

# Discover Cuba

## 13 days / 12 nights

### Hotel and Homestays

The title of this tour says it all. This is a comprehensive, 13-day group tour for those looking to discover the island's multi-faceted appeal. Your tour guide will reveal the Caribbean's most intriguing country, by showing you passionate, charming and historical cities like Havana and Santiago de Cuba, Viñales and its surrounding tobacco plantations, picturesque Trinidad, Camagüey and the rugged, beautiful nature of the Sierra Maestra mountain range. In almost two weeks, you'll experience Cuba's fascinating history and present.

#### **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**

The historic part of Havana is best explored on a guided walking tour. Old Havana (La Habana Vieja) was declared a UNESCO world Heritage in 1982. The atmosphere of bygone days is still present in Havana's streets. Visit the Rum Museum, enjoying a cocktail before exploring Havana's Old Town on your own! After lunchtime "modern" Havana will be visited. Dinner will be served in a typical, local restaurant. **(B) (D)**

#### **Day 3 HAVANA - VIÑALES**

Today a visit to Cuba's most western province has been scheduled. You will visit a tobacco factory in the region and take a boat ride through La Cueva (cave) del Indio, with lunch in the Palenque de los Cimarrones restaurant. The lovely town of Viñales is beautifully situated in its valley amid (tobacco) fields and the fascinating limestone rock formations (Mogotes). You will be accommodated in a Casa Particular (homestay) in Viñales. **(B) (L)**

#### **Day 4 VIÑALES – CAYO JUTIAS - VIÑALES**

It is time for a day at the beach. Cayo Jutías is a serene beach with ivory sand, bordered by turquoise waters, just like the pictures. Do nothing at all today, just laze, swim and enjoy a picnic lunch at this beach. Later in afternoon, return to Viñales for a second night in the Casa Particular, evening at leisure. **(L)**

#### **Day 5 VIÑALES – CIENFUEGOS**

One of the most beautiful and elegant cities in Cuba awaits you – charming Cienfuegos! The Palacio de Valle, with its Gothic, Moorish and neoclassical architecture, is one of Cienfuegos most precious heritage. After the guided walking city tour, dinner will be served at the Palacio de Valle. The night will be spent in a Casa Particular in Cienfuegos. **(D)**

#### **Day 6 CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD**

You'll visit the botanical garden of Cienfuegos first, before heading to Trinidad (UNESCO-declared World Heritage site), exquisitely positioned in the central south of the Cuban archipelago, surrounded by mountains and bordered by the Caribbean Sea. After having entered tiny Trinidad, you'll have some free time to stroll through Cuba's most picturesque and meticulously restored colonial city. Overnight in a Casa Particular in Trinidad. Evening at leisure.

#### **Day 7 TRINIDAD**

This day will start with an informative city tour through the colonial Trinidad. The city has some remarkable architecture and offers scenic views of the sea and mountains. The Palacio Brunet is one of the most characteristic mansions in the city and is now home to the Museo Romántico. The evening will be filled with sounds and tunes of Cuban live music at the illustrious Casa de la Trova! A second night will be spent at a casa particular.

### **Day 8 TRINIDAD - CAMAGÜEY**

Course will be set for Camagüey, a very cultural, lively city that also is described as "legendary" due to its traditions, patriotism and classical style. Originally, the city was built on the bay of "Nuevitas", but after multiple and frequent pirate attacks, the city was rebuilt inland and closer to the center of the island. Enjoy a city tour by bike-taxi during the day; the evening is free to explore at your leisure. Accommodation is at a 2\*\* hotel in Camagüey.

### **Day 9 CAMAGÜEY – BAYAMO – SIERRA MAESTRA**

Small and lovely Bayamo was the second village founded in Cuba by Diego Velázquez, and is the capital of the province of Granma. It is an important historical place also considered Birthplace of Cuban Nationality, where they first sang the National Anthem of Cuba. Enjoy the peacefulness of this authentic town during a guided tour, before driving to the impressive Sierra Maestra mountains. Spend the night at a 2\*\* hotel, tucked in the foothills of the mountain range. **(B)**

### **Day 10 COMANDANCIA LA PLATA – EL COBRE – SANTIAGO DE CUBA**

A hiking-tour has been planned for this morning, to Comandancia La Plata which is situated in the mountains where you can admire the spectacular Cuban landscape. Next, the former copper mining town of El Cobre (at less than 25 km from Santiago de Cuba), where the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity stands majestically between a beautiful nature. It is an important pilgrimage center for the Cuban people. Today's final destination is not far away; sunny and swinging Santiago de Cuba – one of Cuba's liveliest cities, with a strong Afro-Caribbean influence. You'll stay in a Casa Particular in Santiago de Cuba, and the evening is at leisure. **(B)**

### **Day 11 SANTIAGO DE CUBA**

Santiago de Cuba - the island's second city (and capital of Cuba under the Spanish until the mid-16th century), is probably the most African and Caribbean culturally speaking. Discover this passionate, lively and buzzing place during a city tour, where people like to celebrate and dance. Various museums, impressive buildings and the monumental cemetery (Santa Ifigenia) are among the main sites. The monument to Antonio Maceo on the Plaza de la Revolución, is another must-see in Santiago de Cuba. Lunch will be in a local restaurant. You will stay at a Casa Particular, and evening at leisure. **(L)**

### **Day 12 SANTIAGO DE CUBA**

Today you will get by boat to the traditional fishing community of Cayo Granma, a very small populated island near the bay, with red-roofed wooden houses – many of them built on stilts above the water. Afterwards you will be taken to the beautiful beach of Playa Verraco. The last night will be spent in a Casa Particular in Santiago de Cuba, having the evening at leisure.

### **Day 13 SANTIAGO DE CUBA – Optional extensions**

Here ends the tour. A transfer will be arranged for those participants who wish to extend with a beach stay in Guardalavaca in the northeast of the province of Holguin. You can also be dropped off at Holguin Airport, in case you'll depart from here. Or maybe you want to stay longer in Santiago de Cuba, or add a visit to Baracoa to your trip, or fly back to Havana with a domestic flight. We can assist you with all of these options. End of our services.

#### **Inclusions:**

- 12 Overnight stays in both Hotels (2 to 4 stars), and in Casas Particulares (homestays).
- Meals according to the description of the program.
- Qualified, English/Spanish-speaking qualified tour guide.
- All described transfers in air-conditioned buses.
- Program according description.
- Entrance fees.

#### **Not Included:**

- ✓ International flights to and from Cuba. With pleasure we can help on your flight options.

**PRICE PER PERSON  
IN DOUBLE ROOM**

**from EUR 1.800.-**

**Surplus Single room  
from EUR 450.-**

- ✓ Arrival, and Departure Transfer (other than Holguin Airport or Guardalavaca).
- ✓ Entry card for Cuba (tourist visa).
- ✓ Additional drinks and meals.
- ✓ Gratuities for drivers and guides.
- ✓ Optional excursions.
- ✓ Festive dinners on 24 and 31 December 2016
- ✓ Medical (travel) insurance.
- ✓ Personal expenses

**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.

**FIXED DEPARTURES 2017**

06 January  
20 January  
03 February  
17 February  
03 March  
17 March  
31 March  
14 April  
28 April  
19 May  
16 June  
14 July  
11 August  
15 September  
13 October