



INTERCHANGE



Cuba



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ATTENTION DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Group - link programmes to Cuba

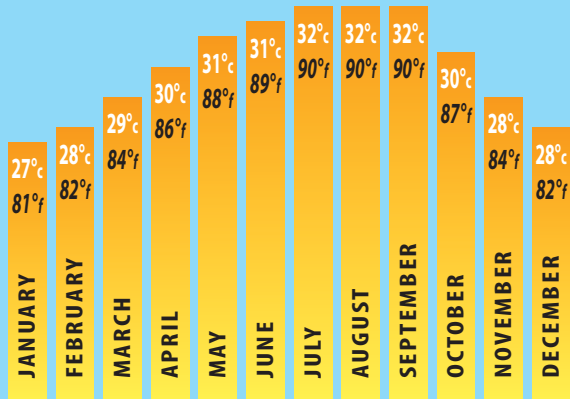
- Our Music programme offers contact and links with local schools, pupils and teachers as well as a full investigation of the subject areas.
- Cuba is beyond question the most important source of music in Latin America. Its root rhythms created the pan-Latin music of salsa, which continues to provide abundant riches, now globally recognized in the success of the Buena Vista Social Club projects. Cuban musical success and influence is by no means new. Its danzon groups helped to shape jazz in the early decades of the 20th century and continued at the forefront of the music through to the 1950's unleashing "mambo" and "chachacha" crazes throughout Europe and the US, and providing the template for much modern African music. Even after the non-Latin West backed away from post-revolutionary Cuba, the island continued to produce a wealth of jazz, salsa and son, as well as the influential nueva trova or "new song".
- Our staff in Cuba and in the UK have specialized knowledge of organising educational tours and can visit your school to brief pupils and staff planning the trip.
- As our service is tailor-made please feel free to contact me to discuss your preferences and dates for a group visit to Cuba. Please note we provide full risk assessment support documentation and hold public liability insurance cover of £5,000,000.

We look forward to being of service.

Gordon Burnett
Managing Director



Catch this unique Island before it changes



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN CUBA

It is impossible to understand developments in Cuban music without taking into account the politics of the island. Havana, during the 1920s and 1930s, it becoming the favourite nightclub playground for American tourists. After 1959 and the Revolution, the island's music business was, like everything else, transformed. Radio stations and record companies became state institutions. As hotels and nightclubs remained empty, many musicians joined those Cubans leaving the country for exile in Miami or New York. For the Cubans who remained the US boycott meant a desperate struggle for economic survival. For musicians, at least until the liberalizing of the economy in the late 1990s, opportunities to record and sell records, or to tour, were severely limited. It is only in the past few years that Cuban music, as played in Cuba, has re-entered the international mainstream.

On the island, the post-Revolution music scene soon shifted from the glamour of nightclubs and big orchestras to more local music-making centred on "Casas de la Trova", the best place to hear music in Cuba. Most towns have at least one of these clubs, which are essentially a Revolution-era update of an old Cuban institution – a place where trovas or ballads are sung by trovadores. Nowadays the performances are more diverse and often completely spontaneous, with people joining in and getting up to play whenever they feel like it.

The "casas" range from grand old colonial buildings with courtyards and palm trees, to small, impromptu performing spaces

With a few chairs off the street. In practice, they are like informal clubs or bars where musicians gather to play, people gather to listen and everybody exchanges opinions and reminiscences.



MUSIC PROGRAMME TO CUBA (Havana and Vinales)

DAY 1 | Departure from London on the scheduled airline services of Virgin, Cubana or similar. Transfer on arrival to the Hotel Inglaterra or similar in the old city of Havana.

DAY 2 | Transfer to the Music Academy for a cultural exchange and meeting with staff and pupils and the opportunity to rehearse together and give impromptu performance. Lunch at local restaurant. | **Overnight in Havana.**

DAY 3 | AM. Transfer to a music club in Havana City. Visit and talk with staff and young Cubans. PM. Visit to the Museum of the Revolution. | **Overnight in Havana.**

DAY 4 | Transfer to a high performance Music School with the opportunity to put on a performance. Overnight in Havana. | **Overnight in Havana.**

DAY 5 | Departure for Vinales. Located in the Verdant Valley with dramatic limestone outcrops is the village of Vinales. These limestone hills, or mogotes, rise up from the valley floor and are covered in lush vegetation. The region is very fertile and an important crop, for both Vinales and Cuba, is tobacco. Plantations stretch into the valleys and the air is heavy with the pleasant aroma of tobacco leaf waiting to be processed into world famous Havana cigars. | **Overnight in Los Jazmines Hotel.**

DAY 6 | Visit to the cigar factory of Pinar del Rio, Indian Cave and tobacco plantations. Lunch at Palenque de Los Cimarrones. (You have to pass a cave under a mogote (a limestone monolith) for about 150 metres and then you will find the restaurant, which has been designed following the traditions of African slaves that lived in this part of the valley last century). | **Overnight at Los Jazmines.**

DAY 7 | Return to Havana. Optional visits or sightseeing. | **Overnight in Havana.**

DAY 8 | Departure to Havana Airport for overnight flight back to the UK.

DAY 9 | Arrive London.

NB: AIR TRAVEL TIMINGS AND PROGRAMMES DETAILS MAY VARY • AIRCRAFT TYPE UNKNOWN AT TIME OF PUBLICATION

PROGRAMMES

The programmes are flexible and can be amended in discussion with you in order to accommodate your own requirements regarding content, meetings, visits, cities and levels of accommodation.

Minimum Group Size

We quote for any group size with a minimum of 10 persons travelling and have no upper limit on numbers.

Sample Cost Per Person

From £1,150 per person in low season for a group of 30 persons travelling between January and June (but excluding outbound travel during the Easter period) and from September to mid December.

Cuba Tours Prices include

- Return flights on scheduled air services to Havana of either Virgin Atlantic direct, Iberia via Madrid, Air France via Paris, or Cubana via Holguin.
- Tourist class hotel accommodation based on 2-bedded rooms with private bathroom and toilet.
- Meals as specified.
- Excursion programme including entrance costs and local guides as conditioned coach transportation.
- Services of full time English speaking guide whilst on tour in the cities.
- Cuban tourist card (like a Visa).
- 1 Free Leader Place for every 10 paying persons.
- Half Price leader place for every 5 paying persons. Additional adults can travel at student rate.
- Groups of 20 or more receive 1 complimentary single room and any additional single rooms must be paid for as indicated.
- UK departure and security taxes are included.

Excluded

- Cuba Departure Tax payable at airport on leaving currently the equivalent in local currency of about £14 per person in cash.
- Insurance - optional cover available on request.
- Single room supplement £16 per person per night.

Validity

All prices quoted are subject to re-confirmation and availability on receipt of firm booking with specific dates, itinerary and numbers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodation: Interchange tours are based on tourist class hotels located close to city centres or otherwise conveniently located for access to other historic cities of Cuba. Accommodation is based on taking breakfast at the hotel and either lunch or dinner during the day sometimes in the hotel or in a suitable local restaurant depending on the programme.

Interchange: Interchange was established in 1973, organising professional interest group tours world-wide but with a particular focus on the former Soviet Union, China and Cuba. From the moment we start to co-operate you will receive personal attention. We aim to build on our excellent record of repeat business and develop an itinerary to suit the needs of your group.

Consumer Protection: The air holiday in this leaflet is ATOL Protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2429 (G Burnett trading as Interchange). In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. We reserve the right to change the information in our leaflet. This leaflet is issued on the sole responsibility of the Tour Operator. It is not issued on behalf of and does not commit the Airline(s) mentioned therein, or any Airline whose services are used in the course of the tour. The liability of any Airline involved in the carriage of passengers and their baggage shall be limited by the terms and conditions of carriage of the Airlines.

Health: There are no compulsory vaccinations at the moment but Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A are recommended. We also recommend that you consult your doctor or contact the Health Advice for Travellers on the the Health Literature Line on telephone number **0800 555777**.

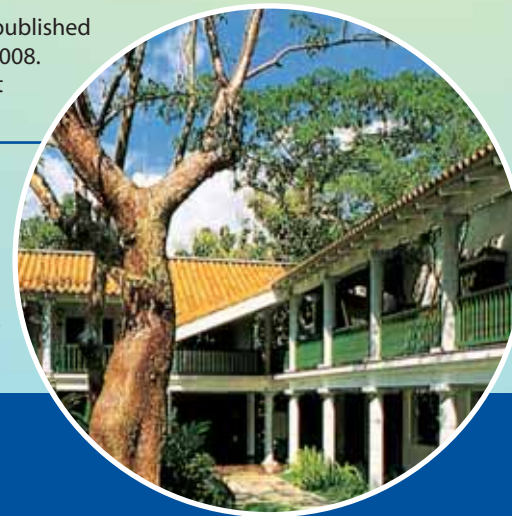
Climate: Cuba is warm and sunny all year round and it is possible to swim all year. The rainy season runs from June to October but the rain comes in short, refreshing bursts before the sun comes out again. The hurricane season is usually in September, but in the past quarter century tourism has remained largely unaffected by any serious adverse weather conditions.

Currency and Airfares: Local costs are based on the £1 = US\$1.97 as published in the Financial Times on 11th April 2008 and airfares as at 11th April 2008.

Enquiries and Bookings: Please ring, email or write to Gordon Burnett who will be pleased to discuss your requirements in greater detail.

A Selection of Schools who have used our Travel Services:

Haberdashers Aske's Hatcham College, London
Bishop Challoner School, Kent • Sheffield High School
Edgbarrow School, Bracknell • The Ashcombe School, Dorking
Djanogly CTC, Nottingham • Northampton High School
Presdales School, Hertfordshire • Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke
Nicholas Breakspear School, St Albans



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INTERCHANGE OFFERS SIMILAR SERVICES IN CHINA, RUSSIA, GHANA AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA