



# Cuba

Tour this land frozen  
in the 1950's before  
time catches up with it!



Come with us to experience Cuba before it changes forever. The thawing of relations between the USA and Cuba will change this time capsule country and, in many ways, spoil the unique style and pace of life seen nowhere else.

Demand for travel to Cuba is straining the nation's tourism infrastructure, pushing up prices and making it difficult to secure firm arrangements for touring groups. However, with our extensive connections in the region, we have organised a tour which we believe will give you the opportunity to experience Cuba as it is today. See the natural beauty of this island, embrace its people and history, visit the historic cities such as Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Santa Clara and immerse yourselves in the Cuban lifestyle - all in the hands of expert local guides.

As part of this experience of Cuban life, you must realise that Cuba has been isolated for over 50 years. The quality of the accommodation and transport, the sophistication of the cuisine and the speed of services are somewhat 'basic' and generally short of '5 Star' standards. Government imposed conditions can also impact on timetables. This is the reality of life in Cuba and just how everything works. If you come with a relaxed and flexible attitude, then you will enjoy yourself immensely. The people are friendly and live life with passion. Spend time here and that passion for life will seep into your very soul.



## MON 10 OCT: CANCUN - MOKA (B,D)

On arrival in Havana we will be transferred to our hotel in Pinar Del Rio. Dinner at hotel.

Accommodation: PINAR DEL RIO

## TUE 11 OCT: MOKA (B,L,D)

After breakfast we drive to the beautiful Vinales Valley to enjoy the mogotes, unique to China and Cuba – one of the most scenic areas in Cuba. Visit the Francisco Donatien cigar factory (if not open, we will visit a traditional cigar factory in Cienfuegos). Lunch will be at El Palenque near a small cave system where runaway slaves once hid. We visit Vinales town followed by the boat trip through the Cueva del Indio. This network of caves is said to have been used by the Guanathabey Amerindians – well lit, it was used as a temporary dwelling although it was too damp for permanency. See the prehistoric mural, a huge painting made on a “mogote” (pincushion or haystack hills) and enjoy the views of the valley from the lookout at Jazmines.



## WED 12 OCT: MOKA - CIENFUEGOS (B)

Early this morning we transfer south to Cienfuegos, also referred to as The Pearl of the Caribbean. The provincial city of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 with the name of Villa Fernandina de Jagua. Located in the south centre of the island, it is one of the youngest and most beautiful cities of Cuba. The streets are lined with mansions well past their belle epoch. Lunch will be at a local restaurant in Cienfuegos.

There are many things to see in Cienfuegos including the Castillo de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles de Jagua – fortress; Arco de Triunfo – the only Arco de Triunfo in Cuba; Cathedral de la Purísima Concepción – cathedral with stained glass work, built 1833-1869; Delfinario – dolphins and sea lions in a saltwater lagoon; Jardín Botánico de Cienfuegos – 97 hectares of botanic garden; Museo Provincial – furniture and porcelain museum; Palacio de Valle – built 1913-1917 in neo-gothic style; Palmira Yorubá Pantheon – museum of religious afro-catholic syncretism; Parque José Martí – park in Plaza de Armas.



Accommodation: CIENFUEGOS

## THU 13 OCT: CIENFUEGOS – TRINIDAD (B,L,D)

This morning we tour the old quarter of the city, declared a National Monument on account of its heritage value: Martí Park, Ferrer Palace, and the Prado promenade, among other sites. After lunch, we will continue by road to Trinidad and our accommodation on the Caribbean coast. Spanish Governor Diego Velázquez founded the settlement of Santísima Trinidad (Holy Trinity) in what is now Sancti Spiritus Province in 1515. Explore this city starting from the Plaza Mayor (Main) Square. Around the plaza are the Museo Romántica and the Museo Arqueología as well as the Iglesia Parroquial de la Santísima Trinidad Cathedral (1817). Stroll through the Parque Cespedes with its shaded archways of vines and trailing plants. This evening a night stroll through the village accompanied by a local to give us an insight into this magic destination!



Accommodation: TRINIDAD



### **FRI 14 OCT: TRINIDAD (B)**

Today we walk the streets of this beautiful city exploring Trinidad's historical quarter including the Romantic Museum, the beautifully preserved 18th century mansion of the Brunet Family dating from 1741, the Museum of Archaeology and Natural Sciences housed in the impressive Padron Family Villa, the Museum of Colonial Architecture, which reveals Trinidad's development and the fine craftsmanship of the period, and many other small buildings that make this city so enchanting! This town is a perfect relic of the early days of the Spanish colony with beautifully preserved streets and buildings and hardly a trace of the 20th century anywhere! This afternoon is free to explore on your own.



### **SAT 15 OCT: TRINIDAD – HAVANA (B,L,D)**

Morning departure to Santa Clara. Here there is time for a visit to the memorial to Ernesto 'Che' Guevara and to the museum. The remains of Che and his comrades who fell in Bolivia have been interred at this site and the mausoleum is open to the public. Under the monument is a museum, the "Museo Histórico de la Revolución" with good displays about Che's life and role in the revolution. Lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to Havana and our hotel, located in Old Havana (La Habana Vieja) – a beautiful location! All rooms have private facilities. Havana is a very attractive and modern city full of cultural traditions. Havana offers a number of attractions for the visitor night and day, with a busy social life. Walk along the Malecon Habanero, the famous Paseo de America alongside the seashore. This evening enjoy a nice dinner on the roof garden of the hotel.

Accommodation: HAVANA



### **SUN 16 OCT: HAVANA (B,L,D)**

After breakfast our local guide will meet us at our hotel for a Colonial Walking Tour of Old Havana. Continue on through the cobblestone streets of Old Havana where we can enjoy the live 'theatre' of La Habana Vieja ~ offering you a fascinating viewing of this wonderful city's historical and cultural value. A light lunch will be enjoyed at local restaurant where a local Cuban will join us. His knowledge, perception and anecdotes of life in Cuba will give us a real insight into the cultural and political diversity that makes up this fascinating country and to really get us into the mood for the rest of our trip, this afternoon enjoy a 90 minute Salsa lesson! Dinner and show tonight at the famous La Parisian cabaret!



### **MON 17 OCT: HAVANA (B,L,D)**

This morning we will be picked up from our hotel and taken for a drive around modern Havana. The tour includes a visit to the Museum de Revolucion. Formally a Presidential Palace and site of an unsuccessful assassination attempt against Fulgencio Batista in 1957, today it houses a permanent exhibition which provides a complete documentary and photographic account of the Cuban Revolution. Located next door to the Museum is Pavillion Granma, which houses the 18 metre motor vessel Granma that carried Fidel Castro and 82 others from Tuxpan in Mexico to Cuba in 1956. Today this glass encased memorial is one of the holiest shrines of Cuban Communism. Lunch will be enjoyed at an outdoor café in Old Havana at either Plaza Vieja or the beautiful Plaza San Francisco (weather permitting) with our guide so you can ask all the pertinent questions. Afternoon at leisure & dinner tonight will be at our hotel.





## TUE 18 OCT: HAVANA – DEPART (B\*)

Today depart for further arrangements or to the airport for our flight home.



Hotels are subject to change without notice due to local conditions. In the event of this, a hotel of similar standard will be substituted or the best available. Bear in mind that hotel standards vary considerably depending on the region of travel.



Itinerary, meals and hotels are subject to change without notice. (B,L,D) Indicates meals included – (B\*,L\*,D\*) Indicates meals in flight.  
MEAL INDICATORS ACT AS A GUIDE ONLY.

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