



2024 EXIT ZERO HAVANA JAZZ FESTIVAL

The 39th annual **Havana Jazz Festival** will be held from January 21 - 28, 2024, with events occurring mostly in the evenings. The **EXIT ZERO HAVANA JAZZ FESTIVAL** dates are **January 23 – 29, 2024**. Based on previous experience, we prefer to arrive just after the program is underway and depart the morning after closing ceremonies. A detailed schedule of events has not yet been published but will be forthcoming. The 2024 festival will mark the 5th year of collaboration with Exit Zero Jazz and Cuba's largest and longest running musical event. Each year marks an increased connection between Cuban origin artists performing in Cape May, as well as Exit Zero attendees visiting Cuba to attend the Havana Jazz Festival. Our most recent visit to the 2023 festival featured

more than 125 world renowned artists and groups from the United States, Europe, Cuba, and other Latin American countries performing at various established music venues throughout Havana, including these artists who have performed at the **Exit Zero Jazz Festival**:

- Preservation Hall Jazz Band (2019)
- Omara Portuondo (2023 Fall)
- Harold Lopez-Nussa Quartet (2019, 2022/23 Fall)
- Pedrito Martinez (multiple times)
- Arturo O'Farrill (2018 and 2022)
- Dayme Arocena (2022 Fall)
- Ernan Lopez-Nussa (private concert Havana)



HAVANA MUSIC SCENE

Music is not unique to Havana, but Havana is unique to music. Jazz is popular and Havana jazz is unique--a result of centuries of harmonious mixtures from Africa and Spain, with seasoning from China, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, and the United States. The sophisticated outcome appeals to jazz aficionados and musicians around the world. The cross-cultural fertilization enlarges the virtuous circle of evolving creative development. The lineup at the Jazz Festival has included Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Haden, Roy Hargrove, Steve Coleman, Richie Cole, Max Roach, Carmen McRae, Leon Thomas, Tete Montoliu, Airto Moreira, Tania María, Dave Valentin, Michel Legrand, and Ivan Lins. The celebrated British saxophonist, Ronnie Scott, promoted Cuban jazz from his famous Frith Street club. However, Cuban musicians drive the Festival. Whether pure jazz or fusion, participants include famous names: Armando Romeu, Chucho Valdés, Gonzalo Ruvalcaba, Bobby Carcassés, Los Van Van, Ernán López-Nussa, NG La Banda, Orlando Valle. Waves of talented Cuban young musicians led to the establishment of the **Jo Jazz Festival competition** for young musicians.



PERFORMANCE VENUES

Jazz Festival venues range from modern (post Revolution, 1959) to Colonial era buildings and include a range of architectural styles. Primary performance venues include but are not limited to:

- **Teatro Mella & Jardines del Mella Pabellon** (Mella Theater & Gardens Pavilion)
- **Casa de Cultura, Municipio Plaza** (Cultural House, Plaza Municipality)
- **Teatro Nacional** (Cuba's National Theater) was started in 1959, completed in 1979, and renovated in 2012. The building's austere soviet-influenced design typified the era. Havana's history and culture is reflected in the works by Cuban artists inside. There are two separate auditoriums, called the Sala Covarrubias and the Sala Avellaneda, seating 2,400.
- **Teatro Mella** Refurbished in 2000, this 1,500-seat theatre has a Gaudi-esque feel—a meringue-shaped balcony wraps around the auditorium. It's used for dance, folklore (Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba), circus and variety shows.
- **Casas de Culturas** (Houses of Culture) are community venues for music and the arts. These venues are commonly simple in décor and comfort.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

The EXIT ZERO HAVANA JAZZ FESTIVAL includes: all accommodations, airport transfers, all breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners, guide services as described, bottled water, some drinks, admission fees to all scheduled Festival performances, U.S. Department of Treasury authorization, and program management services that include the provision of all pre- trip materials, a Cuban bilingual guide for your Havana orientation tour (Day 2). *Donation*



to Cape May Jazz Festival Foundation. Administration of all program-designed Havana options, with further details and pricing to be provided in advance of departure. Most music performances occur typically after 5 pm each evening of the festival. You may attend any music event you choose, but preferential seating is only available to PREMIUM PASS holders. Seating may otherwise be limited depending on the event venue, performance, and timing.

Accommodation Our hotel, **Palacio de los Corredores**, is perfectly located in **Plaza San Francisco**, one of **Old Havana's** four historic plazas or municipal squares. Each room has a private bath, air conditioning, satellite TV, wifi, phone, hair dryer, minibar, security box, with a king bed, or 2 queen beds. The hotel is professionally staffed with reservation desk, restaurant, indoor bar, roof top lounge, and bell staff for it's 56 rooms. Located across from the Customs Terminal and harbor, it is walking distance to the Malecon, the famous waterfront walkway and drive connecting Old Havana to the city center and most prominent residential and historic centers. You will be close to Havana's museums, cafes, and best restaurants which are concentrated in the historic city center, which dates back to the 16th Century. A guided orientation to Old Havana is included on January 24th, orienting us to points of interest relative to our hotel.



Transportation

We will provide group transportation from the airport to our hotel on the 23rd, and between our hotel and the airport on the 29th, at a designated time based on the majority of arrival and departure times for the group. Transportation for scheduled Havana excursions is also provided. Taxis to and from music venues are reasonably priced (\$ 10 - \$ 25 per car, depending on venue). Some music venues may be walking distance from our hotel.

PROGRAM FORMAT

Premium festival passes provide the best reserved seating options for all events and additional day time excursions. **Accommodations** are all in the same hotel as described above. Room upgrades are available on a limited basis at an additional cost. Details follow below.

Registration, Trip Costs, Terms, and Conditions Registration forms are available from [Exit Zero Jazz Festival](#) web site or from Gary Markowski at cubirds@aol.com. Program fees also include a per person donation to the non-profit **Cape May Jazz Festival Foundation**. You can see more about the organization and its mission here: <https://www.capemayjazzfestival.org>

The program fee is **\$ 2,850.00** per person in a shared room. Single supplements are an additional **\$ 400.00**. Room upgrades are dependent upon availability: **Jr. Suite** – add \$ 275.00 per person for 6 nights. **Suite** – add \$ 400.00 per person for 6 nights. *If you have traveled with us previously for the Havana Jazz Festival, you are entitled to a \$ 100 per person discount!*

Havana Excursions

On our first full day in Havana, we will enjoy a city tour including a fabulous lunch and a walking tour of Old Havana, a **UNESCO World Heritage** site. Havana is loaded with historic sites, museums, art galleries, and now several excellent restaurants. Old Havana is among the most well-preserved and dynamic colonial cities in the New World. This district of the city is undergoing rapid change that includes ambitious historic restoration including meticulously restored and protected buildings. Pedestrian walkways connect museums, art galleries, fine restaurants, renaissance hotels and guest houses, balanced with active, authentic residential neighborhoods, offering both touristic appeal and authenticity to the curious visitor. Lunch will be in a high quality *paladare*, or privately owned (as opposed to government run) restaurant. Havana avoided rapid development and the loss historic residential and commercial properties during the last half of the 20th century. Many buildings have been recently refurbished, some dating back to the 17th century. Following lunch, you are free to explore on your own, or return to your accommodation – just a few blocks away, once the tour is finished.

OPTIONAL DAYTIME EXCURSIONS

Following your introduction to Havana, you may want to explore this compelling city on your own, or with the help of professional guides. We can help arrange for small group and individual excursions at an extra cost. Old Havana is populated with a variety of museums, galleries, and historic landmarks. “Modern’ Havana is easily accessible and worthy of exploration as well. Our 2023 daily excursions included the following -

Private Concert In 2023 we had the good fortune of arranging a private concert with world class pianist **Ernan Lopez Nussa** and his trio in his private home. This one hour performance was a resounding success and festival highlight. We will announce our 2024 private concert plans as we get closer to departure.

El Morro Fortress

The harbor in Old Havana is presided over by **Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana** (El Morro), which is among the largest and best-preserved Spanish Colonial fortresses in the world. The Malecon, Havana's historic and scenic ocean drive, winds several miles along the coast from the harbor in Old Havana to the mouth of the Almendares River, defining the northern limits of this once opulent and attractive city. If Cuba is to change radically in the coming years, most changes will be evident in Havana. Our hope is that future development here focuses on historic preservation and renewal, but this outcome is not guaranteed. We hope you take this opportunity to enjoy historic Havana while you can!



Fusterlandia [Fusterlandia – Havana, Cuba - Atlas Obscura](#) We will head a few miles west from Old Havana to the low-key district of Jaimanitas, where artist José Fuster has turned his home and neighborhood into a masterpiece of intricate tile work and kaleidoscopic colors – a street-art wonderland in a tropical setting. Fusterlandia is an ongoing project that began more than 20 years ago in the artist's home, and now covers several suburban blocks with whimsical but highly stylized public art. Several otherwise ordinary homes are decorated from roof to foundations with art, sculpture and – above all – mosaic tiles of every color and description. The overall impression defies written description (just [go!](#)): it's a fantastical mishmash of spiraling walkways, rippling pools and sunburst fountains.

Fabrica de Arte [Cuban Art Factory](#) Fábrica de Arte Cubano (The Art Factory or F.A.C) is a gallery for visual and performance art. The Fábrica's gallery and stage were established inside of a former cooking oil factory, and has since gained notoriety as one of Havana's premier nightclubs. Jazz Festival performance may be scheduled here during festival evenings.

Hemingway Estate – Finca Vigia Ernest Hemingway loved Cuba, spending nearly twenty years at *Finca Vigia* (lookout farm), which he purchased with his wife Martha Gelhorn in 1940. They shared their home with dozens of Hemingway’s beloved cats, as well as trophies from many successful hunts and fishing expeditions. Famous writers, artists and other dignitaries were among the many guests that visited over the years. Hemingway’s yacht PILAR is permanently ‘anchored’ at Finca Vigia, which the author donated to ‘the Cuban People’ after the Triumph of the Revolution in 1959. The estate is a popular destination for visitors from all over the world. Lunch is included.

Experience Cuban culture in a very personal way! Our expert Cuban guides help arrange private, personal events for your enjoyment. **Salsa dancing lessons** are one on one with an experienced teacher of the opposite gender. Our group class occurs for one hour and is informative and loads of fun. Our **Cuban cigar experience** also involves local expertise as we learn about the history of tobacco in Cuba, including a clear explanation of ‘seed to smoke’, as we sample a high-quality Cuban cigar and aged rum at one of Havana’s legendary V.I.P. smoking lounges.

Meals

All breakfasts are included, as well as 1 lunch & 2 dinners (first and last nights of our program). Otherwise, lunches range between \$ 10 and \$ 25 USD per person per day. Dinners range from \$ 15 - \$ 40 per person per day and can range between basic to gourmet dining experiences. Meals need to be paid for in cash (USD or Euros). The estimated costs are in U.S. dollars. Dining recommendations will be provided.

Not Included

Travel to Havana, Cuba (estimated at \$ 250 - \$ 350 from Florida); Cuban Visa (\$85) personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, additional beverages, bar and housekeeping tips, etc., meals not covered in Cuba, or other fees not listed in the program. Cost estimates are as of autumn, 2023 and are subject to change.



Flights

Participants are expected in Havana by late afternoon on January 23rd . The most reliable **Direct flights (non stop)** to Havana are available from Miami, FL on **American Airlines**. We will provide all information necessary to make booking these flights and obtaining your Cuban visa simple and secure. Airport transfers are included for an early afternoon arrival (on the 23rd), and 1 morning departure (January 29th), timing to be determined based on the arrival and departure times of the majority of participants. AMERICAN AIRLINES offers the most (6) daily flights between Miami and Havana. It is best to book your entire flight on the same airline so that you can include checked bags from your ‘home’ airport to and from Havana and ensure that you have adequate time to make connections from Philadelphia, Washington, Newark, or New York airports. A sample itinerary on American Airlines follows. [American Airlines - Your trip summary \(aa.com\)](https://www.aa.com)

Cuban Visa or Tourist Card Visitors to Cuba are required to purchase a visa prior to boarding their flight for Cuba. This is a simple process that can be done in Florida at the airport as you check in for your flight to Havana. It can also be done in advance of your trip for an additional fee. When booking your flight, you may also check the airline web site for specific details for acquiring your visa, as well as other Cuba related protocols. We will also provide you with further details after you send our trip deposit.

Authorized travel to Cuba for U.S. Citizens Our trips to Cuba are all entirely legal for U.S. citizens and resident aliens provided that travelers comply with our simple guidelines. When booking flights, obtaining your visa, or buying travel insurance, you will need to state your reason for travel to Cuba, which in our case is **SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE.**

Travel Insurance Protection Any U.S. citizen traveling internationally these days should consider insurance protection. Reasonably priced coverage is available to provide protection against financial loss due to trip cancellation or delay, as well as lost baggage. Although uncommon, cancellations due to illness, accidents, work related schedule changes, and other un-planned or un-welcome events have happened. Unforeseen travel related events which you have little or no control over can also impact travel plans. All of these factors make trip cancellation insurance a very important consideration. For information about **Travelex Insurance**, go to: <http://www.travelex-insurance.com/index.asp?location=07-0067> or call 1 800-228-9792. Be sure to use the agency **location code 07-0067** to access coverage explicit to this program. The address in Cuba for our accommodation is **Calle Oficinas, 150, la Habana, Cuba.**

Program Leadership

Exit Zero Jazz Festival Founder / Director Michael Kline will accompany the group to Havana, and act as the point person at the festival. Michael has contracted the services of **Caribbean Conservation Trust (CCT)**, a U.S. based agency with 26 years experience managing ecological and cultural tourism in Cuba. This trip is privately offered to **Exit Zero Jazz Festival** clientele only and will not appear on the CCT web site (<http://www.cubirds.org>).

Gary Markowski, is Founder and Executive Director of **Caribbean Conservation Trust**. CCT has full-time employees in Havana and in the U.S., and since 1996, has managed more than 200 groups in Cuba for more than 2,700 U.S. Citizens. This trip is entirely legal under U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) rules. CCT staff will help arrange direct flights between the U.S. and Havana, and Cuban visas and any additionally required travel documents. *The trip is open to a limited number of participants, and is held on a first come, first served basis.*

Payment

Payment for the land portion of the tour, a **\$ 500.00** deposit is due as soon as possible to reserve space on these programs. This can be paid by electronic payment, or check payable to



Caribbean Conservation Trust
353 West Todd Street
Hamden, CT 0651

Please do not write **Cuba** on the check memo.

For Venmo payments use @Gary-Markowski-2 , 1162 (last 4 digits of phone) or via **Zelle** – 203 733 1162

Balance Payment and cancellation and refund policy *

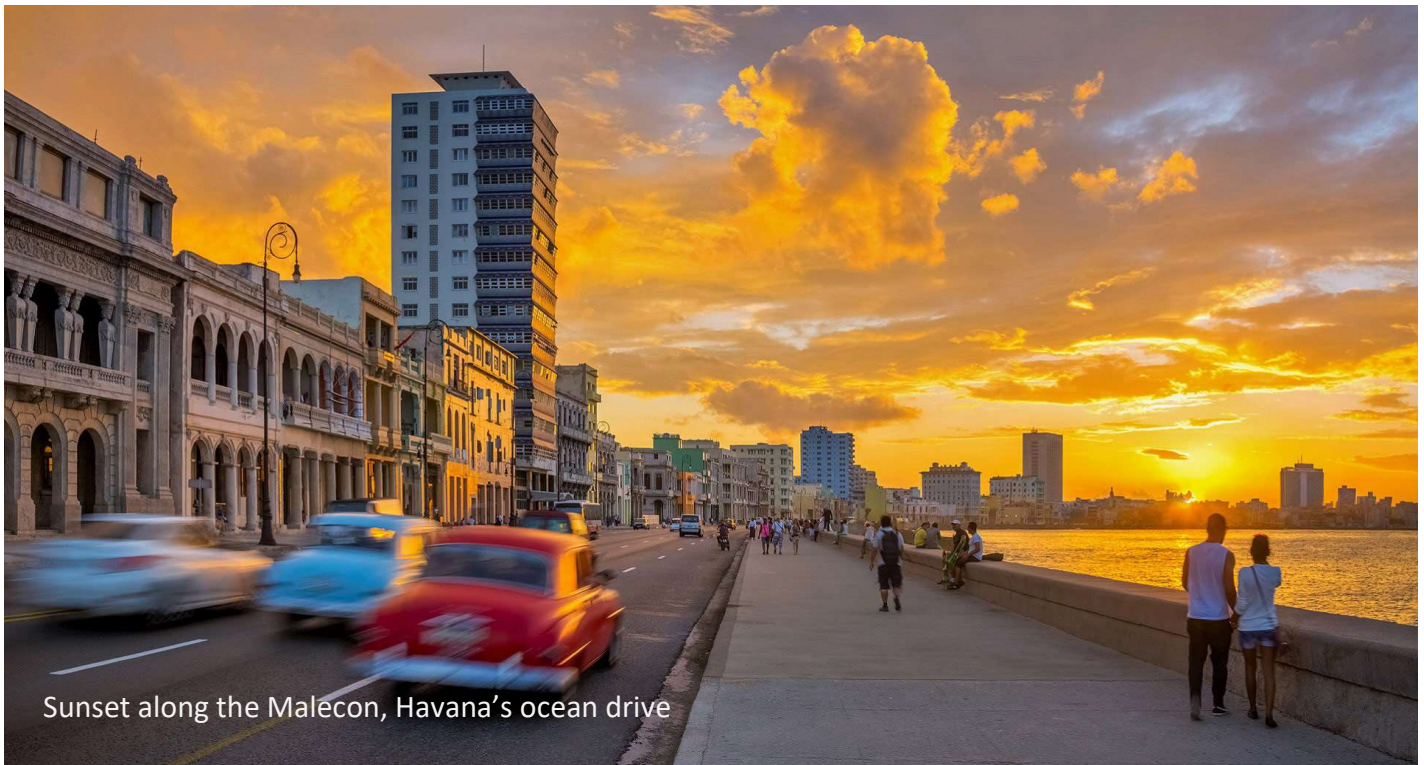
Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure by **October 24, 2023**. You will receive a detailed receipt/invoice following receipt of your deposit and reservation form. All cancellations must be done in writing and are effective upon receipt in the CCT office. Should it become necessary for you to cancel, all payments will be refunded after a deduction of our cancellation fee outlined below:

More than 90 days prior to the tour..... \$ 150.00 per person (land only)
Fewer than 89, more than 75 days prior to the tour... FULL DEPOSIT
Fewer than 75 days prior to the tour..... NO REFUND (unless we can fill your place)

In the unlikely event that we must cancel the tour, a full refund less a \$ 45.00 processing fee for your license application will be forwarded to you, should cancellation occur after your license has been processed.

***Please be aware that the refund policies apply only to the land portion of the trip, and that airlines may have different policies that exist beyond our ability to control. Additional registration fees may apply. As with all international travel programs, we highly encourage trip cancellation and travel insurance policies.**

Caribbean Conservation Trust and its agents and constituents reserve the right to make changes to the itineraries. Land and air arrangements may be subject to price increases beyond our control.



Sunset along the Malecon, Havana's ocean drive



<http://www.exit0jazzfest.com/>

www.cubirds.org

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