

Registration Packet



Cuba Mission

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

March 7 – 14, 2016

**Havana, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos,
Trinidad de Cuba**

Join us on this insightful trip of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. We will have experiences offered to few travelers to this tropical island nation. You will make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

And you will experience Cuba

**Cuba is changing rapidly;
Now really is the time!**

This mission is solely to assist the Jews of Cuba under a general religious license issued to Temple Sinai by the US Department of the Treasury.

Program includes:

- Round Trip Air - Miami – Havana.
 - 1 Night Miami
 - **Eight days**; seven nights in Cuba.
 - **Experienced driver; modern A/C bus with W.C**
 - Cuban guide specialized in Jewish Heritage missions
 - Transfers from/to airport in Cuba
 - **Gratuities to guide and driver** (a small voluntary additional gratuity will be noted in the informational materials offered to SSU to be given to the participants)
 - Tips to wait staff at included meals
 - Cuban Medical insurance
 - **Meetings with leaders** and members of the Cuban Jewish Community –Guided tour of largest Jewish Cemetery in Cuba.
 - Presentation, Power Point and Q&A with noted **Cuban architect** on the on the history, architecture and current situation of Havana and Cuba.
 - Presentation, Power Point and Q&A with noted **Cuban historian** on the on the history of the Jews in Cuba.
 - Guided visit to the **Bellas Artes museum** by museum curator and member of the Jewish Community of Havana
 - Entrance fees to museums and sites of interest as per itinerary.
 - Bottled water on the bus.
 - **Tips to porters.**
 - Cuban Tourist Visa.
 - US and Cuban **airport Departure tax**
 - US Religious License for Travel to Cuba
 - **Round trip Air Miami/Havana/Miami** - Flights are American Airlines planes and crews but are not scheduled AA flights. They are leased by the federal license holder permitting flights between USA and Cuba.
- IMPORTANT:** *Due to the recent changes coming from the current administration it is possible that regularly scheduled flights rather than chartered flights will exist between the USA and Cuba. We will have to adjust both flight times and possibly price the situation in place at the time of the mission.*
- **HOTELS:** all hotels are subject to availability and may be substituted for a comparable hotel without prior approval. NOT CONFIRMED

- **Miami – Crowne Plaza** – near airport – 1 night

- **Havana – Melia Cohiba – 2 nights**

Frommer's Review Sitting just off the Malecón, this high-rise hotel, is probably the most modern building in Havana. It provides all the services and amenities luxury travelers are looking for in a top-rated hotel. Rooms are large and comfortable, and most have excellent views, particularly those on the higher floors. It's got a wonderful outdoor pool and the best-equipped health club I've found at any hotel in Havana. The Cohiba has a wide range of restaurants and shops, and even its buffet restaurant is a treat, with live cook stations and enough space and flow so as not to feel like a cattle car. The Habana Café is one of the better club/restaurants in town, with a nightly floor show and live music.

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- **Cienfuegos – Hotel Jagua – 2 nights – hotel by the bay**

Frommer's Review The seven-story hotel is located out on the end of Punta Gorda, just across from the Palacio del Valle. The modern rooms are spacious, comfortable, cool, and bright, with a large sliding-glass door to let in light, white tile floors, and plenty of amenities. Those on the higher floors of the main building offer wonderful views over the city and harbor from private balconies. There's a large rectangular pool at the center of this complex, and a popular bar located on a small floating dock in the bay.

- **Hotel Havana Libre– Havana – 3 nights**

Frommer's Review The Hotel Habana Libre is one of the biggest hotels in Cuba and one of the more emblematic of Havana City. It is located on 23 and L streets, Vedado, a few meters from the Malecón. This 4 star hotel is a jewel of urban design and boasts the best view in Havana City. The Habana Libre Hotel, rises majestically in the nerve center of La Rampa, one of the most famous corners in the center of the Cuban capital, some few steps of popular Coppelia (Ice cream Cathedral

- **MEALS: 18 meals**

Breakfast: 8; Lunch: 5; Dinner: 5

- Meals to include two main course choices and at least one included beverage. Each course to comply with following dietary rules:
 - no meat, or meat and/or chicken stock in food preparation.
 - no shell fish or stock containing shell fish
 - options offered will include vegetarian, fish, and/or pasta
 - cheeses allowed
- Erev Shabbat dinner will be with the Jewish Community at the Patronato and Shabbat lunch at the Sephardic Center

NOT Included in mission package:

- Domestic Air r/t to Miami
- Cancellation insurance – information will be provided
- Excess baggage charges – USA/CUBA
- Portorage at Miami International airport

Note: to participate each person must bring at least 10 pounds of donations for the Jewish communities - an updated donation list will be provided.

Note: a voluntary donation will be requested of between \$60 - \$100 per participant to be distributed to the synagogues and Jewish communities in Cuba.

DEADLINES:

Deposit deadline – September 11, 2015– nonrefundable after that date

Balance payment – January 11, 2016 – nonrefundable after that date

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MISSION PRICE

PRICE PER PERSON FROM MIAMI:

Price is based on a minimum of 20 full paying participants

Double occupancy: \$ 3,795.00

Single occupancy: \$ 4,295.00

DEPOSIT IS \$450 PER PERSON

IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this trip your passport must be valid for at least six months after our entry into Cuba on March 7, 2016. You must travel to Cuba with the same passport you submitted for registration or your Cuban visa will be invalid.

Your completed registration forms, passport copies along with your check made payable to: [Synagogue Solutions USA](#) should be sent to:

Harry Silverman
6211 Greenview Terrace
Boca Raton, FL 33433

For questions please contact:

Harry Silverman

Tel: (561) 961 - 9460; email: harry@synagoguesolutionsusa.org

CANCELLATION & MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

PLEASE NOTE: The purchase of cancellation/medical travel insurance is strongly recommended. Most travel insurance policies include both cancellation and medical coverage.

To have a **preexisting condition covered** you will need to purchase your insurance **within 14 days from the date of your deposit check for the mission.**

PURCHASING CANCELLATION & MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

- You may purchase from the insurance company of your choice.
- Additionally you may purchase from ACCESS AMERICA by **calling 800-284-8300 or by going to our mission operator's web page and clicking the INSURANCE/CELL PHONE LINK.**
- When purchasing an Access America policy by phone please give to the Access America agent the **ACCAM number: F027117.** This is the identification number of our mission coordinator and will facilitate your application process.
- "THE BASIC" policy offered by Access America is adequate
- **PLEASE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE INSURER OF YOUR CHOICE.**

INSURANCE IN CUBA – In case you need medical treatment, hospitals and clinics for tourists are conveniently located throughout the country. **Cuban medical insurance is included in the price of the mission** and covers 100% of medical expenses up to \$25,000 and re-patriation or transportation due to illness, accident, or death (up to \$7000) - except as noted below. Your hotel has first aid station and nurse for immediate attention to minor illnesses or injuries. Your insurance will cover treatment in the hotel and at a clinic if necessary. **PLEASE**

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NOTE: Cuban health insurance does not cover treatment for a **pre-existing condition** – you are liable for the costs incurred from the treatment of a preexisting condition. You may seek reimbursement from your USA insurance company; if your USA policy so provides.

HEALTH – **This is not a very strenuous trip.** However, there will be walking over cobbled stone streets and stairs at some locations and so a certain level of mobility is required. If you have a pre-existing condition, chronic medical condition or question your ability to keep up with the group, **you must speak with Harry Silverman.**

A GREAT MITZVAH – A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – A FUN TRIP
ITINERARY OUTLINE
Subject to change

Mission Itinerary

Subject to Change

Meals: B = breakfast; L= lunch; D= dinner

Day 1 – Monday 3/7 – MIA-HAV (Included meals: D)

- Group meets at Miami International Airport
- **CURRENT FLIGHT TIME** - ABC Charter - Flight to Havana – departure 12:00 pm; arrival 1:00pm. **PLEASE SEE NOTE ABOVE**
- Visit Patronato and its President – largest synagogue in Havana – presentation of donations
- Visit of the pharmacy of the Patronato
- Check in Hotel – time to relax and change money
- Travel to Nacional Hotel – since the '30's much loved by the famous and infamous
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Lecture, Power point presentation and Q&A with noted Cuba architect of the history, the present, and the future of Cuba and Havana as viewed through its architecture and urban planning
- Dinner – Buffet of the Nacional Hotel – private group table (included meal)
- Bus will return to our hotel or you may walk back along the Malecon to our hotel

Day 2 – Tuesday 3/8 (B, L) Havana

- 8:45 am – 9:45 am - Lecture, Power point presentation and Q&A with noted Cuba historian on the history, and the future of Cuba's Jewish Community.
- Guided walking tour of Old Havana
- Lunch at La Dominica (included meal)
- Continue tour of old Havana
- Visit to the Sephardic Center – Holocaust Display – Senior Center
- The Craft Market
- Dinner at your leisure to enjoy Havana's many private restaurants and the night life. Your guide and trip literature provided will make recommendations and your guide will assist you in making reservations and transportation

Day 3 – Wednesday 3/9 (B, L, D) Havana – Santa Clara – Cienfuegos.

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- Departure for the town of Santa Clara where we meet with the small Jewish Community and its charismatic leader. We will visit the newest synagogue in Cuba. Presentation of donations
- We will also visit the Memorial to Revolutionary leader Che Guevara.
- Buffet Lunch at La Granjita (included meal)
- Departure for town of Cienfuegos in Central Cuba – the Pearl of the South. Founded in the early 1800's by French planters from the Louisiana who did not wish to live under the newly established American rule.
- Visit Cienfuegos – visit including the very unique Thomas theatre which hosted Caruso and Sarah Bernhardt.
- Meet with small Jewish community – presentation of donations
- Check in Hotel Jagua located on the bay with wonderful vistas
- Choral performance – Cienfuegos is known for its choral groups
- Dinner at Palacio del Valle (included meal) a mini Alhambra – the home of a 19th century sugar baron in honor of his beloved Andalusia.

Day 4 – Thursday – 3/10 – Cienfuegos –Trinidad – Cienfuegos (B, D)

- Guided Visit to Jardín Botánico de Cienfuegos – created in 1901 by American sugar baron Edwin Atkins and later managed by Harvard University. A gentle hour long guided walk among trees from all over the world with special emphasis on those endemic to Cuba.
- On to Trinidad – a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Trinidad is quite simply one of the finest colonial towns in all the Americas. It was founded in 1514 as the fourth of the seven original villas (towns) founded by Diego Velázquez. It prospered as a sugar town until the international sugar market collapsed in the 1860s and the town drifted into obscurity.
- Visit to state run at risk pregnancy clinic. Presentation of donations.
- Village Tour and orientation by guide.
- Lunch at your leisure with free time to explore this colonial city and its very extensive craft market. The town is famous for its table linens.
- We return to Cienfuegos.
- Return to our hotel.

Optional non included activity: sunset cruise – open bar – time and weather permitting

- Dinner at the hotel (included meal)
- Entertainment - by the pool with music and a salsa demonstration.

Day 5 – Friday – 3/11 (B, L, D) Cienfuegos - Havana

- On to Havana.
- Guanabacoa, a suburb of Havana, tour of the Jewish cemetery. Visit the first Holocaust Memorial in Western hemisphere.
- Visit to Hemingway's home in Cuba – La Finca Vigía – just as he left it. He said of it – 'the best place to work in the world'
- Lunch at La Divina Pastora overlooking the Bahía de La Habana (included meal)

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- Check in to our Hotel
- To Patronato for Erev Shabbat Services.
- After services we will, as a group, share our Erev Shabbat dinner with the Jewish Community – included in the price of the mission is an amount sufficient to cover our meal and several in the Community (included meal).

Day 6 – Saturday – 3/12(B, L)

- Our hotel is within walking distance of both synagogues.
- Services at the Centro Sephardi.
- Lunch with the Community.(included meal)
- Also within walking distance of our hotel, and near the synagogues, are two included visits (pre-paid) which are part of our walking tour:
 - Decorative Arts Museum – excellent example of the life style of the very wealthy in pre Revolution Cuba
 - Museo Servando Cabrerias – on of Cuba’s greatest artists
- Evening at your leisure to enjoy the many private restaurants (Paladares) and night life of Havana. Your guide will assist you with your selection.

Optional Non Included Activity: 8:00 pm – Performance at the National Theatre – we should know upon arrival the nature of the performance – your guide will reserve orchestra seats – approximately: \$40

Day 7 – Sunday – 3/13 (B, L, D)

- Guided tour of Bellas Artes Museum – Cuba collection – the history of Cuba through its art – led by a museum curator and a member of the Jewish Community of Cuba
- Lunch at La Ferminia (included meal)
- Visit to the artist Fuster – the Gaudi of the Caribbean – his home and his neighborhood have been transformed by his artistry
- Guided visit to the Museum of the Revolution – to understand Cuba today is to know its revolution.
- Return to hotel - we can drop off those who wish in the old
- Farewell Dinner – Café Oriente (included meal)

Evening Optional Non Included Activity: an evening at the Tropicana – approximately \$100 – 10:30 pm – 12:30 am – The bus will take people from the hotel to the Tropicana and return to the hotel after the show.

Day 8 – Monday – 3/14 (B) – HAVANA – MIAMI []

- Check out of hotel
- Visit to cigar factory – the art of making a fine cigar
- A couple of surprises
- **CURRENT FLIGHT TIME** - ABC Charter flight – Departs:2:00 pm – Arrives: 3:00 pm

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