

Five Centuries of Architecture
6 Days/5 nights
Havana
Architecture, History, Culture, Meet the people

Day 1 –New York, Havana

differentiated assistance, location, speed of baggage delivery and formalities for immigration and customs control. You'll also have access to the VIP lounges enjoy a welcome cocktail.

Then meet with the tour guide who will transfer you to your hotel in Havana. The rest of the day is at leisure.

In the evening you'll be picked up and driven to the famous Tropicana Club for the night show. *Return transportation by taxi is at own cost and is both safe as well as easily arranged at the entrance.*

Accommodation in your hotel. [D]

Note: All proposed activities for days 2, 3 and 4 will be led by an Architect with ample professional experience and fluent English.

Day 2 –Havana

In the morning we begin our Architecture experience with a lecture on “Architecture in Havana from the 16th through the 20th Centuries” to better understand all what we see during our tour. This lecture will be an introduction for the buildings, places and urban districts to be visited in the following 4 sessions. Then enjoy a deserved lunch at a private restaurant.

Session 1 - Old Havana's Historic Center (3 hours)

You'll walk through *Plaza de Armas* (foundational site of Havana City), *Plaza de la Catedral*, *Plaza Vieja* and *Plaza de San Francisco* and learn about the history of each square and also appreciate the results of the restoration work carried out under the guidance of the *Oficina del Historiador* in the last 50 years, results that lead to UNESCO declaring this Historic Center and its old defensive system a World Cultural Heritage in 1982. In the squares and streets linking them, emblematic buildings of different epochs and architectural styles will be shown, all of them restored, rehabilitated and given a new use in the interest of society. During our walk the following are a must see:

- The *Real Fuerza* fortress (1577)
- *El Templete* aside the *ceiba* tree (first neoclassic building, 1828. The *ceiba* tree is the foundational place of Havana City)
- The *Palacio de los Capitanes Generales* and *Palacio del Segundo Cabo* (Former Government House and Second-in-Command Palace, baroque buildings completed in 1791)
- *Santa Isabel* hotel, a former 18th century mansion of Spanish nobles turned into a boutique hotel
- The Cathedral, highest exponent of baroque style in the whole country
- Other baroque buildings in *Plaza de la Catedral*
- Buildings erected from the 17th to 20th Centuries in *Plaza Vieja*
- Former *San Francisco de Asis* church and convent (1734, primitive baroque style)
- The Stock Exchange of Havana, an eclectic building erected in 1909
- *Marques de San Felipe y Santiago de Bejuical* hotel, a baroque mansion turned into a hotel.

Return to the hotel after the tour to relax and refresh yourself before dinner at Litoral Restaurant or similar followed by the evening at Buenavista Social Club at Rosalia de Castro. *Return transportation by taxi is at own cost and is both safe as well as easily arranged at the show's entrance.* Overnight at the your hotel. [B/L/D/S]

Day 3 –Havana

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before starting this morning's second module that will introduce you a new are of Havana in a combination of walking and driven tour.

Session 2 - Havana Ring and Eastern Havana district (3 hours)

Walking tour

Starting in the Central Park, where visitors will see and receive information about this square, *El Prado* promenade and emblematic buildings in this area, mostly eclectic, but also important exponent of Art Deco and Modern Movement styles:

- The Capitol Building, a majestic building, finished in 1929, today under restoration.
- The *Gran Teatro de La Habana "Alicia Alonso"*, former Galician Center recently restored.
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Universal Art, former Asturian Center
- The *Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski*, former Manzana de Gomez commercial and offices building.
- The Palace of Weddings, former Spanish casino
- The Sevilla Hotel
- The former Presidential Palace (today Museum of the Revolution) and the *Granma* yacht Memorial
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Cuban Art, an important piece of Modern Architecture
- The Bacardi Building (1930) the highest exponent in Art Deco style in the whole country

In a vehicle

At Bacardi Building visitors will aboard a vehicle and make a round trip through the limits of the Historic Center, during that tour remarkable building and landmarks will be shown:

- The *Tres Reyes del Morro* fortress (XVII Century)
- The *San Salvador de la Punta* fortress (XVII Century)
- The *San Carlos de la Cabaña* fortress (XVIII Century)
- *Alameda de Paula* promenade (XVIII Century)
- Remains of Paula church (XVIII Century)
- Remains of the City Wall and gate (XVI Century)
- The Central Railroad Station, 1912 (under restoration)
- Former Marchioness de Villalba Mansion, a neoclassic building from the XIX Century
- *El Prado* promenade, and crossing the tunnel under the entrance channel of Havana Bay
- Eastern Havana district, the first urban district designed and built after the Revolution triumph, early 1960 decade

A little rest during lunch at Cha Cha Cha private restaurant. This afternoon, we will show you Cuba from the perspective of the visual arts in Old Havana and at some very interesting artist studios in Vedado and Miramar to see different styles and techniques: Seis Seis, Ernesto Rancaño, Abel Barroso, Sandra Ramos, Kdir López, Ernesto Javier Fernández and 332 Art Space. Dinner at a private restaurant. Depending on the day of the week enjoy Ballet, Music and Dance at Alicia Alonso Theater or National Theater (This activity may be moved to another day depending on the theaters' schedule). Return to the hotel for overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 4 – Havana

This morning's tour will be dedicated to a section just outside Havana City.

Session 3 - El Vedado (3 hours)

This tour must be done in a vehicle. In this activity visitors will see the urban district that was carefully planned and designed, whose development started in 1860. The ordinances set for this district were a pattern to follow in new urban developments since, and the most important buildings of the XX century were erected in this neighborhood. According to the epoch, prevailing architectural styles are Eclecticism, Art Deco and Modern Movement. The most remarkable buildings to be seen, among other are:

- University of Havana (1902-1940)
- *Habana Libre* hotel (former Havana Hilton, 1958)
- Radiocentro complex, the first modern building in the area (1947)
- Faculty of Economy (a building with a remarkable influence from Le Corbusier)
- FOCSA apartments building, the tallest in the whole country
- Lopez Serrano apartments building (1932) an important piece in Art Deco style
- The United States Embassy
- The Monument to Martyrs of the "Maine" warship
- National Hotel (eclectic building erected in 1930) visit to the Hall of Fame

- *La Rampa* most popular city center since 1960 decade
- The Hebrew Community building, where the largest synagogue is: Beth Shalom.
- Square of the Revolution. A place with a very important part of social and political life in Cuba since the triumph of the Revolution, the scenario where massive political gatherings have taken place, as well as the three masses celebrated by the three popes that visited Cuba. Buildings in this environment belong to the 1950 decade, thus to the Modern Movement, the Jose Marti Monument, the tallest tower in the whole country, National library, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Interior, National Theatre, all of them received in some way the influences of the current international trends in architecture at that time. There will be a short stop at this place
- Panoramic view of the *Cristobal Colon* cemetery, National Landmark

Enjoy a leisurely lunch at a private restaurant and, in the afternoon visit the Muraleando Community Art Project where all activities take place in the street. This unique project integrates social work into artistic activities and teaching and, at the same time, working on the reinsertion of young people into community life. Return to your hotel for a short rest. Dinner at Ivan Chef private restaurant After dinner attend the Cannon Blast Ceremony to witness one of the oldest traditions of colonial era Cuba that still takes place, the nine o'clock cannon blast at the San Carlos de la Cabana Fortress. The cannon shot signaled the closing of the city walls during the colonial era. Visit La Cabana Fortress and its museum before a short drive to a live music show at "La Casa de la Musica Miramar". Return transportation by taxi is at own cost and is both safe as well as easily arranged at the entrance. Overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 5 –Havana

After breakfast at the hotel you'll be picked-up for a drive to see two different districts that were developed for different social classes. Miramar started to be inhabited by the top class, later in the 1950 they begun to settle in neighborhoods known as Country Club and Biltmore. Marianao was mainly populated by the middle class. In this tour, buildings of Eclecticism, Art Deco and Modern Movement styles will be seen. Some of them were designed and built during the revolutionary period. Tour will start after crossing the tunnel linking Malecon to 5th Avenue, under the Almendares River. Several buildings of different epochs and styles will be shown alongside the way.

Session 4 - Miramar and Marianao (3 hours)

Miramar

Miramar is one of Havana's main residential areas where the Cuban upper class lived here before 1959 in sumptuous mansions and houses with pool, large patios and other amenities. Being located in front of the coast made possible the existence of numerous spas, yacht clubs and social clubs of the wealthiest sectors. Miramar's urban project was conceived and signed in 1910-11 by Cuban engineer Luis Morales y Pedrosa (graduated from Columbia University New York) and brother of the architect Leonardo Morales Pedrosa making it a 100% Cuban urban project. Our tour will concentrate on the following:

- The House of Green Tiles
- *San Antonio de Padua* church
- Russian Embassy
- New hotels
- Miramar Trade Center
- *Cristo de Miramar* church
- University of Arts (around the campus, explanation about the origin of this unique architectural complex built in the 1960 decade)
- Palace of Conventions
- Former Country Club (residential zone of the top social class, today VIP zone)
- The Scientific Pole of Western Havana, buildings for scientific research, 1970 and 1980 decades.

Marianao

Municipality created in 1720 that possesses a rich history marked by relevant cultural, political, social and economic events that gave origin to its neighborhoods and to its traditions. Also known as a garden city

by those who love the goodness of its nature, Marianao is distinct from other Havana's municipalities by the abundant presence of vegetation in all its area. The name Marianao is a corruption of the indigenous Mayanabo (land between two rivers) because of the two rivers that border it. Today we'll admire some of the buildings examples of Art Deco in Cuba:

- Military Hospital "Dr. Carlos J. Finlay", older buildings show an Art Deco style
- Monument to Dr. Carlos J. Finlay in a roundabout, surrounded by four buildings, all of them and the monument itself belong to Art Deco style
- Maternity hospital (1939, Art Deco style)
- *Instituto Superior Politecnico "Jose Antonio Echevarria"*, known as CUJAE, a modern campus for engineering and architecture faculties, started in the 1960 decade.

Lunch at La Foresta private restaurant. The afternoon at your leisure with car at your disposal. You can visit San José Handicraft Market, Art Studios or anything you want to do. Tonight we'll have a farewell dinner at Rio Mar restaurant. Overnight at your hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 6 –Havana, USA

Unfortunately all good things have an end! We hope this unique Havana vacation left wonderful memories to share with your family and friends for many years and you decide to come with us again to discover another unforgettable Cuban insertion! Your guide will pick you up to take you to the airport at the convened time so you can complete your departure formalities in good time and board your flight back home! [B]

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

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.

Your Tour Includes:

- Round trip transfers in Havana
- Airport assistance
- 4 nights accommodation in hotel of your choice
- Meals
 - Daily breakfast
 - 4 lunches
 - 4 dinners
- Specialized Architecture tours:
 - Session 1 - Old Havana's Historic Center
 - Session 2 - Havana Ring and Eastern Havana district
 - Session 3 - El Vedado
 - Session 4 - Miramar and Marianao
- Show at Buenavista Social Club (Cover and 3 drinks are included per person)
- Ballet, Music and Dance at Alicia Alonso Theater or National Theater
- Live music show at "La Casa de la Musica Miramar"

- All visits according to the program
- Driver/guide
- Transportation by late model, A/C

Price does not include:

- International or domestic airfares
- Cuban entry visa
- Taxes and fees related to air transportation
- 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

Hotel in your Tour:

Location	Hoitel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Havana	NH Capri	4
Deluxe		
Havana	Iberostar Parque Central	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

Season	Minimum 4 people	
	Double	Single
First Class		
May & Oct	\$2,675	\$3,095
Jun-Sep	\$2,629	\$3,045
Nov01-Dec21	\$2,945	\$3,555
Dec22-Jan02 '18	\$3,225	\$4,035
Deluxe		
May-Oct	\$2,975	\$3,319
Nov01-Dec21	\$3,225	\$3,579
Dec22-Jan02 '18	\$3,335	\$4,019

Prices are per person and may change without notice

Prices are valid up to January 2018

Tour Code: CU11HAV17FFV

