

# CUBA

*Rhythm and Views*

A CULTURAL EXPLORATION LIKE NO OTHER!

## Join Our Scottsdale Arts Delegation in Discovery of the Arts and Creative Life of Cuba

VIP TRAVEL TO CIENFUEGOS AND HAVANA for  
Havana's Biennial, and Cienfuegos' Bicentennial

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 to Cuba with Scottsdale Arts.

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019:** Depart Miami

**April 10 - 12:** Meliã Hotel Jagua, Cienfuegos

**April 10 - 17:** Meliã Cohiba, Havana

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019:** Return to Miami

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



Visit [www.cubarhythmmandviews.org](http://www.cubarhythmmandviews.org)  
for info, reservations, video and FAQs

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- 5 nights in Havana's most prestigious 5-star hotel, Meliã Cohiba. In Cienfuegos, it's the beautiful bayside Meliã 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
- Attend opening activities of Havana's "Bienal 2019"
- 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.

This is the only People-to-People trip designed for passionate lovers of music, dance and the visual 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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arts  
scottsdale

## A Discovery of Cuban Culture with Scottsdale Arts

The culmination of Scottsdale Arts' 2018-19 exciting Discovery Cuba Series will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience of artistic and cultural life in Cuba. This innovative People-to-People collaboration between Scottsdale Arts and Cuba Rhythm and Views, the leading experts on cultural travel in Cuba, will take a VIP delegation to Cuba, April 10-17, 2019, for an eight-day, seven-night in-depth immersion into the creative arts in the hemisphere's most intriguing and isolated nation.

In the beautiful coastal city of Cienfuegos in the south, attendees will participate in cultural festivities celebrating the city's 200th anniversary. In Havana, the trip will overlap with the prestigious 13th Havana Biennial, a celebration of Caribbean art and culture, and our Scottsdale Arts attendees will have unique opportunities to attend the opening events and other related exhibits. Architecture aficionados will enjoy the tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its historic buildings actively under restoration.

As part of the partnership with Scottsdale Arts, attendees will be exposed to Cuba's world-renowned jazz and nightlife along with performances of classical dance and music. From grand theaters to intimate salons, travelers will have access to some of Cuba's most revered musicians and artists.

Cuba Rhythm and Views is a true cultural exchange program dedicated to diplomacy through the arts. While participants stay in the finest hotels and dine in Cuba's famous paladares, the authentic Cuba will always reveal itself to the open and inquiring mind.

Join us for this enlightening cultural exploration; there is no better time to visit 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 this trip, patrons will experience performances by such renowned groups as: Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional; Ballet Nacional de Cuba; Ballet español de Cuba; Ballet Litz 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. 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. 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, including Aldo López-Gavilán. 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. 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. In addition, a CR&V exclusive private show of original art for sale by ISA professors and students is always on our itinerary.

## 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 Camilo García López-Trigo for a talk about US/Cuba relations; Dr. Garcia 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 run by The Sisters of the Love of God, visit a classroom in session, learn about the remarkable work the sisters do for single mothers and be inspired by the humanitarian work of their order.

Art Studio,  
Escuela de Arte Benny Moré



Sisters of the Love of God



Camilo García López-Trigo

# 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*