



A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage

# A Marriage of Different Cultures Havana, Santa Clara, and Cienfuegos Cuba

February 9-16, 2016



Havana, Cuba

## Program Overview

The history and heritage of the Jews of Cuba is rich, many layered, and influenced by an amalgam of Jews primarily from Turkey, Eastern Europe, and those who fled Europe prior to the Holocaust. Powerfully impacted by the emigration of more than 90% of its Jewish population following the 1959 Revolution, Cuban Jewry has nevertheless managed to survive as a unique and creative community.

Members of the Museum of Jewish Heritage are invited to join a special mission to Cuba and enjoy an opportunity to experience this fascinating country with a focus on its varied and diverse Jewish community. Led by Dr. Aryeh Maidenbaum, who has been organizing and leading trips to Cuba for more than a dozen years, our group will be traveling to Cuba under the auspices of an approved Treasury Department license. This unique program will include presentations by experts on Jewish Cuba, meetings with local scholars and leaders of the Jewish community on the island, and an opportunity to experience the wonderfully diverse music, spirit, and culture of this exotic island.

Our base will be the five star, Meliá Cohiba Hotel in Havana. During our stay in Havana, we will meet with representatives of the Jewish community, participate in moving services at the Patronato Synagogue, hear presentations by local and accompanying scholars, and visit world class museums and the Holocaust exhibit at the Sephardic Center. From Havana, we will take an overnight excursion to the outlying provinces of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we will visit Cuba's newest synagogue in Santa Clara and meet with members of the small but dedicated Jewish communities in Santa Clara and Cienfuegos. We invite you to join us!



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.

## Program Details

Land program cost: \$3960\*  
(plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage membership fee for non-members)

- Seven nights accommodations
- Full breakfast daily; three lunches and three dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, museum and site entrance fees
- All group transportation within Cuba via deluxe air conditioned coach

*\*Per person, based on double occupancy for those registered by May 1, 2015. Cost after that \$4200. Single supplement available at \$450. Gratuities (\$150) and visa fee (\$80).*

*A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person will secure your place on the trip. A second non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person due on August 9, 2015. The balance is due in full by October 9, 2015.*

## Tentative Daily Itinerary\*

### Tuesday, February 9



Early morning departure from Miami on charter flight to Havana. Check in to deluxe Meliá Cohiba Hotel, one of the best in Havana. Presentation by Professor Maritza Corrales on “The Jews of Cuba,” followed by orientation, reception, and sumptuous buffet dinner at our hotel (included).

Dr. Maritza Corrales is a Cuban historian who has dedicated her life’s work to re-searching the history of Jews in Cuba. Based in Havana, she has been a consulting scholar to numerous research and academic institutions in Cuba, and has lectured at Universities in the United States, Israel, Spain, and South America.

### Wednesday, February 10

We will begin this morning by meeting with a leading Cuban authority on Cuban art and the architecture of Havana, followed by a visit the Sephardic Center in Old Havana to meet with Mayra Levy, President of the Center.

Dr. Levy, a physician, and one of Havana’s Jewish community leaders, will discuss the history and role of Sephardic Jews in Cuba and a history dating back to the first Jewish immigration from Turkey following WWI.

Following our meeting with Dr. Levy, we will visit the Sephardic Center’s small, but moving Holocaust museum – the first exhibit about the Holocaust displayed in Cuba.

Following lunch (included) and a walk in Old Havana, return to our hotel for discussion, dialogue, and music.

Evening free: dinner on our own.

### Thursday, February 11

Accompanied by Professor Corrales, we will visit the Jewish cemeteries of Havana- time permitting, both Ashkenazi and Sephardic. Following lunch (included) at La Barracca (outdoor restaurant of the Hotel Nacional), walk through Central Havana before an afternoon visit to Adath Israel, the Orthodox Jewish congregation, where we will learn about the work they are doing with the elderly and impoverished Jews in Havana and ascertain the needs they have for continuing this special project.

Evening: panel discussion and dialogue with scholars. Dinner on our own or optional activities.

### Friday, February 12

Morning: private guided tour of the National Museum of Fine Arts led by the Deputy Curator of the museum and who is also a member of Havana’s Jewish community. Lunch at El Aljibe restaurant (included) and afternoon meeting with leaders of the Patronato – center of the Jewish community in Cuba.

This evening, we will attend services at the Beth Shalom, the Conservative Synagogue of Havana, with a festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel (included) to follow.



*The National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana*

## Traveling with You...

### Trip Leader



**Aryeh Maidenbaum, Ph.D.**, has a strong background in the fields of History, Psychology and Jewish

Studies and more than 25 years experience in organizing and leading educational tours – including trips focusing on Jewish culture and history. Director of the N.Y. Center for Jungian Studies, Dr. Maidenbaum received his Doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Former faculty member at N.Y.U., he is a contributing author to *Current Theories of Psychoanalysis*. Among his publications are “The Search for Spirit in Jungian Psychology;” *Lingering Shadows: Jungians, Freudians and Anti-Semitism*; and *Jung and the Shadow of Anti-Semitism*.

### Accompanying Faculty



**Evry Mann, M.A.** is a percussionist, composer and writer who holds masters degrees in religious studies and in

music composition. Founder of the Center for Creative Education – a non-profit cultural center in Stone Ridge, New York – he was an artist in residence with the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico for six years, performing throughout the country. Ev has led over 50 trips to Cuba to study music, dance, and visual art, and authored the section on Music and Nightlife in Havana for the “Time Out” Guidebook. He has also studied traditional African music in Mali and Senegal and worked extensively with the Ballet Folklórico Cutumba of Santiago de Cuba.



### Saturday, February 13

(Optional) Attend services at one of Havana’s three Jewish synagogues, or free to rest, enjoy the Cohiba’s amenities, and/or explore Havana on our own.

Evening: (optional) attend a cultural activity in Havana.

### Sunday, February 14

Early morning departure from Havana for Santa Clara (our rooms will be kept at the Cohiba; only an overnight bag needed). See 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 (included) and overnight stay.

### Monday, February 15

Meet with Jewish community representatives in Cienfuegos and understand firsthand the dedication needed to maintaining Jewish life in this small community. Visit the home of its president which serves as a Jewish center on Shabbat and holidays and deliver donations of food and medications we will bring with us. Return to Havana with time to rest, relax or walk about Havana on our own before an evening closing meeting and dinner (included) at our hotel.

Afternoon: Free to explore Havana on our own.

### Tuesday, February 16

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



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## Accommodations

### Hotel Meliá Cohiba

The Meliá Cohiba in Havana is a five star, deluxe, Spanish operated hotel—one of the 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.



## Registration Information

### Participation

Limited to 30 participants, the program will entail considerable walking, including uneven terrain. Participants need to be in active, good health, able to keep up with the group, ready to travel and experience group and cultural differences with grace. If you have any questions, or need help with your travel plans, please call the Jewish Heritage Travel Office at 845.256.0197.

### Insurance

Participants are 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.

### Cancellations

Refunds and Insurance: All cancellations must be received by The Jewish Heritage Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received up to 90 days prior to departure: full refund less non-refundable deposits, per person; 89–60 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after non-refundable deposits. No refunds after this date.

### Changes

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



Jewish Heritage Travel

A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage

### How to register

#### 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

#### 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 For:

Trip title/country

Dates of travel

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Phone number

Cell phone number

### PARTICIPANT NAMES:

### 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.

### FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

I will make my own flight arrangements .  I need assistance and will call (845-256-0197).

### DEPOSIT

Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel 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

Please send your non-refundable deposit for \$1000 per participant by mail or fax (see details at left)