

CUBA!

A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE JOURNEY

EXPLORING CUBA...

THE PEOPLE, ARTS & MUSIC
through PHOTOGRAPHY

October 27-November 4, 2013



Join Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation and documentary photographer and workshop leader Jeff Davis on an exciting People to

People journey as we explore the colorful, vibrant history and culture of Cuba through meetings and rich experience with the local people. Discover elegant, exuberant Havana...its friendly citizens, contemporary artists, exceptional architecture, music, and colorful outdoor markets. Enjoy music and dance as an expression of the soul of the Cuban people. Spend

time with well-known and up-and-coming contemporary artists in their studios. Photography is an excellent way to engage local people in a conversation or activity, it becomes a shared adventure. You will visit with musicians, students, and doctors as you meet the local people who welcome visitors with friendly smiles, laughter, and vibrant conversation.

The emphasis of the trip will be on people to people exchanges. You will observe the human spirit's capacity to live, enjoy, and create, despite hardship. It is not uncommon to meet a medical doctor who is also a master mechanic, a guitar player, and a taxi driver – all commitments required to make ends meet financially.

Experience this restricted, unique island before the impact of excessive international tourism. Travel legally with U.S. Government approval to be with the people of Cuba and learn from them, about their culture traveling under a People to People educational license issued to the Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation.

NOTE: Cuba is the only country in the world that a U.S. citizen is barred from visiting by the U.S. Government without a license. Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation has a license to legally take U.S. citizens to Cuba for People to People educational trips to meet with Cuban citizens, as long as we conform to U.S. Government requirements. We have been leading tours in this area of the world for over fifteen years. It would be our pleasure to introduce you to Cuba and the people and incredible places we know there.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1, Sunday, October 27: Miami / Havana

Depart Miami. You will meet the Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation representative at the Miami International Airport and he will assist you to check in as a group. Upon arrival in Havana, you will be met by your Cuban guide and enjoy an orientation bus tour on the way to your hotel. Check into your hotel and get settled in. Welcome dinner at El Patio in Cathedral Square in Old Havana (we will request tables outside if there is an evening show). Enjoy the lush tropical air, friendly people and live music. The music will follow you throughout your journey and is a window into the heart of Cuba.

Havana Hotel (D)

Day 2, Monday, October 28: Havana

Jeff, your group leader, will lead an early morning walk along the Malecon waterfront to explore photography and introduce the local area. Breakfast included at the hotel. Afterwards we have a presentation by Miguel Coyula, architect and former city planner. Miguel brings the history of Havana alive during his presentation. This is followed by an architectural city tour of Havana meeting local people along the way. The experience will provide a visual sense of the place, and its history. After lunch, we will break into small groups to explore Old Havana. Jeff and other guides will be available to support your experience as we informally explore this fascinating area. You may wish to work with a camera or simply enjoy your people to people experience in other ways. Later we will visit the Irene Rodriguez dance studio to see a practice session. Irene is one of Cuba's Prima ballerina of Classical style Spanish and Flamenco Dance. For dinner, we will break into small informal groups for dinner at local *paladares*. We will provide a list of *paladares* and restaurants for you to try. A *paladar* is a small family run restaurant licensed to provide meals in their home. Here, you will taste some of the best food in Cuba as well as experience being in the intimate, warm, and real spaces of local people. You may want to try *La Guarida paladar*, where the movie *Strawberries and Chocolate* was made, or *Mar Vista*, which has a sweeping view of the ocean. Both are in private homes. **Havana Hotel (B,L)**



Day 3, Tuesday, October 29: Havana

Jeff will lead another early morning walk in Havana at the start of the day. After breakfast Cuban photographer Perfecto Romero presents his work at our hotel, with discussion to follow. On our way to lunch we will stop in the lobby of the Capitolio. The afternoon will find us with a local guide on a photo walk at the *Cemetario Colon*, world re-known for its sculptures and burial site of numerous famous persons. Before dinner, a stop at the Taller de Grafica, an artist engraving shop founded by Che Cuevara and still operating as a co-op today, **Havana Hotel (B,L)**

Day 4, Wednesday, October 30: Havana

After breakfast we will head east to Alamar where we spend the morning at a community organic farm. On the way we visit a farmers market. The feeling of cooperation and ingenuity are palpable and many of the people you meet will surprise you with their multitude of talents, which they have had to develop to survive in a society lacking basic resources and financial opportunities. Roof-top gardens, farming co-ops, bicycling, and sharing products and services are some of the signs you will see that reflect the way

adversity has fostered individual ingenuity, family support systems and neighbors who bind closely as a community. Lunch will be with the community at the farm. As we return we stop at the Forteleza San Carlos de la Cabaña and wander through El Morro for wonderful vistas across the bay back to Havana City. Photographer Jose Figueroa presents his work before dinner, with discussion to follow.

Havana Hotel (B,L)

Day 5, Thursday, October 31: Havana / Valle de Vinales

Jeff will lead another early morning walk with photography and exploration of the streets of Old Havana. After breakfast you will leave for Pinar del Rio and the beautiful Valle de Vinales. On the bus you will



receive a brief lecture by your Cuban guide about rural life in Cuba and the organization of rural society. The Valley is a lush tobacco growing area with stunning landscapes, dotted with mogotes (limestone formations, some with caves) which were used to hide by runaway slaves in the 1800's. Scenic walks guided by locals are available. Following lunch on your own, we will have a brief tour of the town and a meeting with the town historian. This afternoon provides an opportunity for Jeff to facilitate photography and an exploration of the vistas of Valle de Vinales from the hotel. You may

enjoy working with a camera or simply hike or relax. This is an opportune area to interact with and photograph local people and scenic landscapes. **Vinales Hotel (B,D)**

Day 6, Friday, November 1: Valle de Vinales

Early morning time for personal professional research and exploration. You will love the views in Vinales. After breakfast we will leave for a walking tour of the farms in the valley meeting local people. We will see the tobacco and pineapple fields and meet the farmers. This afternoon we plan to meet with the local CITMA (Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment) office station to learn about the environment and biodiversity in the region. Dinner is on your own to explore local paladares and culture. Here too, there will be opportunities for informal interaction and hands-on work with photography. **Vinales Hotel (B,L)**

Day 7, Saturday, November 2: Valle de Vinales / Havana

Early risers can enjoy walks in the morning light. The group will meet after breakfast to check out and make our way to the town of Pinar del Rio. Arriving at the town we will meet with a local representative of UNEAC (the Union of Writers and Artists in Cuba) to learn about the promotion of arts and arts education in Cuba. After lunch we will visit a community arts project. Return to Havana in the later afternoon. **Havana Hotel (B,L)**

Day 8, Sunday, November 3: Havana

Early morning find free time again in Havana for personal, professional research and the opportunity to photograph. As an option, Jeff will lead another early morning tour. After breakfast we visit the studio of photographer Juan Carlos Alom. Then afterwards we are off for a guided photography walk with Cuban photographers from Camera Obscura. We will enjoy a reception and an opportunity for informal discussion

with photographers from Fototeca. Founded in 1886. Fototeca is Havana's leading photography center and contains the widest and most valuable archive of Cuban photos. Farewell dinner.

Havana Hotel (B,D)

Day 9, Monday, November 4: Havana /Miami

Those on the main program only will check out of the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the Jose Marti International Airport for a flight to Miami.



TRIP LEADER, Jeffrey A. Davis works as a fine art and documentary photographer, filmmaker, public television producer, teacher, advocate, fundraiser for various nonprofit causes, and general manager. His photography is shown in museums, public spaces, and galleries in the United States and Canada, in corporate and individual art collections, and in websites, calendars, and magazines. The San Francisco International Airport Museum, Stanford University, the Moat Gallery in Vancouver, the Banff Centre, Mumm Napa Fine Art Photography Gallery, Washington University, Mountainfilm in Telluride, the San Francisco City Hall, and other high profile venues have presented exhibitions of Jeff's photography. He has been a guest speaker at Apple Computer, REI, American Society for Media Photographers (ASMP) and other leading organizations. Jeff has traveled and worked in more than 40 countries. His passion and commitment to the wilderness, local and international causes, and diverse cultures remains strong. www.jeffreydavisphotography.com

JOURNEY DETAILS

DATES: October 27 - November 4, 2013

COST: \$4495.00, based on a minimum of 10 travelers and a maximum of 18

SINGLE ROOM: Add \$500

ADDITIONAL COSTS: \$550.00 for charter air (Miami/Havana/Miami), Cuban visa, and medical insurance while in Cuba (does not include cancellation and evacuation coverage, information will be sent upon registration).

INCLUDED: U.S. people to people license to travel legally to Cuba; in country transportation per itinerary; 4 star hotel in Havana (double occupancy); best available hotel outside Havana (double occupancy); full breakfast buffet daily at the hotel; meals and gratuity per itinerary (B,L,D); Jeff Davis, documentary photographer and workshop leader; knowledgeable local Cuban guide with us throughout the trip; guest speakers; entrance fees; preparation materials; tips for meals included on itinerary; tips to local bellman; bottled water on bus.

NOT INCLUDED: International charter air from Miami/Havana/Miami; alcoholic drinks; excursions not on the itinerary; entrance fees for evening activities; meals not on itinerary (B,L,D); tips for meals on your own; tips for local guide, and driver (optional, yet customary); travel cancellation and evacuation insurance (strongly recommended, info sent upon registration)

NOTES:

This itinerary and the extension itinerary are subject to change to take advantage of the serendipity of the moment when we are in Cuba...to meet someone special, to engage in an activity that might occur unexpectedly, or to accommodate circumstances beyond our control. Restaurants or hotels may change in similar category. CCJF license #CT-2012-295918-1 is valid until September 30, 2014.

Extension: The Provincial Heartland of Cuba

November 4 - 8, 2013, following the main journey

The extension is designed to enable a deeper experience of Cuba's diverse urban and rural regions and people. Photography is our venue that will offer further engagement with the local people. Jeff Davis will be available to help lead and guide this program as well.

Day 1, Monday, November 4: Havana / Santa Clara / Remedios

In the morning we venture off to photograph in the early morning light. Then we have breakfast, check out of the hotel, and leave for the province of Villa Clara. On the way (a three hour drive) there will be an opportunity to discuss a variety of topics with your Cuban guide en route. In Santa Clara, we explore the Tren Blindado (Armored Train) –an important historical site where the last days of the revolution were fought and Che and Castro, along with the revolution army, defeated the Batista government. Also visit the Plaza de la Revolucion that is dominated by one of Cuba's finest revolutionary statues, the giant figure of Che Guevara. Continue through the rural country side to Remedios, a delightful small city not on the main tourist route, which is one of the things that makes it so charming. **Remedios Hotel (B,L,D)**



Day 2, Tuesday, November 5: Santa Clara / Remedios

Remedios was founded in 1578 and is considered one of the oldest settlements in the country. The historic city center was declared a National Historic Monument in 1980, and there are still Spanish colonial structures standing which date back to the seventeenth century. This colonial town is famous for its Christmas festivities, called *parrandas*, when two 'barrios' (El Carmen and San Salvador) compete the whole night to show the best fireworks. Meet with a local artist who will take you around town and introduce you to local people and projects where you will have an opportunity to photograph and engage in people to people exchanges. After lunch at a local *paladar* we will visit a community youth project “La Casa de la Ciudad”. **Remedios Hotel (B,L)**

Day 3, Wednesday, November 6: Remedios / Trinidad / Topes de Collante



After breakfast we will check out and depart for a visit to the Spanish colonial town of Trinidad, a Unesco World Heritage site. Then on to the Topes de Collante Mountains in the Escambray Mountain Range. This range is Cuba's second highest mountain range - reaching 3,700 feet atop Pico San Juan. The mountains are home to small mountain villages, numerous birds, Caribbean pines, ancient tree-ferns, bamboo, and eucalyptus. You will have time to meet the local people, hike, explore and photograph. One of Cuba's “youngest” cities, Topes de Collante, with its diverse architecture, was founded in 1819 and has a vibrant youth population. The province features the country's largest botanical garden, and some of Cuba's finest mineral water resources.

Topes de Collante Hotel (B,L)

Day 4, Thursday, November 7: Topes de Collante / Cienfuegos / Havana

This morning after an early breakfast, we will check out and drive back to Havana where we visit with Diana Diaz Lopez, daughter of well known Cuban photographer, Korda, in her studio to see her Korda collection. Later, we will have a presentation by well-known Cuban artist Yissel Arce Padron, editor of

“Artecubana”. She discusses the impact of tourism and the growing demand for Cuban art on local artists, as well as the marketing, sale, and taxation of Cuban art work sold domestically and abroad. Learn about the role of art in Cuban society as social commentary and criticism, and discuss questions of artistic and intellectual freedom. Then we enjoy our ‘second’ farewell dinner. **Havana Hotel (B,D)**

Day 5, Friday, November 8: Havana / Miami

After our breakfast at hotel we depart for Miami. **(B)**



EXTENSION JOURNEY DETAILS

DATES: November 4 - 8, 2013

COST: \$1995, based on a minimum of six travelers and a maximum of ten

SINGLE ROOM: Add \$200

INCLUDED: U.S. people to people license to travel legally to Cuba; in country transportation per itinerary; 4 star hotels in Havana (double occupancy); best available hotel in Remedios and Topes de Collante (double occupancy); full breakfast buffet daily at the hotel; meals and gratuity per itinerary (B,L,D); Jeff Davis, documentary photographer and workshop leader; knowledgeable Cuban guide with us throughout; guest speakers; entrance fees; preparation materials; tips for meals included on itinerary; tips to local bellman; bottled water on bus.

NOT INCLUDED: International charter air from Havana/Miami; alcoholic drinks; meals not on itinerary (B,L,D); excursions not on the itinerary; entrance fees for optional activities, tips for meals not on itinerary; tips for local guide, and driver (optional, yet customary); travel cancellation and evacuation insurance (strongly recommended, info sent upon registration)

For Further Information:

Call: 1-800-353-2276 or 415-332-0682, or email: travel@CrossCulturalJourneys.com

Or, go to our website, www.CrossCulturalJourneys.com

To Register:

Call the Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation. office with a \$500 Mastercard or Visa deposit to reserve your place on the journey.

ABOUT CROSS CULTURAL JOURNEYS FOUNDATION

The **Cross Cultural Journeys Foundation (CCJF)** is a 501(c)(3) public foundation established in 1997 to help create sustainable economic, social and environmental development in CC countries J visits. **CCJF** was established as a way to give back to the people of the cultures our travelers visit. We have projects in numerous countries which contribute to the self sustaining welfare of the people there.

CCJF People-to-People trips to Cuba

From 1998 to 2003, the foundation held a license from the U.S. government to take U.S. citizens to Cuba to engage in people-to-people interactions that have educational value. In 2011, the Foundation again received a license to offer people-to-people learning experiences. The foundation organizes custom trips for U.S. based membership organizations, and individuals, with an interest in engaging with the Cuban people. In 2012 CCJF organized and ran twenty People to People learning journeys to Cuba.

