



Jewish
Heritage
Travel

A Program for the Museum of Jewish Heritage



We are dedicated to making your experience rich in content and superior in comfort.

This unique travel program combines the expertise and resources of two organizations that cherish the traditions, achievements, and faith of Jewish communities – past and present – around the world. Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage are delighted to have the opportunity to share this rich, varied, and poignant history and culture with you on these select trips. We look forward to traveling with you.

A Marriage of Different Cultures:

THE JEWS OF CUBA

FEBRUARY 11—18, 2020



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Program Overview

The heritage of Cuba is rich and layered, influenced by African, Caribbean, Spanish, and American culture. During the course of our trip, we will visit with several Jewish communities on the island and experience this fascinating country through its music, art, and culture. Under the auspices of an approved Treasury Department license, our program will include meetings with leaders of the Jewish communities; presentations, dialogue, and discussions with local scholars and professors; and performances of Cuban music.

Led by Miriam Levinson and Ivan de Beer, our exploration of Cuba will begin in Havana, where we will familiarize ourselves with Jewish cultural and religious life in Cuba by visiting its synagogues and other points of interest, including the world-class National Museum of Fine Arts. From Havana, we will travel to the outlying provinces of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), where we will visit Cuba's newest synagogue (Santa Clara) and meet with members of the small but dedicated Jewish communities in Santa Clara and Cienfuegos.

Through our travels, we will familiarize ourselves with the way Cuban Jewry has sustained itself over the years, meet Cuban artists, and experience the wonderfully diverse music, spirit, and culture of this exotic island.

We invite you to join us on this extraordinary program, limited to 30 participants. (Please note: we expect this trip to fill quickly; last year, we had to turn away many interested people. Please register early to ensure your participation.)



Typical interior courtyard, Havana



Cuban flag flies in Havana breeze.



Havana is known for its colorful buildings and antique autos.

Tentative Daily Itinerary*

Tuesday, February 11

Departure from Miami to Havana. Upon arrival in Havana, check in to the deluxe, five star Meliá Cohiba Hotel- one of the best in Havana. Afternoon walking tour through two of Old Havana's four famous squares. Evening Orientation meeting and Reception followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner at our hotel.

Wednesday, February 12

Morning: Presentation by Professor Maritza Corrales a Cuban historian who has dedicated her life's work to researching the history of Jews in Cuba, on "The Jews of Cuba."

Following Dr. Corrales' talk, we will visit the Sephardic Center to meet with Mayra Levy, a retired physician, President of the Center and one of Havana's Jewish community leaders. Here, we will also have time to see the Center's small, but moving Holocaust museum – the first exhibit about the Holocaust displayed in Cuba- before departing for lunch at the lovely San Cristobal Paladar (included).

Following lunch, continue exploring Old Havana with a walk through the other two squares of Old Havana before returning to our hotel for authentic Cuban music by one of the leading groups on the island.

Evening free; dinner on our own.

Thursday, February 13

Accompanied by Dr. Corrales, we will begin the day by visiting the Jewish Cemetery in Havana before a tour of "Finca La Vigia" (Hemingway House) followed by lunch at the nearby, picturesque El Divino Paladar (included). Afternoon visit to Patronato, center of the Jewish community of Cuba, where we will meet with leaders of the community and learn firsthand about the work they are doing with the Jewish Community of Havana – including its youth and elderly.

Evening: Presentation and discussion with Professor Marta Nunez on "Gender and Social issues in Cuba." Dinner on our own.

Friday, February 14

Morning: Private guided tour of the world class National Museum of Fine Arts–Cuban collection. Lunch on our own; afternoon free.

This evening, we will attend services at Beth Shalom- the Conservative Synagogue of Havana, followed by a festive Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).



Tile art project, Havana

Saturday, February 15

(Optional) Attend services at one of Havana's Synagogues... OR...free to rest, enjoy the Cohiba's amenities, and/or explore Havana on your own. This afternoon, optional activities led by our guide will be offered.

Evening: (optional) Attend a music or dance performance (subject to availability).

Sunday, February 16

Check out of Melia Cohiba for early morning departure to Santa Clara (only an overnight bag will be needed; luggage will be stored by the Cohiba and brought to rooms when we check back in on Monday). In Santa Clara, we will visit the newest Synagogue in Cuba; meet Jewish community leaders, and visit the rededicated cemetery, which includes a moving memorial to the Holocaust. Following lunch (included) in Santa Clara, proceed to Cienfuegos. Check into La Jagua Hotel in Cienfuegos for dinner at Finca del Mar- a lovely Paladar by the sea (included) and performance by famed Cienfuegos Choir- one of the leading choral groups in Cuba.

Monday, February 17

Meet with Rebecca Langus, whose home serves as a Jewish center on Shabbat and holidays in Cienfuegos to learn firsthand about the dedication needed to maintain Jewish life in this small community. Return to Havana and check back in to the Melia Cohiba – with time to rest, relax or walk about Havana on our own.

Afternoon: Free to explore Old Havana and visit sites of personal interest.

Evening: Festive closing dinner at our hotel (included).

Tuesday, February 18

Following breakfast, depart for the airport and return trip home.

**Please Note: Daily schedule may be modified subject to weather or unanticipated changes.*



Palacio de Valle, Cienfuegos

Traveling with You...

Trip Leaders



Miriam Levinson, born in Cuba, moved to the United States with her family at the age of thirteen. Over the years, she has designed, organized and led over 250 trips to her native land as well as lectured extensively to various organizations on the topic of Latin American Jewish migration. Founder and owner of Great Time Tours in Chicago, for many years she has coordinated travel itineraries for groups visiting Cuba. As a young adult Miriam began to recall and write about her childhood in Cuba and is presently writing a book on her recollections of life in Cuba.



Ivan de Beer is originally from New Zealand where he studied Marine Science and became a certified Dive Instructor. He has travelled extensively for most of his life, living in Asia, Europe and now the USA. Ivan has worked in the travel and hospitality sector for many years and as a result places great importance on customer service. Ivan has a varied interest in culture and the arts and still enjoys traveling with his family.

Scholars in Residence



Maritza Corrales is a Cuban historian who has dedicated her life's work to researching the history of Jews in Cuba. Born in 1948, she is a graduate of the University of Havana (1972) and lives in Havana. She has been a consulting scholar to numerous research and academic institutions in Cuba and has published numerous articles on the history of Cuban Jews. She has lectured at universities in Israel, Spain, Mexico and Cuba.



Marta Nunez, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Sociology and a researcher at the University of Havana. Her research has concentrated on women and employment in Cuba; and gender studies and images of women in Cuban mass media. At the University of Havana, Dr. Núñez teaches courses related to methodology and methods of sociological research, gender studies, and contemporary Cuba. She has served as a consultant for several agencies at the UN and for the Association of Caribbean States. A founder of the Cuban Federation of Women, Dr. Núñez has taught and supervised students from U.S. universities spending a semester in Cuba.

Accommodations



Hotel Meliá Cohiba

The Meliá Cohiba in Havana is a five star, deluxe, Spanish operated hotel, one of finest hotels in Havana. It is located in the residential neighborhood of Vedado, overlooks the sea and is a five minute drive from Old Havana.



La Jagua Hotel (Cienfuegos)

A four star hotel in the picturesque city of Cienfuegos, La Jagua is considered the best hotel in Cienfuegos. Located on the bay, within walking distance of town, one can enjoy spectacular views of the bay from each of its rooms.

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Program Details

Program cost: \$4,960 (plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage membership fee for nonmembers)

Program fee includes:

- Roundtrip airfare Miami-Havana
- Seven nights' accommodations (six nights at Melia Cohiba hotel in Havana and overnight in Cienfuegos at La Jagua hotel)
- Breakfast daily; three lunches and four dinners
- All group transportation within Cuba via deluxe air-conditioned coach

**Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available for \$995. Gratuities (\$150) and visa fee (\$80) additional.*

A nonrefundable deposit of \$1,500 per person is due upon registration; Balance due November 10, 2019. (Subject to availability of space, participants may still register after this date, at an additional cost of \$200.)

Disclaimer of Responsibility By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish HeritageTravel office and their respective staffs assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office or their staffs be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty. All rights reserved to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at his/her own expense when such an action is determined by the tour staff to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, and that of the group in general.

Registration Information

How to register

Online jhtravel.org

Mail Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:

Jewish Heritage Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Fax

Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to: **845.256.0196**

Telephone

Call our office: **845.256.0197**, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

Participation Limited to 28 participants, the program will entail considerable walking in Havana, including uneven terrain. Participants need to be in active, good health and able to keep up with the group. Feel free to contact us at (845-256-0197) with any questions.

Insurance Participants are *strongly urged* to purchase travel insurance for losses necessitated by having to cancel participation due to health issues. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration, or consult your own insurance agent. Please contact The Jewish Heritage Travel office at 845.256.0197 for more information.

Changes All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

Cancellations Please Note: due to the terms and conditions related to visa applications and hotel and air refund policies, there can be NO substitutions of names, nor any refunds for deposits or payments made for this trip. For this reason, *we strongly recommend travel insurance* for losses necessitated by having to cancel participation.



Registration Form

Please send your nonrefundable deposit for \$1500 per participant by mail or fax.

Mail Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:
Jewish Heritage Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Fax
Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to: **845.256.0196**

Telephone
Call our office: **845.256.0197**,
Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

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Contact information

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Phone number

Cell phone number

Deposit

Make your deposit by check or credit card.

Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel Program in the amount of \$ _____.

Please charge \$ _____ to my:

Master Card Visa American Express

card holder's name

card number

exp. date: mo/yr

validation code

Signature

Participant names:

Museum Member Yes No

Museum Member Yes No

Accommodations

I would like a single room (for single room supplement please see trip details)

I'll share a room with:

Please share any special information we should know to enhance your experience.

How did you hear about this trip?

Please check all that apply:

Museum of Jewish Heritage JewishGen Social Media
 Friend or Family Jewish Heritage Travel Advertisement

Flight Arrangements

I will make my own flight arrangements .

I need assistance and will call (845.256.0197).

