



FACES OF CUBA...CIGARS AND MORE

***Take a journey back in time... A world away, in less than
an hour***

Be part of adventure ... On an in-depth Cigar exploration



Join us on this unique opportunity to discover the many faces of Cuban culture... Cigars and more!

We will focus on a cigar experience while we visit and interact with the people of Cuba. This journey will expose you to all that Cuba has to offer...history, art, music, architecture and more. You will be able to smoke this venerated cigars when we meet with Cuban cigar rollers and learn what makes these cigars world famous!

Purposeful travel for passionate people

Itinerary

Day 1, Monday: Miami / Havana (L,D)

- Your adventure begins when we arrive in Havana after a short charter flight from Miami (it's only an hour!) where you will meet our Cuban guide. We will begin our journey of this timeless island which Christopher Columbus proclaimed to be "the most beautiful land human eyes have ever seen".
- Enjoy a panoramic city tour in route to Havana; we'll stop at Plaza de Revolucion, the largest square in Cuba and learn about Che Guevara, the Argentine Marxist revolutionary hero, as we use his face as a backdrop for our first group photo.
- Lunch at La California paladar which is located in the heart of Central Havana before making our way to the Partagas cigar factory, a true mecca for cigar lovers. We will enjoy a private tour and a visit to the walk-in humidor. This will be the beginning of our "Cuban cigar education" as we meet with many different people in the industry.
- Drive along the Malecon on our way to our hotel. The Malecon is Havana's famous seaside walkway and hub of life for many Cubans who congregate along this 7 km "couch" every evening,
- Our first dinner will be at El Aljibe, known for its secret orange sauce, chicken, black beans, boniato, plantain and more. The restaurant is in exclusive Miramar area, once the bastion of the Cuban aristocracy before the Revolution; the grand old homes are set along wide boulevards and are now mostly occupied by embassies and foreign investment firms.
- Attached to the restaurant is the Aljibe cigar store; you will find many unbanned (no labels) rolled cigars which some say are the best cigars they have ever had!

Day 2, Tuesday: Havana (B,L,D)

- After breakfast at the hotel, we will go on a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Havana Vieja" - Old Havana; Exploring the restored plazas, which date back to the 16th century, you will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. Many of the old residences, government buildings and churches are actively being renovated under the leadership of Eusebio Leal, official historian of the city; we will learn how this renaissance is having a financial impact on Old Havana.
- Stop at the Maqueta de la Habana, the scale model of the old city and meet with a specialist to learn about the city planning and growth of old Havana.
- Make a brief stop at Taller de la Grafica printmaking to talk with artists.
- Visit the Ambos Mundos, the hotel where Hemingway stayed when he wrote some of his most renowned novels; we will have a guided visit to his room "511".
- Lunch at El Templete set on the Bay of Havana at any time of day is a sure delight.
- When we stop at the Conde Villanueva (the former mansion of Claudio Martinez de Pinillos) we will meet with a cigar roller and have an intimate discussion as we learn

about the craft of cigar making. We will speak with Antonio Hevea, a personage in Cuba, who has been working in the cigar business for more than five decades.

- Continue your day at the Museo de la Revolución, discovering more about Cuba's modern and revolutionary history.. This fascinating museum houses the most complete exhibit of revolutionary history including the Granma Memorial, the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.
- Dinner at the Historic Hotel Nacional de Cuba is sure to please... we will visit the Cuban wall of fame, the gardens, and its renowned two floor cigar store complete with a cigar roller and bar.
- Afterwards, if you are so inclined, try the one of the Nacional's music venues, the Buena Vista Social Club or Club Parisian.

Day 3, Wednesday: Pinar del Rio / Viñales / Havana (B,L)

- After breakfast at the hotel, we drive west for 3 hours through the stunning province of Pinar del Rio. On our drive we will be discussing politics, education, the medical system, and housing along the way
- Visit the town of Pinar del Rio and learn about the history of tobacco growing, the daily life of tobacco farmers, and cigar production. We will visit the Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory for a guided visit to learn about the manufacturing of fine Cuban cigars and interact with the factory workers about the history and process of cigar making. The factory specializes in Cohiba & Monte Cristo cigars.
- Afterwards, explore the Valley of Viñales, arguably the greenest and most beautiful region in all of Cuba and stop at Mirador Los Jardines to take in the breathtaking view.
- Stop at farm of a tobacco grower and visit with his family. Learn firsthand about tobacco cultivation and complexities of growing and harvesting the best quality tobacco leaves in the world while we have a presentation inside the drying hut.
- We'll eat lunch in front of an impressive 120-meter high fresco of prehistoric times painted in 1961 by Cuban artist Leovigildo González, a student of the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera.
- Before returning to Havana we will visit the stripping house in Vinales. No! Not the kind of stripping that you are thinking about! This is where they strip the veins from the cigar leaves before they go on to the factories for processing.
- Tonight dinner is not included; try dinner on your own at a Paladar.
- Do you like Jazz? Cuba has two wonderful Jazz venues, the Jazz Café and La Zorra y el Cuervo.

Day 4, Thursday: Havana

- Breakfast included at the hotel before meeting with some of the members of the Classic Car Association. We will have a chance to ask questions on how they keep their cars in tip top shape.
- City tour in these classic cars ...be sure to bring your cameras!

- We will stop at John Lennon Parque where we may meet with seniors as they do their morning exercises at Parque de la Fraternidad. There you will be surprised at seeing a bust of Abraham Lincoln. We will continue to see how the US and Cuba's history are intertwined when we visit the USS Maine memorial, and more.
- Visit and have lunch at the former Biltmore/Havana Yacht Club built in 1928. Enjoy the beautiful ground set on the beach and visit the cigar store which is often referred as the best in all of Cuba. We will be joined for lunch by a former diplomat as we continue learning about the relationship between our two countries.
- Continue to Jaiminitas to visit Casa-Estudio de Fuster, the studio-home of Jose Fuster, who is commonly called the "Picasso of the Caribbean". Tour his unique studio and property and visit his neighborhood whose homes are adorned with Fuster's ceramics.
- Next we will visit a Cuban agri-market which will provide us the opportunity to learn how Cubans manage in a dual monetary system.
- Tonight we dine at the paladar La Morelja. Paladars are newly opened privately owned restaurants which have grown in the past couple of years since new economic reforms have taken place. We will have the opportunity to discuss with the owner the challenges and rewards of running a private business in Cuba. These very professional restaurants have elevated Cuba's reputation on food preparation and culinary creativeness.
- After dinner you may want to visit one of the Casa de Habanos for a smoke or stroll up Obispo Street and enjoy traditional Cuban music in one of the many open air bars.

Day 5, Friday: Havana / Matanzas / Havana (B,L)

- After breakfast, this morning we will travel east to the town and province of Matanzas, known as the "Venice of Cuba".
- We will make a breathtaking stop at Cuba's longest bridge, the Bacunayagua, overlooking the Yurumi Valley.
- Continue to the Museo de la Ruta de los Esclavos (the Museum of the Slave Route), which sits inside the colonial Castle of San Severino, tucked among the oil drums, cranes and train tracks of the Matanzas port.
- A treat today in Matanzas is our time spent at a handmade book bindery, Ediciones Vigia, which features amazing handmade books for purchase
- A visit to Xanadu, the Dupont estate that was built in the 1920's. We will take a peak at the house and then have lunch in this beautiful estate set on the world famous Varadero beach before returning to Havana
- Tonight dinner is on your own – did you know there is a Chinatown in Havana? This would be a great night to visit to the home of sequins and feathers....the Tropicana.

Day 6, Saturday: Havana

- Breakfast at the hotel and then we depart for special peak at the humidor factory. Here they produce the finest made humidors in Cuba.
- Continue on to Finca Vigia, Hemingway's home where he lived for 21 year, now a museum of all his personal items kept intact. Hear about the Cuban perspective on

Hemingway, his associations with the isle, and the difficulties of restoring and maintaining his former home

- Drive through Cojimar, a small fishing village outside of Havana which inspired Ernest Hemingway's famous novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. We will have a chance to meet and talk causally to local fisherman and musicians.
- Lunch today is a quick sandwich at the original Sloppy Joes Bar known to have the longest bar in the Caribbean!
- Visit Almacenes San Jose (La Feria), a former harbor warehouse restored by the Office of the City Historian to facilitate an environmental structure. This Flea market is where many local artists display and sell their handmade crafts.
- Visit La Casa de Habana in Miramar more commonly known as "La Quinta". Meet with Carlos Robina, the son of legendary tobacco farmer Alejandro Robina for discussion.
- At farewell dinner we will toast to our new Cuban friends and fellow travelers at one of the most elegant restaurants in Cuba.

Day 7, Sunday: Havana

- Breakfast included at hotel.
- After our last breakfast, we will check out of the hotel
- Visit sites as time allows on the way to the airport
- Say our goodbyes to Cuba and leave a little of our hearts with our new friends
- Connection flight to your home destination (please make this as late as possible)

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Prices: (based on 20 travelers)

Per person double occupancy.....	\$4250
Single supplement.....	\$500

Your trip includes:

- Seven days in Cuba, 6 nights
- Round Trip Air from Miami – Havana
- Meals of breakfast daily, lunches, and dinners

- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Land transportation in Cuba by a driver with many years of service
- Services of an experienced Cuban, English speaking professional guide who has much knowledge of the Cuban community, politics, education, medical system, arts, economics, etc.
- Entrance fees to the important cultural and historic sites
- Medical insurance while in Cuba – this does not cover preexisting conditions
- US airport departure tax
- Cuban visa fee (if Cuban born, additional fees apply)
- Gratuities to wait staff at included meals and bellboys in Cuba

Not included:

- Trip cancellation insurance – highly recommended. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Tips for guide and driver (\$8-10 daily per person for guide and \$4-5 daily per person for the driver is customary)
- Departure tax from Cuba - \$30 US dollars
- Domestic airfare to Miami
- Excess baggage charges