

# All of Cuba 11 days/10 nights Havana, Viñales, Trinidad, Camagūey, Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba A meet the people cultural experience

# Day 1: USA, Havana

After passing Customs and Immigration at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana you'll be met and greeted by the guide/driver that will transfer you to your hotel or B&Bin Havana. After settling down, your guide will take you on a tour of Havana in old vintage car, including a drive along the famous Havana "Malecon" seawall, Vedado neighborhood, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the suburb of Miramar and make stops at the Plaza of the Revolution, and Almendares Park. The rest of the day is free to relax until dinner at a private restaurant. Overnight at your hotel or B&B. [D]

**Note**: This day will be adjusted in accordance with your arrival time.

## Day 2: Havana

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel or B&B before joining a walking tour through Old Havana and its five main plazas, with stops at the residence of the colonial era palace of the island's Captain General, the Hayana Cathedral, Obispo Street, the Capitol building, and more. Most of our guests in Cuba start their cultural exchanges with a walking tour of Old Havana. This event is directed by one of our professional Englishspeaking guides, and gives you a taste of the island in a very interesting activity that feels like stepping into a time machine. Old Havana has buildings and streets that are some of the oldest in the Americas, with some buildings dating to the 17th century. Though the buildings are hundreds of years old, they are still used to house a significant number of Havana's inhabitants. Old Havana features the first church built on the island, a street paved with wooden bricks, palatial residences, and much more! Old Havana is one of the largest, oldest, most authentic colonial areas in Latin America, and houses a significant number of Havana's population. After the tour enjoy lunch at private restaurant. In the afternoon participate in a Salsa and Rumba dance workshop and class. Learn about the history of some of Cuba's most popular dances and, then, receive expert dance instructions. Music plays a large part in the lives of most Cubans, and Cuban music has influenced many musical styles around the world. This workshop covers some of the history of both Salsa and Rumba music styles. Cuban music has been strongly influenced by Spanish, African, and Middle Eastern musical styles, and this melding of styles gives Cuban music its unique sound. A professional presentation on the history of Cuban music will be followed by a demonstration of both Salsa and Rumba, and personalized dance instructions for guests. In the evening have dinner at a private restaurant and, after, visit the "Fabrica de Arte Cubano" for an art exhibit and live music. Return transportation by taxi is at own cost and is both safe and easily arranged at the entrance. Overnight at your hotel. [B/L/D]

## Day 3: Havana, Viñales, Havana

Early breakfast before today's full-day tour to discover the UNESCO protected "Valle de Viñales," and its unique rock formations. Visit the "Mirador de los Jazmines" and "Cueva del Indio" (the cave of the Indian) that includes a boat ride through its interior. Visit a Tobaco Farm and the "Casa del Veguero," - the cigar maker's home. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before concluding your tour with a visit to the Prehistoric Painting Mural, which illustrates the evolution of life in the "Sierra de los Organos".

### Option [1] Immersion in nature and rural life in Cuba.

We will drive up to the entrance of the National Park of Viñales. There we'll switch to horses to complete the tour. Our first stop will be about 15 minutes later, in the middle of the exuberant nature of the Valley of Silence, to visit a tobacco dryer amid plantations and enjoy the "guajiro" (tobacco farmer) himself explaining the whole process of plantation, cultivation, collection and drying of the tobacco until the manufacture of the Habanos. Later we will continue to the coffee plantations, their cultivation, process and taste local coffee in either the peasant houses or under the trees, drink sugar cane juice in the middle of the nature and to watch the process of production of the honey of Earth. During the journey you will be able to observe many of the typical Cuban crops, many peasants on horseback, oxen plowing and the routine life of the countryside. We'll finish at fantastic viewpoint over the heart of the Viñales Valley and a lunch prepared by typical Cuban farmers.

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Return to Havana arriving in time for dinner at your hotel or. [B/L/D]

## Day 4: Havana, Trinidad

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and be ready for today's trip to Trinidad, with stops in Guamá and Cienfuegos. Once you arrive at Zapata Swamp, your first stop is in Boca de Guamá to visit a crocodile-breeding farm for a crocodile encounter. Afterwards, and *if there are enough boats available*, you'll take a boat to the "Aldea Taina", a reproduction of a precolonial Indian village consisting of overwater bungalows scattered along the 12 islets in the middle of the Laguna del Tesoro. Continue to have lunch at a private restaurant in Playa Larga. Then, drive to Cienfuegos for a panoramic tour of the city stopping at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Conception, "Paseo del Prado", Provincial Museum and "Palacio del Valle". The last drive will bring you to Trinidad where, after checking-in at your hotel or B&B you'll have dinner at a private restaurant. Overnight at your hotel or B&B. [B/L/D]

## Day 5: Trinidad

After breakfast start a walking city tour of Trinidad, a city founded in 1514, that has some of Latin America's best preserved colonial era houses. Stops at "Plaza Mayor," Church of the Holy Trinity, Plaza Santa Ana, "Tres Cruces" (three crosses), Palace of Count Brunet, which currently houses the "Museo Romantico" and more. By now you must be hungry so we have scheduled lunch at a private restaurant. In the afternoon join a Cuban History Workshop covering the early years of the Cuban Revolution and, specifically, the combat that took place near Trinidad in the Escambray Mountains from 1961 through 1965. An attempt is always made to include an actual combatant in this workshop, however, due to their advanced age and other issues, their participation is not guaranteed. *If this activity it is not possible* we will departure to Sugar Mills Valley, outside Trinidad, to visit the Manaca Iznaga Sugar Mill ruins, one of the 56 major mills that once flourished in the area. Cuba was a former economic leader due to its production of sugar and the Iznaga family held great power until it declined after a tragedy of love. Continue to Trinidad arriving in time to relax before dinner at private restaurant followed by a live music show. Return to your hotel or B&B for overnight. [B/L/D/S]

## Day 6: Trinidad, Camagūey

Good bye Trinidad and welcome Camagūey! After breakfast be ready for today's drive to the city of Camagūey where you should arrive in time for lunch at a private restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy a tour of the city founded in 1514 and known, at the time, as "Villa de Santa Maria del Puerto del Principe" and now a World Heritage Site. It is the birthplace of many notable Cubans, including Ignacio Agramonte – a Cuban revolutionary who participated in the Ten Years War -, Gertrudis Gomez de Avellana – a Cuban-born Spanish writer -, Dr. Carlos J. Finlay – the Cuban physician who discovered that mosquitos carry the Yellow Fever from human to human - and Nicolas Guillen – a journalist and activist known as the national poet of Cuba. This afternoon, enjoy a warm welcoming to Camagüey among medieval churches and plazas. Visit the scale model of the town, walk around the five foundational squares of the old village, whose buildings' architectonic value stands out, being one of the reasons for the center of Camagüey being declared World Heritage. A stroll along the "Street of Cinemas" and visits to Agramonte Park, Ignacio Agramonte's home, the Church of the Sacred Heart, Soledad Church, the "Plaza del Carmen" and many other places of interest. Enjoy dinner in the colonial Restaurant "1800" folloed by a night of Cuban traditional music at Casa de la Trova. Overnight at your hotel or B&B. [B/L/D]

# Day 7: Camagüey, Santiago de Cuba

After breakfast continue your way to Cuba's eastern part with a drive to Bayamo and a stop en route for lunch. Mid afternoon arrive in Bayamo, a city known as the cradle of the nation or "Cuna de la Cubanía" that played a prominent role in Cuban history. Bayamo was the second city to be founded in Cuba, the second most important city on the island for most of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and mother of the Cuban National Anthem written there in 1868. Its inhabitants burned down the entire city the following year so that it would not be useful to the approaching Spanish forces. Your visit of Bayamo will include a walking city tour of the colonial section, a ride on a horse drawn carriage, and a visit to the Cuban House of Nationhood, the former home of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes considered the father of the nation. Afterwards, we continue to visit en route the National Santuary Basilica of the Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre, patron of Cuba built in 1926 in the village of El Cobre about 12 miles west of Santiago de Cuba. It is a 3-aisled church on the hill "Cerro de la Cantera" and is linked to the village by a flight of 254 steps. Popes John Paul II and Francis have visited the

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place. Continue to Santiago de Cuba for check-in at your hotel and a little time to rest. Then, have dinner at a private restaurant followed by a live music show at a venue to be determined. Return to your hotel for overnight. [B/L/D/S]

### Day 8: Santiago de Cuba

Hopefully you rested well after yesterday's drive and enjoyed breakfast at your hotel. This morning we have scheduled a tour of the City of Santiago de Cuba, which was founded by Diego Velazquez in the year 1515 and was once the capital of the island. Santiago has several UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the San Pedro de la Roca Fortress and Baconao Park. Your visit of Santiago will include a walking tour of the colonial section with stops at Cespedes Park, Diego Velazquez's House, the Cathedral and the Bacardi Museum. Stop at the Casagranda Hotel so you can enjoy a wonderful view from its terrace. Lunch at a private restaurant. In the afternoon, visit Morro de Santiago as Cubans call the San Pedro de la Roca Castle. It was built in 1637 as a defense against raiding pirates although a smaller fortification had been built between 1590 and 1610. After several changes the fortress and the citadel were finally completed in 1700. The fortress was declared a World Heritage Site in 1997 as the most completed example of Spanish-American Military Architecture. Return to your hotel for a short rest. In evening enjoy dinner at a private restaurant followed by a live music show at "La Casa de la Trova", which is dedicated to the Cuba's musicians. Return to your hotel or B&B after the show for overnight. [B/L/D/S]

#### Day 9: Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Baracoa

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and be ready to say goodbye to Santiago! The next stop will be the city of Guantanamo, and will include a driving tour of the city including stops at "La Villa de Guantanamo, la "Tumba Francesa" and "La Casa de Changui". Have lunch at a private restaurant before starting your drive to Baracoa arriving around 6 pm to check-in at your hotel . Some free time to settle down before dinner at a private restaurant. Overnight at your hotel. [B/L/D]

### Day 10: Baracoa

After breakfast we will visit the Cacao Trails at Duaba Farm. Learn about farmer's life and all the process, varieties and artisan production of cacao at the agricultural museum. We will enjoy a short ride in a Cayuca, the aborigine means of transportation, to watch a unique phenomena produced in Toa River, the Tibaracón – a sandbar created by the sea that forces the river to run a long distance before reaching the ocean. Lunch at Rio Toa Restaurant. Return to the city to start the tour of Baracoa, the oldest town in Cuba and the island's first capital. Christopher Columbus first sighted the coastal area, which eventually became Baracoa, on November 27, 1492. Your tour of Baracoa will include visits to the Matachin Fort and Archeological Museum, which houses artifacts related to the history of the island from the pre-colonial era to the 1950's. The Church of Our Lady of the Asuncion, which houses the Vine Cross, believed to be the cross that Columbus had on his original voyage to the New World, Seboruco Fortress and the Chocolate Museum. Chocolate has been cultivated for hundreds of years in and around Baracoa and is still produced and processed there. At the end of the visit have dinner at a private restaurant. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B/L/D]

#### Day 11: Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba, USA

All good things come to an end! Today is the last day of your tour. After breakfast at your hotel or B&B be ready for your transfer to Antonio Maceo International Airport in Santiago to board your return flight to the USA. [B]

Note: Your departure flight must leave late in the afternoon to allow for time to drive from Baracoa.

[D] = Dinner | [B] = Breakfast | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner | [B/X/D] = Breakfast, Box Lunch and Dinner

**Note:** We will make our best efforts to follow the above itinerary, however we reserve the right to substitute and/or make changes to certain elements of the itinerary including but not limited to routing, restaurants, hotels and activities in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Please note that activity times shown are for reference only and that actual times may differ significantly – everything runs on "Cuban time" and is part of the cultural exchange experience.

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## Your Tour includes:

- · Arrival and departure transfers
  - o 10 nights accommodation
  - Havana 3 nights(at hotel or B&B)
  - Trinidad 2 nights (B&B)
  - Camagūey 1 night (at hotel or B&B)
  - o Santiago de Cuba 2 nights
  - Baracoa 2 nights
- Meals
  - o Breakfast daily
  - o 9 lunches
  - o 10 dinners
    - Lunches and dinners include an appetizer, main course, dessert, and one drink
- All transportation is by car or van depending on group size.
- · Children are allowed

 English speaking guide will be with guests during all scheduled tours, workshops, and most transfers.

#### Tour does not include:

- · International or domestic airfares
- Taxes and fees related to air transportation
- · Cuban entry visa
- Taxes & Medical Insurance
- Excess luggage
- · Optional activities
- · Personal expenses
- Travel Insurance
- · Tips to guides or drivers
- · Expenses of a personal nature
- Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary



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Hotels in your tour:

Location		Hotel Name	Room Type	Tripdvisor
		First Class		
Havana		NH Capri		4
Trinidad		Vivian y Pablo		5
	B&B	Casa Cantero		5
		Hostal Colina		5
Camarguey	B&B	Casa Durän	Standard	4
	БаБ	Rodolfo Y Xiomara		4.5
Santiago		Imperial		4
Baracoa		Rio Miel		4
		Habanera or 1511		3.5
		Deluxe		
Havana	lk	perostar Parque Central		4.5
Trinidad		Casa Barmarin		4.5
	B&B	Hostal Lola		4.5
		La Casona	Standard Modern	5
Camarguey	В&В	Casa Madiba	Standard Modern	5
	מאס	Hostal Rafael		4.5
Santiago		Melia		4
Baracoa		Porto Santo		3.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour prices:

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Season	Double	Single*	Single**	Triple				
First Class								
May-Jun &	\$5,955	\$6,425	\$5,519	\$5,049				
Jul01-Aug24	\$5,979	\$6,425	\$5,519	\$5,075				
Nov01-Dec21	\$6,295	\$6,795	\$5,885	\$5,385				
Dec22-Jan02 '18	\$6,375	\$7,105	\$6,199	\$5,465				
Deluxe								
May-Jun &	\$6,229	\$6,669	\$5,765	\$5,325				
Jul01-Aug24	\$6,249	\$6,669	\$5,765	\$5,345				
Nov01-Dec21	\$6,435	\$6,995	\$6,089	\$5,529				
Dec22-Jan02 '18	\$6,775	\$7,335	\$6,429	\$5,869				

Single\*: Passenger traveling alone - Single\*: Third passenger in a single room Prices are per person and may change without notice.

Prices are valid up to January 2018

# Option:

- Children		
Description		
[1] Immersion in nature and rural life in Cuba	\$45	

Tour Code: CU06HAV17FFV

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