



Classic Havana!

A Celebration of Dance, Art, Architecture and Music
With the Seattle Chamber Music Society!

November 2-9, 2013



Join the Seattle Chamber Music Society and a group of like-minded travelers on a culturally rich classical journey to Cuba. Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, the school of ballet and Cuba's leading music school, the Instituto Superior de Arte. In addition, you'll stroll through Old Havana, visit the National Botanical Garden, Hemingway's home and enjoy meaningful exchanges with the people of Cuba. This in-depth custom "people to people" journey has been specially designed

for the Seattle Chamber Music Society traveler who is interested in music, art, history and culture.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

1 Night Miami
6 Nights Havana

WHERE YOU'LL BE STAYING...

Miami: Crowne Plaza
Havana: Historic 1930s Hotel Nacional

Questions and Reservations at: **800.723.8454**
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com



IT'S INCLUDED

- With the Seattle Chamber Music Society
- Accompanied by an Earthbound program director
- License provided by Vaya Sojourns
- An expert bilingual Cuban guide
- Accommodations as listed in your itinerary
- Cuban government emergency medical insurance plan up to \$1,000
- All meals (*except one breakfast in Miami and one evening meal in Havana*)
- Bottled water daily
- Two classical music concerts (TBA)
- Transport by private motor coach while in Cuba
- Roundtrip charter flight from Miami
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Airport transfers while in Cuba
- Special insider “people to people” experiences
- Gratuities for your driver and guides
- City and country maps
- Alumni discounts applied towards future trips with Earthbound Expeditions
- A pre-tour informational gathering. Time and date TBA

TRIP FACTS

8 Days/7 Nights

\$3,995 per person double occupancy (*land and charter air from Miami to Havana!*)

\$ 575 Single Supplement (*waived if you are willing to share*)

Starting in Miami on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 8:00pm

Returning to Miami Int'l airport on November 9 (*exact charter time TBA*)

NOT INCLUDED

- Air from your home city to/from Miami
- Cuba visa fee of \$75
- Travel Insurance up and above
- Cuban airport departure tax of \$30



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

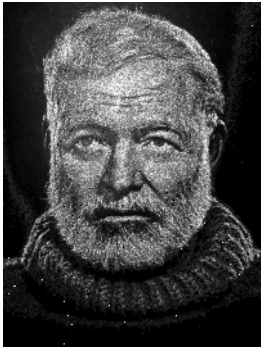
T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

YOUR SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC JOURNEY BEGINS...

Day 1 – November 2: Gather in Miami at 8:00pm

8:00PM: Meet your Seattle Chamber Music host in our pre-reserved meeting room in the hotel. Sleep in Miami



Day 2: Miami to Historic Havana, Cuba

This morning you will depart your hotel for the airport to check in for our charter flight from Miami to Havana, Cuba. Charter flight times are not released until one month prior to departure. Your airline tickets and Cuban visas will be given to you when you check-in for your flight.

Note: You will be given a Cuban arrival card which needs to be completed prior to your arrival in Havana. Be sure to check the “Tourista” or “Tourist” box on the card when it asks for the reason you are traveling to Cuba.

Havana Immigration and Customs

Upon your arrival in Cuba you will first go through Immigration and Customs. The immigration officer will ask you to present your passport and Cuban visa. If you’re holding a US passport, a Cuban Immigration Officer will then stamp an entry approval on the visa, and give it back to you. The visa officially authorizes your entry into Cuba and serves as a “stamp” in your passport (please note they will generally not stamp US passports.) The visa card must be surrendered upon your departure from Cuba so be sure to keep it someplace safe during your stay in Cuba.

Collect your luggage and proceed through Cuban Customs which can, but rarely does, involve a luggage search and wait for the remainder of the group outside the customs area where your guide is waiting to greet you outside the terminal.

After clearing Cuban immigrations and customs, you are welcomed by your Cuban National guide holding a **SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY** sign outside the terminal, who will assist with the transfer to Old Havana (Habana Vieja) where we have lunch together at one of Havana’s charming old cafes. After lunch, our guide leads us on a stroll through the colorful cobblestone streets of Old Havana.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

Check into the historic 1930's Nacional Hotel located on the Malecon seafront. Relax in a comfy couch or enjoy a stroll on the sea before meeting your guide and Seattle Chamber Music Society host for a welcome to Havana dinner at one of Havana's best known privately owned Paladars. . *Sleep in Havana at the Historic Nacional Hotel*(L, D)

Where You'll Be Staying: The Hotel Nacional

The historic ***** hotel Nacional is located on the Malecón seafront. The decision to build a luxury hotel was taken in the late 1920s. The American firms McKim, Mead & White and Purdy & Henderson Co., tasked with the planning and construction, completed the palatial edifice in 14 months. Note: The same firm designed Penn Station, Washington Square in NY.

The hotel exhibits an eclectic architectural style, reflecting Art Deco, Arabic references, features of Hispano-Moorish architecture, and both neo-classical and neo-colonial elements. There are even details from the centuries-old Californian style. The resulting unique example of so many schools of architecture is the most unusual and interesting hotel in the Caribbean region.

Among its first illustrious guests were artists, actors, athletes and writers such as Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Mickey Mantle, Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Keaton, Jorge Negrete, Agustín Lara, Rocky Marciano, Tyrone Power, Rómulo Gallegos, Errol Flynn, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando and Ernest Hemingway.

In February 1946, Sir Winston Churchill visited Cuba, staying in the hotel's Republica Suite, and was accorded diplomatic privileges by the Cuban government.

In December 1946 it hosted an infamous mob summit run by Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky and attended by Santo Trafficante, Jr., Frank Costello, Albert Anastasia, Vito Genovese and many others. Francis Ford Coppola memorably dramatised the conference in his film *The Godfather Part II*.

DAY 3: Havana – The History of Dance and the National School of Music/ Arts

Early birds may wish to soak up the sun and walk along the Malecon before breakfast.

Then we are off to the Havana country club to learn about the history of music and dance in Cuba. Multiple instructors will explain how this small island became a major powerhouse when it comes to music and dance. The Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Salsa and Merengue all come from Cuba. After a thorough demonstration you'll be invited to learn some of the dances with the instructors.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

Thanks to the new “people to people” program authorized by the US Treasury Department today we will have a chance to mingle with the locals today. Enjoy a lunch in before visiting Cuba’s National Art Schools (Escuelas Nacionales de Arte, now known as the Instituto Superior de Arte), whose structures are considered by historians to be one of the most outstanding architectural achievements of the Cuban Revolution. These innovative, organic Catalan-vaulted brick and terra-cotta buildings were built on the site of a former country club in the far western Havana suburb of Cubanacán, which used to be Havana’s “Beverly Hills” and was then mainly reserved for Communist Party officials.

The schools were conceived and founded by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in 1961, and they reflect the utopian optimism and revolutionary exuberance of the early years of the Cuban Revolution. Over their years of active use, the schools served as the primary incubator for Cuba’s artists, musicians, actors, and dancers. The schools’ design fell out of favor by 1965 and were nearly completely decommissioned until preservation efforts were mounted in force in the 1990’s. Now tentatively on the list of World Heritage sites, they are in use, though still in various states of disrepair.

To learn more about the National School of Arts visit the New York Times or click here: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/16/world/americas/cuba-debates-carlos-acostas-dream-project.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Musical Note:

Apart from the National Symphony, Havana has just three professional classical ensembles, and one of them, Camarata Romeu, an all-female string ensemble, is strikingly distinctive -- its musicians dress in stylish outfits and play from memory with arresting warmth and spirit, if not the smoothest sonic gloss. If available, we’ll be attending a concert offered by this very talented group of musicians.

Enjoy dinner this evening in another outstanding paladar (private restaurant).

Tour highlight this evening: We behold a most dramatic ceremony – [El Cañonazo](#) – the Firing of the 9PM Cannon at the Fortress of San Carlos de la Cabaña.

Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)

Day 4: Ballet School and Cemetery Colon

After breakfast a dance rehearsal is planned at the Prodanza Ballet School. The Centro de Promoción de la Danza (PRO DANZA) of Cuba was founded at the end of 1988. The center is directed by the Grand maître Laura Alonso and is an offshoot of the specialized teaching department of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba. The mission of PRO DANZA is, to promote the Cuban school of ballet technique.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

The main objective of PRO DANZA has been to establish a coherent methodology which allows dancers with professional goals to progress gradually from their initiation at the elementary level to their professional lives. They learn the necessary tricks of trade from the center's own scientific teaching system, which promote the Cuban school of ballet.

Enjoy a private rehearsal and then time to exchange ideas on ballet and music with the director and students of the company. If fortunate, you'll be meeting with Pro Danza Director Laura Alonso.

Pacific Northwest Ballet Side Note: PNB principal dancer Karel Cruz is from Holguin, Cuba, and received his training at Cuba's Escuela Nacional de Artes. He joined Ballet Nacional de Cuba in 1996 and left in 1998. After coming to the United States, Mr. Cruz spent a year at the Rock School before joining Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2002. He was promoted to soloist in 2007 and principal in 2009.

After a delicious multi-course lunch featuring specialties from the Cuban kitchen we'll visit the historic Cemetery of Colon to view the myriad of magnificently sculpted tombstones, mausoleums and chapels adorning the graves of Cubans of all walks of life.

Our day culminates with the "marriage of rum and cigars" at the historic palace of the artists! Here you'll relax in an old Spanish palace, listening to jazz as a local expert shows you how to select, taste and smoke these symbols of Cuba.

Depending upon scheduling a music performance will be requested for you this evening. Sleep in Havana (B, L)

About Pro Danza Director Laura Alonso

Laura Alonso, the daughter of world famous ballerina Alicia Alonso and famous teacher and coach Fernando Alonso is herself known as a teacher, coach, and expert at staging the renowned classics. During the 1990 Jackson International Ballet Competition, Laura Alonso was honored with an award as the best coach at the competition. Her student, Jose Manuel Carreno, won the Grand Prix de Ville, the highest award of the competition. Ms. Alonso has served as a coach, jury member and teacher at the Jackson International Ballet Competition and as a jury member of the Concours International de Dance de Paris, France 1998, the Alicia Alonso International Ballet Competition, and other competitions around the world. Along with her expertise in working with professionals and aspiring professionals, Ms. Alonso is extremely gifted at working with young dancers of all ages and experiences. Students love her and outdo themselves to fulfill her expectations. A very positive teacher, Alonso has transformed students in just a few classes. She is an particularly inspiration to male students. Alonso's mission is to bring the highest quality dance to students everywhere. She is willing to instruct anyone who wants to learn.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

Although born in the United States, Alonso is a resident of Havana where she has an international dance school, Centro Pro Danza, which welcomes 1 500 students, and a professional performing company, The Ballet Classic of Havana.

A teacher of world-class experience, Ms. Alonso has taught for the Cuban National Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Australian Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Cleveland and San Jose Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Tokyo Ballet, the Toronto Ballet, the Alberta Ballet and others. She was a member of the faculty at the Regional Dance America's National Festival in 1997 as well as at the RDA/NE Festival 1998 and the RDA/SE 1999. For seven years, she served as the personal coach for international ballerina Alicia Alonso.

Ms. Alonso's twenty-five year performing career has included soloist work in all of the traditional classics and today she travels around the world teaching and staging the classics for professional and pre professional companies alike.

AWARDS

Silver Medal, Culture Olympics, Mexico
National Culture Medal, Cuba
Alicia Alonso International Competition
Special Prize for the Best Coach
International Ballet Competition, Jackson MS, 1990
Jury Member of the Jackson IBC, 1994
Master Teacher of the Jackson IBC, 1998
Jury Member of the Concours International de Dance de Paris, France 1998

Day 5: Visit a local school and Cabildo Quisicuaba Socio-cultural Project

Traveling under a “people to people” license we visit a local school where we meet Cuban students, teachers and school administrators at an elementary school. Participants will interact with the children in their classrooms and participate in a discussion session with some of the school’s students, teachers and administrators about, among other topics, Cuba’s education system and how it compares to that of the United States. You may bring pens or pencils as a gift to the school, although it is not mandatory.

Then depart for the “Cabildo Quisicuaba Socio-cultural Project” which is conducted by Dr. Enrique Alemán in collaboration with the community in the Centro Habana municipality, specifically in the Los Sitios neighborhood.

Its aim is to rehabilitate traditional folk culture there, taking into account the spiritual, cultural and material needs of this population.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

Here we'll have the chance to visit a Santeria house. In these private homes we'll learn that the Santeria religion is a system of beliefs that merges the Yoruba religion (which was brought to the New World by enslaved West Africans sent to the Caribbean to work on sugar plantations) with Roman Catholic and Native American traditions. These Africans carried with them various religious customs, including a trance for communicating with their ancestors and deities, animal sacrifice and sacred drumming and dance.

In addition we'll attend a neighborhood Rumba performance.

In 1985 the Cuban Minister of Culture stated the obvious: "Rumba without Cuba is not rumba, and Cuba without rumba is not Cuba." Today Cuban rumba is a genre involving dance, percussion, and song. There are three main forms: yambú, guaguancó, and columbia. Rumba is an amalgamation of several transplanted African dance and drumming traditions, combined with Spanish influences.

Our day culminates with a visit to the home studio of famed Cuban artist, Jose Fuster who is known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Mr. Fuster is a ceramicist and painter whose work has contributed to the upgrading of his entire community. Aside from discussing how he makes his art, he talks about how he started giving back to his community. When you drive through the neighborhood which is known as "Fusterlandia" you see ceramic tiled walls in fanciful designs. His first ceramic work was a gift to his neighbor who was a nurse. He transformed her front yard into a Disneyland of ceramic animals and mythical figures. Later, another neighbor asked for the identical work for his house. Soon Fuster was doing this free work for all his neighbors, which attracted many tourists and led to his popularity. As you learn about his work, you may be able to purchase his art directly if desired.

We'll have dinner together accompanied by another live musical performance.
Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)

Day 6: An Outing to Las Terrazas and Afternoon with Alina Orraca

After breakfast, depart for Las Terrazas traveling through the lush countryside planted with sugar cane, corn, rice, and taro. With few vestiges of modernization, the region seems set back in time with farming communities still harvesting by hand and using horse and carts to transport goods to free markets. (The horse carts date back to the 15th century when the Spaniards used them to haul sugar cane to the factories). Las Terrazas in Pinar del Rio province is now part of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve, much of it reforested coffee plantation. Reforestation began in the late 1960s by the local farmers who were concerned that their land had been degraded by former French coffee barons. The first stop is at a quaint village overlooking a quiet lake. Here you visit the home of deceased song writer and musician Polo Montanez, a farmer, who composed songs about peasant life.

After a hearty farmers lunch we return to Havana.



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

This afternoon we'll hear a private concert and speak with Alina and her students about the origins of choral music in Havana.

Day 7: Hemingway's Finca Vigía - Museum of Fine Arts & Cuban Revolution

After breakfast we head to Finca Vigía [Lookout Farm] where North America's literary giant, Ernest Hemingway, spent twenty-one of his most important and productive years penning building blocks of English literature. Claimed by both the United States and Cuba as their son, it was Hemingway himself who declared the island his true home.

We'll also stop by Cojímar, a small coastal fishing village northeast of Havana where Ernest Hemingway kept his boat during the decades he lived in Cuba. Cojímar was the inspiration for Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Enjoy lunch in one of Hemingway's favorite Havana haunts.

After, you'll find just across the street from the Fine Arts Museum, the impressive Museum of the Revolution. Sitting outside you'll find American Jeeps and planes used during the failed Bay of Pigs landing. Also worth noting, the yacht named "Granma" that was used to transport 82 Cuban fighters and Fidel Castro to the shores of Cuba from Mexico in 1956. We'll have a brief tour of this museum after lunch.

This afternoon choose between the Museum of the Revolution and Museum of Fine Arts. A privately guided tour will be offered to both groups.

Our gala dinner this evening will be at a lovely private home restaurant. We'll have a local group perform for us as we say our fond farewells to Cuba.

Sleep in Havana (B, L, D)

Day 8- Havana – Miami

We transfer to Havana's Jose Marti Airport where we check in for our flight to Miami. (*Charter flight time TBA*). (B)

-Itinerary Subject to Change-



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

Seattle Chamber Music Society

CUBAN REGISTRATRIION /VISA FORM

November 2-9, 2013

1. A \$250 pp non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space. Payment is accepted by check only for Cuba journeys.
2. Make checks payable to "Vaya Sojourns Trust Account" and mail along with Cuba Visa Form to Earthbound Expeditions, PO Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
3. Once check is received, we will email you a deposit packet and travel insurance quote from iTravelInsured. In order to allow ample time to book your travel insurance and waive pre-existing conditions, please contact our office to let us know you're mailing your deposit. 1-800-723-8454

First Name _____ **Middle** _____ **Last** _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Country of Birth _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Passport # _____ **Date of Issue** _____ **Expiry** _____

Nationality _____ **Male or Female** _____

Address _____

Home Phone Number _____ **Cell** _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name & number:

Special Requests



Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 206 842 9775 / F. 206 842 8280

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com