

Charming Western Cuba
7 days/6 nights
Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Playa Larga, Havana
A meet the people cultural experience

Day 1: USA, Cienfuegos

Upon arrival at Jaime Gonzalez International Airport you will be met by our driver/guide and transferred to the restaurant for your first meeting with Cuban food. After lunch, your guide will lead a walking tour of Cienfuegos. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Conception, "Paseo del Prado," Provincial Museum, Terry Theatre, "Palacio del Valle," and more. Check in at your hotel and time to relax until around 8:00 pm when you have dinner at a private restaurant. Return to your hotel for overnight. [D]

Day 2: Cienfuegos, Trinidad

After breakfast, departure to Sugar Mills Valley outside Trinidad, where we will visit the Manaca Iznaga Sugar Mill ruins, one of the 56 major mills that once flourished. 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. Afterwards we drive to Trinidad for lunch at a Private Restaurant. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely walking tour of Trinidad, which was founded in 1514, and has some of Latin America's best-preserved colonial era houses. The tour includes stops at the "Plaza Mayor", Church of the Holy Trinity, Plaza Santa Ana and "Tres Cruces", the Palace of Count Brunet that currently houses the "Museo Romantico", the Archeology Museum and "Palacio de Cantero" that offers an incredible view of the area. Check in at your hotel and enjoy a short resting time before dinner at private restaurant. After dinner listen to live Cuban music at "La Casa de la Musica Trinidad". Return to your hotel on your own for overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Trinidad

Depart to Topes de Collantes, by Russian truck, to visit a lookout point and enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the city and the Caribbean Sea. Visit to "Casa del café" and continue to "Casa de la Gallega" through tropical rain forests and coffee plantations. Follow the trail "Centinelas del río melodioso" with an expert on the Cuban Flora and Fauna (2 miles). At the pond "El Venado" and the waterfall "El Rocío" you'll have time for swimming. Light lunch included. Return to Trinidad where you'll have some free time to explore the city on your own and getting ready for dinner at a private restaurant. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Trinidad, Playa Larga

After breakfast it's time to say goodbye to Trinidad and be transferred to the Peninsula of Zapata and your hotel in Playa Larga where you'll arrive by the end of the morning in time to check-in and have lunch at a private restaurant. In the afternoon start a tour of Bay of Pigs Museum, followed by an "Invasion" workshop, which covers the events occurred in the Playa Larga area in April 1961. The workshop is followed by a 4-hour driving tour of the invasion beaches and Zapata Swamp. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Playa Larga, Havana

Enjoy breakfast and be ready for your drive to Havana. Lunch in Old Havana and participate in a City Encounter of Havana, a walking event through Old Havana and its four main plazas, with stops at the residence of the colonial era's Palace of the Captain General of the island, Havana Cathedral, Obispo Street, Capitol building, and more. Most of our guests start their cultural exchanges with a walking tour of Old Havana. This event- gives you a taste of the island in a very interesting way 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 the hotel where Ernest Hemingway wrote "For Whom the Bell Tolls". Old Havana is one of the largest, oldest, and most authentic colonial areas in Latin America. After the tour check in at your hotel and take a short rest. Enjoy dinner at a private restaurant. The day will end with Tradicional Cuban music at Buena Vista Social Club show at Rosalia de Castro. Return to your hotel on your own for a deserved restful night. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Havana

After breakfast join an “Afro-Cuban religion” workshop that gives a brief overview of the Afro-Cuban religion called Santeria, covering the syncretism of Catholicism and African religions, and the role and significance of drums in the religion. Santeria has been present on the island of Cuba since colonial times and is currently practiced by more Cubans than at any time in history. This workshop covers the main deities of religion, their origin myths, the colors and vestments associated with them, and their roles in human life. Guests are usually amazed after attending this workshop, and then realize that many of the interesting decorations worn by Cubans on the street are associated with the religion. After the workshop enjoy lunch at a private restaurant. In the afternoon join a Jazz Workshop with a group of contemporary Jazz musicians led by Jorge Luis Chicoy, and featuring Juan Carlos Marin Elosegui, Adel Gonzalez, Jorge Reyes, Oliver Valdes Rey, and others. This workshop covers several topics, and is intended to help our guests better understand how Jazz has been influenced by, and has influenced the music of Cuba. Topics covered include the relationship of traditional Cuban music to Jazz, Jazz history from the Cuban perspective, Cuba’s contributions to Jazz, the “clave”, and Cuban instruments such as the “tres” guitar and bongos. Basic principles in theory and practice are also discussed. Some improvised playing will take place and the workshop is usually accompanied with a live performance by some of the participating musicians at a Havana club. It’s now time for a little relaxation before dinner at your hotel or B&B. After dinner finish the day with a live Jazz performance at La Zorra y el Cuervo. Return to your hotel or B&B for overnight. [B/L/D]

Option: Full-day Viñales (same price that the regular day)

Early breakfast before today’s full-day tour to discover the UNESCO protected “Valle de Viñales,” and its unique rock formations. Tour includes the “Mirador de los Jazmines”, the “Cueva del Indio” (the cave of the Indian), - that includes a boat ride through its interior. Visit to a Tobacco Farm and the “Casa del Veguero,” - the cigar maker’s home 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”. Return to Havana arriving in time for dinner at your hotel or B&B. [B/L/D]

Day 7: Havana, USA

Enjoy your last Cuban breakfast at your hotel or B&B before joining your guide for a “Cigar and Rum” experience. Visit a Cigar Factory, the Rum Museum and the House of the “Habano”. Guests will have an opportunity to sample both fine Cuban rums and cigars during this event. Depending on schedule, there is also a demonstration **by a cigar roller** Palacio de la Artesanía.. The Rum Museum includes a replica of a colonial era rum distillery and ia presentation of the culture and tradition of Cuban rum production. The Museum also displays art works by contemporary Cuban artists.

All good things must end! It’s time for your transfer to Jose Marti International Airport at least 3 hours before your flight’s scheduled departure time. [B]

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.*

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

Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Airport assistance
- 6 nights accommodation in Bed and Breakfasts
 - Cienfuegos – 1 nights
 - Trinidad – 2 night
 - Playa Larga – 1 night
 - Havana – 2 nights
- Meals
 - Breakfast daily
 - Lunches & Dinners according to the itinerary
 - Lunches and dinners include an appetizer, main course, dessert, and one drink
- All transportation is by car or van depending on group size
- English speaking guide
- Children are allowed

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

Hotels in your tour:

Location	Hoitel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Trinidad	Hotel Jagua	4
Playa Larga	B&B	NA
Havana	NH Capri	4
Deluxe		
Trinidad	Hotel Jagua	4
Playa Larga	B&B	NA
Havana	Iberostar Parque Central	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Price:

Season	Double	Single*	Single**	Triple
First Class				
Apr & Oct	\$3,859	\$4,075	\$3,529	\$3,309
Jun-Sep	\$3,955	\$4,259	\$3,709	\$3,405
Nov01-Dec21	\$4,009	\$4,325	\$3,775	\$3,459
Dec22-Jan02	\$4,535	\$4,549	\$3,999	\$3,985
Deluxe				
Apr - Oct	\$3,979	\$4,169	\$3,619	\$3,429
Nov01-Dec21	\$4,119	\$4,335	\$3,785	\$3,569
Dec22-Jan02	\$4,709	\$4,545	\$3,995	\$4,155

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

Tour Code: CU04CFG17FFV

