



Registration

**CUBA
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS
March 20th, 2013**

B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project Mission
May 1st – May 9th 2013

Join your fellow B'nai B'rith members and friends on this voyage of religious and cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. We will share experiences that few can have and will make a real difference in the lives of our Cuban brothers and sisters.

Cuba is changing rapidly; Now is the time to Experience Cuba!

A GREAT MITZVAH – A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE –

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

PROGRAM COSTS INCLUDE:

- **8 days, 7 nights** in Havana, Santiago, and Guantanamo, and 1 night in Miami for a fully authorized visit to Cuba.
- Round Trip Air, – **Miami/Santiago/Havana/Miami** – see itinerary.
- Accommodations:
 - **Miami - Crowne Plaza Hotel near Airport – 1 night**
 - **Santiago – Melia Santiago- five star hotel (or equivalent) – 2 nights**
 - **Havana –Melia Cohiba– five star hotel (or equivalent) – 5 nights**
- **17 Meals Included: 7 breakfasts/6 lunches/ 4 dinners** at some of the better restaurants in Cuba with time to try the paladares (private restaurants) of Havana.
 - We will share **Erev Shabbat and Shabbat meal with the Jewish Community of Santiago.**
 - A group meal at the paladar VistaMar located in a beautiful home overlooking the Straits of Florida
 - Please note, there is no kosher food in Cuba. No pork will be served at included meals. Meals will include a choice of two main courses, one of which usually is fish or pasta.
 - For meals on your own you can rely on your guide's advice.
- **Meetings and briefings with the B'nai B'rith Lodge & discussions** with the leaders and members of the Cuban Jewish Community.
- **Visit the Holocaust Memorial in Havana and discuss Jewish community projects and initiatives, including the Mitrani Senior Center.**
- Professional **English speaking guide** well versed in Cuban history and culture and the Jewish Community who will help you explore Havana.
- An experienced driver – modern motor coach with lavatory.
- Power point presentation: **The Cuban Jewish Experience Past and Present and discussions about the history of the Cuban Jewish community.**
- **Tips** at included meals.
- Bottled **water** while on the bus – 1 bottle per day.
- **Porterage & tips** at hotels in Cuba. Miami hotel departure day.
- **Cuban Visa.**
- **Health insurance** in Cuba – please see below.

PROGRAM COSTS NOT INCLUDED:

- **Trip cancellation insurance** — **is mandatory.** Select the insurer of your choice. Please see below.
- **Porters** at Miami International Airport – available but not included
- **Cuban Airport departure tax** (\$30) paid on your departure from Cuba
- **Transportation to/from Miami**
- **Excess baggage charge** — each person is allowed 44 lbs. free of charge – this includes all items taken on the plane (checked luggage, carry on, donations). You may take as much as you want at an additional charge of normally \$2 a pound. (. (Excess weight is combined and all participants share the costs.)

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- **Donations to Assist the Jewish Community of Cuba**-- Religious, medical & humanitarian items: as part of our participation on the mission everyone must bring at least **15 lbs. of supplies. Upon registration, we will provide you with a “needs” list of donation.**
- **Gratuity to your driver and guide** – a voluntary gratuity is customary based on the quality of service.

Eligibility to participate on the Cuba Mission requires a minimum contribution of \$2,000 per couple, or \$1,000 single, to the B’nai B’rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project 2012 annual campaign, in addition to the mission cost:

- Mission cost from MIAMI:
Double occupancy: \$2,565 per person
Single occupancy: \$2,915 per person

DEADLINES

March 6, 2013 – a **deposit** of \$500 per person (check or credit card) with registration forms & passport copies received by Bnai Brith International. **Deposit is refundable** if cancellation is received by the close of business on March 13th, 2013. It is not refundable for any reason after that date.

March 20, 2013 – **final balance** is due. The final balance is **not refundable** for any reason after that date.

To register or for questions please contact:

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IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this mission your passport must be valid for at least SIX MONTHS to the day after your ARRIVAL in Cuba on May 2nd.

Please do not register until your passport meets this requirement.

NOTE: Once you have submitted a valid passport as part of registration you cannot renew it as it will void your Cuba visa.

CANCELLATION & MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

To have a **preexisting condition** covered under all USA policies you will need to purchase your insurance (check or credit card) within 14 days from the date of your deposit payment 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. “THE BASIC” policy offered by Access America is adequate.
- PLEASE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE INSURER OF YOUR CHOICE.

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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 \$7,000) - **except as noted below**. Your hotel has a 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 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, because you will be walking over cobblestone streets and climbing stairs, 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 contact B'nai B'rith International before registering for the mission**.

FLIGHT TIMES – Our government must approve all flight times to/from Cuba which is not normally done until 2 months prior to departure. Therefore, we cannot guarantee departure and arrival times at this point. You will be notified as soon as flight times are fixed. We strongly urge you to allow a minimum of two hours to make a connecting flight home.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Subject to Change

Your guide can help you experience the vibrancy and rhythms of Cuban culture and suggest optional group evening activities, which are not part of the mission itinerary.

Wednesday, May 1st

Arrive in Miami and check into the Crowne Plaza Hotel. An informational meeting will be held at the hotel at 8:00 p.m. with your mission leader. Meeting room will be posted. If you have your humanitarian supplies in separate bags from your suitcase bring them to the meeting.

Thursday, May 2nd

Meet mission leader in Crowne Plaza Hotel lobby **PROMPTLY** at 5:30 a.m. for the airport bus. Your 1 hour flight leaves at 8:00 a.m. and arrives in Havana at 10 a.m. because Cuba is an hour ahead of us. When you check-in at the Miami airport you will be given your tickets, visa and other instructions for your trip. You will then go through customs and security. At the Havana airport, you will pick-up your baggage and go through customs which will take approximately one hour. At the airport you will be picked up by our bus and meet our Cuban bilingual guide. Then you will be taken to the Beth Shalom Synagogue and the Patronato (Jewish Community Center) to meet with Adela Dworin, President of the Jewish Community of Cuba and with other leaders. Some of the medicines and Judaica will be dropped off and you will be given a brief informational presentation and tour of the Synagogue and Pharmacy. Then you will check into your 5 star hotel and have lunch. After lunch you will visit the Sephardic Synagogue and have a brief tour of the city. Dinner will be at the hotel with local Jewish leaders.

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Friday, May 3rd

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the orthodox Adat Israel Synagogue. Then travel to the University of Havana for a talk on Cuba's religious life, economy and related topics. Then go to the Jewish Cemetery and return to the Old City for a walking visit. We are invited to participate in the evening services at the Beth Shalom Synagogue. Dinner at the famous El Aljibe Restaurant will follow services.

Saturday, May 4th

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning services at Beth Shalom, the Sephardic synagogue or the Adat Israel Orthodox Synagogue. Lunch will be with the community at the Patronato. Following lunch there will be a special event with the community at the Sephardic Center planned by the B'nai B'rith Maimonides Chapter of Cuba. After this event there will be free time to enjoy the city of Havana. Dinner will be at La Dominica in the Old City.

Sunday, May 5th

Breakfast at the Hotel. Visit Beth Shalom's Sunday School. A retreat including lunch outside the city will be held by the B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project. Dinner at Café del Oriente. There will be a choice of activities in the evening.

Monday, May 6th

Breakfast at the Hotel. The bus takes the mission to Cienfuegos where participants visit this small Jewish community; distribute more needed items and checks into the Jagua Hotel in Cienfuegos. Tour the quaint city of Cienfuegos. Dinner at the Hotel

Tuesday, May 7th

Breakfast at the Hotel Union. Travel to Santa Clara and meet with David Tacher, Leader of the Jewish Community of Santa Clara. Visit the Jewish cemetery, which is the site of the new Holocaust Memorial. Return to Havana and check into the hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel and there will be activities following dinner.

Wednesday, May 8th

Breakfast at the Hotel. Visit additional sites and leisure time. Dinner at the Santa Isabel restaurant.

Thursday, May 9th

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave hotel at 7:30 am, check-in at 8 a.m. at airport and depart Havana for Miami at 10:30 a.m. Please schedule return flight to home city after 2 p.m.