 Helping Americans witness authentic Cuba since 1997

***PHLLIP LEVINE (92nd STreet Y)***

 Exploring the island, discovering its people, their history and culture and arts

 **Duration** 8 days and 7 nights of learning, fun and friendship in Cuba

 **Dates: February 14th to 21st , 2020**

 **Participants**: 10 Minimum

 **Accommodations**

• ***Hotel Capri*** 4 stars, Havana

 **Island transportation** Luxury tour coach and full time chauffer.

**DAY 1 –/ ARRIVAL / HELLO cuba** (dinner)

• Arrival at Havana’s José Martí International Airport. Collect your bags and go through customs. You’re welcomed at the airport lobby by your Cuba Explorer Tours guide and professional bus chauffeur.

• Private transfer to your hotel.

• Private check-in with assistance from your guide.

• Free time to settle in and rest up at your hotel.

• This evening you’ll enjoy a group welcome dinner with your Cuban guide and tourmates at Los Naranjos private restaurant . (included)

• Your guide will keep you posted on local entertainment options.

**DAY 2 – Exploring Old Havana, our common heritage** (breakfast and Lunch)

* Breakfast at hotel (included)

• Morning visit to the Maqueta de La Habana Vieja. It's a 1:500 scale model of Old Havana complete with an authentic soundtrack meant to replicate a day in the life of the city. It's incredibly detailed and provides an excellent way of geographically acquainting yourself with the city’s historical core. The model is used for social development and planning.

• Followed by a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We’ll visit four of the five historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere. It contains the largest collection of remaining colonial-era architecture. This is a private tour led by your Cuba Education Tours guide.

• Lunch at el Rum Rum private restaurant (included in tour cost)!

**.** Visit famous Cuban ceramicist Beatriz Sala and her Estudio Santacana

• Dinner tonight is not included. You are free to explore different eateries. Your guide will advise on restaurants for every taste and budget.

• Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city. Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

**DAY 3 – Havana/ Las Terrazas** (BREAKFAST and LUNCH)

• Breakfast in hotel

• Morning departure to Las Terrazas eco-community, which was declared a biosphere reserve by the United Nations

• Visit a rural village called Rancho Curujey

• Visit the art studio of a local artist

• Lunch at an open-air restaurant La Casa del Campesino, included

• Return to Havana.

• Dinner tonight is not included. You are free to explore different eateries. Your guide will advise on restaurants for every taste and budget.

• Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city. Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

**DAY 4 – University education** (BREAKFAST, lunch AND DINNER)

• Breakfast in hotel

• Visit ISA, the University of Arts.

• Visit José Fuster, one of Cuba's most important ceramists and painters at his whimsical studio in Jaimanitas, just outside of Havana.

• Lunch at Fuster’s, included

• Return to hotel

• Dinner tonight is at El Decamerón private restaurant.

• Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city. Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

**DAY 5 – Cuban art** (breakfast and lunch**)**

• Breakfast in hotel

• Visit the studio of Afro-Cuban artist Eduardo Roca (Choco)

• Lunch at Habana 61 private restaurant (included)

• Visit Museo Nacional de la Cerámica. Housed within casa de Francisco Aguilera Basabe a two history building built in 1728, this museum exhibits Cuban art pottery from 1950 to the present day on the top floor, while the ground floor has a ceramic shop, temporary exhibition areas, lecture hall and an archaeological site.

• Dinner tonight is not included. You are free to explore different eateries. Your guide will advise on restaurants for every taste and budget.

• Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city. Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

**DAY 6 – MUSEUM OF FINE arts/** (BREAKFAST and lunch)

• Breakfast in hotel

• Visit the Museum of Fine Arts, the Cuban collection

• Lunch at Mojito Mojito private restaurant, included

• **DEGUSTACION**

• Return to hotel

• Dinner tonight is not included. You are free to explore different eateries. Your guide will advise on restaurants for every taste and budget.

• Evening entertainment SUggestion: Casa de la Música de Centro Habana, one of the best settings to listen to great traditional music. Dance with Cubans and foreign visitors

**DAY 7 – ARTS AND ORGANIC FARM/** (BREAKFAST, Lunch AND dinner)

• Breakfast in hotel

• Visit the studios of Abel Barroso who constructs playful works that often invite the viewer to interact. We’ll have the opportunity to discuss Cuban art and its influences and to see where art being done in Cuba intersects with the art being done in the US.

* We'll visit the UBPC Vivero Organopónico Alamar, 15 km (9.3 miles) east of Havana. It's one of the most successful urban organic farms in Cuba raising ornamental plants, medicinal herbs, and millions of seedlings for neighboring residential and collective farms. Established in the early 1990s, the Alamar cooperative has over 20 members and provides a range of healthy, organic vegetables to the community. Produce is raised employing the practice of permaculture: no chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, natural biological methods are used to nourish the soil, frustrate pests and conserve water. The result is an increased rate of yield and reduced costs.

• TOUR HIGHLIGHT: Special lunch prepared by El Ajiaco private restaurant in Cojimar , a small fishing village one of Hemigway’s favorite places

• Return to hotel in Havana.

• Farewell dinner at Mediterraneo Havana private restaurant, included

**DAY 8 – Havana/ HOME** (BREAKFAST)

• Breakfast in hotel

• Check-out of hotel.

• Transfer to José Martí International Airport for flights home.

 ***Terms and conditions***

•    See <http://cubaexplorer.com/terms-and-conditions/>

•    A non-refundable deposit of 299.00 USD is required upon registration.

•    Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure.

**INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

•    All taxes. Prices listed are the total amounts you pay. All amounts are quoted in US dollars.

•    Airport transfers: We meet you at José Martí Int’l Airport in Havana and take you to your hotel upon arrival. We return you to José Martí Airport for departure. Transfer cost will be included in the tour price if the clients arrive the same day the tour begins and depart the same day the tour ends.

•    Hotels as listed in tour itinerary or similar.

•    All breakfasts, lunches and dinners as per itinerary.

•    All activities, services, speakers, meetings and meals as described in tour itinerary except those noted as “optional” or “not included in cost.”

•    Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation and a full-time professional driver.

•    An expert Cuban English-speaking guide and translator whose background matches tour content throughout the program.

   •    Ongoing support from Cuba Explorer Tours staff in Canada, United States and Cuba before, during and after your stay.

•    Emergency collect call access to our North American staff while in Cuba.

•    Emergency cash advances for our tour participants who face complications accessing funds from aboard while in Cuba.

**NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

•    Cost of airfare to and from Havana.

•    Cuban Visitor Card

•    Gratuities for Cuban tour guide, bus driver, chambermaids, restaurant staff, porters, etc.

•    Optional travel interruption and cancellation insurance.

Sairi Alvarez

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