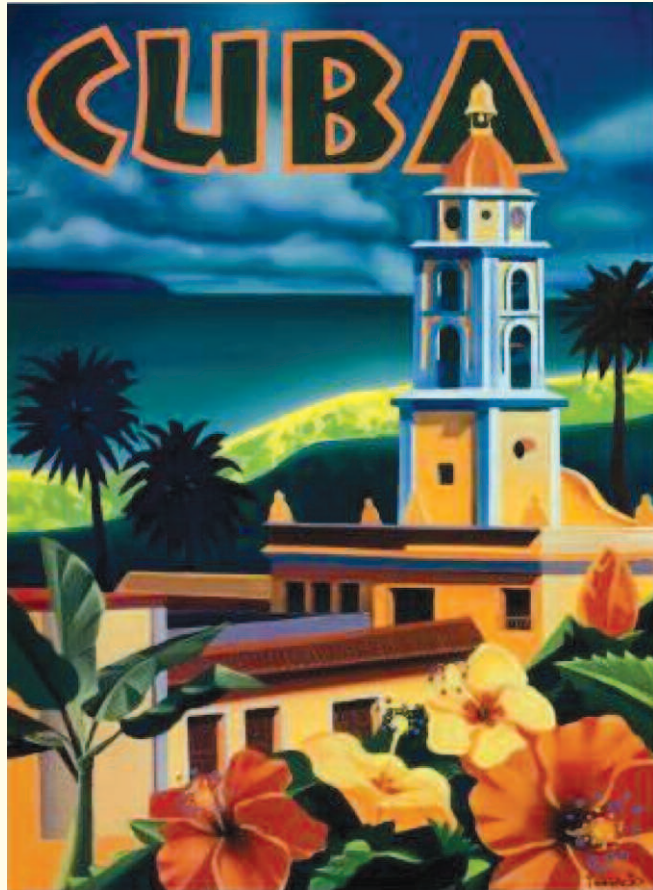




SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY - SUNDAY 1 MARCH

For further information please contact:
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virgin atlantic 

BOISDALE JAZZ & CIGAR CLUB
HAVANA JAUNT 2009
SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY - SUNDAY 1 MARCH



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Day 1

Sunday 22 February



Nacional Hotel de Cuba-
Cuba's most prestigious hotel



Havana skyline

9.45am **Virgin** direct flight from Gatwick Airport.

2.40pm VIP arrival in Havana, the record is six minutes from touchdown to an indifferent Mojito and transfer to Nacional Hotel de Cuba. The rooms on the **VIP Executive Floor** have their own reception, breakfast room, gym, and business centre with wireless internet connection. I will have already inspected your rooms and checked you in, so this process is very smooth.

7.30pm Meet on the Nacional's legendary terrace for welcome cocktails followed by a dinner of garlic and sour orange fed pig spit-roasted over charcoal especially for us at El Barocca restaurant. It is an open-sided thatched restaurant with a magnificent view of the Havana skyline, conveniently located within minutes of our hotel. It serves some of the best pork I have ever tasted. An early night is always recommended on arrival, but for those in need of a first night *nightcap* the One Eyed Cat with great live bolero music a few minutes walk from the hotel would be a suitable rendezvous, which reminds me, the correct way to address a hereditary Knight retiring for the evening is, "Good night Knight."**(cocktails, dinner, wine & rum all included)**.



Colonial Havana

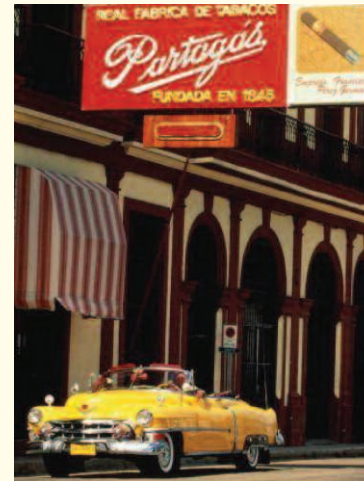
Day 2

Monday 23 February

7am-8.30am Breakfast at the Nacional Hotel.



El Laguito cigar factory



Cigar buying tour of Havana



Marlin fishing

Option 1:

9.00am **Cigar Buying Tour of Havana.** Starting with a VIP tour of the legendary El Laguito cigar factory where Cohibas are made. Not open to the public and only by very special high level permission from Habanos SA, this is a first for the BJ&CC and a rare treat for those of us who love cigars. This is the first day of the Festival and it is important for those who wish to purchase interesting cigars to do so today before the swarms of cigar aficionados from all over the world descend on Havana and clean out all the best stock. We will do this by air-conditioned coach. Smoking one's way around Havana is also an enjoyable, if unenergetic way to orientate oneself and yes there will be a bar on board! **(all included)**.

Option 2:

10.00am Personal guided tour of Havana as requested i.e. palaces and architecture, art galleries, bars or simply an extensive city tour **(guide included** but all transport and refreshment **to be paid locally)**.

Option 3:

20 minute taxi to the beach or relax by the pool and join everyone for lunch later.

Option 4:

Take a boat from Hemingway Marina for a day's marlin fishing **(to be paid locally - approximately £250)**.



Havana Opera House



The Cigar Festival Inauguration Dinner

**Day 3
Tuesday 24th February**



Club Havana

1.30pm Lunch at my favourite restaurant, the paladar **La Cocina de Lilliam**, in Mirimar - the beautiful ambassadorial district of Havana. Probably the best food in Havana, this restaurant is set in an exotic tropical garden and will always be a part of our itinerary. Lilliam is a formidable cook whose children and grandchildren very charmingly and professionally run the restaurant. Her recipes are resonant of haut bourgeois cooking of 1950s Havana (**cocktails, lunch, wine & rum - all included**).

Option 1:

7.30pm The Cigar Festival Inauguration Dinner. Every year this dinner takes place in a different location with a cigar brand theme and serious entertainment. As yet the Habanos Cigar Festival Itinerary is not finalised so details are not available. All we know at this stage is that it will happen at this sort of price, which will incidentally include all the cigars, cocktails, wine and dinner (**Estimated supplement of \$175.00**).

Option 2:

Free evening to explore Havana in the good company of *The Boisdale Breast Pocket Guide to Havana 2009*.

Breakfast on the terrace at the Nacional.

Option 1: Club Havana for a lazy beach day and an excellent lunch on the terrace (**cocktails, dinner, wine & rum - all included**). Entertainment will include **The Boisdale Jazz & Cigar Club Havana Jaunt Boules Competition 2009**. The winning team to be photographed and included in the next edition of *The Boisdale Telegraph* as well as being syndicated internationally to the world's media. Other activities include: all water sports, tennis, Intergalactic Perudo Spoof, salsa dancing, and cigar smoking on the beach.

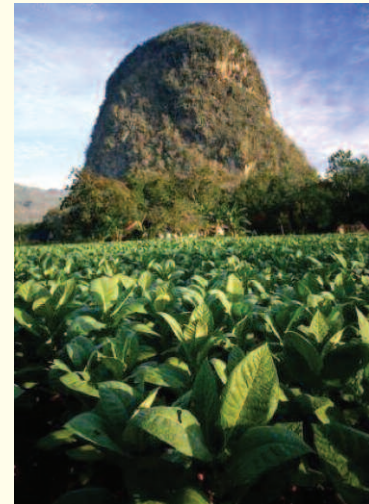


Havana good time

**Day 4
Wednesday 25 February**



Tropicana Club



Valle de Viñales, Mogotes

Option 2: Personal guided tour of Havana (*guide included* but all transport and refreshments *to be paid locally*).

Option 3: Glorious free day

Free evening with an early start for some and although you can sleep on the bus, the countryside is stunning and well worth being awake for!

Breakfast on the terrace at the Nacional.

Option 1: Free day and evening for which we can organise whatever may be desired, for instance the best seats at the legendary Tropicana Cabaret show, which must be done once in a lifetime, but arguably not twice! (**to be paid locally**).

Option 2: BJ&CC Intrepid Expedition 2009

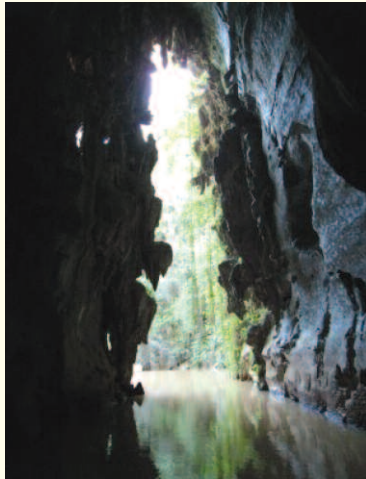
8.00am We will keep our rooms at the Nacional so we will only need to pack for a day at sea, dinner that night and for lunch the next day. We will travel for just under two hours in an extremely comfortable air-conditioned coach equipped with DVD player and most importantly a bar.

A beautiful drive through magical countryside of lush exotic landscapes to the coastal fishing village of La Esperanza opposite Cayo Levisa, which is a densely wooded islet, within sight of the mainland; it boasts some of the finest sand and clearest waters on the Northern coast of Cuba. There we embark upon our *floating rum palace* to enjoy a day exploring the coral reefs and exquisite beaches to be found in this part of the Gulf of Mexico and head to some of Cuba's very best marlin fishing grounds. We will also visit the idyllic Cayo Paradiso, the island which inspired Hemingway to write "Islands in the Stream". For those who do not wish to be



Cayo Paradiso

BJ&CC Intrepid Expedition 2009 continued... involved in the fishing (which quite frankly does not involve very much), all creature comforts including a well stocked bar will be available to ensure a wonderful cruise. Being marooned for half a day on Cayo Paradiso is also a possibility. Sporting activities will include: fishing, snorkelling, cocktails, wine, lobster lunch and deep sea cigar smoking.



Cueva de San Miguel caves

We'll then return to land transport and drive through stunning mountain scenery to Los Jasmines, one of Cuba's most beautiful hotels situated in immaculate grounds on an unbeatable hillside location with wonderful broad views across the most beautiful section of the Vinales Valley. It is also within easy walking distance of the charming untouched small town of Vinales, which is a perfectly preserved colonial settlement founded in 1607 and named after a vineyard planted by a settler from the Canary Islands.

160 million years ago this area of Limestone Mountains had been so eroded by underground rivers that it had become a vast cave of 60 sq miles supported by slender columns of harder stone. The roof of this enormous cave eventually collapsed leaving the stumps of the supports exposed. These flat-topped mounds or *mogotes* are home to several long surviving and rare plants, birds and animals. The valley floor is a patchwork of emerald, jade and bottle green (the colours of the cultivated tobacco plants) sown together by the bright red terracotta of the exposed top soil. This soil sustains the best tobacco crops in the world.



Vinales Valley

6.00pm Check into Los Jasmines and have a welcoming cocktail with which to enjoy the spectacular sunset.



Party until the small hours



Los Jasmines Hotel

**Day 5
Thursday 26 February**



Cuban cigars

BJ&CC Intrepid Expedition 2009 continued... **8.30pm** Depart to Vinales for dinner in a local *paladare* to which musicians will be invited for a festive evening. The food will not be a serious culinary treat but the music and atmosphere will hopefully be amazing. After dinner and entertainment those who wish will return to Los Jasmines and the rest of us will go on to Cueva de San Miguel, a huge network of caves which once supported both an indigenous population and an escaped slave community in the 16th and 17th centuries. One of the largest of these caves has been converted into a nightclub and bar with live music which on our last visit in 2004 was quite lively **(to be paid locally)** - **(The BJ&CC IE 2009 is a supplement of £250.00 including luxury coach with bar, fully crewed & equipped rum palace for a day at sea with lobster lunch, one night at Los Jasmines Hotel, dinner and lunch including all cocktails, rum and wine, VIP tobacco plantation tour).**

Breakfast on the terrace at Los Jasmines.

9.00am

Option 1: VIP tour of a tobacco plantation.

Option 2: Cigar smoking and backgammon by the pool.

Option 3: Nature trail and exploration of local fauna by foot or on horseback.

Option 4: Exotic bird watching.

1.00pm Probably not delicious but very relaxed lunch at Los Jasmines.

2.30pm Depart for Havana & siesta on the journey.

4.30pm Return to the Hotel Nacional.



The BJ&CC 2009 Havana Party with a particular emphasis on great live music. Exciting plans are afoot but no details are confirmed as yet. **(cocktails, dinner, wine, rum all included)**

**Day 6
Friday 27 February**



La Guarida, one of the city's best restaurants

Breakfast on the terrace at the Nacional.

Free morning.

Option 1: Lunch at Havana's most famous and the Boisdale Jazz & Cigar Club's favourite, paladar **La Guarida** in Central Havana. Enrico serves excellent, imaginative and authentic Cuban food and provided some inspiration for the menu in Floridita London. La Guarida certainly has one of the world's most memorable restaurant entrances; regulars include, Robert de Niro, the King of Spain, Jimmy Carter, and The Manic Street Preachers **(cocktails, dinner, wine, rum all included)**.

Option 2: Free day.

Option 1: Free evening.

Option 2:
7.00pm Depart for the **Cigar Festival Gala Dinner**. The venue is not confirmed as yet. Tickets for this event will be many times oversubscribed, particularly as the special limited edition cigars provided on the evening will be in time worth significantly more than the ticket price for the event. Recent guests of honour have included **Matt Dillon, Joseph Fiennes** and **Jeremy Irons**. Unlikely rumours persist that Elvis Presley was seen incognito last year. **(\$500.00)**.



Elvis Presley may attend The Gala Dinner again?

**Day 7
Saturday 28 February**



Our last night in Havana

Breakfast on the terrace at the Nacional.

Option 1: An excursion as yet not organised, the strategy for which will have emerged over the previous few days **(to be paid locally)**.

Option 2: Free day.

Farewell to Havana dinner at a surprise venue **(all cocktails, wine, rum and dinner included)**.

As this is the "big" night of the week in Cuba we will then go on to enjoy the best live music in Havana **(to be paid locally)**.

**Day 8
Sunday 1 March**



Breakfast on the terrace at the Nacional.

Free day of relaxation and travel preparations.

5.10pm VIP transfer to Havana Airport. This involves the ability to check in through Business Class which avoids excruciating queues and also provides access to a complimentary lounge bar for our comfort and sustenance.

**Day 9
Monday 2 March**

6.45am arrival at Gatwick Airport.

**IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTES**

- The departure date is 9.45am, Sunday 22 February. We depart Havana at 5.10pm, Sunday 1 March arriving back well rested in London at 6.45am, 2 March.
- This tour is organised in conjunction with **Floridita Travel and Havana Holdings Cuba**.
- The week will be hosted by Ranald Macdonald.
- **Free days & evenings:** Almost limitless excursions and activities can be organised and programmed into a personal itinerary before departure.
- **Cuban Visa** is included.
- **VIP** airport reception and departure are included.
- **All Hotel** accommodation is included.
- **All transfers** to and from the airport are included.
- **All breakfasts** are included.
- **Three dinners** and **three lunches** with cocktails, reasonable wine, and rum are included.
- **Local guides available every day** are included.
- **All luxury coach** travel is included.
- No taxis are included. Taxis in Havana average £2-£6 per journey per taxi.
- Restaurants: although you can eat and drink locally for next to nothing the **“to be paid locally”** restaurants suggested in this itinerary average around £40 - £50 per head all in.
- Insurance is **not** included.
- All times quoted are local times and may vary nearer the time of travel; these will be confirmed to you then.
- Anything not included in the tour price is highlighted **to be paid locally**.
- All meals marked **“included”** include designated cocktails on arrival, mineral water and unlimited quantities of reasonable wine and rum, but do not include any cigars or any alternative drinks.
- All optional items are subject to numbers of people interested and availability locally.
- Elements of this itinerary may change due to circumstances beyond our control.



Cost per person travelling is **£1,650** and is based upon two people sharing twin/double accommodation.

Supplement for single room occupancy is **£135.00**.

Virgin Atlantic Premium Economy (equivalent to business class) supplement is **£610**.

Upgrade to **VIP Executive 6th Floor** at Nacional hotel de Cuba supplement of **£120** for the week per person.

The BJ&CC IE 2009 is a supplement of £250.00 and includes luxury coach with bar, fully crewed and equipped rum palace for a day at sea with lobster lunch, one night at Los Jasmines Hotel, dinner and lunch including all cocktails, rum and wine, and VIP tobacco plantation tour.

The group will be limited to a maximum of 18 guests.

Tickets for the Cigar Festival Dinners need to be paid for and reserved ASAP. Demand is seriously outstripping supply. **The Inauguration Dinner is \$175.00** and the **Cigar Festival Gala Dinner is \$500.00**.

We require a non-refundable deposit of £250.00 per person, with the balance payable by December 2008. Please send a **cheque made payable to Boisdale for £250.00** (ideally accompanied by a post dated cheque for the balance) to be sent to Ranald Macdonald, Boisdale, 15 Eccleston Street, London, SW1W 9LX.

Before departure you will receive all the detailed information you will require for this expedition in terms of currency, what to bring, what not to do, etc., which will not in fact amount to very much more than you would have imagined, but may be useful.

