

CORAZÓN CUBA

LEARN SPANISH, CULTURE & VOLUNTEER



12 DAY TOUR

Habana / Viñales / Trinidad / Santa Clara / Varadero / Habana

Tour Overview

Cuba is one of the most beguiling travel destinations on the planet. Gorgeous neo classical buildings, classic American cars, the best music and dance on the planet and super friendly locals put Cuba firmly on everyone's bucket list. Staying in Casa Particulare's in Habana, Viñales, Trinidad, Santa Clara & Varadero we start our adventure in the heart of Old Habana. Airport transfer and welcome followed by full day guided tour to explore the city - classic convertible 50's car for your first hour to get your bearings and then various walking tour options around Old Habana depending your particular interests.

Day 3 we leave Habana to explore Viñales for two nights & then Trinidad for two nights with horseback tours (option for walking or horse-drawn buggy if preferred), salsa lessons and much more. We then continue to Santa Clara to learn more about iconic Che Guevara and his contribution to the revolution, before enjoying some quality beach time in Varadero. A final night in Habana will round off an amazing 12 day long Cuban adventure. This is a busy tour designed to maximise your time and give you an all round view of Cuba - past and present!

Highlights

- ✓ 1950's *Classic American Car* tour La Habana
- ✓ Personal guided walking tour *Habana Vieja* with hip young guide
- ✓ Horseback (horsedrawn cart or walking is an option too!) exploration *Viñales Valley*
- ✓ Cubanito *Natural Park & Waterfall* adventure in Trinidad
- ✓ *Che Guevara* Mausoleum & Museum in Santa Clara
- ✓ Centrally located *Casa Particulare's* in Habana, Viñales, Trinidad, Santa Clara & Varadero with fun, well informed hosts and local guides
- ✓ *Airport transfers* from Havana International Airport to/from your Casa Particulare in Habana Vieja
- ✓ All cross country transfers Habana-Viñales-Trinidad-Santa Clara-Varadero-Habana in *air conditioned bus or colectivo taxi*



Day 1 : Discover Habana

Accommodation Name: Casa Leonel, 362 O'Reilly / Meals Included: Breakfast

Airport transfer by private taxi to your Casa Particulare in the atmospheric heart of Habana Vieja ('Old Havana'). Your room has air conditioning and a private/en suite bathroom – as will all accommodations throughout your stay. Depending the time of your arrival we will take you on a brief tour of the neighbourhood, so you get a feel for the place and learn practicalities of money change and wifi hotspots as well as nice places to eat, drink and listen to amazing music!

Day 2 : Discover Habana

Accommodation Name: Casa Leonel, 362 O'Reilly / Meals Included: Breakfast

After breakfast at your Casa Particulare your guide will pick you up for a full day tour/exploration of La Habana.

There are a cluster of museums here including the Museum of the Revolution, but our walk will feature the beautifully preserved colonial plazas of Habana Vieja and neighbouring streets where Cubans live alongside visiting tourists, kids go to school, locals play games of chess or chequers in the street, sipping coffee from 'peso cafes' and all life seems to be happening in these atmospheric streets. Your Cuban guide will recommend some of the best bars for mojitos and live music and give you insights how Cubans live today in this complex and beguiling country.

Mid morning we pick up the pace as we are collected by a 1950's classic American car to explore some of the main features of the rest of the city. There are many options depending your preference but we recommend buzzing through the city to the Plaza de la Revolucion, a scenic drive along the Malecon and under the 'tunnel' to the Fort del Moro (best views across the city) before returning to Old Habana for drop off in Parque Central in time for lunch.

There are many options for lunch and time for a siesta if you would like before continuing our exploration of Habana Vieja. Late afternoon your guide will drop you back off at your Casa by which time you will be comfortable in your new neighbourhood and buzzing with ideas for how to spend your first night in Habana!

Day 3 : Discover Viñales

Accommodation Name: Casa de Sergio / Meals Included: Breakfast

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After breakfast we take a comfortable air-conditioned bus to Viñales; a three hour drive west from Habana to the beating lung of Cuba sustaining some of the most productive plantations including world famous tobacco crops. A UNESCO World Heritage destination in its own right owing to spectacular Karsc mountains and distinctive tobacco drying houses.

After settling into your new Casa and a short lunch it's time to explore the valley. Enjoy the simplicity of life and breathe fresh country air as you meet friendly locals who welcome you with their generous smiles. Your local guide - who has limited English but is an authentic Cuban gaucho will take you on a gentle exploration of the valley on horseback; an amazingly contrast to the environment you have left behind in Habana only hours earlier [for those who prefer not to ride a horse, alternative options are a walking tour OR taxi ride to 'Miramar' viewing point].

Day 4 : Discover Viñales

Accommodation Name: Casa de Sergio / Meals Included: Breakfast

Free day – your local host has suggestions should you wish to further explore the local area including a network of caves under the Karsc mountains or markets with locally crafted 'artesanía'.

Day 5 : Discover Trinidad

Accommodation Name: Hostal Hermanos Reyes / Meals Included: Breakfast

Today you catch an early morning bus to the beautiful colonial town of Trinidad, a perfectly preserved Spanish colonial settlement where time stopped back in 1850. After checking-in to your new Casa Particulare, take advantage of a free afternoon to wander around and see the numerous churches and beautiful colonial buildings of Trinidad. In the evening, take a salsa lesson with a local instructor!

Day 6 : Discover Trinidad

Accommodation Name: Hostal Hermanos Reyes / Meals Included: Breakfast

After breakfast on your first full day in Trinidad we begin our adventure with a 1-2 hour horseback ride [for those who prefer not to ride a horse, alternative options are biking, walking or taxi; all options accompanied by a guide].

Ride through the cobbled streets of Trinidad and into the rolling countryside, arriving at Cubanito Natural Park. Enjoy a 30 minute hike along the scenic river with lots of opportunities for spotting birds and flora along the way. Arrive at the grotto and waterfall, where you can jump into the fresh clean waters of a deep pool surrounded by high rock walls. Swim through the waterfall and into the cave



behind for a magical experience. After some chill time and a picnic or snack lunch (not included) we walk back to the horses for the ride back to your casa particular, arriving mid afternoon.

NOTE: Please remember to bring your swimsuit!!

Enjoy a siesta and some quiet time before sampling Trinidad's legendary and distinctive nightlife including dancehalls featuring salsa 'casino' and a huge nightclub inside a cave on a hillside overlooking town.

Day 7 : Discover Santa Clara

Accommodation Name: Casa de Leonardo / Meals Included: Breakfast

Today we take the short drive inland to Santa Clara; a simple town in the centre of Cuba made famous for revolutionary events and the final resting place of Che Guevara. Half day walking tour to savour historic landmarks before hitting the road again tomorrow for the beaches of Varadero!

Day 8 : Discover Varadero

Accommodation Name: Casa Marta Margarita / Meals Included: Breakfast

After breakfast we take a scenic drive heading northwards to Varadero and some quality R&R featuring pristine Caribbean beaches. This peninsula has the longest continuous stretch of sandy beach in the Caribbean and is famous for a string of resort hotels. However, we will enjoy a more authentic environment of a Casa Particulare in the small town of Varadero. Enjoy the short walk to sandy beaches by day and a laid back atmosphere and variety of nightlife in the evenings. What better way to recover after a dusty spell on the road?

Day 9 : Discover Varadero

Accommodation Name: Casa Marta Margarita / Meals Included: Breakfast

Free day.

Day 10 : Discover Varadero

Accommodation Name: Casa Marta Margarita / Meals Included: Breakfast

Free day.



Day 11 : Return to Habana

Accommodation Name: Casa Leonel, 362 O'Reilly / Meals Included: Breakfast

For our final night in Cuba we return to the familiar surroundings of Habana Vieja. Opportunity to explore and enjoy the amazing nightlife including salsa music and dance before we depart for the airport and home.

Day 12 : Departure

Accommodation Name: Casa Leonel, 362 O'Reilly / Meals Included: Breakfast

Perhaps some time in the morning for some last minute shopping before your airport transfer. We schedule a transfer to suit your flight departure time - early morning or later in the afternoon per your requirements.

If you would like an extra night or two in Habana then let us know and we will make this happen!

Prices & Availability

Double/Twin room per person EURO 995

Triple room per person EURO 895

Single room occupancy EURO 1,095

Tour available 365 days a year from 1 or more pax – groups welcome!