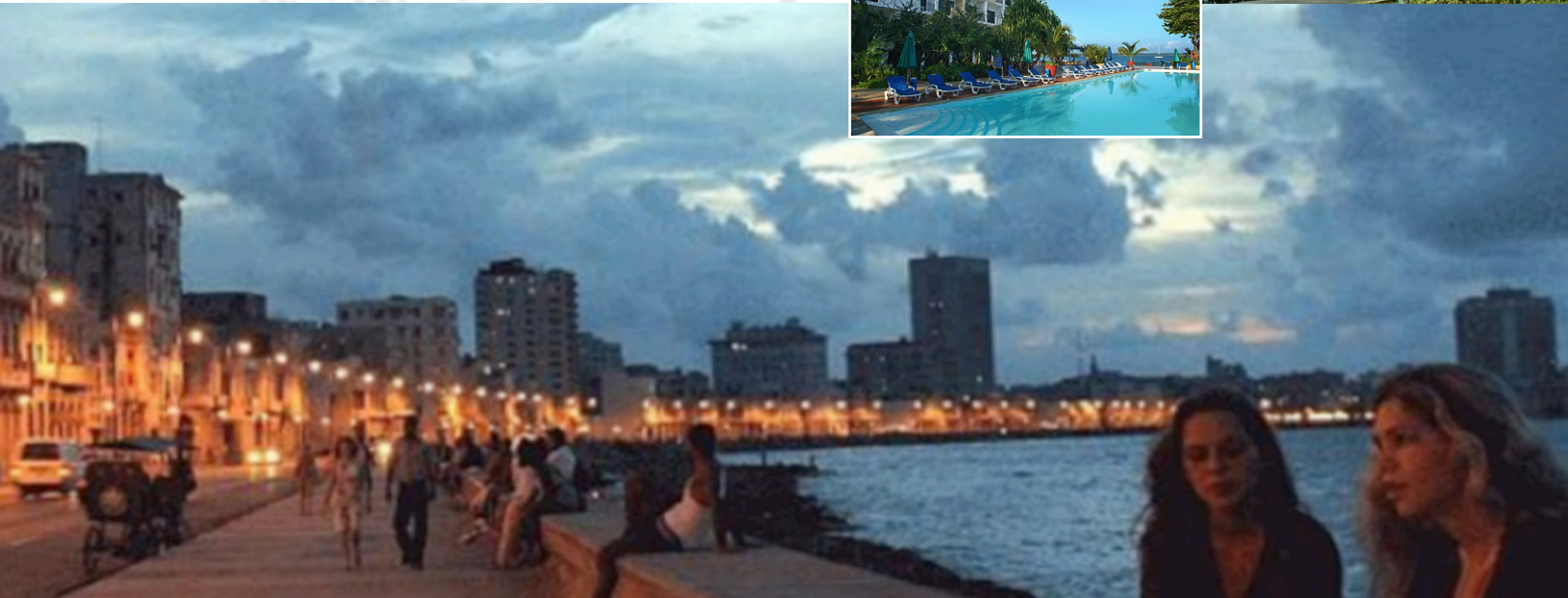
IMMERSE yourself in intimate, private experiences

MINGLE with the performers at special post-concert receptions and private dinner concerts.

ENJOY some of the most incredible music in the world along with expert-led tours at museums and in the cities, as well as special government-approved visits to schools, and historical sites not generally available to Americans.

Hotel Jagua and the Meliã Cohiba Hotel

Our headquarters for the Havana leg of our trip will be the five-star Meliã Cohiba Hotel on Havana's historic Malecón. Meliã Cohiba is one of the finest hotels in the Caribbean. After a busy day in Havana, Meliã Cohiba is the place to relax, have a cold drink, check your email with available Wi-Fi, look at the sea, or take a stroll along the Malecón at sunset and be inspired by Havana coming to life after dark. In Cienfuegos, our group will stay at the newly remodeled Meliã Hotel Jagua on Cienfuegos Bay. With its magnificent location in the well-known residential area of Punta Gorda, the Jagua is considered one of Cuba's most famous hotels. Its comfortable rooms are characterized by the spaciousness of the 50's and offer beautiful panoramic views of the bay, which showcase the nature and wildlife of the Caribbean.



Classical Music & Dance

In Cuba, the classical arts are revered by every walk of life. During our trip with Chuchito, patrons will experience performances by such renowned groups as: Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional; Ballet Nacional de Cuba; Ballet español de Cuba; Ballet Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba; Orquesta de Cámara de la Habana and more. Events will include opportunities to attend private rehearsals as well as performances and mingle with the performers in intimate settings. Our People-to-People experiences will be truly enlightening and inspirational.

Traditional Cuban Music

Traditional music and its evolution over the centuries is at the heart of the Cuban soul and mystique. The history of music in Cuba is the story of its people; from slavery, political upheaval, revolt and a joyful celebration of Cuban cultural life. As part of our Cultural Exploration, noted Cuban musician and University of Cienfuegos Professor Giraldo Pérez will teach the origin of Cuban music and dance. Cuban jazz begins here.



Omara Portuondo



Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba



Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional



Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana

Benny Moré School & Instituto Superior de Arte

Cuba is committed to arts education and training from primary school to the university level. To see firsthand how artists and musicians are cultivated, we will visit the prestigious Escuela de Arte Benny Moré in Cienfuegos and Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana where you will experience Cuba's arts education system with private performances by school orchestras, chamber ensembles and dance classes. Chuchito will conduct master classes for students at both schools. Our delegates will also visit visual arts studios at these schools.

Cuban Jazz & Nightlife

Cuba has some of the finest young jazz musicians in the world. The Afro-Cuban tradition has evolved into a robust music scene that has a solid foundation in the classical music training musicians receive at the prestigious music schools throughout the country. Chuchito Valdés was trained in this system. In Havana, jazz thrives. Our patrons are not only immersed into Havana's jazz nightlife, but will be treated to private, one-on-one concerts from the best and brightest of Cuba's jazz elite. This unique exposure to one the world's most active jazz scenes is a Cuba Rhythm and Views exclusive.

Architecture and Historic Preservation

Some of the most exquisite historic buildings in the Caribbean are in Cuba. Despite the 58 years of embargo, Cuba has managed to preserve and restore some of its most important heritage structures, neighborhoods and monuments. Using tourist dollars and financial incentives, much of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is gradually being rehabilitated to its former beauty as the city gears up to celebrate five centuries of life. A noted Cuban architect or urban planner will provide our patrons with an insight into what it takes to gradually restore one of the world's great cities, one building at a time.



Dance Studio,
Escuela de Arte Benny Moré



Aldo López-Gavilán



Ballet Español de Cuba



Buena Vista Social Club



Visual Arts

As part of our People-to-People exchanges, our patrons will visit notable Cuban artists' studios, galleries and homes. They will discuss their work and their artistic visions. A CR&V exclusive private show of original art for sale by ISA professors and students is always on our itinerary. These personal encounters will help you understand cultural life in Cuba before the Revolution as well as today. Artwork will be for sale at all studios, including schools.

Cuban Cuisine and Paladares

The growing movement of private restaurants, or paladares, in people's homes is flourishing in Havana. This movement is at the vanguard of economic change and private ownership in Cuba. The best dining in Cuba is in paladares along the backstreets and alleyways of Old and New Havana. The restaurants are being reviewed internationally and Havanaphiles are slowly finding their way to these wonderful free-enterprise culinary destinations. Most of our meals will be in paladares. And, for the meals not included in the package, you will be given the names and locations of Havana's best private restaurants, all within a ten-minute cab ride from the Hotel Jagua and Meliã Cohiba.

Other People-to-People Activities

Meet with career Cuban diplomat and former European Union Ambassador Carlos Alzugaray for a talk about US/Cuba relations; Dr. Alzugaray is a professor at University of Havana International Relations School and an expert in US political studies. You will also visit a day care center in Old Havana run by The Sisters of the Love of God and learn about the remarkable humanitarian work of their order.

Art Studio,
Escuela de Arte Benny Moré



Sisters of the Love of God



Explaining what happened

- How did this come to happen?
- The story about the perceptions.
- The story behind the contacts. Back Channel to Cuba.
- Raúl Castro, Barack Obama and the big bang.
- Initiatives in 2015.
- The handshake in Johannesburg.
- Raúl Castro-civilized relations where we learn the art of respecting each other.
- Barack Obama update policy in a creative and thoughtful manner.
- Creativity, boldness, strategic thinking, pragmatism. Win-win situation.



Ambassador Carlos Alzugaray

Don't take our word for it!

Here's what people said about our recent trip:

From day one, we were given intimate glimpses into the hearts and souls of the dancers, singers, musicians and teachers who shared their lives with us. We have been on many "tours" to other countries but have never experienced anything as moving and beautiful as this. —Thomas and Sally K. Tempe, AZ

Where do I start??? The trip you provided for us in Cuba was nothing short of a miracle – the musicians, dancers, students etc would never have crossed our paths without your superb and thoughtful planning. —Sue W, Montreal, Quebec

The Cuba Rhythm and Views trip to Havana exceeded my high expectations, in terms of the quality of the music programs, hotel, meals, and logistics. A professionally-managed program that was truly a great value for the money! —William W, Miami, FL

The obviously deep, abiding connections that the CRV team have made with their colleagues in Cuba translates into the opportunity for CRV's travelers to see inside the Cuban society and meet its people, heart-to-heart. —Hugh H, Tempe, AZ

As a long time lover of Cuban music and culture, this trip was a dream come true – amazing musical performances with the chance to meet and talk to the artists, exploration of Cuban culture and history, and an overall greater appreciation of what the magical isla has to offer. —Linda R, Tempe AZ