



OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS

Taste of Cuba - 6 nights (Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad)

Embark on a journey back in time. Be part of this exploration of music, art, history and culture. Join an adventure only 90 miles away!



“Purposeful Travel for Passionate People”

**Cuba in the midst of change...and its happening fast!
Experience Cuba during the most fascinating time in the past 50 years
Join in the transition while immersing in Cuban culture
Enjoy classic cars, cigars, salsa, Cuban cuisine and all that Cuba has to offer with behind the scenes access...
Awaken your five senses on this trip of a lifetime!**

Itinerary

Day 1, US/Havana (L,D)

- Today we arrive in Havana after a short flight from the US from your home city. The guide will be at the airport to greet you.
- En route to Havana, we'll stop at Plaza de Revolucion which is where you see the familiar iconic silhouette of Che Guevara and where the "bearded one" made his famously long speeches from this largest square in Cuba. A great spot for a group photo.
- Learn the history of Cuban political development from the Cuban perspective at Museo de la Revolución. This fascinating visit 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
- Lunch is included unless the flight is an afternoon arrival.
- As time allows, we will take a tour of the Capri hotel which was owned by Santos Trafficante and the Hotel Riviera which was built by Meyer Lansky. Did you know that the Mafia had history in Cuba? They played a big part of building the Cuban skyline.
- Check into your hotel or casa; enjoy a welcome cocktail, time to unpack, relax, change money, etc.
- Tonight we get acquainted with real Cuban food at El Aljibe which is known for its traditional black beans and rice, chicken and other local specialties.

Day 2, Havana (B,L,D)

- After breakfast at the hotel, we learn about one of Cuba's most well-known exports, the Cigar. We will visit one of Cuba's most prominent cigar factories accompanied by an in house guide who will explain how cigars are made. This work of art in action will leave you amazed at the skill and precision of the workers. Afterwards a chance to buy cigars. With new US rules, you can bring back cigars to the USA.
- Continuing, we will make our way to Old Havana – a UNESCO Heritage site which dates back to the 16th century where you will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. Here we will stop at many local sites and have the opportunity to interact with Cubans. At Plaza de Armas you will meet with old book collectors, at the new bakery in the Plaza de la Cathedral, and many more interactive opportunities. You will feel the warmth and kindness of the Cuban people and begin learning about their life and culture during these morning's visits.

- We will visit an art workshop, Taller Grafica, where some of the country's most important engravers got their start. This studio founded in 1962 is one of the most important graphic arts establishments, preserving the old printmaking techniques and turning out some of the most significant works of graphic art in Havana today.
- Lunch is included at the famous and iconic Hotel Nacional de Cuba. Built in 1939 this historical hotel was visited by many mobsters along with famous personalities. Enjoy the old world glamour, grounds of the hotel and the views of the Malecon. The hotel has one of the best cigar rollers on the island – a female at that! It also boasts of having great Mojitos!
- Visit to Colon Cemetery, the largest cemetery in the Caribbean. While learning about this 4th most important cemetery in the world, we will see many mausoleums, many of them made with Carrera marble and Lalique glass. You will gain insight into the wealth that once lived on the island. If fortunate we will interact with locals who make a pilgrimage to one of the most visited grave sites in Cuba, La Milagrosa.
- Be wowed by our colorful and whimsical experience at Casa-Estudio de Fuster in Jaimanitas. This is the studio-home of Jose Fuster, commonly called the 'Picasso of the Caribbean. Explore the unique studio, property, and neighborhood whose homes are adorned with Fuster's ceramics. Time to take photos of the neighborhood and talk with the locals.
- Return to the hotel for a rest from your first full day in Cuba as you get ready for dinner.
- Tonight, dinner is included. If not too tired, you may choose to continue your night by listening to some of Cuba's famous Jazz at the Fox and Crow or the Jazz Café.

Day 3, Havana-Cienfuegos (B,L,D)

- After breakfast check out of our hotel and we drive to the historical city of Cienfuegos, discussing politics, education, the medical system, housing, etc. along the way.
- Cienfuegos is known for its colonial era buildings. Cuba's "Pearl of the South", was founded in 1819 and is considered one of the chief seaports of Havana. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, chosen for the best existing 19th Century Early Urban Planning.
- We will begin exploring Cienfuegos with a walking tour of the downtown. We will visit important sites which will include Jose Marti Park which is the heart of the city, Paseo del Prado, and the historical Thomas Terry Theatre. These architecturally outstanding French influenced buildings were built with support and money from affluent sugar barons who were the founding patrons of the city.
- On our walk we will visit local stores which will give us an idea of what is available to Cubans and how they deal with lack of necessities

- Lunch included –a light bite
- Our next visit will amaze you...we will tour the Palacio de Valle, this building is an architectural jewel located in Punta Gorda peninsula of Cienfuegos. Its amazing architecture was influenced by Spanish- Moorish art with touches of Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque periods. You would never believe you are in Cuba!
- Check in for a 2 night stay
- By now, your appetite will be ready to enjoy an included dinner at one of Cienfuegos best paladars

Day 4, Trinidad (B,L)

- After breakfast at hotel, we will drive east 1.5 hours to the historic center of Trinidad, a UNESCO heritage site since 1988. This 500 year old city with Spanish colonial architecture is only a few square blocks in size. Historic Trinidad is famous for its lovely cobblestone streets, pastel houses with wrought iron grills, as well as beautiful palaces and plazas. Trinidad is a photographer's dream as you will find many interesting sites, objects and people to "shoot"... from antiques that adorn homes to the faces of those on the street. This city has a very traditional Cuban ambiance.
- Our guide will discuss the importance that the Sugar industry in Trinidad played in the history of Cuba and the impact it made on this region.
- Visit to a private workshop, learn about the deep seeded roots of the family Santander, well-known potters; visit their workshop and gallery. These artists have been making handmade pottery for over 100 years and perhaps you will have the chance to sit at the wheel! You can also buy their creations.
- Take a walking tour of Trinidad where you will have time to stop and interact with talented local artists and others. You may want to follow the lead of locals and go to Casa de la Trova where you can find great music and practice your dance. Don't forget to order a Canchanchara drink!
- Lunch included at a local Paladar and then some time to visit the Museum Romantico or Cantero, Santisima Trinidad Church (one of the oldest in the island!), or view a Santeria ceremony.
- Continue your interactive Trinidad visit and stop at the local craft market, famous for their linen handmade table cloth and more.
- Return to Cienfuegos
- Dinner tonight is not included; your guide will help you with recommendations and reservations. We suggest that you catch Bicitaxis (a private service done by young locals) to take you to dinner and that way continue to interact with locals and learn firsthand about their lives.

Day 5, Cienfuegos/Bay of Pigs/Havana (B,L)

- Breakfast at hotel before we continue on our Cuba adventure!
- We will drive through historical Bay of Pigs in the Zapata Peninsula, the largest of Cuba's 15 provinces but the least populated. We will stop at the museum to learn about this failed US attempt from the Cuban point of view; quite different than the history we learned!
- Before a hearty lunch we will visit the cave of fish where we will have the chance to swim in an area where fish swim alongside of swimmers; take dip into the beautiful waters of the bay.
- Lunch included in a local Paladar
- Visit to a Crocodile Farm, at the largest swam in the Caribbean, Cienaga de Zapata, site of several endangered species like Manatee and Manjuarí ,and a refuge for many birds from USA and Canada which spend the winter in warm Cuba
- Late afternoon return to Havana
- Check in to Havana hotel and tonight dinner is on your own. You may want to do dinner and the Buena Vista Social Club or visit the famous Tropicana

Day 6, Havana (B,L,D)

- After your breakfast at hotel we will visit to home of one Cuba's most famous American – Ernest Hemingway. In the spirit of Hemingway –we head to his home in Havana on the outskirts of the city. You will see his artifacts left intact along with his boat, Pilar and many of his prized hunted animals as we visit his Finca Vigia, now a museum.
- Continuing, we will drive through the village of Cojimar, a place that was frequented by Papa Hemingway and was made famous in his "Old Man and the Sea".
- Our drive will take us by the the Morro Fortress, perched on the opposite side of the harbor from Old Havana; it dominates the port entrance to the harbor. Take in the amazing view!
- Lunch included and then shopping anyone? We will meet with local artists when we visit the San Jose crafts market. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk with locals about procuring materials, inspirations and all things art! Also a chance to support the local private businesses.
- Don't forget your scarfs tonight!...we ride to dinner Cuban style! Take an old yank-tank to our farewell dinner where we will toast the new friends we met along the way!

Day 7, Home (B)

- After our last breakfast at hotel we will check out of hotel
- Transfer to airport for return flight

Trip licensed by Other Cuban Journeys, LLC which complies with the Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which authorizes registered guests of our programs to legally travel to Cuba, to participate and engage in a full time schedule of authorized exchange activities in Cuba, which will involve meaningful interaction between our travelers and people in Cuba. Trip itineraries are subject to change due to factors outside of our control but if any changes need to take place, we will substitute with something just as interesting!

For groups that are interested in religious sites, we can include Jewish or other visits

Prices from:

Casa Particulars (private home stay)

Per person (double occupancy) from:

2-3 travelers	\$ 5600
4-6 travelers	\$ 4200
7+ travelers.....	\$ 3700
Single supplement.....	\$ 600

Hotel (depending on availability)

Per person (double occupancy) from:

2-3 travelers -	\$6100
4-6 travelers -	\$4700
7+ travelers -.....	\$4200
Single supplement.....	\$ 1200

Your trip includes:

- 7 days in Cuba, 6 nights
- Hotel/casa accommodations in Cuba
- Meals of 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 4 dinners which include beverages
- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Private A/C land transportation in Cuba by an experienced driver.
- English Speaking guide with many years of service for the entire program He /she will enlighten you in all things Cuba.
- Entrance fees to the included cultural and historic sites
- Gratuities to wait staff at included meals and bellboys in Cuba
- 1 bottle of water daily

Not included:

- Trip cancellation insurance – **highly recommended**. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Airfare to Cuba
- Tips for guide and driver



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Your passport must be valid for 6 months from date of departure.
- If you are Cuban born and departed Cuba before December 31, 1970 you will need a special visa and must notify OCJ as soon as possible. This is a timely and lengthy process and can take up to 8 weeks to receive.
- Trip cancellation is highly recommended.
- All payments are by check only.
- Each traveler must sign the enclosed liability form.
- Cuban health insurance is included (and compulsory) in the cost of the trip. It covers medical expenses in Cuba due to illness and accident up to \$25,000 and repatriation and transport up to \$7000. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.
- As a participant on this people to people trip, you are required by OFAC to participate in the full time activities of this itinerary.

