



Questions about the itinerary? Contact Allen at [arokach@me.com](mailto:arokach@me.com) or 646-519-1751  
Questions about registering? Contact The Studios at [info@tskw.org](mailto:info@tskw.org) or 305-296-0458

## PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP TO CUBA WITH ALLEN ROKACH

### ITINERARY, JUNE 18-27, 2018

*Please note that minor changes at any time are common in Cuba. All times listed are the start times for each activity. In most cases we will plan to meet twenty minutes prior to allow time for transportation. All meals and activities are included in the cost unless indicated by "cost not included."*

### DAY 1, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018: MIAMI–HAVANA–VINALES

**7:00 am ~ Meet in Miami or Fort Lauderdale Airport**

**9:00 am ~ Flight Departs for Havana TBD**

**10:00 am ~ Arrive in Havana**

When we arrive in Havana we will pass through customs, get our bags, and proceed out of the airport. We will be greeted by your Cuban guide and chauffeur.

**11:00 am ~ Depart for Viñales**

Our guide will give us an introduction on the basics of Cuba during the drive to Viñales.

**12:30 pm ~ Welcome Lunch and Visit at the Eco-Community of Las Terrazas**

*Municipio Candelaria, Artemisa, Cuba*

Outside Havana is the city of Las Terrazas where we will have a welcome lunch. Similar to a kibbutz, this community of people has created an eco-village where they live and work together within the Sierra del Rosario Mountains (part of the Guaniguanico range). It began in 1968 as a reforestation project of the Cuban Revolution and is now designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984. In the picturesque whitewashed village that overlooks a small lake, there's a vibrant art community with open studios, woodwork and pottery workshops. But the region's biggest attraction is its verdant natural surroundings, which are ideal for hiking, relaxing and bird watching. You will have lunch with owner Raquel Goenaga in her restaurant where all the cooking is done on open fires.

### **3:00 pm ~ Visit to Finca Benito**

On our way to Viñales we'll stop by a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation tobacco farm that grows and prepares tobacco for the Partágas, Cohiba, and other prestigious Cuban brands. The farmer Benito Camejo will show us the process of how the world's finest tobacco is created.

### **5:00 pm ~ Arrive in Viñales and Check Into Private Bed & Breakfasts**

Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere, Viñales National Park boasts some breathtaking scenery. And the people of Viñales are as friendly and inviting as its landscapes. We will have the chance to split up into small groups and stay in these country homes in the center of town. This is an interesting and personal way of experiencing the Cuban "guajiro" way of life, an opportunity to practice your Spanish, and engage in direct people-to-people contact with the Cuban people.

### **6:30 pm ~ Dinner at Finca Paco y Concha**

Enjoy homemade traditional country-style cuisine at this family restaurant situated on a tobacco farm with a stunning view of the valley. We will have more opportunities for golden hour photography before dinner.

### **9:00 pm ~ Night of Latin Music Under the Stars at Centro Cultural Polo Montañez**

*Plaza de José Martí, Viñales, Cuba*

See and photography Cuban peasants dance, drink, and play music in an open-air rural setting (*optional - cost and transportation not included*).

## **DAY 2, TUESDAY, JUNE 19: VINALES VALLEY**

### **6:00 am ~ Morning and Breakfast at Your B&B**

Every morning your hosts will cook you breakfast. A typical Cuban breakfast includes eggs, bread, cheese, fresh tropical fruit, café con leche (espresso with milk), and juice. Make sure to talk to tell them what your preferences are.

### **7:00 am ~ Morning Photography Walk through the Cuban Countryside**

After an early morning at your "casas," your host family will to walk you to the baseball field on the border of the town and valley. You will walk through the small picturesque farms, geological wonders, and world's finest tobacco-growing region. This region is characterized by its red soil, green vegetation, pine tree forests, tobacco fields, and "mogotes," dramatic limestone mountains that jut out of the valley floor. As you walk through the valley you will encounter many interesting farms, houses, people, and other subjects for your work. Capture the daily life of Cuban families in this region as well as how they grow and harvest tobacco for the cigar. We will photograph people in the tobacco fields; capture how cigars are made; get shots of people smoking cigars.

**12:00 pm ~ Lunch at Finca Paraíso**

*Carretera al Cementerio KM 1 ½, Viñales, Cuba*

Have lunch on what could be considered one of the most beautiful farms in the world. For four generations, this family has owned and operated this organic sustainable agricultural project. It's a farm to table family style meal at their house perched on top of a hill with a magical view of the Viñales Valley. The farmers will take you on a tour of their "finca agroecológica" after lunch.

**2:00 pm ~ Visit with Miguel Angel Rodriguez and Local Artists**

Through this community gallery, these artists have been able to organize and promote their art internationally.

**5:00 pm ~ Dinner with Your Host Families and Night On Your Own**

Your host families will cook dinner for you. This is not previously set up so make sure to schedule the time and menu with them when you first arrive. *(On your own—not included)*

**DAY 3, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20: WESTERN HAVANA****7:00 am ~ Breakfast and Check Out of Your Casas****8:00 am ~ Drive Through the Valley to Capture Final Viewpoints****9:30 am ~ Transfer to Havana****12:00 pm ~ Lunch at Artist José Fuster's House**

*Calle 3A e/ Calle 226 y Calle 222, Jaimanitas*

See the artist who has transformed his entire neighborhood into a Gaudi or Brancusiesque wonderland of sculptures, mosaics, and murals. Fuster has become internationally renowned for community projects where neighbors volunteer their homes to become part of a sprawling masterpiece known as "Fusterlandia." José Fuster's Home and neighborhood gallery.

**2:00 pm ~ Check-in to Your Rooms at Villa Romero and Relax**

*Calle 5ta #457 e/ Paseo y A, Vedado, La Habana*

We'll be staying together at one of Havana's nicest casas conveniently located in the Vedado neighborhood.

**4:00 pm ~ Orientation and Walking Photography Tour**

*Barrio Chino, Capitolio, Parque Central, Paseo de Prado*

After settling into your rooms and before going to dinner you will get acquainted with the neighborhood constructed just after the independence from Spain and the formation of the Republic of Cuba. Bordering Old Havana and Central Havana municipalities, this Central Park area is notable for significant architectural structures that exemplify the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century urban center. We will start from Barrio Chino and proceed to the capitol building (1929) modeled on

the U.S. Capitol, the Grand Theater (1915), walk through Central Park (1877), and see the Neo-Moorish style Inglaterra (1879) and Manzano de Gomez Hotels. Then we'll see the original Bacardí building (1930), an example of tropical Cuban Art Deco and the National Museum of Fine Arts Cuban Collection designed by Cuban architect Alfonso Rodriguez Pichardo (1955) and the Sevilla (1908) Hotel. We'll walk down the famous Promenade, El Paseo del Prado (1929) considered in its time as one of the greatest open spaces in the world, designed by French landscape designer JCN Forestier.

### **7:30 pm ~ Dinner at El Fígaro**

*Aguiar 18 y Avenida de las Misiones, Havana*

We'll finish our walk at the Plazuela de los Barberos to eat dinner at this creative barbershop restaurant next to Arte Corte.

### **9:00 pm ~ Havana Night Activity**

After dinner, we can attend a music or dance performance, to be determined, depending on what is happening in the city that night. Such activities could include the National Ballet, National Contemporary Dance Company, National Symphony Orchestra, jazz concerts, salsa clubs, Tropicana Cabaret, drag shows, baseball games, and other attractions of the Havana nightlife that will be interesting for night photography (*optional - cost not included*).

## **DAY 4, THURSDAY, JUNE 21: OLD HAVANA**

### **7:00 am ~ Breakfast at Villa Romero**

### **8:00 am ~ Photo Exploration of Old Havana**

We will start the day by walking Down Obispo Street from La Floridita to la Plaza de Armas. This is the main pedestrian promenade in Old Havana that features many bustling stores, pharmacies, banks, and other relics of pre-Revolutionary Cuba. It is most interesting early in the morning while Cubans are starting their workday before the tourists arrive. Then we'll have a walking city tour of the four plazas of Old Havana including Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza de Armas, Plaza San Francisco de Asís, and Plaza Vieja. In addition to seeing the main architectural and historic attractions that are packed with people and tourism, we will also wander off onto smaller side streets to see a more authentic Havana life. While we become acquainted with this iconic neighborhood we will be stopping frequently to take pictures along the way. At la Plaza Vieja we will see a contemporary Cuban photography exhibit at La Fototeca.

### **12:00 pm ~ Lunch at Paladar Los Mercaderes**

*Calle Mercaderes #207 e/ Lamparilla y Amargura, Habana Vieja*

We'll stroll down the oldest street in Havana, Calle de los Mercaderes (Merchants Street) to have lunch in a beautiful new restaurant built inside the home of the owner.

### **1:30 pm ~ Return to Villa Romero for Siesta**

Recharge your batteries while the sunlight is strong.

### **3:00 pm ~ Visit to Studio of Photographer Leandro Feal**

*Leandro Feal, Aguacate 509 e/ Sol y Muralla, piso 3, apto. 305*

We will visit the studio of a prominent Cuban photographer of the emerging generation of artists. Will have a chance to see and discuss his work in Cuban and internationally.

### **3:45 pm ~ Continue Photo Tour of Old Havana's Streets**

After lunch, we will explore the side of Old Havana that few people tourists visit. South of Muralla street, this "other half" has a similar architectural grandeur with far more decay and residential life. We will walk the streets of Luz, Acosta, Compostela, Jesús María, Picota, Avenida Bélgica, and Agramonte along with a visit to the Central Train Station, an architectural jewel that is also in a bad state of disrepair but visually stunning.

### **4:30 pm ~ Visit the Liszt Alfonso Dance Academy**

This women-led dance company and school for local youth specializes in flamenco dance and many other popular and formal dance traditions of Cuba. We will watch a rehearsal of the dance group and have a chance to photograph the dancers afterwards.

### **5:30 pm ~ Ferry to Regla**

Ride the people's ferry across the Havana Bay to a neighborhood called Regla that is famous for its Afro-Cuban religious practices. From across the bay we will capture the spectacular vistas of Havana's skyline at dusk.

### **7:30 pm ~ Dinner at El Morro**

### **9:00 pm ~ El Cañonazo**

*La Cabaña, El Morro*

Visit La Cabaña to watch the 9:00 pm procession of shooting a cannonball into the ocean that dates back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to announce the closing of the city gates. The soldiers, dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> century garb still follow commands going back to the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Spanish Infantry Regulations. While there we'll see the fortification and Moro castle that was built to protect the important Havana bay from pirates throughout the centuries.

## **DAY 5, FRIDAY, JUNE 22: CENTRO HABANA AND EL VEDADO**

### **7:00 am ~ Breakfast at Villa Romero**

### **8:00 am ~ Photo Exploration of Centro Havana**

Commonly described as "the most Havana of Havana," the streets of Centro are dense with musicians, old men playing chess or dominoes, flower and peanut vendors, old cars, faded

buildings, and many other characteristic examples of Cuban culture. Including the vegetable and meat markets, ration stores and unique places to capture the people's daily lives.

**10:00 am ~ Visit to the Homes of Afro-Cuban Spiritual Leaders**

*Meet in Parque Trillo, Calles Hospital y San Rafael, Centro Habana, 5-295-9799*

Meet and photograph Afro-Cuban religious practitioners in this authentic and once-in-a-lifetime invitation to go inside the homes of a "palero" (Palo del Monte) and a "babalawo" (Santería). As sacred Congo and Nigerian worldviews combined with Catholicism, new belief systems emerged in Colonial Cuba. Members of these religious traditions will share their altars made to communicate with the dead, the saints, and a pantheon of African deities. This is an opportunity to discuss and photograph religious practices that continue to have great importance in Cuban culture.

**12:00 pm ~ Lunch at Callejón de Hamel**

*Callejón de Hamel, entre calles Espada y Aramburu, Cayo Hueso*

Enjoy a delicious traditional buffet in the home of artist Salvador Gonzalez in Centro Habana and learn about some of the traditional creole dishes that make Cuban cuisine so rich.

**1:30 pm ~ Return to Villa Romero for Siesta**

**3:00 pm ~ Visit to Rafael Trejo Boxing Gym**

**4:00 pm ~ Visit to Judo Center of Santiago "Pupo" Gonzalez**

World-class fighter will explain his youth program and we can photograph the youth training.

**5:00 pm ~ Visit to Javier Guerra DE Cuba Studio**

*CASA: 7-831-6380, Mobile: 5-270-7578*

**6:00 pm ~ Late Afternoon Photo Walks Along the Malecón**

The Malecón is a popular hangout for Cubans during their hours of leisure. Called the "longest sofa in the world," hundreds of Cubans come here to catch a sea breeze, play music, drink rum, seek out romance, and gaze into the Florida Straits. Plan to stay here for images of sunset.

**7:30 pm ~ Dinner at El Cocinero Paladar**

*Calle 26 entre Calle 11 y 13, Vedado, 7-832-2355*

El Cocinero ("The Cook") is just as much about the Havana arts scene as it is about food. Built into the same building as the Cuban Art Factory, this paladar pushes the limits of private industry and government cooperation in an atmosphere offering landmark views and enthusiasm for a variety of mediums. The restaurant makes use of half of a 100 year old, and long abandoned, cooking oil factory along the Almendares River between the Vedado and Miramar neighborhoods.

**9:30 pm ~ La Fábrica de Arte Cubano**

*FAC, Calle 26 entre Calle 11 y 13, Vedado*

The Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC) is a cultural art center located in a former peanut oil factory that has been transformed into a vast and infinite space for contemporary art, photography, and music. It is a shining reflection of what the future might hold for Havana as a cosmopolitan trend-setting cultural stronghold of Latin America.

## **DAY 6, SATURDAY, JUNE 23: CIENFUEGOS**

### **7:00 am ~ Breakfast and Check Out of Villa Romero**

### **8:00 am ~ Depart Havana**

After breakfast we leave Havana and head towards Trinidad with a couple interesting stops along the way.

### **8:30 am ~ Stop in Cojimar**

Stop by this old fishing village that was the inspiration for Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Hemingway kept his fishing boat in this town and spent much of his time here.

### **11:30 am ~ Visit to Palacio del Valle**

*Punta Gorda, Cienfuegos City*

Visit this former 1910's palace of a wealthy sugar baron. The ghosts of Cuba's past, when rich sugar barons built elaborate mansions and planted out vast estates, still seem to linger in the sultry Caribbean air, especially around the central Cuban city of Cienfuegos. Lavishly decorated with Neo-Moorish, Venetian and Gothic motifs and often compared to the Alhambra Palace in Spain, the Mudejar architectural style of this home resembles an elaborate wedding cake. Make sure to enjoy your included cocktail on the rooftop.

### **12:30 pm ~ Lunch at Villa Lagarto Paladar**

*Calle 35, No. 4B, entre Avenida O y Litoral, Punta Gorda, Cienfuegos City*

Have lunch on the water at the tip of the peninsula of Punta Gorda at this charming paladar.

### **2:00 pm ~ City Tour of Cienfuegos Historic Core**

*Parque José Martí, San Fernando e/ Santa Isable & Bouyón, Cienfuegos City*

A relatively young town in Cuban terms, Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 by French settlers from American and Haiti. As a result there's a decidedly French provincial town feel about it and because of Cuba's isolation for so long, the entire town is almost as it was in its 19th century glory days. The entire old city of Cienfuegos is a UNESCO world heritage site and the square, flanked by stunning neo-classical facades and collection of palaces and public buildings, is an example of why it is considered a colonial treasure. Visits will include Central Park, the 19th Century Italian-style Tomas Terry Theater and the Prado Promenade. We will have some free time to explore.

### **5:00 pm ~ Continue on to Trinidad**

Drive on a small road that cuts through the Escambray Mountains and then cruises along the

coast to Trinidad, a charming UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the seven cities founded by the Spaniards between 1510 and 1515. On this journey, we will transition from Southern Caribbean to the Atlantic. The route will cross many sugar cane fields and agricultural farms. Arrive for sunset.

### **7:00 pm ~ Arrive at your Bed & Breakfast**

We will be spending three nights at bed & breakfasts in the countryside. Trinidad and Cienfuegos have beautiful houses in their colonial streets that date back to the 1500s. The houses are well preserved and architecturally stunning. Being able to stay in these homes with families who rent rooms is a more fun and personal way of getting to know the country and its people. We recommend that you have a special home-cooked meal by your host family (*cost of dinner not included*).

## **DAY 7, SUNDAY, JUNE 24: TRINIDAD 1**

### **7:00 am ~ Breakfast at your Bed & Breakfast**

### **8:00 am ~ Orientation Tour of Trinidad's Historic Core**

This morning we will be guided through Trinidad's Casco Histórico, the crown jewel of Cuban colonial architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This includes the Plaza Mayor, many cobble-stone pedestrian streets, and museums of colonial sugar barons including the Palacio Cantero and the Sanchez Iznaga Mansion.

### **12:00 pm ~ Lunch at Sol Ananda Paladar**

*Calle Real #45, Plaza Mayor, Trinidad*

Located in the 1750s villa, this private restaurant is owned by an antique collector who has furnished it as it would have been a hundred years ago featuring delicious home made traditional country cuisine.

### **1:30 pm ~ Afternoon Free for Photography Sessions**

We will return for photographic session of the homes and city while strolling through the cobblestone streets of this fascinating town built by pirates. This City has many small art studios and cultural shops. There is an open-air market of crafts, linens and crochet material.

### **Dinner On Your Own**

### **8:00 pm ~ Open Air Music Concert**

*La Escalinata, Plaza Mayor*

Every night there is music under the stars at the Casa de la Música. Like Rome's Spanish steps crossed with a Grotto, locals and foreigners gather to sit on the stone steps or in bistro tables and listen or dance to Cuban rhythms.

## **DAY 8, MONDAY, JUNE 25: BAY OF PIGS**

**7:00 am ~ Early Shoot Before Breakfast**

**9:00 am ~ Breakfast and Check Out of Your B&B**

**10:00 am ~ Depart for Havana**

**12:00 pm ~ Lunch and Tour of Playa Girón**

Stop in the historically significant town of Playa Giron where the famous Bay of Pigs battle against the US took place.

**2:00 pm ~ Continue on to Havana**

**4:00 pm ~ Arrive in Havana and Check Into Casas**

**6:00 pm ~ Dinner at La Guarida Paladar**

*Concordia. No. 418 e/ Gervasio y Escobar, Centro Habana*

Anyone who has been to La Guarida will find it difficult to disagree that Enrique and Odeisys have managed to create their own magical home restaurant. The building, originally known as La Mansión Camagüey, shows its former grandeur from the magnificent wooden entrance door through the marble staircase up the two flights of stairs to the restaurant itself. The location for a classic scene from Cuba's most iconic film "Fresa y Chocolate," La Guarida has gone on to become one of the most popular restaurants in Cuba. Make sure to stop on the first floor and wander a bit for some amazing photo ops.

**9:00 pm ~ Havana Night Activity**

After dinner, we can attend a music or dance performance, to be determined, depending on what is happening in the city that night. Such activities could include the National Ballet, National Contemporary Dance Company, National Symphony Orchestra, jazz concerts, salsa clubs, Tropicana Cabaret, drag shows, baseball games, and other attractions of the Havana nightlife that will be interesting for night photography (*optional - cost not included*).

## **DAY 9, TUESDAY, JUNE 26: FREE DAY IN HAVANA**

**10:00 am ~ Breakfast and Check Out of Casas**

**Day Free in on Your Own in Havana for Individualized Photography and Other Exploration**

## DAY 10, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27: RETURN HOME

10:00 am ~ Breakfast and Check Out of Casas

TBD am ~ Transfer to José Martí International Airport Terminal 2

*José Martí International Airport, Terminal 2, Los Boyeros, Havana*

Depending on your departure time, we will transfer to the Havana Airport three hours before take off.

**Please note:** *Cuba remains a developing country and guests traveling here should adjust their expectations accordingly. Traveling to Cuba on a cultural exchange is quite unlike journeying to other destinations. Delays commonly occur and flexibility and patience on the part of visitors is a must.*