

# Cuba Life Travels<sup>LLC</sup>

*Life travels to Cuba*

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## **EXPLORING THE ISLAND, UNDERSTANDING ITS ECONOMY, DISCOVERING ITS PEOPLE, THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**Duration** 7 days and 6 nights of learning, fun and friendship in Cuba

**Dates** September 8 thru September 14, 2017

**Participants:** 20-30 Minimum

### **Accommodations**

- *Hotel Tryp (Habana Libre)*, 4 stars, Havana
- *Hotel Iberostar*, 5 stars, Varadero

**Island transportation** Luxury tour coach and full time chauffer.

### **DAY 1 – ARRIVAL / HELLO CUBA (LUNCH AND DINNER)**

- Arrival at VARADERO. Check in to hotel at 4pm.
  - Welcome Lunch at Varadero paladar.
  - City tour of Varadero. Afternoon free to explore on your own.
  - Welcome Dinner at paladar, included.

## **DAY 2 – VARADERO-MATANZA**

- **BREAKFAST AT HOTEL**
- **VISIT THE PIG OF BAYS**
- **LUNCH INCLUDED**
- **MEET WITH MASONS IN MATANZAS AND CARDENAS**

## **DAY 3-VARADERO-MATANZA**

- **BREAKFAST AT HOTEL**
- **VISIT GUAMA**
- **LUNCH AT GUAMA**
- **GO TO HAVANA, CHECK IN HOTEL BY 4PM**

## **DAY 4- TRIP TO VIÑALES VALLEY/ PINAR DEL RÍO CITY (BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED)**

- Breakfast in hotel
- Pinar del Río City tour.
- Continue to Viñales Valley
- Tour of Viñales Valley: Viñales village is a picturesque town in the heart of Cuba's prime tobacco growing region. The town itself sits in the center of a flat valley surrounded by stunning karst hills formations known locally as mogotes. Mogotes are irregularly shaped steep-sided hills that can rise as high as 300m (985 ft.) and have bases ranging from just a few hundred yards in diameter to as much as a couple of kilometers in length. The mogotes comprise part of the Sierra de los Órganos mountain chain, and were formed by eons of erosion. Many consider this the most beautiful nature spot in Cuba.
- Upon arrival visit Cueva del Indio [Indian caves].
- Visit Mural de la Prehistoria.
- Lunch at El Palenque restaurant, included
- Visit tobacco farmers.
- Tour the town square of Viñales village.

- Return to Havana.
- Dinner not included. Family restaurants suggestions by the tour leader
- Visit Mason Lodge
- Free night.

**DAY 5 –HAVANA, EXPLORING OLD HAVANA, OUR COMMON HERITAGE**  
(BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER)

- Breakfast in hotel
- Morning visit to the Maqueta de La Habana Vieja. It's a 1:500 scale model of Old Havana complete with an authentic soundtrack meant to replicate a day in the life of the city. It's incredibly detailed and provides an excellent way of geographically acquainting yourself with the city's historical core. The model is used for social development and planning.
- Followed by a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll visit four of the five historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere. It contains the largest collection of remaining colonial-era architecture. This is a private tour led by your Cuba Education Tours guide.
- Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana built by the Jesuit order.
  - \* Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:
    - \* Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.
    - \* Palacio del Segundo Cabo [Palace of the Second Lieutenant] dates from 1770. Today it houses the Instituto Cubano del Libro [Cuban Book Institute] and the Galería Raúl Martínez (famed poster artist).
- We continue onto San Francisco Square, one of the oldest plazas in the historical quarter. The square is named after magnificent Iglesia y Monasterio de San Francisco de Asís dating from the 16th century. The basilica is a striking example of Cuba baroque architecture.
- And then on to Plaza Vieja, the only civic square of colonial times. Absent are churches and government buildings, and is in contrast surrounded by opulent aristocratic 17th century residences. We'll visit an important center for the visual arts.

\* The Aguilera House built in the XVIII century. Today it houses the National Museum of Ceramics displaying objects of the most prestigious Cuban artists from the middle of the last century to present. The institution is host to the Cuban Ceramics Biennial.

- Group lunch at El Santo Angel restaurant. Included
- Visit Hotel Ambos Mundos room 511 where Hemingway used to stay.
- Visit Finca La Vigía (House and farm of Ernest Hemingway Museum)
- Visit Callejón de Hamel (Hamel Alley) to see the artwork of famed Afro-Cuban Artist Salvador González.
- Return to hotel.
- Dinner at La Casa private restaurant, included in classic American cars.
- Evening is free to explore the sights and sounds of the city.

#### **DAY 6 –**

- Breakfast in hotel
- Visit Masons Lodge for activity.
  - Lunch included
  - Mason Activity, Community People to People
  - Return to hotel
  - Dinner
  - Attend show at Tropicana

#### **DAY 7-**

Check-out of hotel and departure to Jose Marti International Airport, Havana.

- Flight to USA

## **TOUR COSTS BASED ON 4 MINIMUM PAX**

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required at time of registration to secure your tour participation. If you cancel, your deposit can be applied to any future tour or transferred to another traveler. Balance of tour payment is due 30 business days prior to departure. We invoice you for your tour deposit and final payment. We accept U.S. checks and credit card payments. All credit cards are processed in US dollars and is subject to a processors processing fee of 3.5% plus. Please see our terms and conditions: <http://www.cubalifetravels.com/terms-and-conditions>.

**Note:** Cost of connection airfares is not included in this package.

- per participant based on double room occupancy (sharing a room with a roommate throughout program).
- per participant for a single room for duration of tour.
  - Program subject to change per Cuba at any given time during the trip, for which Cuba Life Travels will not be liable.

## **INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR COST**

- Welcome dinner and farewell dinner. Other lunches and dinners as listed in tour itinerary.
- Entrance into all activities, services, speakers, meetings and meals as described in tour itinerary except those noted as "optional" or "not included in cost."
- Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation and a full-time professional driver.
- An expert Cuban English speaking professional tour guide and interpreter throughout the program.
- Ongoing support from Cuba Life Travels and affiliates staff before, during your stay.
  - Accommodations (hotel, homestay/private homes)
  - Meals
  - Conference calls to discuss program and frequently asked questions.
- Emergency collect call access to our North American staff while in Cuba.

## **NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR COST**

- Airfare
  - Gratuities for Cuban tour guide, bus driver, chambermaids, restaurant staff, porters, etc. Please see gratuities guidelines.
  - There is a Cuba departure tax.
  - Optional travel interruption and cancellation insurance.
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## **SAFETY FIRST**

- Please be advised that American Travelers can travel to Cuba as groups under the auspices of organizations, in accordance to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC).
- Travelers should seek medical advice for the appropriate immunizations before departure
- Cuba is a Caribbean country so the weather is always warm. The best times to travel are all the year around. Pack summer clothes, comfortable footwear, personal hygiene items, first aid medication kit and travel documents.
- Cuba's only mobile phone operator is Cubacel. It provides renting SIM cards to travelers to use their mobile phones, thus providing them with a local number while they are in Cuba. Using international services and/or phone cards in Hotels is better. Most hotels have Wi Fi service. You may get cellular service and/or texts depending on your United States cellular provider.
- Food and beverages are national; you may want to take your own snacks and hot spices.
- Travelers should follow and obey Cuban laws at all times. Cuba Life Travels is not responsible for any of the travelers illegal acts, nor will we assist with any foreign litigation or legal fees.



**\*\*More info in our conference calls as part of the trip preparation and orientation in the United States before departure. Conference call info will be emailed to you after sending us your confirmation for the trip. Enjoy your trip!**