Cuba New Year’s; Exploring the past, present and future of Cuba  
December 27, 2024 - January 5, 2025  
Final draft itinerary, subject to change

Friday 12/27  
Midday flight arrives in Havana, welcome by AMISTUR guide  
Panoramic visit to the historic Plaza de la Revolucion.  
**Check in at Hotel Gran Aston, Havana**  
8.30pm Welcome dinner at Jardin de los Milagros  
Evening on your own

Saturday 12/28  
Breakfast at hotel  
9.00am Early morning visit to Alamar Urban Garden to learn more about the role of urban gardens and organic farming in Cuba  
11.30pm Lunch at Marazul Restaurant  
1.30pm Visit to the municipality of Regla located across the bay of Havana. Regla has a long tradition of practicing the religion of Santeria and so we will visit the Church of the Virgin of Regla, the Black Madonna, and who is syncretized with the deity of Yemaya. Here will also learn a bit more about AfroCuban religions  
4pm Visit with Gisela Arandia, Afro Cuban expert on race and gender  
Return to the hotel  
Dinner on your own  
After dinner we’ll reconvene to enjoy an evening of Cuban Jazz.

Sunday 12/29  
Breakfast at the hotel  
9.00am Today, we will spend the morning in Habana Vieja, a designated UNESCO Heritage site. We will begin with a walking tour of the three main plazas; Plaza de las Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza del Catedral, Plaza San Francisco de Asís.  
10.30am We will see the museum of the Revolution located in the beautiful former presidential palace and now closed for renovations (if open by the time the group visits, we will arrange a tour). Nearby, we will also visit the Granma yacht, the historic boat used to transport Fidel Castro, Che Guevarra and other fighters for the Cuban Revolution from Mexico to Cuba.  
Last, we will make a quick stop to La Esquina Caliente in Havana’s Central park where Cubans go to debate their national pastime, Baseball.  
12.00 pm Visit to Corral Falso 259 Community Art Project enjoy lunch prepared by members of the community. After lunch we will tour the project to learn about this thriving community space.  
3:00 pm Visit to Velo Cuba, a small business enterprise in Cuba, enjoy a short bike ride of the area.  
Return to the hotel.
Enjoy dinner and evening on your own.

**Monday 12/30**

Breakfast at the hotel
9:00 am Visit to the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) an NGO responsible for fostering people to people diplomacy through solidarity with groups worldwide. They are your host institution while in Cuba. Here we will discuss US and Cuba relations, politics, etc.
11:00am Have an exchange with the Union of Cuban Jurists to learn about the historic more inclusive changes to the new Cuban family code and the rights of religious people.
12:30 pm Lunch at La Bodeguita del Medio
2:30 pm Visit to the Literacy Museum and with the director there to learn of one of Cuba's most important pillars of the Revolution.
Return to the hotel making a stop at the historic Plaza de la Revolución where leader Fidel Castro addressed millions of Cubans on special occasions.
Return to the hotel to rest up.
7:00 pm Travel across the bay of Havana to enjoy dinner (not included and location tba) with a great view of the Bay of Havana followed by the historic “Cañonazo”; a cannon firing ceremony dating back to colonial times, held at the Morro Castle.

**Tuesday 12/31, New Year’s Eve**

Breakfast at the hotel
9:00 am Visit with an Architect to learn about Cuba’s restoration efforts, housing and development.
11:00 pm Visit with an Economist to learn about the impacts of the blockade, Cuba’s development and more.
12:30 pm Lunch
3:00 pm Enjoy a beginner level dance class to learn some basic Cuban dance steps in time for New Year’s celebrations.
Return to hotel for afternoon on your own and to prepare for New Year’s Eve dinner and celebratory activities TBA

**Wednesday, 1/1/2025 New Year’s Day**

New Year’s Day & National Holiday marking the completion of 66th Year Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution
Breakfast at your hotel
9.00am Depart for Varadero
12.00pm Arrive in Varadero, enjoy free time and lunch at Arenas Doradas
4.00pm Continue on to Trinidad, accommodation at Hotel Melia.
Dinner at the hotel
Evening on your own

**Thursday, 1/2/2025 Continued State Holiday**

Breakfast at the hotel
9.30am Walking tour of the UNESCO Designated Spanish Colonial town of Trinidad
Visit to local artists market to learn of the rich arts of Trinidad
12.00pm Lunch at Plaza Mayor
2.00pm Visit to casa de Yemaya or other Cultural space such as Casa Cultura, etc.
Dinner on your own
After dinner we will reconvene to participate in a CDR Visit. The CDR’s or Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, are essentially a block organization that can be found in every Cuban neighborhood since the time of the revolution. During this visit you will learn how the committees serve the community now. This is also the best time to bring donations to the community as well as enjoy snacks and beverages together and more importantly to exchange with Cuban’s in their neighborhood and learn about the realities of their day to day life.

Friday 1/3/2025
Breakfast at the hotel and check out
8.30am Depart for Havana via Santa Clara
Upon arrival in Santa Clara, visit the Che Guevara Monument
12.30pm Lunch at los Caneyes
2.30pm Return to Havana
Check in at Hotel
Dinner and evening on your own. We encourage you to visit the Fabrica del Arte Cubano; a dynamic art and music space located in an old cooking oil factory.
For Ages 18+.

Saturday 1/4/2025
Breakfast at hotel
9.30am Visit to the newly opened Fidel Castro Center of Studies to learn about their programs to carry out the study of the former leader’s life-work and thoughts.
11.00am Head to the Almacenes San José Artisan Market project, a market located on the bay housing various artisan and artistic objects, as well as food vendors. This market is a great way to see small independent businesses and lively cultural life.
12.30 Enjoy Lunch at San Cristobal paladar; the same paladar that President Obama dined at whilst visiting Cuba.
Return to the hotel and afternoon on your own to prepare for your return.
7.00pm Enjoy a classic car ride to our farewell dinner at La Torre

Sunday 1/5/2025
Breakfast at your hotel
Depart for the airport to return to US