

# Art of Diplomacy Tours – Cuba Policy Visit – January 23-27, 2025

## Thursday, January 23

Arrivals to Havana.

**Meet your CET representative** at the exit of the airport terminal and transfer to lodging.

**Check-in at privately run, boutique hotels** in the Vedado neighborhood. You will have an opportunity to grab a light lunch at your hotel.

6 pm      **21st Century Cuba.** Conversation with expert **Oniel Diaz** about economic reform and the private sector in Cuba.

7:30 pm      **Welcome dinner at La Guarida paladar.** Opened in 1996, it is one of the early private eateries in Cuba's long state-controlled dining scene.

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## Friday, January 24

am      **Conversation with urban planner Miguel Coyula,** Cuba's "Explainer in Chief." Urban planner and professor lays a foundation of knowledge for you with his account of the last 500 years of Cuba and Havana's evolution.

10:30 am      **Behind-the-scenes walking tour of Old Havana.** Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982, as well as off-the-beaten path stops to learn more about living conditions and the local economy.

12:30 pm      **Lunch at El Del Frente.** One of the coolest restaurants in town, it is located on a spacious rooftop terrace/bar surrounded by Old Havana's historic architecture.

2 pm      **Discussion with officials from Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINREX).**

3:30 pm      **Tour of the Lizt Alfonso School,** a women-led dance company and school for local youth, specializing in various types of dance.

*\*Return to accommodations.*

6 pm      **Reception at the residence of Ambassador Benjamin Ziff,** Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Havana.

8 pm      **Dinner with invited foreign diplomat(s) at Atelier,** one of Cuba's first female-led paladars. Housed in the former Cuban Senator's home, Atelier is beautifully decorated to create a charming ambience that matches the delicious home-cooked food.

## Atlanta Cuba Policy Visit – January 23-27, 2025

**Nightlife**      **Attend salsa lessons with a private instructor.** Learn the moves of Cuba's most famous type of dance.

(B, L, D)

Saturday, January 25

*\*\*\*Cuban Entrepreneurship\*\*\**

9 am      **Visit to the new project of IT entrepreneur Giulio Ricci** and learn about the software solutions that are offered to domestic and international clientele.

10:30 am      **Visit a workshop where the Nostalgic Cars team**, husband and wife Julio and Nidialys, repair classic American cars for their car service.

12 pm      **Cuban Entrepreneurship: Interactive lunch with leading voices in Cuba's private sector**, who will discuss Cuban government policies, the impact of U.S. policy and the ins-and-outs of running a private business in Cuba.

*\*Return to accommodations.*

5 pm      **Discussion with independent journalist** who will offer insight into important economic, political and social issues on the island.

6:30 pm      **Unraveling the Cuban Cigar at Café Madrigal:** A private tasting and education with a cigar specialist will explain the cultural staple's history and importance to Cuban culture. **Café Madrigal**, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork.

8 pm      **Dinner reservation on the Rooftop of El Cocinero.** This lovely restaurant is housed in a former factory. Home to Havana's hip, you might think you are in Soho or Madrid. (meal not included – to be paid in cash)

**Nightlife**      **Enjoy art, music and dancing at Fabrica de Arte Cubano.** Explore the multi-media gallery spaces and catch a live performance.

(B, L)

# Atlanta Cuba Policy Visit – January 23-27, 2025

## Sunday, January 26

8:10 am      **Breakout Meetings with Cuban professionals in the areas of:**

- **Healthcare – with Dr. Marcelino Feal**, a Professor of General Surgery at the University Hospital Calixto García. Dr. Feal will provide an overview of the Cuban health care system.
- **Education – with Michael Gonzalez**, historian, University professor and former Director of the Cultural Patrimony Section at the City Historian Office.
- **Religion – with Dr. Maritza Corrales**, a Cuban historian who has dedicated her life's work to researching the history of Jews in Cuba.

12 pm      **Behind-the-Scenes Art & Light Lunch.** Visit the home and studio of an independent Cuban artist and enjoy a light, healthy lunch after a tour of a gallery and a conversation about his/her art and story.

1:30 pm      **Head to Luyano neighborhood for a visit with female hip-hop duo, La Reyna y Real** and a discussion on race and gender at their home; followed by an AfroCuban percussion lesson.

*\*Return to accommodations.*

5 pm      **Visit to the private gallery of Esterio Segura**, one of Cuba's top artists, who is internationally known. Admire both sculptures and paintings, while enjoying the sounds of a Quartet, who will blow you away with their talent.

6:30 pm      **Havana rooftop jam session.** Get down with Cuban music while jamming out with local musicians.

8 pm      **Farewell dinner at Yarini.** Situated in the middle of Havana's new Art District, San Isidro. This bar restaurant is located on top of the art Gallery Taller Gorría.

(B, L, D)

## Monday, January 27

9 am      Depart for Eastern Havana to visit **La Finca Vigía**. Formerly the home of Ernest Hemingway, it still houses his expansive collection of books and his boat El Pilar.

Opportunity for visit to the artisan market **Feria San Jose** and other sites in Old Havana on way back into town

Check-out of hotel. Depart for Airport. (2 ½ hours prior to flight departure)

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