CUBA

January 6-14, 2015

ART GUILD TRAVEL
Visiting Cuba, the vibrant but isolated island only 90 miles from US shores, is legally possible for Americans only through special, licensed programs such as this outstanding Art Guild journey arranged through Cuba Cultural Travel. Entitled People to People, the goal is to increase understanding of Cuban culture, including music, dance, history, architecture, and especially the visual arts.

Our group will enjoy extraordinary access to private homes, studios, and performance sites, meeting Cubans person-to-person at every stop. Our eyes will be opened through exploring Old Havana with its mix of eclectic architectural styles, by interacting with its still-vigorous arts and music scene, and by learning about Cuban history and politics. Everywhere we go, we will meet warm-hearted, friendly people living amid the contrasts of modern day Cuba.

Our home will be the centrally located Hotel Parque Central, just a short walk to the numerous music and gathering spots of Havana. Many of our meals will be in paladors, small restaurants Cubans are allowed to open in their private homes. We will have local guides throughout our week.

CUBA: People to People

Highlights of Trip:

A walking tour with local architect, discovering the many plazas and promenades of Old Havana, since 1982 a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Some of the once-glorious Spanish Colonial and Art Deco architectural gems we will encounter:

- Castillo del Morro (1589) and nearby Cabana Fortress, where we’ll attend the traditional canon blast ceremony.
- Catedral de San Cristobal, built in 1787, a Baroque confection.
- Colon Cemetary (1876), a grand historical and sculptural site.
- El Capitolio Nacional (1929), styled after US Capitol building, emblematic of American political influence in Pre-Revolutionary Cuba.
- Gran Teatro de la Habana (1915), where live opera and ballet is still performed.
- The Bacardi Building (1930), a fabulous Art Deco structure expropriated from Bacardi family in 1959 when Fidel Castro came to power.
- The National Hotel (1930), built when American tourism flourished, modeled on the Breakers Hotel in Miami. Enjoy an authentic Cuban mojito.
- The nearby Malecon, a popular European-style boulevard running along the edge of Havana Harbor. You may recognize vintage American cars of the 1950’s used as taxis, cruising here and throughout Havana.
Visits to studios and workshops of contemporary Cuban artists, including:

- Jose Toirac, internationally renowned painter with work in New York MoMA.
- Kcho, beloved Cuban sculptor and installation artist.
- Yoan Capote, "rising international star" who exhibited at the Venice Biennale.
- 7ma y 60, collective of 6 female artists, meeting us to discuss their work.
- Jose Fuster, ceramic artist who turned his neighborhood into a unique, whimsical work of public art. Our lunch at his home will be unforgettable.

Tours of Havana’s many art venues:

- The Museum of Cuban Art, with a curator guiding us from colonial to present day Cuban art.
- Wilfredo Lam Center, showing contemporary art from developing countries.
- Taller de Grafica Experimental, leading printmaking workshop and school.
- Fototeca de Cuba, prestigious showcase for leading Cuban photographers.
- The Museum of Decorative Arts, a treasure trove housed in a formerly opulent mansion.
- Factoria Habana, contemporary art gallery on the elegant Plaza Vieja.

...plus The Museo de la Revolucion, tracing Cuban political development from early slave uprisings, through the 1959 revolt of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, to the Soviet Era ending in 1991.

Invitations to private homes and collections:

- An American expat/art curator hosts us for dinner in her home.
- An art dealer and collector of young Cuban artists welcomes us to her beautiful home with some of these artists present to talk with us.

~ A trip back in time to Ernest Hemingway’s beloved hilltop estate, La Finca Vigia, including his boat Pilar, all left as it was when he was forced to leave in 1960.

~ Day excursion to Vinales Valley in the western district of Pinar Del Rio, considered the most beautiful part of Cuba with its jungle-covered peaks surrounding fertile farms growing world-famous Cuban tobacco. Lunch will be a community event, shared with local families, with a visit to a children’s art center following.

~ Talks by local experts on Santeria, the Afro-Cuban religion and culture, and on Cuban Music and Flamenco Dancing, including performances. Marc Frank, author of Cuban Revelations, will speak and is sure to answer many of our remaining questions.

Photos courtesy of Carlos Dell’Agua
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Trip Cost: $4,675 per person (double occupancy), based on a minimum of 20 participants.

Single supplement: $400  Deposit: $1,000 per person  Balance due on or before October 15, 2014

Travelers must be both current members of OMCA at the Supporter level ($175) or above and of the Art Guild ($20). For questions and answers about your OMCA or Art Guild memberships, please contact Christine Visita, OMCA Membership Dept: 510-318-8520 or cvisita@museumca.org

Costs include: Round trip airfare Miami to Havana, Cuba; 1 night at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Miami; 7 nights at Havana’s Five Star Hotel Parque Central; 7 breakfasts; 7 lunches; 5 dinners; entrance fees to all sites listed in the itinerary; visits with artists; all land transportation by deluxe private coach; full time escort from Cuba Cultural Travel as well as local guides; handling of two pieces of luggage per person at the hotel and the airport; all gratuities for guides and drivers; complete pre-departure packet including a recommended reading list; destination information; Cuban Insurance (Health and Evacuation); compliance with U.S. Treasury Department.

Trip price does NOT include round trip airfare to and from Miami, Cuban Airport Departure Tax and Airline baggage fees for Miami/Havana/Miami flights. Travel Insurance is strongly recommended.

Cancellation Policy: For cancellation prior to October 15, 2014, all monies will be refunded less a $500 cancellation fee plus expenses incurred. After October 15 no refunds will be made. Cancellations must be in writing. No refunds will be made for any unused portions of the trip.

Please note: While every effort will be made to carry out the trip as planned, it is subject to changes deemed necessary by, and/or beyond the control of, the OMCA/AG and/or CUBA CULTURAL TRAVEL. The OMCA Art Guild and/or CUBA CULTURAL TRAVEL reserves the right to cancel the trip prior to departure for any reason including insufficient number of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the trip at any time. CST#202-4420-40 License#CT-17496

This trip is physically active and includes considerable walking and standing; participants must be able to keep up with the pace of the group and to climb stairs without handrails or assistance.

For additional information, contact Trip Leaders: Candy Caldwell 925-283-0269 or Sharon Francis 510-531-6010

The purpose of the Art Guild is to support the Oakland Museum of California through acquisitions and financial grants for education and exhibitions.

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To reserve your space, return this form with a deposit check in the amount of $1,000 (per person) made payable to the Oakland Museum of CA Art Guild (OMCA/AG). Space is limited, so please reserve early. Reservations are taken in the order received.

Mail to: Sharon Francis, 3322 Butters Dr., Oakland, CA 94602

Please print clearly

Name(s) ___________________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Address  ____________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________________________ Cell Phone ______________________________

☐ I will be sharing a room with ____________________________

☐ Single Supplement ($400)  ☐ I would prefer a roommate, but if one cannot be found, I am willing to pay the single supplement.

Travelers must be both members of OMCA at the Supporter level ($175) or above and of the Art Guild ($20). In the case of trip over subscription, current members will be given preference. To help secure a place on the trip and to become a member or to upgrade your memberships, please contact Christine Visita, OMCA membership Dept.: 510-318-8520 or cvisita@museumca.org

The Oakland Museum of CA Art Guild and Cuba Cultural Travel disclaim all responsibility and/or liability for damage or injury to property or persons occurring during this tour. Your reservation request constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

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Signature of Traveler Reserving Space