

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

CUBA CULTURAL TOUR

5 CITIES, 10 DAYS OCTOBER 19—28, 2019

**EXPLORING THE ISLAND, UNDERSTANDING ITS EDUCATION SYSTEM,
DISCOVERING ITS PEOPLE, THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE PLUS MIAMI**

Join TMP's Artistic Director,
Jon Douglas Rake and Music
Director, Jeffrey Stvrtecky
with our partner



Helping Americans witness authentic
Cuba since 1997

for a spectacular cultural
immersion tour of Cuba.

Tour fee: TBD

per person



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	DATE	
Sat	Oct 19	Depart Seatac to Miami
Sun	Oct 20	Fly to Havana / Orientation
Mon	Oct 21	Old Havana, Our common Heritage
Tue	Oct 22	University of Arts
Wed	Oct 23	Cienfuegos
Thu	Oct 24	Trinidad
Fri	Oct 25	Trinidad, Santa Clara
Sat	Oct 26	Music and the Arts
Sun	Oct 27	Depart Havana to Miami
Mon	Oct 28	Depart Miami to Seatac

This flyer is available at www.tmp.org

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

Eight-day Cuba Cultural Tour

Highlights of Itinerary

Detailed Itinerary

October 19, 2019

Fly from Seatac to Miami
Check into hotel
Dinner

October 20, 2019

D

*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.

*Bus tour of Havana, including the most important sites of Modern Havana such as the Capitol building, the Grand Theatre, Central Park, Prado promenade, Revolution Square, Coppelia Ice Cream Park, Plaza José Martí (in front of US Interests Section), Malecón seawall, Monument to the Battleship Maine, Hotel Nacional, University of Havana and the Miramar, Central Havana and Vedado neighborhoods.

*Private check-in with assistance from your guide.

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

*Group welcome dinner at Mediterraneo Havana private restaurant with your Cuban guide and tourmates.

*Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city.

October 21, 2019

B, L, D

*Breakfast at hotel

*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.

*Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana built by the Jesuit order.

*Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:

*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.

*Museo de Artesanía at Castillo de la Real Fuerza, the oldest remaining fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies.

*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.

*And then on to Plaza Vieja, the only civic square of colonial times. Absent are churches and government buildings, and is in contrast surrounded by opulent aristocratic 17th century residences. We'll visit an important center for the visual arts.

*Group welcome lunch at El Templete Restaurant. This bayside fish joint is the latest newcomer to the city's list of upscale eateries. Basque chef, Arkaitx Etxarte does wonderful things with seafood. Opened in late 2004, it is situated less than 100m from its namesake temple, where the city of La Habana was founded in 1519. Overlooking the harbor, the eating space is split into two halves: an outdoor alfresco area accommodated under a large awning, and a pleasant indoor dining room with starched tablecloths and expensive-looking wine glasses. The quality of the food lives up to the pretensions of its fancy decor, with seafood specialties spearheaded by shrimps and lobster!

*Visit Dance Group Retazos: Retazos is a center for the promotion of dance under the Ministry of Culture of Cuba and the Office of the Historian of Old Havana. It is run by Isabel Bustos, a former professor at the National School of Modern Dance and the University of the Arts in Cuba.

*Watch a performance by Grupo Retazos.

*Now for a special group dinner at the family-owned Café Laurent. The paladar is one example of the new wave of entrepreneurialism. (included).

*EVENING HIGHLIGHT: We witness a most dramatic ceremony – El Cañonazo – the Firing of the 9PM Cannon at the Fortress of San Carlos de la Cabaña. This enchanting colonial reenactment dates back to 1519 when the city of Havana was enclosed by a tall thick rock wall to ward off attacks from pirates and the English. The cannon firing signaled the closing of the city gates for the night. If you were outside at the time, you were in "vedado" or the forbidden zone. Today Vedado is an important cultural hub and beautiful section of modern Havana.

October 22, 2019

B, L

*Breakfast at hotel

*Visit the **The University of Arts of Cuba / Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)**. It was established on September 1, 1976, by the Cuban government as a school for the arts. Its original structure had three schools: Music, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts.

*At present the ISA has four schools, the previous three and one for Arts and Audiovisual Communication Media. ISA offers pre-degree and post-degree courses, as well as a wide spectrum of brief and extension courses, including preparation for Cuban and foreign professors for a degree of Doctor on Sciences in Art.

*Predegree education has increased to five careers: Music, Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Dance Arts and Arts and Audiovisual Communication Media.

*TOUR HIGHLIGHT: Special lunch prepared by private restaurant El Ajiaco.

*Visit Cojimar, small fishing village one of the Hemingway's favorites places in Cuba.

*We'll visit to Finca Vigía [Lookout Farm] where North America's literary giant Ernest Hemingway spent twenty-one of his most important and productive years penning building blocks of English literature. Claimed by both the United States and Cuba as their son, it was Hemingway himself who declared the island his true home. The house has been preserved just as it was when Hemingway lived there. You'll see his personal objects, thousands of books and photographs, as well as some "trophies" bagged on his frequent safaris. Ernest Hemingway: War reporter, activist, man of letters, journalist and literary titan.

*Return to hotel.

*Dinner not included.

*EVENING SUGGESTION: Jazz Club La Zorra y El Cuervo, (transportation and cover not included)

October 23, 2019

B, L, D

*Breakfast at hotel

*Early departure to Cienfuegos

*Coach tour of the city of Cienfuegos: Cuba's loveliest city of French colonial architecture on Cuba's most scenic ocean bay.

*Guided walking tour historical center: Paseo del Prado, Plaza José Martí, Tomás Terry Theater, Casa de la Cultura, The Cathedral

*Lunch at Palacio Valle restaurant

*We then visit the Graphic Society of Cienfuegos. They will host our group by opening their doors to our questions and their artwork. This community of artists carries out important community work by complementing the training of art schools students and they also work with children with disabilities to improve their cognitive abilities.

*Hotel Brisas Trinidad check in

*Dinner at hotel.

*Evening is free to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city.

October 24, 2019

B, L, D

*Breakfast at hotel

*Walking tour of Trinidad. Declared a national monument by the Cuban government and World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987, this city is very much as it was four centuries ago; the beauty of its baroque architecture and cobblestones squares harking back to a bygone era when Trinidad was a key player in the Caribbean slave trade. It's also brags spectacular Valle de los Ingenios, a unique Sugar Mill Valley.

*It contains beautiful churches (such as the Great Parish Church, a neoclassical edifice built in 1892) and public squares, the most important of which is Main Square-surrounded by buildings of great beauty and historic and architectural interest and considered the second most important square in the country, after Havana's Cathedral Square.

*Stroll around beautiful Plaza Mayor, visit Museo Arquitectura Colonial. Enjoy time at a local artisan street market with splendid woodcarvings, fabric art, crochet pieces, and straw work.

*Lunch at Casa Museo 1514 Paladar.

*Meet with the Santander family, well-known potters who have made unique pottery for over 100 years.

*Visit the Valle de los Ingenios where once Sugar Mills stood.

*Return to hotel in Trinidad

*Dinner at hotel.

October 15, 2019

B, L

*Breakfast at hotel

*Early departure to Santa Clara city

*Visit to the Plaza de la Revolución Ernesto Che Guevara and a visit to the Che museum and burial site.

*Lunch at Santa Rosalía.

*Return to Havana

*Check in at hotel

*Dinner not included

*Evening is free to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city

October 26, 2019

B, L, D,

*Breakfast in hotel

*Transfer to Hotel Florida for special presentation and dialogue: "Past and present of Cuba's Music " by Dr. Alberto Faya.

*Visit cultural project La Lavanderia, a group of renown Cuba artists and painters have joined efforts in restoring an old laundromat building and turned it into a workshop/gallery where they can create and exhibit their work.

*We'll feast on a delicious lunch hosted by José Fuster, one of Cuba's most important ceramists and painters at his whimsical studio in Jaimanitas, just outside of Havana.

*Visit Arenal Cinema to enjoy a performance from Opera de la Calle Company. Founded by Ulises Aquino in 2006, one of Cuba's best-known baritones, Opera de la Calle, or Opera of the Street is a new model of performance in Cuba combining Cuban rhythms and dance. Hugely successful, *Opera de la Calle* company of more than 120 singers, actors, and musicians now has annual attendance of thousands, performing not only in its two theaters, but also in plazas and theaters throughout Cuba. Described as "authentic, energizing, and joyful", *Opera de la Calle* performances are a must see for Cuban audiences and visitors alike.

*Enjoy a panoramic ride in old convertible cars to your farewell dinner at Rio Mar Restaurant.

*Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city.

*Your guide will keep you posted on evening entertainment options.

October 27, 2019

B

*Breakfast in hotel

*Check-out of hotel.

*Transfer to José Martí International Airport for flights home.

Land in Miami for Orientation tour of the sights of Miami.

Check into hotel

Dinner

October 28, 2019

Fly home

Suggested Attire:

For traveling and all sightseeing excursions—comfortable, casual attire, light jacket or sweater.

For dinner and show—nice casual (men—shirt and slacks / women—casual dress or pants).

General Tour Information

♦ Deposits and Payments

Tour fee is based upon double occupancy. A deposit of \$TBD per person is due by TBD or sooner to guarantee a reservation. A second payment of \$TBD per person is due by TBD. A third payment of \$TBD is due by TBD including any add-ons.

♦ Cancellations and Refunds

Cancellation penalties are per Explore Cuba unless the reservation is replaced with someone on a wait list.

♦ Tour Deviations

Tour travel deviations should be conveyed to TMP staff as soon as possible. Additional fees can be incurred for travel plan changes. We will attempt to accommodate any changes.

♦ Included in Tour

- ⇒ Round-trip coach airfare on Alaska Airlines from Seattle to Miami, and Miami to Havana, based on travel
- ⇒ October 19—28, 2019 (non-stop, direct flights)
- ⇒ All airline taxes and fees as currently levied.
- ⇒ 2 night accommodations at a 3-4star hotel in Miami, double occupancy.
- ⇒ Luxury air-conditioned motor coach or other transportation for:
 - ⇒ - arrival and departure transfer between airport and hotel
 - ⇒ - all scheduled sightseeing excursion tours included in itinerary
- ⇒ \$XXX of the tour fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the 2019-20 Annual Fund
- ⇒ at Tacoma Musical Playhouse.
- ⇒ An expert Cuban English-speaking guide and translator whose background matches tour content throughout the program.
- ⇒ Ongoing support from Cuba Explorer Tours staff in 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

Optional excursions. Medical, baggage or cancellation insurance. Gratuities for local tour guides, drivers, hotel maids. Meals other than those scheduled. Shuttle to and from SeaTac airport. Items not specifically mentioned above. Cuban Visitor Visa.

♦ Tour Options

Single room supplement, additional cost TBD.

♦ Special Note

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. TMP season subscribers have first priority booking. Don't wait! Now accepting no-obligation interest list sign-ups.

♦ Terms and Conditions

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

This flyer is available at www.tmp.org

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

7116 Sixth Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98406
(253) 565-6867
Email: boxoffice@tmp.org
Website: www.tmp.org



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Permit No. 1317

*One of the
most thrilling
tours ever
offered !*



Your invitation to join TMP's Cuba Cultural Tour.

Cuba Cultural Tour.

Registration Form—Also available at www.tmp.org

Name(s) & Dates of Birth (per passport): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dietary restrictions or other special needs: _____

Shuttle **to** airport from Narrows Theatre **Y N** Shuttle **from** airport to Narrows Theatre **Y N** \$20 each way per person
___ 1 bed ___ 2 beds

Deposit enclosed: **\$600** per person (due TBD) or sooner.

(Checks or money orders only payable to Tacoma Musical Playhouse. No credit cards accepted for tour fees)

Please return this reservation form with your deposit by TBD or sooner to:

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

7116 Sixth Avenue Tacoma, WA 98406
(253) 565-6867