



Jewish Federation of Rockland County- Mission to Cuba

October 29 - November 2, 2014

Join us on this insightful trip of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. We will have experiences offered to few travelers to this tropical island nation. You will make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters and see the impact of your Federation dollars at work.

A Deposit of \$500(pp) is due by Tuesday, September 2nd.

(This is refundable until September 9th)

Final Payment due September 17

Cost: \$2750 Double Occupancy*

\$3050 Single Occupancy*

***There is a per person minimum gift of \$613 to the annual 2014-15 Federation annual campaign (payable by June 2015). In addition, \$100 per person tzedakah donation for the Cuban Jewish community, payable to Federation prior to the mission.**

Your program includes:

- Four nights, five days in Cuba
- One night Miami.
- Round Trip Air Miami - Havana, American Airlines plane and crew
- Accommodations at:
 - o **Crowne Plaza Hotel** - near Miami International Airport
 - o **Hotel Melia Cohiba** - Havana (5-Star hotel) - 4 nights.

This mission is solely to assist the Jews of Cuba under a general religious VISA by the US Department of the Treasury.

Frommer's Review

Sitting just off the Malecón, this high-rise hotel, with its sharp angles and alternating walls of stone and glass, is probably the most modern building in Havana. Moreover, the Meliá Cohiba, comes closest to providing all the services and amenities luxury travelers are looking for in a top-rated hotel. Rooms are large and comfortable, and most have excellent views, particularly those on the higher floors...and it's got the best-equipped health clubs I've found at any hotel in Havana. The Cohiba has a wide range of restaurants and shops, and even its buffet restaurant is a treat, with live cook stations and enough space and flow as to not feel like a cattle car. The **Habana Café**; is one of the better club/restaurants in town, with a nightly floorshow and live music.

- **11 included meals** - 4 breakfasts; 3 lunches; 4 dinners including *paladares* (privately owned restaurants) of Cuba.
- Your **guide** can assist you with your free time and evening activities to help you experience the vibrancy and rhythms of Cuban culture. Your guide will offer **optional group evening** activities that are not part of the mission itinerary.
- **Meetings** and discussions with the Jewish leadership and Community.
- **Shabbat evening** services at one of the main synagogue of Havana. The synagogue is within walking distance of the hotel.
- **Professional** English speaking guide well versed in the history and culture of the island. Experienced driver.
- **Entrance fees** to included sites. To better understand the cultural environment of Cuba's Jewish community, the mission includes visits to Cuba's significant cultural and historic sites with particular attention to their significance to Jewish life in Cuba.
- **Time to explore on your own.**
- Presentation by historian of the Jewish Community on the **history of the Jewish people in Cuba**
- **Tour of Bellas Artes Museum** by curator who is a member of the Havana Jewish Community.
- **Tips** at included meals.
- **Water when on the bus** - 2 bottles per person per bus day.
- **Airport transfers** in Cuba and Miami.
- **Porterage** and tip at Miami airport and hotels in Cuba.
- **USA airport tax.**
- **Cuban Visa** for US citizens. (Cuban born require special visa)
- **Land transportation** in Cuba by private **A/C motor coach.**
- **Health insurance** in Cuba includes Medevac to USA.

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Not included:

- Trip cancellation/health insurance - **strongly recommended**
- Air to/from Miami
- Cuban Airport departure tax (\$30)
- **Gratuity** to your driver and guide - a small “thank you” voluntary gratuity to guide and driver is usual. Normally \$40 pp for the guide; \$20 pp for the driver
- **Cash Tzedakah** for Cuban Jewish communities (\$100 per person payable in advance to the Jewish Federation of Rockland)
- **Suggested Donations per participant** - 5 pounds of donations for distribution to the Jewish Community - participants will be provided with an up to date needs list once deadline has passed.

Deadlines:

- Deposit and registration forms must be received no later than **September 2, 2014**. No refund of deposit will be given after September 9, 2014.
- Balance payment - due **September 17, 2014**. No refund of balance payment will be given once deadline has passed.
- You may receive a full refund of your deposit or balance payment if written cancelation is received before the close of business on relevant deadline dates.

IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this mission your passport must be valid for at **least six months** after our entry into Cuba.

INSURANCE IN CUBA - In case you need medical treatment, hospitals and clinics for tourists are conveniently located throughout the country. **Cuban medical insurance is included in the price of the mission** and covers 100% of medical expenses up to \$25,000 and re-patriation or transportation due to illness, accident, or death (up to \$7000) - except as noted below. Your hotel has first aid station and nurse for immediate attention to minor illnesses or injuries. Your insurance will cover treatment in the hotel and at a clinic if necessary. **PLEASE NOTE:** Cuban health insurance does not cover treatment for a **pre-existing condition** - you are liable for the costs incurred from the treatment of a preexisting condition. You may seek reimbursement from your USA insurance company; if your USA policy so provides.

HEALTH - **This is not a very strenuous trip.** However, there will be walking over cobbled stone streets and so a certain level of mobility is required. Some buildings that we will visit do not have elevators and stair climbing is necessary. If you have a pre-existing condition, chronic medical condition or question your ability to keep up with the group, **you must speak with Diane Sloyer**