

# Africa In Cuba Cultural Experience

## Women of Wisdom

### ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

#### Arrive at Jose Marti International Airport & Check-In

You will be greeted at the airport by your guides and transfer to your accommodations for check-in. If time permits, enjoy a leisurely tour of the neighborhood to help acquaint you with your surroundings.

#### Welcome Dinner & Orientation

Enjoy a relaxing dinner and welcome cocktail, as we review a few important topics, such as Cuba's dual monetary system, the economic crisis of the 1990s and early 2000s known as "The Special Period", and recent political and economic changes on the island.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

#### Dance Encounter

Music, rhythm, and dance are expressions of life in Cuba. Get warmed up for Cuba's live music scene with your personal dance instructor from one of Havana's premier dance schools.

#### Walking Tour of Old Havana (Lunch Included)

Learn about the original city of Havana, a time machine of architectural treasures dating back over five centuries. A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Old Havana is a living museum with 144 buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries preserved, including some of the oldest churches in the Americas, the Cathedral of Havana (1787) and the Basilica of San Francisco (1739). Among the many sites, visit the **Africa House Museum**. Housed inside a 17th-century mansion, it depicts Cuba's Transatlantic Slave Trade Era, houses a collection illustrating the 3 major Afro-Cuban religious traditions, and showcases gifts to Cuba from various African nations.

#### Excursion to Town of Regla

Walk across Old Havana to the port and ferry over the Bay of Havana to the Town of Regla. Visit the local cathedral which is the center of worship in Cuba of the Virgin Mary figure known as "La Virgen de Regla". This Catholic virgin figure is syncretized with the Yoruba deity, Yemaya, who reigns over the open seas. Every day, her followers pay tribute to her with offerings at this church.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

#### The Black Doll Project

Named after a well-known story written by Cuban patriarch José Martí, the project is a cooperative of female artisans that make dolls with *papier maché*, plastics, and other materials. The group will visit this workshop in the town of La Lisa to learn about the lives of the ladies and the collective model of business organization.

### **Muraleando Community Art Project (Lunch Included)**

Since the 1990's, during times of great economic hardship, many urban communities embraced community street art to cover decaying buildings, walls, and homes in an effort to uplift community morale and display solidarity in the face of hardship.

In 2001, local artists began teaching art classes to engage local youth to use art to beautify the deteriorating landscape and the soul of the Lawton neighborhood. The entire neighborhood - the building walls, alleys, the streets, tops of buildings, any empty space - is the canvas. A guided tour through the neighborhood culminates at the community center where the group can engage with the teachers, artists, and children who use it. The group will learn about the social impact of the Special Period and U.S. Embargo and the high value placed on community engagement.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019**

### **Day Trip to Matanzas: Route of the Rebel Slave (Lunch Included)**

Matanzas, the capital of the Province of Matanzas, is known for its poets, culture, and Afro-Cuban heritage. Known as the City of Bridges due to the 17 bridges that cross its three rivers, Matanzas is the birthplace of the music and dance traditions of danzón and rumba. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it was known as the "Athens of Cuba" because of the wealth from its sugar industry.

Among the many sites, you will visit the Triumvirato Sugar Plantation to see how Cubans honor the regions proud history of resistance, including one of the largest uprisings of enslaved Africans in the Americas. Led by a young woman named Carlota, the revolt consisted of 329 enslaved persons.

### **Farewell Dinner**

We'll come together for a celebratory dinner to discuss and reflect on the unforgettable week and the memorable experiences we have shared together.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019**

### **Depart for Airport**

All good things must come to an end. After breakfast, transfer to airport for departing flight home.

**REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 28, 2018**

Space Limited to 20 Registrants

Register at: [www.DiasporaTravelExperiences.com/women-of-wisdom](http://www.DiasporaTravelExperiences.com/women-of-wisdom)