



CAE 1926
Guaranteed departure

Cuba, la vida real

Private Round trip

14 days/13 nights

On this rather special roundtrip, you will experience the authentic Cuba, interact with locals as you 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, Camagüey, city of Tinajones, and Santiago, rhythm of the Oriente. In addition to this exceptionally distinct tour where you will stay with Cuban families in their private homes, there is the possibility to extend your trip at a hotel on a dream beach in Guardalavaca.

DAY 1 (Saturday) ARRIVAL HAVANA

Reception at the airport in Havana and transfer to the hotel. Dinner at own expense. Overnight in Casa Particular, Havana

DAY 2 (Sunday) HAVANA INSIGHT

In the morning, 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. Continue by bicitaxi to Centro-Habana, a part of the city barely touched by tourism. Visit different shops, which give an insight into the real life of the Habaneros far away from tourism. Take the local the ferry Lancha de Regla, primarily used by locals, across the bay to the Christ statue; a beautiful spot for panoramic photos of the city. Later, enjoy a tour in classic American cars along the legendary Malecón, through the modern district of Vedado, and along Quinta Avenida to the upper class district of Miramar with its splendid mansions. Enjoy lunch in a local paladar downtown. In the afternoon, continue walking through the streets and over the squares of the colonial Old Havana while visiting the main sights. Dinner at own expense. Overnight in Casa Particular, Havana. **(B) (L)**

DAY 3 (Monday) HAVANA Made un Cuba – Rustic revelation

Today gain insights into the state-run agricultural system and into countryside life in Cuba. In the morning, take the public train to the south-west of Havana, to El Cano, a place still untouched by tourism, which will become apparent during a walk through the village and a visit to a ceramics workshop. The discovery tour continues with visits to a centre for research and development of medicinal plants, to a garden of decorative plants and finally a factory workshop for the preservation of agricultural products. The tour ends with the visit to a finca, on which bananas, avocados, lettuce, mint and much more are grown. These products are sold daily at one of the many farmers markets in the city. On a walkabout tour, an employee of the finca will provide explanations and insights into the state-run agricultural system. End the day with a small fiesta campesina and delicious Creole food with mojitos and soft drinks. Overnight in Casa Particular, Havana **(B) (D)**

DAY 4 (Tuesday) HAVANA – VIÑALES (210 km)

In the morning, 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 program of the artist Mario Pelegrín especially dedicated to kids and teenagers. With the access to artistic creation, not only the development of their own creativity is stimulated but also, they are offered meaningful recreational activities. While the visitors learn more about the program, fresh fruits and coffee are served. Continue 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 a photo stop at the viewpoint Los Jazmines. In the evening, you will learn how to make the famous Cuban cocktails. Dinner and exclusive cocktail class with a Cuban bartender. Overnight in Casa Particular, Viñales **(B) (D)**

DAY 5 (Wednesday) 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). Enjoy lunch with Alberto Vitamina at his very special paladar. The amicable owner gained his fame by selling fruit; he thoroughly enjoys chatting to his guests. Back in the village of Viñales, visit Caridad's small botanic garden, a beautiful, very well kept private garden with a large number of different plants. Rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at own expense. Overnight in Casa Particular, Viñales **(B) (L)**

Private tour
(from 2 Persons)

from EUR 1.932.-
from USD 2.225.-

Surplus single room from
EUR 300.- USD 346.-

Children up to 11 years in Double room with 2 adults upon request

SET DEPARTURES 2019

02.03	23.03	13.04
18.05	08.06	13.07
10.08	07.09	05.10

- INCLUDED SERVICES:**
- ✓ Roundtrip in air-conditioned vehicle (taxi/microbus/bus) in customary quality with chauffeur:
 - With 02 participants by taxi (Please note that max. 1 item of luggage p.p. fits into the car boot.)
 - With 03 - 05 participants by minivan/microbus (6 - 8 seats)
 - With 06 - 12 participants by minibus (13 - 20 seats)
 - With 13 - 24 participants by bus (30 seats)
 - ✓ Transfer Havana airport to casa particular Havana
 - ✓ During the roundtrip days 1 - 14 English-speaking local guide.
 - ✓ 13 overnight stays at the mentioned accommodations (according to availability)
 - ✓ 13 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners
- NOT INCLUDED**
- All meals and drinks not mentioned in the program
 - Optional excursions
 - Day 14, transfer to beach hotel Guardalavaca (for extending nights)
 - Extending nights in city or beach hotel, e.g. in Varadero or Guardalavaca
 - Transfer to Havana airport after the extending nights in Guardalavaca or Varadero
 - Domestic flight
 - Personal expenses and tips





DAY 6 (Thursday) VIÑALES – CIENFUEGOS – TRINIDAD (560 km)

Drive towards the centre of the island to Cienfuegos, characterized by French colonial architecture. Arrival in Cienfuegos and stroll through the city centre, see the main square Parque Martí with the nostalgic Tomás Terry theatre. Visit to the Casa de la Cultura Benjamin Duarte. This cultural centre in a palatial building organises out-of-school activities such as dance and music lessons for local pupils. After this interesting visit, enjoy a cocktail on the roof terrace of the moorish Palacio de Valle on the peninsula Punta Gorda. Drive along the coastal road to Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with unique colonial architecture. Dinner and Overnight at the Casa Particular. **(B) (D)**



DAY 7 (Friday) TRINIDAD

Stroll to the main square surrounded by the splendid mansions of the former sugar barons. Visit to one of the museums e.g. Museo Municipal where visitors can enjoy a beautiful view from its tower. Stop at the quaint bar Canchánchara and enjoy the local honey cocktail. In the afternoon, time at leisure and lunch at own expense. Spend some time at beach Ancón or feel the rhythm of Cuba during a typical dance lesson with a local professional. Dinner at own expense. In the evening, stroll through the romantic nightlife of Trinidad by

listening to traditional music and dancing e.g. at Casa de la Música near the main square. Overnight at the Casa Particular. **(B)**

DAY 8 (Saturday) TRINIDAD – SUGAR MILL VALLEY – SANCTI SPIRITUS – CAMAGÜEY (280 km)

In the morning drive through the Sugar Mill Valley. Visit of hacienda Iznaga, home of the former sugar barons Iznaga with its legendary slave tower. Afterwards, through Sierra Escambray to Sancti Spiritus. Panoramic tour and visit of Yayabo - Bridge followed by lunch. Continue through green sugar cane fields to Camagüey. Dinner at the casa particular, Camagüey. **(B) (L) (D)**



DAY 9 (Sunday) CAMAGÜEY

After breakfast, city tour and ride by bicitaxi through the city centre. Visit of the gallery of Martha Jiménez Pérez at Plaza del Carmen. Later, visit the Swiss non-profit organisation Camaquito and gain insight into an interesting cultural development aimed mainly at children. Depending on the day, one of their many projects will be visited: e.g. the Café Literario, which serves as a gallery for young artists and a place for various cultural activities, or the Ignacio Agramonte arts centre in the old part of the town. Lunch at a paladar. Dinner at own expense. **(B) (L)**

DAY 10 (Monday) CAMAGÜEY – BAYAMO – EL COBRE –SANTIAGO (350 km)

In the morning, drive to Bayamo, where the fight for independence from the Spanish crown started and the national anthem La Bayamesa was composed. Ride in one of the typical horse-drawn carriages through Bayamo. Continue through the Sierra Maestra to the pilgrimage site El Cobre. Visit the impressively situated basilica with the patroness of Cuba. Late in the afternoon

arrival in Santiago de Cuba, city of the revolution and cradle of Cuban son. Dinner and Overnight at the Casa Particular, Santiago. **(B) (D)**



DAY 11 (Tuesday) SANTIAGO

In the morning, panoramic tour past the Revolution Square and tour of the Moncada Barracks where, in 1953 Fidel and his men attacked, marking the beginning of the Cuban revolution. Visit to Santa Ifigenia, a cemetery with the graves of the Barcardí dynasty and the national hero José Martí and ex-president Fidel Castro. Drive to Cayo Granma and lunch in the restaurant. Visit the El Morro fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with stunning views over the bay. Subsequently, drive through the former villa and residential area and visit the Vista Alegre and San Juan Hill from the Spanish - American - Cuban War of Independence. Stroll through the historic centre past Parque Céspedes, Calle Heredia, Plaza Dolores, and stairway Padre Pico and Casa Velázquez - the oldest house in the city. Tour of the rum museum. Encased in a beautiful colonial house, this museum counts the history of Cuban rum. You can view old machinery and barrels, examples of bottlings, bottles and etiquettes throughout the last century. Dinner at La Fondita de Compay Ramon. The Creole food, usually prepared by the owner together with his wife, tastes excellent and the ambience is warmly familiar. If his guests wish, he shows them his famous "Ceremonia del Café", in which he conjures up a delicious coffee and offers amusing entertainment. Dinner and Overnight at the Casa Particular, Santiago. **(B) (L) (D)**



DAY 12 (Wednesday) SANTIAGO - GUANTANAMO – BARCOA (240 km)

In the morning, drive towards Guantánamo - the stronghold of the Afro-Cuban Santería and Haitian voodoo cult, also known for its proximity to the U.S. Navy base. Continue through a desert-like landscape with cacti spread across tropical green mountainsides, along the breath-taking pass road La Farola down to Baracoa, where Columbus once landed. In the late afternoon, visit the city museum Matachín and walk over the main square where the church of Nuestra Señora de Asunción and the Columbus cross stand. . Dinner and Overnight at the casa particular in Baracoa. **(B) (D)**



DAY 13 (Thursday) BARCOA

Baracoa is located in front of the picturesque backdrop of El Yunque, nestled in a lush tropical landscape with coffee, cocoa and banana plantations - a Caribbean bliss. Excursion to the magnificent surroundings of Baracoa. Drive to the mouth of the Río Yumuri. Hike (about two hours) and learn about the diverse flora and fauna of this area; later enjoy the possibility to take a break and have swim in the river. Afterwards drive to the Finca Duaba and stroll through the surroundings while receiving a small introduction to the world of cocoa. Enjoy a rustic lunch on the finca and take a short boat ride on the Río Toa. In the afternoon, time at leisure. Overnight at the casa particular in Baracoa. **(B)**



DAY 14 (Friday) BARCOA – HOLGUIN (SANTIAGO) – HAVANA (GUARDALAVACA)

In the morning, head along the adventurous coastal road with hidden bays in the direction of Moa and Holguín. To be booked as supplements: Flight to Havana and private transfer to the separately booked accommodation in Havana and/or Varadero, beach extension in the region of Holguín - Guardalavaca and transfer from Holguín to Guardalavaca. Important: Please note that the road between Baracoa and Moa is partly in bad condition. Thus, it must be driven slowly and the journey can take up to 4 - 5 hours. However, there is no alternative route if one wants to get to know this very scenic, interesting and very typical part of Cuba off the beaten track. We do not recommend this trip to guests who shy away from long bus rides and cannot bear bumpy road conditions. Due to bad weather, the bridge over Río Toa might be flooded and closed. In this case, the route would be via Santiago de Cuba. Please note: A domestic flight e.g. from Holguín to Havana is not included. **(B)**

(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

- ✓ Surcharge for transfer from Varadero airport to Casa Particular in Havana
- ✓ Supplement for private transfer from Guardalavaca to Holguín Airport
- ✓ Surcharge for return flight from Holguín to Havana after extension
- ✓ Supplement for private transfer to the hotel in Varadero or from the hotel in Varadero to the airport

Reductions for the lengthening of the bath or the end of the journey in Guardalavaca: - EUR 130 (- USD 150) if the return flight Holguín / Santiago - Havana is not used. The above reduction applies to guests who do not fly to Havana on the 14th day, but want to extend it to a spa hotel in the Holguín - Guardalavaca region. The journey ends with an included transfer from the airport Holguín to Guardalavaca (duration approx. 1 hour / 60 km from Holguín, only with driver, without guide). All other original services of the tour (for example, flight to Havana and transfer to the separately booked hotel) are then no longer included and must be individually booked and paid by the customer as desired.

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 circumstances. 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.

General note Domestic flights: There may be short-term and unforeseen changes in schedules by the Cuban airlines. An evening flight may e.g. be transferred to the morning or afternoon or even from another airport. These changes can not be influenced by us. In all these cases program changes are reserved. An attempt is made to arrange a replacement program or to adapt the program accordingly.

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.