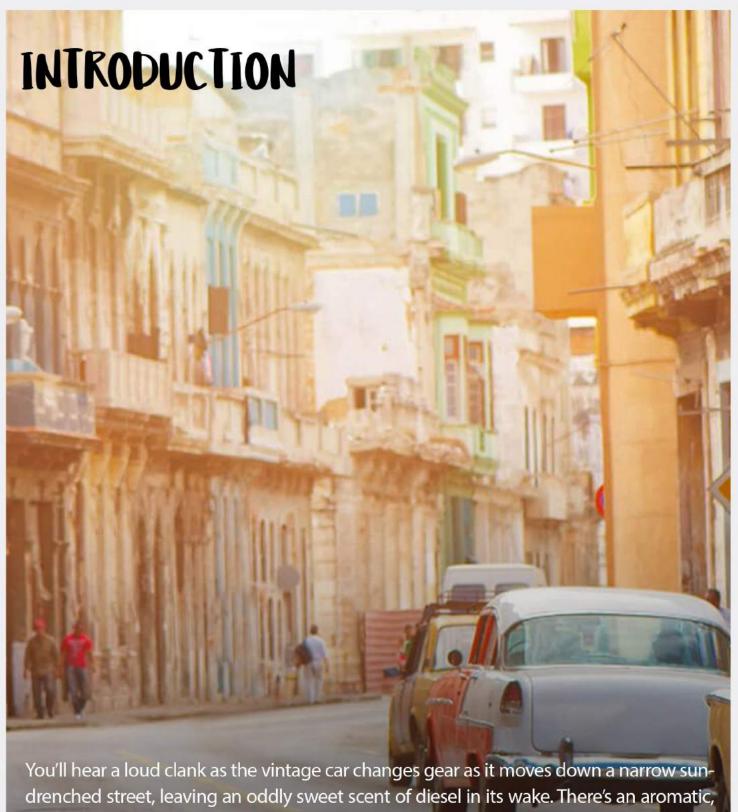
ITINERARY





You'll hear a loud clank as the vintage car changes gear as it moves down a narrow sundrenched street, leaving an oddly sweet scent of diesel in its wake. There's an aromatic, beautifully pungent smell of cigar smoke with salsa music vibrating gently in your ears as you look up at buildings that are delicately dilapidated and yet still disarmingly beautiful. You could only be in Cuba, the country that has defied expectations. Once a Spanish outpost, then a US protectorate, then an independent nation, then a decades long trade embargo, Cuba has been through a lot, to put it mildly. The country has emerged as a truly unique travel destination, with the indomitable warmth and spirit of the Cuban people always shining through... a warmth that you're about to experience for yourself.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

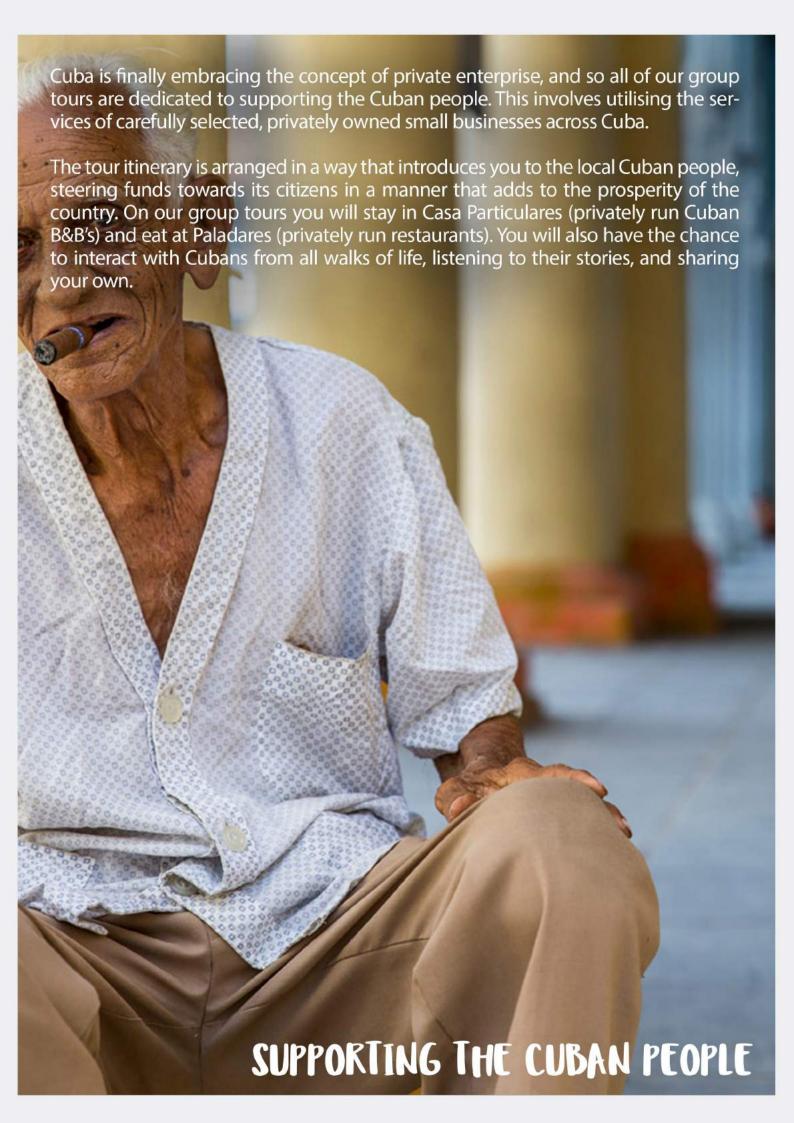


The rich tapestry of cultures that is contemporary Cuba will come to life over 8 unforgettable days. Your senses will be stimulated as you gain a unique overview as to what makes Cuba so magical. The island nation is in a fascinating state of transition, simultaneously embracing its past while looking towards the future. You can look forward to ambling along the cobblestoned streets of gorgeous Trinidad and discovering the delights of Havana. Another highlight is the Karst Valley in the achingly beautiful town of Viñales. Get ready, because 8 days of pure joy are about to begin. Bienvenida!

Cuba welcomes you with open arms.

YOUR 8 DAY CUBA GROUP TOUR WILL UNFOLD AS FOLLOWS

- 🛟 Day One: Tour arrival day in Havana
- Day Two: Cienfuegos via Bay of Pigs
- 🗘 Day Three: Trinidad via Santa Clara
- O Day Four: Trinidad
- 🗘 Days Five and Six: Viñales
- O Day Seven: Havana
- O Day Eight: Havana/Departure Day



U.S. TRAVEL TO CUBA

This document represents a full-time itinerary of activities compliant with the General License pursuant to Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 11 issued November 9, 2017 on behalf of the Department of the Treasury of Foreign Assets Control 31 CFR Part 515 Cuban Assets Control Regulations 515.574 Support for the Cuban People. No financial transactions have taken place with entities or subentities associated with the "Cuba Restricted List". In addition to this itinerary, and in accordance with CFR Part 501 Subpart C 501.601 and 501.602, the booking receipt, airline receipt, and any supplemental insurance purchased will also be retained and available for examination for at least five years after the completion of travel.

Please note that U.S. travelers are required to engage in a full-time schedule of activities that result in meaningful interaction with individuals in Cuba and must not include free time or recreation in excess of that consistent with a full-time schedule (8 hours per day including meals and transportation). When there is scheduled free time in the itinerary, U.S. travelers will have activities available to them that are approved to "Support the Cuban People" including eating at privately-owned Cuban restaurants (paladares), shopping at privately-owned stores run by self-employed Cubans (cuentapropista), visiting with your Casa Particular host or Cuban guide to learn about Cuban culture, or visiting with Cuban entrepreneurs launching their privately-owned businesses.

TOUR SUMMARY TABLE

Your Cuba group tour runs for 8 days and 7 nights, including 7 x breakfasts, 1 x lunch and a farewell dinner at the conclusion of the tour. There will also be an airport transfer upon arrival.

The group size can range from 2 to 15 participants, staying in Casa Particulares.

There are a vast array of optional activities and excursions to be enjoyed on all our Cuba group tours, and this is in addition to the following inclusions. Your 8 day Cuba tour includes:







IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

OFFERING AN ABUNDANCE OF FREEDOM AND THE FLEXIBILITY TO TRAVEL AT YOUR OWN PACE, THIS INTIMATE TOUR COMES WITH A LOCAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDE WHO WILL BE WITH YOU AT EACH STAGE OF YOUR JOURNEY. SOME OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:



Casa Particulares are family-run businesses which ar set-up to provide B&B style accommodation to foreigners – a unique cultural experience. Casa Particulares are generally of a higher standard than normal Cuban dwellings but can be more basic than foreigners are used to. It is important to remember that each room at a Casa is unique in its size and set-up. Whether you stay in a hotel or Casa, sometimes power cuts and breaks in hot water are unavoidable in any developing country, although it's not a regular occurrence in Cuba. suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate

Part of the experience of traveling through Cuba is experiencing Cuban resourcefulness. Spare parts for vehicles and appliances are often difficult and cost-prohibitive to come by, so don't be surprised if your notice that Cuban ingenuity has been used to keep various things working.

Access to the internet in Cuba is rapidly expanding but can still be variable, slow and unreliable. It is also relatively expensive to get online at a hotel or one of the various Wifi zones that have been set-up across the country. Traveling through Cuba offers a great opportunity to take a break from your electronic devices and have a truly relaxing experience.

Cuba is a unique travel destination and this is one of the many things that make it so popular. It's part of the 'laid back Caribbean' and things don't always go to plan or schedule. A great sense of humour and patience are qualities that will go a long way in making your stay in Cuba an enjoyable one. Just go with the flow!



A relaxed pace of life is quintessentially Cuban, so while you will be taken from destination to destination at an efficient and safe pace, you will never feel rushed. On a longer journey we will of course stop for refreshments (and meals where necessary), a chance to stretch your legs, and to take a closer look at the beautiful countryside you'll be pacing through. The approximate travel times are as follows:

- **★** From Havana to Cienfuegos (via Bay of Pigs): 5 hours
- From Cienfuegos to Trinidad (via Santa Clara): 3 hours
- ★ From Trinidad to Viñales: 7 to 8 hours
- From Viñales to Havana: 3 hours



FITHESS REQUIREMENTS

In order to fully enjoy your 8 day Cuba group tour, you will need an average level of fitness and mobility. Group travel can potentially be more demanding than a more conventional holiday. You should be able to walk without assistance from another person, climb flights of stairs in buildings without elevators, safely step on or off the tour bus (and other forms of transport), and carry your own luggage.

YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: HAVANA

It doesn't matter what time your flight touches down on day one, as there are no activities planned. You'll probably want to familiarise yourself with your joining accommodation and get to know the surrounding area. ATMs aren't always so easy to find in Cuba, so you might want to use the machine at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport (HAV). There's one in the arrivals terminal (along with a currency exchange office), and there's a second machine upstairs in the departures area. Your airport transfer on arrival is included and a Locally Sourced Cuba Tours representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals lounge.

Havana fizzes with life, her buoyant, joyous energy is infectious, and it's a stunning start to your 8 day Cuba group tour. After a rather turbulent several centuries, Havana has settled into a rhythm that just seems to work. After the collapse of the USSR, a lot of the international aid that Cuba relied upon simply disappeared, and this was the catalyst for the country to recognise its own attributes and open itself open to tourism in a way that hadn't been seen for decades. Upon arrival, you will want to get out and about to explore the city, and this bustling city never feels overwhelming.





You'll probably want to start with a leisurely stroll through Havana's Old Town. This is where you can see a key impact of tourism, with funds generated going to the upkeep of these magnificent buildings, their beauty not faded with time. The area was also declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, which has helped with the upkeep of the old town. Much of the restoration was overseen by city architect Eusebio Lea (who coaxed many artisans out of retirement to assist him). The old town was painstakingly restored from a rather ramshackle state to its present glory, a firm nod towards the cultural and historical significance of the old town, not just for Havana, or even Cuba, but the whole world.

While a walk around Havana's Old Town will have your eyes bulging with excitement (it's said that daily life in the Cuban capital resembles street theatre), just to the west you will find the gritty working class district of Centro Habana (a picture of ruined, yet haunting beauty), and the well-heeled districts of Vedado and Miramar. All these pieces come together to form modern Havana in all her glory and contradictions. There's a true cultural wealth in the city, with realms of museums and cultural spaces. Havana is a city that literally dances, and you can enjoy virtuoso ballet, Afro Cuban dance, flamenco, jazz and timba. The Cuban dining scene was rather fairly reviled for many decades, but this is changing at a rate that is nothing less than astounding.



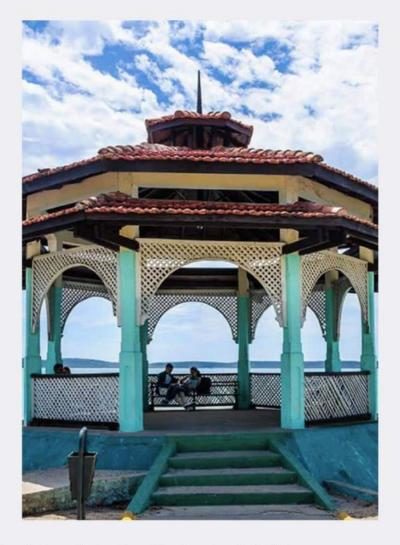


The government eased the once tight restrictions when it came to operating a private business, and new restaurants are expanding Havana's culinary borders with innovation and aplomb. Depending on your time of arrival, you can even join your guide and fellow tour group members for dinner in a gorgeous setting - an authentic Cuban Paladar (privately operated restaurant) close to your hotel or casa particular.



Your guide will meet you first thing in the morning, and then it's time to set off on your Cuban odyssey. Travelling in comfortable private transportation, you will arrive at your first destination in two to three hours. The Bay of Pigs/Playa Girón has a certain infamy due to its association with the USA's first military failure in Latin America. The military machinations that took place on this very spot are but a distant memory, far removed from the stunning natural beauty on display, with cave systems, coral formations and an abundance of sea life making it a must for snorkelers, divers and ocean lovers alike. You will enjoy a sumptuous lunch at a local Paladar (which is a family-operated Cuban restaurant), before setting off on the second stage of today's journey. It only takes approximately 1.5 hours before you arrive in Cienfuegos.

This pearl of a city (it has in fact been dubbed the Pearl of the Caribbean) demonstrates many of the cultural influences that have shaped contemporary Cuba. Many of the city's early settlers were French, generally coming from other French territories in the New World.



The French influences are undeniable, from the architecture to the wide streets and boulevards - all of which were never overly bothered by pirate attacks (a true rarity in this part of the world). Take a gentle stroll through Parque Jose Marti followed by an exploration of the oceanfront Malecón. It's not as well-known as the walkway of the same name in Havana, but the Malecón in Cienfuegos is in fact the longest on the island.

Of course your guide will take you on a detailed tour of the city with its grand, crumbling architecture, culminating in a relaxing cocktail. The grandness of Cienfuegos is fascinating contrasted by one of the city's more unexpected pleasures - the Palacio de Valle, which seems to have taken Arabian Nights as its inspiration. This upscale restaurant dates back to 1917, and it's a tremendous (and indeed, amusing) sight to behold.

Something to look forward to tonight - it's your first time staying at a Casa Particular outside of Havana. You might find this to be a truly memorable part of your Cuban experience. You are welcomed into a local Cuban's home and are made to feel like one of the family. It varies, but many of these authentic homestay experiences can accommodate between six and ten guests. Our carefully selected Casas are all conveniently located in a central location at each destination. The rooms are well cared for, and there's always a group area and/or veranda to relax in and meet other travellers. You can also take full advantage of the proprietor's insider knowledge and can help to arrange any activities or excursions in the area. It's a truly authentic experience, providing an unbeatable level of service and attention in a unique setting.





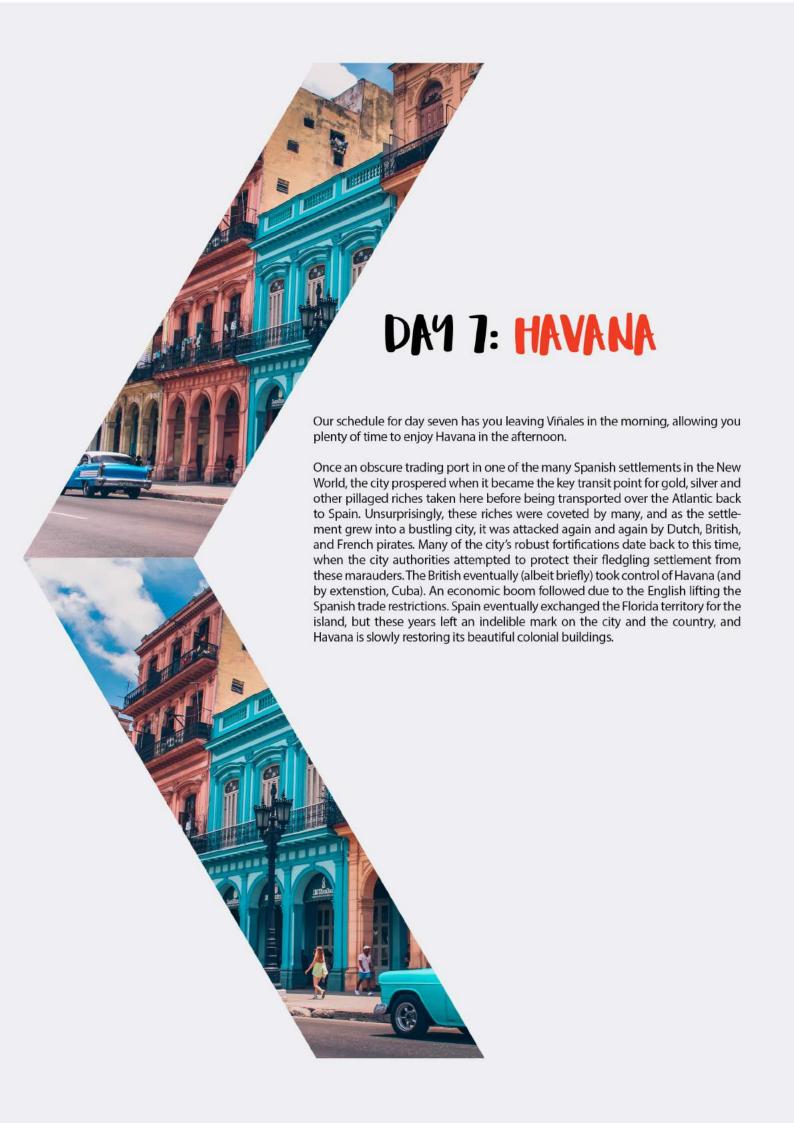


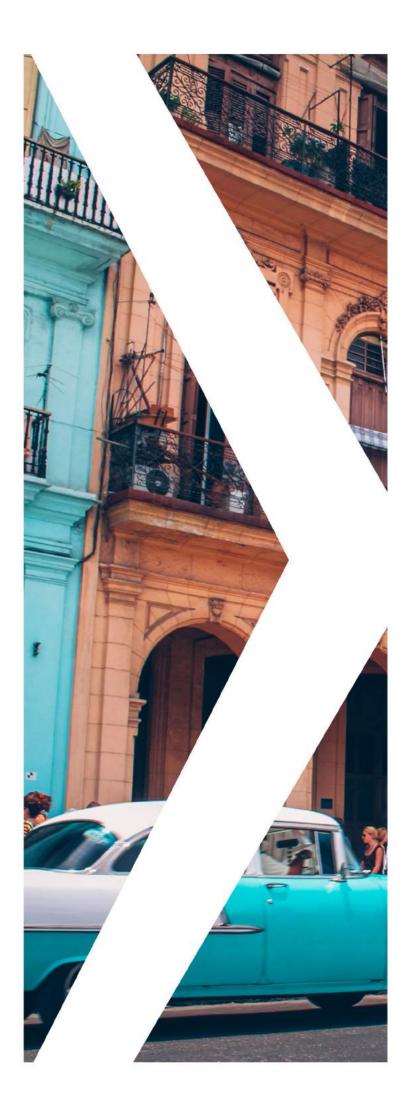












You might have had the chance to see it on your first day, but now is a chance to get to know the nooks and crannies of Havana's Old Town. As with all destinations, an orientation walk is included. One of the best-preserved old towns in the former New World, the streets are lined with colonial architecture, 16th century fortresses and countless churches. Your guide will be able to give you advice on what to see and do, but we think you'll want to see famous landmarks such as Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras (now a restaurant) and the Plaza de Armas, complete with a statue of Manuel de Cespedes, one of the leaders of the independence movement. There are plenty of good museums to visit on the walking tour, including Museo de la Revolucion and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

This afternoon your guide will take you on a tour of greater Havana in a classic car. This allows you to see the different sides of the city, giving you a greater understanding of all the parts that combine to make Havana. The estimates vary, but there are around 60,000 pre-1960 vehicles still proudly prowling Cuba's streets (down from around 150,000 vehicles before the US slapped a trade embargo on Cuba). This iconic mode of transport is the perfect way to see wider Havana and a very different side of the city. Here you will be chauffeured around some of the most famous areas of Havana including New Havana, Old Havana, the affluent neighborhood of Miramar and the famous cemetery of Colon.

In the evening, you might wish to partake in Cuba's music scene with a visit to a particularly beloved Havana institution - The Vixen and the Crow. This jazz club can be found on La Rampa and is open each night, with entry through a red English phonebox before you climb down the stairs into a lively, though somewhat cramped and smoky basement. The freestyle jazz here is second to none, and in the past the club has hosted such big names as Chucho Valdés and George Benson. But before that, we'll take you to a special rooftop in Havana's Old Town that makes a sublime mojito (or a non-alcoholic alternative). You'll be taught how to make a classic Cuban cocktail before enjoying a farewell dinner with your group and guide, with an unbeatable view over the rooftops of the city.

