

Guaranteed
departure

LA VIDA CUBANA

Sit-in Round trip 9 days/8 nights

On this rather special round trip you will experience the real Cuba, get to see and meet its inhabitants amidst their everyday life as well as delight in the classics of the country: colourful, lively Havana, the picturesque valley of Viñales, Cienfuegos, the pearl of the south, Trinidad, the UNESCO world heritage site and Santa Clara, famous for its Che Memorial, among others. After this varied round trip where you stay with Cuban families in their private homes, you have the possibility to extend your trip on one of the magnificent beaches of this island.

DAY 1 (Thursday) ARRIVAL HAVANA

Reception at the airport in Havana and transfer to the hotel. Dinner at own expense.

DAY 2 (Friday) HAVANA INSIGHT

This day starts with a drive to the other side of the bay for a panoramic view over Havana's old town. At the famous statue of Jesus Christ, you can capture a beautiful picture of the day at large. Cross the bay on the ferry Lancha de Regla which is used mostly by locals. Afterwards a very special city tour: The old town of Havana and its most beautiful places from a birds-eye view. Beyond others: visit to the Cámara Oscura at Plaza Vieja for a 360-degree view of the old town. Lunch in a private restaurant. Subsequently by bicitaxi to Centro-Habana. Visit to one of the largest farmer's markets in Havana. Amidst the bustling life you can buy fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat and spices. Visit to different shops which give an insight into the real life of the Habaneros far away from tourism. In between stop for a refreshing cocktail. Dinner at own expense. **(B) (L)**

DAY 3 (Saturday) HAVANNA – VIÑALES (220 km)

The day starts with a panoramic tour through the Havana of the 19th and early 20th century: past the imposing Capitolio, Gran Teatro and Barcardí building, along the Malecón, past the legendary Hotel Nacional through the Avenida de los Presidentes to the Revolution square with the portrait of Ché Guevara and José Martí memorial, followed by a visit to the legendary cemetery Colón with the largest amount of statues in Cuba, a miniature city of marble, bronze, angels, crosses and allegories. In the afternoon drive along the tobacco route to Pinar del Río, the greenest of all Cuban provinces with the best tobacco soil in the world. Visit Patio Pelegrín, an aid programme of the artist Mario Pelegrín especially for kids and teenagers. With the access to artistic creation not only the development of their own creativity is stimulated but also they are offered sensible recreational activities. While the visitors learn more about the programme fresh fruits and coffee are served. Further on to Viñales village where time seems to stand still. Panoramic tour through Viñales valley with its imposing limestone rocks (Mogotes), passing e.g. the prehistoric wall and photostop at the viewpoint Los Jazmines. In the evening you will learn how to make the famous Cuban cocktails during an exclusive course and dinner. **(B) (D)**

DAY 4 (Sunday) VIÑALES – EXCURSION COCO SOLO

In the morning hike through the unique landscape of the Viñales valley with a high biodiversity of flora and fauna. The valley is a real mosaic of ecosystems. The path passes by typically local vegetation, tobacco cultivation and limestone rocks. On the way encounter with farmers during their field work, as well as visit to a Casa de Veguero (tobacco drying house). Lunch at Alberto Vitamina's private restaurant (Paladar) Bella Vista. Enjoy a real Cuban meal prepared by one of Alberto's family members and experience the real Cuban cuisine. The owner mostly welcomes you personally at his little restaurant, set a bit outside of Viñales. Back in Viñales, visit of Caridad's small botanic garden, a beautiful, very well looked after private garden with a large number of different plants. Rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at own expense. **(B) (L)**

DAY 5 (Monday) VIÑALES – AUSTRALIA - CIENFUEGOS (475 km)

Drive towards the center of the island to Cienfuegos, characterized by French colonial architecture. On the way visit to the old sugar village Australia. Ride on a train pulled by a steam locomotive that was used at Australia Sugar Mill in the early years of the 20th century with a stopover at the fields. Demonstration how to make sugarcane juice "Guarapo" with degustation afterwards. In the afternoon arrival in Cienfuegos, a charming coastal city located on the wide bay of the same name. Inspired by the picturesque surrounding scenery, Cienfuegos is also called pearl of the south.

SIB-Round trip (from 2 Personen)

EUR 1520.- USD 1750.-

Surplus single room:

EUR 280.- USD 322.-

**Children up to 11 years in double room
with 2 adults on request**

Individual trip from

EUR 1600.- or USD 1841.-

Any time possible

In case of heavy changes on prices from hotels or transport, price changes are possible.

GROUP TOUR SET DEPARTURES 2019

**Arrival in Havana:
Every Thursday
from 10.01.2019 until 26.12.2019**

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✚ Round trip on acclimatized vehicles (Taxi/Microbus) from standard country quality with driver:
 - By 01 - 02 Persons in Taxi (Please note that a proper Suitcase per Person fits on the car's trunk)
 - By 03 - 05 Persons in Minivan/Microbus (6 - 8 seats)
 - By 06 - 12 Personen in Minibus (13-20 Seats)
- ✚ Transfer Airport Havana to Casa Particular Havana und Return to the Airport in Havana, if this happens on the first/last day of the round trip (in other case, private transfer on your own)
- ✚ For prolongation in Cayo Santa Maria/Cayo Ensenachos at the end of the round trip on Day 9 Transfer from Santa Clara to the Beach Hotel
- ✚ Excursions, Visits and Entrance fees according to Program
- ✚ English speaking guide during Days 1 - 9 of the round trip
- ✚ 8 Overnights on the aforementioned accommodations (acc. availability)
- ✚ 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- ✚ Travel money security certificate

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to and from Cuba (with pleasure we will help you to find the right flight connections)
- All Meals not mentioned on the program.
- Optional tours: Havana Queens Show with return transfer
- Additional nights i.e. in Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria
- Transfer to the Airport in Havana after the prolongation in Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria
- Personal Expenses
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters



The magnificent building ensembles are an architectural highlight and part of the UNESCO world cultural heritage. The legendary Cuban musician Benny Moré, a son of Cienfuegos and one of the most famous musicians of Cuba, gives a special glamour to this town, his bronze statue stands in a prominent location on Prado street. **(B) (D)**

DAY 6 (Tuesday) CIENFUEGOS

In the morning drive with jeeps or trucks to El Nicho. This small national park east of Cienfuegos is home to the most beautiful waterfall in Cuba. Guided hike amongst lush, untouched nature to the waterfall which cascades down into a small lake. Possibility to swim. Lunch at the restaurant El Nicho. Back in Cienfuegos stroll through the city center, see the main square Parque Martí with the nostalgic theatre Tomás Terry. Visit to the Casa de la Cultura Benjamin Duarte. This cultural center in a palatial building organises out-of-school activities such as dancing and making music, for local pupils. After this interesting visit, have a cocktail on the roof terrace of the moorish Palacio de Valle on the peninsula Punta Gorda. Dinner at own expense. **(B) (L)**

DAY 7 (Wednesday) CIENFUEGOS – TRINIDAD (110 km)

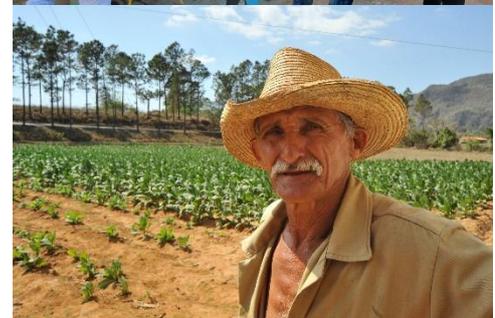
Drive along the coastal road to Trinidad UNESCO World heritage site with unique colonial architecture. Sightseeing walk through the romantic cobbled roads, passing the main square surrounded by the splendid mansions of the former sugar barons and visit to the Casa del Alfarero, a pottery workshop. At continuation be part of a guided tour through Museo Municipal and enjoy the beautiful view from its tower. Taste the typical honey liquor at the quaint bar Casa de la Trova. In the afternoon you will get to feel the rhythm of Cuba during a typical dance lesson. Professional dancers will teach you the Salsa Cubana. Dinner at the casa in Trinidad. **(B) (D)**

DAY 8 (Thursday) TRINIDAD UND SIERRA ESCAMBRAY (70 km)

The day begins with a drive to national park Topes de Collantes at Sierra Escambray and further down on adventurous paths to the view point of the trail. Hike amongst vibrant flora and fauna. Depending on the path, with opportunity to take a swim in a natural pool under waterfalls. Rustic lunch at a finca amidst lush nature. In the afternoon drive back to Trinidad, rest of the day at leisure. Possibility to swim in Playa Ancón or free time in the city center. Dinner at own expense. Enjoy the romantic night-life by listening to traditional music and dancing e.g. at Casa de la Música near the main square. **(B) (L)**

DAY 9 (Friday) TRINIDAD – SANTA CLARA – VARADERO – HAVANNA (305/395 km)

Drive from Trinidad to Santa Clara, the capital of the province. This town is inseparably linked with Che's history. With the famous battle of Santa Clara, Che marked the final victory over Batistas regime and became the hero of the revolution. It is here where he found his last rest. Visit to the mausoleum and tren blindado, a relic from the revolutionary war. In the afternoon head to Varadero (for beach extension) or to the hotel / airport in Havana. (For beach extension in Cayo Santa María / Cayo Ensenachos transfer to the beach hotel). Transfer to Cayo Santa María / Cayo Ensenachos in the afternoon on day 9 is included. The transfer back to the hotel / airport in Havana, Varadero or Santa Clara will be charged separately. **(B)**



HINTS

Please note that attractions, dining options and more can close at short term and without notice. In such cases, as part of the on-site opportunity, an equivalent replacement offer will be sought.

The situation of accommodation in Cuba is difficult. Overbooking the accommodation may lead to short-term diversions. The accommodations are not comparable with the standards of other countries despite their own information of their categories (stars) and / or the affiliation to international hotel chains. Due to the colonial construction in many townhouses not all rooms have windows or under consideration, only in the courtyard. We always try to reserve rooms with windows, but this can not be guaranteed.

Road conditions in Cuba. We would like to point out that the road conditions in Cuba do not meet the European standards. The lanes are partly in less good condition (bumpy, with potholes and partially unpaved). It is therefore often necessary to drive slowly. Even animals and carriages are not uncommon on the road. It may come for these reasons, possibly to longer travel times.

Compulsory health insurance: Entry to Cuba is only possible with a foreign health insurance (not US insurance). If you can not provide proof of insurance at the time of entry, you must take out a Cuban health insurance at the airport.