

Cuba crossover

Bike and bus tour

15 days / 14 nights

Hotel and Homestays

This attractive tour is a unique formula of exciting, adventurous biking interspersed with relaxing and interesting bus rides.

The cycling tour "Cuba Crossover" is classified as Difficulty Level 2, meaning you'll be pedaling across flat terrain or over blacktop roads with limited traffic. On rare occasions, the daily distance covered will be over 55 kilometers. Some itineraries are slightly mountainous.

Logically, this Tour-de-Cuba begins in the vibrant capital, Havana. You will learn about Cuba's unique landscape on the way to Viñales. The journey continues to Cienfuegos with its beautiful neoclassic architecture. The cherry on the sundae is Trinidad, followed by Santa Clara, a cycle to the famous beach of Varadero, and a visit to Matanzas city, before returning to Havana at tour's end.

Day 1 ARRIVAL IN HAVANA

Optional transfer from Havana's international airport to your hotel (4 ****) in Havana, where the first two nights will be spent.

Day 2 HAVANA

After breakfast, there will be a welcome meeting with the tour guide at 08.30am in the lobby of your hotel, who will then take you to explore Old Havana on foot. The historic part of the city is full of interesting sights. Lunch will be served in a typical local restaurant and afterwards there will be a visit to the community project Casa del Tango. Back at the hotel, you can plan the evening as you wish. **(B) (L)**

Day 3 HAVANA – VIÑALES (Biking distance 20 km)

Breakfast at the hotel. Heading to Viñales Valley. This area is famous for its fertile landscape – endless expanses of tobacco, crops, pine and palm trees and endemic flora and fauna of unequalled beauty. Once arrived, bicycles will be mounted for a first bicycle tour. After lunch and an approximate 20 km ride, arrival at your accommodation; a 3**** hotel located in the picturesque valley full of limestone, pin cushion hills known as mogotes. Evening at leisure. **(B) (L) (D)**

Day 4 VIÑALES – CAYO JUTIAS (Biking distance 55 km)

Cayo Jutías is a small island connected to the mainland by a man-made causeway and has a picturesque beach. The ride will take you past crop fields where the best tobacco in the world grows. At noon you will arrive at Cayo Jutias where you will have a picnic lunch at the beach. In the afternoon you can do as you wish, you can hire a boat or have a swim in the beautiful sea. Return to Viñales, and evening at leisure. **(B) (L) (D)**

Day 5 VIÑALES (Biking distance 50 km)

In the morning back on the bikes and follow a little path which leads you through beautiful landscapes to 'comunidades' (communes), established after the revolution. Bike along the tobacco plantations and the typical dry houses. (The tobacco process only takes place during the winter; in the summer months, other crops are planted and harvested). En route, we refuel at a local restaurant. Evening at leisure. **(B) (L) (D)**

Day 6 VIÑALES – CIENFUEGOS (Biking distance 10 km)

Breakfast in hotel. Today's bus ride takes you to Cienfuegos, also known as the "Pearl of the South". On the way Guamá will be visited, a natural site of singular attraction, located in the Ciénaga de Zapata. The Laguna del Tesoro dominates this picturesque landscape, with many canals, mangrove forests and palm trees; you will travel through this aqueous landscape by

boat and visit a crocodile farm nearby. After lunch, ongoing to Cienfuegos (on Cuba's southern coast), exploring this elegant town by bike. You will discover that Cienfuegos is a clean and peaceful place with unique and interesting architecture, influenced by settlers from Louisiana. Accommodation is at a Casa Particular (a Cuban homestay). **(B) (L)**

Day 7 CIENFUEGOS – TRINIDAD (Biking distance 25 km)

On the way to Trinidad, you cycle along the foot of the Sierra del Escambray mountains. There are several rises – easily managed by cyclists of all abilities – which provide fantastic views over the area. After the day's ride, walk around the historic core of Trinidad, including the lovely colonial Plaza Mayor. In Trinidad you will spend the night also in a Casa Particular. Evening at leisure. (Today, you hear live music daily in Trinidad, on the streets, or e.g. in the Casa de la Trova).

Day 8 TRINIDAD

During a walk through Trinidad, your guide shares interesting stories about the "Golden Age" of the area's sugar boom – responsible for Trinidad's wealth and importance during colonial times. The balance of the day is left for you to spend it as you wish. A coco- or bici-taxi can whisk you to gorgeous Playa Ancón, for example, to relax, swim or go snorkeling in the Caribbean. Overnight at a Casa Particular, and the evening free to spend at your leisure.

Day 9 TRINIDAD

You can arrange this day to your liking, after all Trinidad and surroundings have enough to offer. You can opt e.g. for a guided tour to the Valle de los Ingenios. This fertile plateau, surrounded by the Sierra del Escambray mountains, owes its name to the sugar mills (ingenios) built at the beginning of the 19th century. There is a little railway leading to Manaca Iznaga, originally used to watch the slaves while working in the sugarcane fields. Or laze a bit more, reading a book at the beach. Overnight in a Casa Particular.

Day 10 TRINIDAD – SANTA CLARA (Biking distance 30 km)

Santa Clara is today's destination, but first, you cycle through a charming mountain landscape with forests of pine, eucalyptus and broad-leafed trees. The cycling paths are a bit stony and steep at times, but manageable for all. You'll take a break in the town of Topes de Collantes (800m above sea level), renowned for its crisp, clean air. In the afternoon, the tour continues to Santa Clara by bus through a fascinating landscape. In Santa Clara you'll stay in a hotel (3***). **(D)**

Day 11 SANTA CLARA – VARADERO (Biking distance 30 km)

The day's itinerary takes you west towards Varadero, on the Hicacos Peninsula. Here, you'll be treated to Cuba's longest and most famous beach, with powder-white sand and crystal clear waters. It is no surprise that it is called "Playa Azul". Accommodation is at Hotel Memories Varadero. **(B) (ALL INCLUSIVE)**

Day 12 VARADERO

Today is a free day. You can carve out a quiet stretch of beach and relax, or go for a walk and explore Varadero. Accommodation is Hotel Memories Varadero. **(ALL INCLUSIVE)**

Day 13 VARADERO

Day at leisure. Enjoy the blue water and white sand beaches around your hotel. If you want to explore the area, talk to us and we can arrange an optional tour in the area. **(ALL INCLUSIVE)**

Day 14 VARADERO – MATANZAS – HAVANA (Biking distance 30 km)

The first leg takes you to Matanzas, the capital of the province of the same name. This is the world's fourth largest port for sugar exports. Not surprisingly, Matanzas is considered one of the most important industrial cities in Cuba. After a break, you continue towards Havana, riding through the Yumurí Valley, an amazingly verdant and tranquil area. Accommodation is at a 4**** hotel in the capital. A farewell dinner will be served in a local restaurant **(B) (D)**

Day 15 ADIOS CUBA

Breakfast in hotel. This morning is free to explore. You can have a look around Havana, shopping for souvenirs for example. Optionally, you can book a transfer to the airport (not included). End of our services. **(B)**

Inclusions:

- 14 nights in 3*** or 4*** Hotels including breakfast and Casas Particulares (Homestays – only Bed)
- Meals according to description of program.
- Bicycle and luggage transportation, support bus with the possibility to climb aboard anytime. All transfers (other than by bike) not described, are optional in air-conditioned minivans.
- Entrance fees as described.
- Including hired bicycle. (City) bicycles (no mountain bikes) with 24 gears.
- All tours, visits and excursions mentioned in the program.
- Local English speaking Guide during all excursions as outlined in the itinerary

Not Included:

- ✓ International flights to and from Cuba.
- ✓ Arrival and Departure Transfer
- ✓ Entry card (tourist visa)
- ✓ Additional drinks and meals
- ✓ Gratuities for drivers and guides
- ✓ Optional excursions
- ✓ Medical (travel) insurance
- ✓ Festive dinners on 24 and 31 December 2015
- ✓ Bicycle helmet & gloves

Remarks:

- The unmentioned meals in the day description are obviously not included, nor charged. You can decide on the spot where to have lunch or dinner. If you want to enjoy breakfast in the Casas Particulares, you can confirm this with (and pay to) the property-owner (approximately euro 5.00 or equivalent per person).
- Triple rooms are not bookable on this tour. In the case of an uneven number of participants, twin and single rooms should be booked.
- If a hotel mentioned in the itinerary is fully booked, the right is reserved to book another property of equal standard.
- Program is subject to change due to local circumstances, such as closures, inclement weather, etc.

**PRICE PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE ROOM**

from EUR 1.490.-

**Surplus Single room
from EUR 600.-**

FIXED DEPARTURES 2017

12 January
26 January
09 February
23 February
02 March
16 March
02 April
16 April
15 May
12 June
10 July
07 August
04 September
02 October