



¡CON EL PACHECO ME VOY!

FIESTA DEL TAMBOR WITH PIANIST JORGE LUIS PACHECO

MARCH 7TH– 13th, 2024



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

On this intimate tour you'll get to experience Cuba through the lens of one of the most celebrated and renowned pianists of Cuba today: Jorge Luis Pacheco!

With Pacheco at your side, get a behind-the-scenes look at musical life in Cuba. You'll visit some of Cuba's most prestigious musical conservatories where he honed his craft and enjoy live performances at Havana's most exclusive venues, including an authentic Afro-Cuban musical ritual and Rumba. With Pacheco, you'll get to know and enjoy performances by some of Cuba's most important musicians of popular Cuban music, classical music, and even opera. You'll also enjoy a walking tour of Old Havana, ride in classic cars, visit the Hemingway home, dine at the best paladares in Havana, shop Cuban art, and more!

****Blue Note Travel tours to Cuba are legally compliant with current OFAC regulations****

"Pacheco was an 11 on a scale of 1 to 10."

-Don W., Fiesta del Tambor, 2023

"The organization and attention to details for the entire trip arranged for all of us was over the top. Doug and I especially enjoyed the intimate, private concerts with amazing musicians. We were happy to visit the music schools, dance school and recording studio. We loved the lunch settings,

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the ride in a 1958 convertible Impala, the tour in Old Havana and the music, music, music!
Spending time with Pacheco was very special and indeed made us feel like real VIP's!"
Glenna, Jazz Fest 2023



Day 1: USA-Havana / Thursday, March 7th, 2024

- Arrive at José Martí International Airport (HAV); airport transfer included
- Head to lodging for check in and orientation
- Enjoy a welcome rooftop dinner Havana's most emblematic *paladar*, La Guarida
- Nighttime suggestion: Enjoy the various shows of the Fiesta del Tambor at the main theater or other indoor and outdoor venues throughout Havana

Day 2: Havana / Friday, March 8th, 2024

- Begin your day with a classic convertible car ride around Havana City (1 hour)

Havana is beloved by American visitors with its collection of thousands of vintage American cars, manufactured before the Revolution and subsequent US embargo in 1960. In the absence of automobile imports, these living relics are preserved by Cuban mechanics or improvised fixes by the owners themselves. Experience an hour in a classic convertible Chevy, Ford or Oldsmobile.

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- Visit Old Havana and learn about Havana's world-renowned UNESCO heritage designated architecture on an expertly guided walking tour (2 hrs)

There is no better introduction to Havana than a walk through Old Havana. On this walk you will explore Old Havana's five major plazas and see the interiors of cathedrals and other important buildings. UNESCO designated Old Havana as a world heritage site in 1982. Although today Havana is a sprawling metropolis of more than two million people, the old center retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, beautiful balconies, and courtyards.

- Lunch at El del Frente (a staff and client favorite – try the daiquiris!)
- Experience a private concert with Coro Leo, directed by Corina Campos, one of the most important choir directors in Havana—and Pacheco's beloved mom.
- Nighttime suggestion: Enjoy the various shows of the Fiesta del Tambor at the main theater or other indoor and outdoor venues throughout Havana

Day 3: Havana / Saturday, March 9th, 2024

- Visit famed Abdala Studio, where many famous Cuban records were recorded, and enjoy a private concert

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- Visit two prestigious music conservatories where Pacheco studied, Caturla and ISA (Instituto Superior de Arte) and enjoy a brief concert by students.
- Lunch at 5 Sentidos *paladar*
- Visit the National Lyrical Theater, one of the oldest buildings in Havana, for a private recital

On this exclusive visit, Pacheco will introduce you to his father, Maestro Pacheco, and have you sit in on one of his classes. Maestro Pacheco was the director of the Cuban National Opera for six years. He is also the only Cuban opera singer to graduate from the prestigious Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. You will enjoy a 30 minute concert by his top students singing classic Cuban works as well as Cuban opera.

Day 4: Havana / Sunday, March 10th, 2024

- Visit the historic neighborhood of Guanabacoa and visit another musical school where Pacheco studied
- Enjoy a traditional Afro Cuban percussion and dance performance
- Lunch at Café Ajiaco *paladar* and enjoy a cigar and rum tasting
- Experience an authentic Afro Cuban tambor ceremony, usually not shared with tourists
- Nighttime suggestion: Enjoy the various shows of the Fiesta del Tambor at the main theater or other indoor and outdoor venues throughout Havana



Day 5 Havana – Las Terrazas / Monday, March 11th, 2024

- Head to Las Terrazas (1 hour each way)
- Enjoy a tour of a UNESCO site and biosphere reserve with an extraordinary guide
- Visit a bee apiary and drink honey directly from the hive
- Farm to table lunch in the countryside
- Visit the home of Polo Montañez, one of Cuba's most prolific and beloved singer song writers
- Nighttime suggestion: Enjoy the various shows of the Fiesta del Tambor at the main theater or other indoor and outdoor venues throughout Havana

Day 6: Havana / Tuesday, March 12th, 2024

- Visit the house and grounds of Ernest Hemingway, Finca Vigía

In 1940 Hemingway, with his new wife Martha, purchased a home outside Havana, where the couple lived for the next twenty years. The Hemingway's named the site Finca Vigía, or "lookout farm," and shared their home with dozens of Hemingway's beloved cats, as well as trophies from many successful hunts and fishing expeditions. During their time at the Finca, Hemingway became a fixture of Havana, and stayed in the country longer than many Americans chose to after relations between Cuba and the United States began to deteriorate. He fished extensively aboard his boat, Pilar, and enjoyed the island lifestyle, hanging out in Havana, penning some of his signature works, and entertaining guests. His home, with many original furnishings and personal artifacts can be viewed today.

- Lunch at El Cocinero *paladar*
- Enjoy a private concert at Havana's most popular spot for live music and nightlife: the Cuban Art Factory with Pacheco's hand-picked Cuban All Stars band.

Day 7: Havana – USA / Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

- Final shopping at San Jose Craft market (time permitting)
- Head to Jose Martí Airport and say farewell to Cuba!

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Reminder: Tips for guides, drivers, bellhops, maids, and waiters are not included.

This itinerary is subject to change. In-country programming is customized for each group to maximize your cultural experience. To maintain authenticity, many of the places we visit are not tourist destinations and are not always available. Our programs are intended to provide meaningful interaction with the Cuban people under the “Support for the Cuban people” category. These programs require mandatory participation.