



**INSIDE JEWISH CUBA
JDC Entwine Insider Trip**

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day One: Transfer to Cuba

- Morning Arrive in Havana
- Welcome to Cuba: Brunch & Introductions
- Afternoon Tour of Downtown Havana & Activities
- Evening Introduction to Jewish Life in Cuba & JDC's Role in Addressing Community Challenges with JDC Representatives Gabriel Lasry at the Hotel
- Core Conversation #1: *Setting Our Intentions*
- Cocktails and Dinner at Vistamar Paladar with Local Young Jewish Community Members

In the mid-1990's, Cubans started welcoming paying diners into their houses as part of the government's introduction of limited private enterprise. In theory, family members are the only employees at these paladares. There are at least a dozen excellent paladares in Havana, some of which have evolved into high-quality restaurants. Paladares come and go all the time, either by choice or because they are closed down for a violation of the rules, which include not being allowed to seat more than 12 customers at a time.

Evening Out to Fábrica de Arte Cubano (Optional)

Overnight in Havana

Day Two: Jewish Life in Havana; Past & Present

- Morning Breakfast at the Hotel
- Visit to the Jewish Cemetery
- Religious Life in Cuba: Visit to Adath Israel & Conversation with Community Leaders & Walk Through the Old Jewish Quarter
- A Window into Cuba's Rich History: Walking Tour of Refurbished Old Havana

Adath Israel, which was built in 1959, is Cuba's only Orthodox synagogue.

La Habana Vieja, or Old Havana, is rich in architectural heritage and has an impressively high concentration of museums and galleries, many of which are being restored.

DRAFT ITINERARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Afternoon Lunch & Discussion with Senior Jewish Community Leaders at La Moneda Cubana

Core Conversation #2: *Arevut and JDC*

Visit to the Patronato: Tour of Community Pharmacy & Discussion with Adela Dworin, President of the Cuban Jewish Community

Built in the 1950's, the Patronato de la Casa de la Comunidad Hebrea is the biggest of the city's three functioning Jewish community centers. Jews of all ages gather there for religious worship and education. The Patronato is also home to a JDC-supported pharmacy, computer center and library.

Evening Shabbat Services Followed by Chicken Dinner at Patronato

JDC's Shabbat Chicken Dinner program, established in 1995, provides a weekly meal to some 400 people following Friday services at the three synagogues in Havana, as well as the communities of Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba. Through this program, Cuban Jews are provided with a much-needed source of protein, as the average ration card in Cuba provides for no more than a pound of meat per individual per month.

Evening Out (Optional)

Overnight in Havana

Day Three: Shabbat in Havana

Morning Breakfast at the Hotel

Cuba's Sephardic Community: Visit to the Sephardic Hebrew Center & Discussion with Community Leaders

Sixty five percent of Cuba's total Jewish population is Sephardic. The Sephardic Hebrew Center was founded in 1954, shortly before nearly 90% of the Jewish community emigrated. Today, the congregation is composed of 80 families. The Sephardic Center also houses a Holocaust Remembrance exhibit.

Group Reflection at the Sephardic Center

Afternoon Lunch at El Litoral OR StarBien

Core Conversation #3: *Arevut and Me*

Evening Party & Havdalah Ceremony with the Community at the Patronato

Concert Celebration, Dinner & Salsa Dancing with Local Young Jewish Community Members

Evening Out (Optional)

Overnight in Havana

Day Four: Havana

Morning Breakfast at the Hotel

Beach Time

Afternoon Lunch at Local Restaurant

DRAFT ITINERARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Beach Activities & Sports with the Local Young Jewish Community Members

Evening Core Conversation#4: *Action*

Dinner at Local Restaurant

Cocktails at the Hotel Nacional

The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is Havana's most famous hotel. The Nacional first opened its doors in 1930 to accommodate U.S. tourists attracted by Havana's gambling opportunities, and is the only hotel in Cuba that is a national monument. The hotel, with its Moorish-influenced architecture, occupies a commanding position on Taganana Hill, the site of the 18th-century Santa Clara Gun Battery. It also offers an impressive view of the Malecón, a pedestrian promenade and seawall, constructed between 1901 and 1954 in order to maximize access to the seafront.

Day Five: In Transit

Morning Depart Cuba