



SIMPLY CUBA TOURS

SIMPLY CUBA

www.simplycubatours.com

WELCOME

Welcome to our Simply Cuba tour brochure. This guide is set out to give you an insight into our signature tour, that was designed to give you the most exciting yet insightful experience on your holiday to Cuba!

We've created this brochure to inspire your travel dreams, helping you learn more about your destination and prepare you for your upcoming trip.

Booking your tour through Simply Cuba means that you will receive personalised, expert advice as well as local knowledge before you go. To help you plan your trip, we have outlined your tour itinerary as well as provided additional optional activities at each destination you will visit. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our experts who are a wealth of knowledge about all things Cuba!

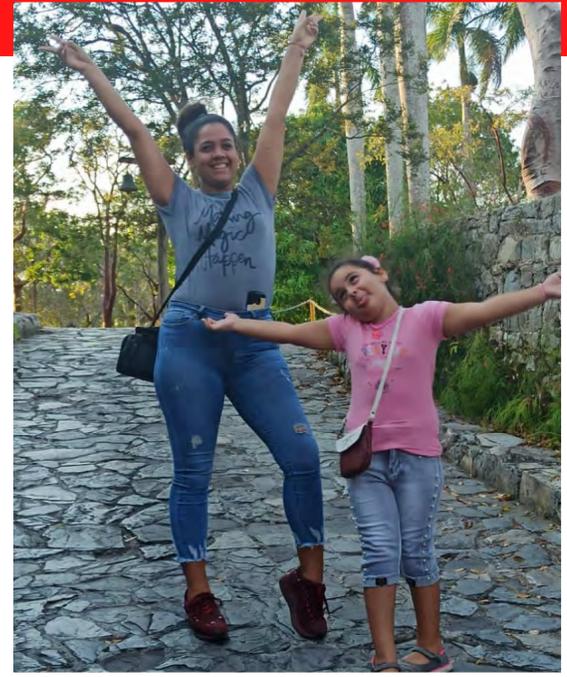
We look forward not only booking your holiday for you, but making it the most memorable experience of your life time!

See you soon,
Yoanis & Orsolya



THE HIGHLIGHTS

Cuba lures travelers each year for its abundance of stunning natural wonders, exciting culture, historic landmarks, energetic dance scene and of course the excitement of an authentic Cuban Cigar! Be in awe with any of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, enjoy the sun in a 1950's American car or dance the night away with the locals, it is one destination beckons discovery.



1 VIÑALES VALLEY WALK Viñales

Viñales Valley is a World Heritage site. Discover this rich country side, to see the life of Cuba's farmers and learn the secret methods of rolling a Cuban cigar directly from those who grow it. May be even roll one yourself!

2 CLASSIC CAR CRUISE Havana

Let's face it, this is one thing most people want to do when they come to Cuba. Let's follow the routes from Fast and Furious and make our way to sites you not yet seen as we enjoy the sunset with the roof down in a 1950's classic car!

3 CANOPY TOUR Las Terrazas

Cuba's original canopy tour and still its best, has six zip lines that catapult you over Las Terrazas village and the Lago del San Juan like a turkey vulture in flight. The total 'flying' distance is 1600m for you to enjoy amazing scenery.

4 SNORKELLING AT CUEVA DE LOS PECES Zapata Peninsula

Cueva de los Peces, a 72m-deep cenote (sinkhole) on the inland side of the coast road halfway between Playa Larga and Playa Girón. You will have a chance at snorkeling here and spot various tropical fish.

5 SOROA ORCHID GARDEN Soroa

The garden was created in 1943 by a Spaniard, and is home to over 6,000 ornamental plants and 700 species, 250 of which are native to Cuba. A nice variety of delicate, intricately colored orchids are on display in the greenhouses.

6 CHE GUEVARA MAUSOLEUM Santa Clara

Santa Clara is Che's city, without question. The last battle in the Cuban Revolution took place here and it is fitting that Che Guevara was buried by Fidel Castro in this particular place once Che's remains were found and returned to Cuba in 1997.

7 RUM TASTING Trinidad

learn about the fascinating history of Cuban Rum, all while tasting the most authentic ones. If you ask, a bartender will show you how to prepare different kinds of Cuban drinks so you can recreate these wonderful Cuban cocktails back home.

8 EL NICO WATERFALL Cienfuegos

El Nicho is located inside the Gran Parque Natural Topes de Collantes and is best known for its large waterfall and natural pool. An excellent spot to spend the day relaxing in nature. Be on the lookout for birds and lizards in the trees. and enjoy the amazing view of the valley!



HOLIDAY INSPIRATIONS



EXPLORE CUBA

Cuba is quickly becoming a popular tourist destination. With its rich history, lush tropical landscape, warm hospitality, energetic vibe, authentic feel the country has a lot to offer.

Cuba is a country of indefinable magic! Trapped in a time warp and reeling from an economic embargo that has grated for more than half a century, this is a country where you can wave goodbye to everyday assumptions and expect the unexpected...

Start your exploration of this wonderful country in **Havana**, the heartbeat of the forbidden country. Since its foundation in 1519, Havana has had a rich history of piracy, colonialism and mobster rule. It survived two independence war, a revolution and the continuing US trade embargo. Despite the difficulties its people are the kindest, most friendly people in the world. Maybe it's the survivalist spirit of its people, the decaying grandeur of its majestic buildings or the salsa energy that gives this feeling that just make you fall in love with it. Whatever you do, make sure you arrive with an open mind and immerse yourself in the experience this city has to offer.

From Havana, we'll track to **Santa Clara**, Cuba's 5th biggest city, that holds a special place in Cuba's revolutionary history, as such this city is a mini pilgrimage destination for Che Guevara worshipers. You cannot miss the Plaza de la Revolucion. The is the open space that is overlooked by a huge bronze statue of Che Guevara that sits atop the museum and the Che Guevara mausoleum. It is nothing short of a big, bold reminder to every local and visitor of Che's importance here. Wonder inside the Museum and Memorial, and you will find photographs, depictions, writings, exhibits and memorabilia all exist here related to Che Guevara's life from early childhood through to the end of his life as a revolutionary. The queues can at times be long, but it's a must visit.

From here travel further south to **Trinidad**, a perfectly preserved Spanish colonial settlement where the clocks stopped in 1850 and haven't yet started. Most people recognize this city for its beautiful but crumbling yellow bell tower that graces the cityscape, but there is truly much more hidden in the streets of Trinidad. Declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1988, Cuba's oldest and most enchanting 'outdoor museum' attracts busloads of visitors. Yet the cobblestone streets, horsing carts, well-kept colonial atmosphere with ornate buildings and garden terraces give this gorgeous city a romantic, old charm that is hard to beat. Not to mention the amazing beaches, nature reserves and fantastic nightlife that you will find here.



Visit the French colonist **Cienfuegos**, settled in 1819 around the most spectacular and natural bay in Cuba bringing their elegant, classical architecture, wide, airy streets giving it a modern, spacious feel. If Cuba had a Paris this place would be it. The elegance of the place combined with a feisty Caribbean spirit and lingering Spanish influence, earned it not only the nickname 'Pearl of the South' but also a UNESCO Heritage Listing in 2005.

Playa Larga, a small fishing village on the southern Cuban coast, is the gateway to the Cienaga de Zapata National Park. It is located at the head of the Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs). It was one of two beaches invaded by US-backed exiles on April 17, 1961, although **Playa Girón**, 35km further south, saw far bigger landings. The invasion is famous because it culminated in a victory for the army and Cuban militias. Learn about the history of the area, and snorkel in the amazing fish cave are just a couple of reasons to visit this area.



Soroa is a hidden gem only 85kms from Havana. With the sun glistening off of the beautiful flowing waters of the area, you will be amazed to see the rainbow rays shining off of the surface - thus awarding the region with the affectionate nickname 'The Rainbow of Cuba'. Nearly right next to it is **Las Terrazas**, the home to Cuba's first canopy circuit/zip line. You can enjoy a Canopy Tour via series of 6 lines just under 1600m long, that pass over the top of the village and surrounding area. Both are nestled in a Biosphere reserve thus perfect place to enjoy Nature.

Viñales, is a national park, an agricultural region in the west of Cuba and is one of the regions to produce the Cuban cigar. This magnificent natural rural setting is far from Havana's hustle and bustle. With traditional agricultural fields of mainly tobacco, mesmerising mogotes and plenty of bush tracks it is a perfect place for a Cuban adventure. It is hard to put in words the beauty of this place, with the natural flora and fauna being characterised by many local endemic species.

GOOD TO KNOW



THE WEATHER

Cuba's subtropical climate is ideal for exploration, with most places catching the cool trade winds that blow in from the coast, providing pleasant year-round temperatures. June, July and August are usually the hottest months – the dry season runs from November to April and the wet season from May to October. Even in the rainy season, downpours are short and shouldn't impede travel plans. Tropical storms and hurricanes are more prevalent in September and October but rarely cause problems for travellers.

Capital City

Havana

Language

Spanish

Currency

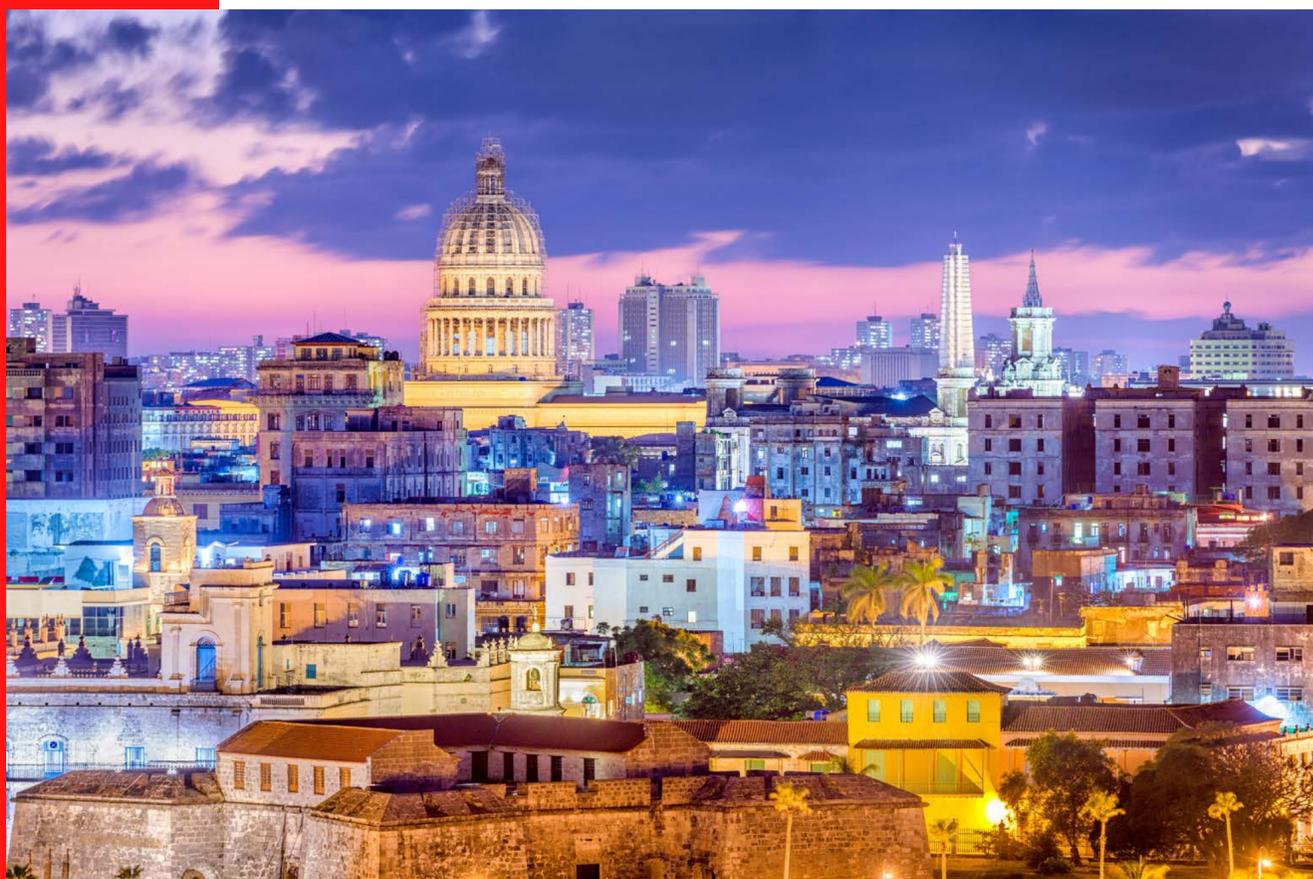
CUC/CUP

Time Zone

GMT -4

Electricity

110V



POINT TO POINT TRAVEL TIMES

Havana to Santa Clara	3 Hrs 45 Mins
Santa Clara to Trinidad	1 Hr 45 Mins
Trinidad to Cienfuegos	1 Hr 30 Mins
Cienfuegos to Playa Larga	1 Hr 30 Mins
Playa Larga to Las Terrazas	3 Hrs 20 Mins
Soroa to Viñales	1 Hr 45 Mins
Viñales to Havana	3 Hours



YOUR ITINERARY



DAY 1 - HAVANA

Welcome to Cuba!

A complimentary transfer from the airport to the guesthouse is included with your trip to ease you into the life in Cuba. You can check in at any time, your casa hosts will be waiting for you. If you arrive early, enjoy your free time till your welcome meeting at 6pm.

Depending on your arrival into the country and how you feel there are some options for you to discover Havana.

Maybe even get your supply of Wi-fi cards sorted for your stay...

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Revolution museum - CUC8
- National Museum of Fine Arts - CUC5
- Tourist bus day pass - CUC10
- Camera Obscura entrance - CUC2

DAY 2 - SANTA CLARA

Today we set out to Trinidad, about 5 hours south of Havana on the glittering Caribbean coastline. It is one of a kind, a perfectly preserved Spanish colonial settlement where the clocks stopped in 1850 and haven't yet started.

On the way through we will stop at Santa Clara. It is Cuba's 5th biggest city, that holds a special place in Cuba's revolutionary history. Famous for the Battle of Santa Clara, when it was taken over by a revolutionary battalion led by Che Guevara by the afternoon on New Years Eve 1958. It is seen as a decisive chapter in the revolution as President Batista escaped Cuba within 12 hours afterwards. As such this city is a mini pilgrimage destination for Che Guevara worshippers.

You cannot miss the Plaza de la Revolucion. This is the open space that is overlooked by a huge bronze statue of Che Guevara that sits atop the museum and the Che Guevara mausoleum that we will visit. It is nothing short of a big, bold reminder to every local and visitor of Che's importance here.

We will then continue to Trinidad, where you will receive a guided city tour to get your bearings before you have the evening off to discover the buzzing nightlife in Trinidad.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Che Guevara Mausoleum and Museum
- Trinidad City Tour

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Live Music Venues (Entrance fee) - Subject to change depending on the performer - CUC2
- Santeria Priest - CUC2

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discover the Che Guevara Mausoleum and Memorial
- Swim in the pristine waters at El Cubano National Park
- Shake that booty to the Latin rhythms of Cuba in Trinidad
- Learn about the fascinating history of Cuban Rum, all while tasting the most authentic ones
- Enjoy a delicious and authentic farm lunch in the El Nicho neighbourhood waterfall area
- Snorkel in the largest flooded cave
- Visit the Playa Giron Museum to grasp the history of the botched CIA Invasion
- Pass over top of Las Terrazas on a zip line
- Reconnect and ground yourself with the beauties of Orchids at the 'Rainbow of Cuba'
- Learn to roll your own cigar from a Cuban Tobacco Farmer
- Enjoy an iconic Classic Car Ride in Havana with a cocktail in hand
- Uncover the Love story of Cuba in Old Havana



DAY 3 - TRINIDAD

We start the day with trekking in El Cubano National Park. We will discover the Cimarrones de Javira 6 km round trail that delivers you to the heart of el Cubano's beautiful waterfall and natural pool. Swimming in its icy pool is the perfect break from the heat. The trail begins with a small rope bridge, on the other side, follow the path that gently rises beside the river. Find shade among the canopy of the trees and enjoy colorful birds overhead. It's an easy and well-trod path that allows the mind to wonder.

In the afternoon you will head to your salsa Lessons to get those bodies moving and to prepare you to dance the night away at Trinidad's night spots with the local residents who are more than willing participants in dancing to the local live music.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Trekking El Cubano National Park
- 1 Hour Salsa Lesson

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Cave Disco (Entrance fee) - CUC5
- Romantic Museum - CUC2
- Museo Nacional de la Lucha Contra los Bandidos - CUC1

DAY 4 - TRINIDAD

This morning we will make our way to Playa Ancon. A beautiful beach with crystal clear, calm, warm waters, white sand and a waiter to serve you cocktails only 15 minutes drive from Trinidad, makes this the perfect place to spend a day lounging by the sea, swimming, relaxing and unwinding in the Caribbean.

You can have a nice afternoon siesta before we head out to enjoy a few educational drinks as you learn about the fascinating history of Cuban Rum, all while tasting the most authentic ones. If you ask, a bartender will show you how to prepare different kinds of Cuban drinks so you can recreate these wonderful Cuban cocktails back home.



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Ancon Beach Excursion
- Rum Tasting

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Snorkelling trip - CUC15
- Train ride (Steam train replica with electric engine) - CUC10



DAY 5 - CIENFUEGOS

This morning we will set out to Cienfuegos, a French colonist town. If Cuba had a Paris this place would be it. The elegance of the place combined with a feisty Caribbean spirit and lingering Spanish influence, earned it not only the nickname 'Pearl of the South' but also a UNESCO Heritage Listing in 2005. On the way, we will stop at Topes Collantes Nature Reserve that stretches across the south eastern Escambray Mountains. Packed with rivers, waterfalls, canyons and caves, this jungle shrouded natural area is a great way to escape the heat and explore some beautiful scenery. We will visit Parque El Nicho and meander through the swaying palms to visit the waterfall, the perfect spot for a refreshing swim in the Cuban jungle.

After swimming we will make our way to a local farmhouse for a traditional lunch cooked on charcoal, consisting of food from the farm, such as root vegetables, chicken, pork, seasonal salad veggies, rice and beans, fresh local coffee from their little mountain plantation, local fruits, juice, and deliciously smoked green banana chips. You'll be ready for your siesta on the bus as we make our way into Cienfuegos, where you will have a leader lead orientation walk to show you the craft markets and art galleries of the town, before having the afternoon and evening off to discover the place further.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Visit El Nicho Waterfall
- Farmhouse Lunch
- Leader Lead Orientation Walk

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Palacio de Valle (Entrance fee)

DAY 6 - PLAYA LARGA

Today's destination is Playa Larga, a small fishing village on the southern Cuban coast, is the gateway to the Ciénaga de Zapata National Park. It is located at the head of the Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs). It was one of two beaches invaded by US-backed exiles on April 17, 1961 (although Playa Girón, 35km further south, saw far bigger landings). The invasion is famous because it culminated in a victory for the army and Cuban militias.

Located about halfway between Havana and Trinidad, it's the best base for exploring the Zapata peninsula and the Ciénaga de Zapata National Park, Cuba's largest wilderness area, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, with varied ecosystem of wetlands, mangrove forests, coral reefs and underwater canyons, it's home to a massive variety of colourful birds and tropical fish. On the way we will visit the Cueva de los Peces, a 70m-deep cenote (sinkhole) on the inland side of the coast road halfway between Playa Larga and Playa Girón. You will have a chance at snorkeling here and spot various tropical fish.



After the water fun we will visit the Museo de Playa Giron to learn more about the 1961 Invasion. This exceedingly well-kept museum with its gleaming display cases evokes a tangible sense of the history of the famous Cold War episode that unfolded within rifle firing distance of this spot in 1961. There is also a British Hawker Sea Fury aircraft used by the Cuban Air Force is parked outside the museum along with a couple of Russian tanks used in the battle.

After this we will retire in Playa Larga, where you will have the evening off.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Snorkeling at Cueva de los Peces
- Playa Giron Museum



DAY 7 - SOROA/LAS TERRAZAS

This morning we start making our way back toward Western Cuba. We will stop at Las Terrazas community and nature reserve in the Sierra del Rosario mountains. It is an eco-village built around a creek that has been a UNESCO Biosphere reserve since 1985. It is the country's best kept secret! The goal in this village is to integrate tourism into an existing community rather than create artificial tourist experiences. It succeeds by using local farming, energy efficiency and a focus on the greater good of the community.

The area is home to Cuba's first canopy circuit/zip line in Cuba. It is a series of 6 lines just under a mile long that pass overtop the village and surrounding area, a perfect way to discover the area. After your Canopy Tour we can discover the area further and enjoy lunch here, before we continue our trip to Soroa.

Depending on the time we get here, you may be able to take a stroll among the marvelous tall trees to discover the pristine waters of the local water fall before enjoying dinner at a local paladar with traditional Cuban food and hospitality.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Canopy Tour
- Dinner at local Paladares

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Waterfall hike and swim
- Relax at Soroa Hotel

DAY 8 - VIÑALES

Before we make our way to Viñales we'll have the chance to further admire Soroa, the 'rainbow of Cuba' as it is known, as we'll enjoy a guided tour of the spectacular Soroa Orchid Garden, set among 7 acres of lush green oasis of flora featuring 250 native Cuban species and amazing birdlife to match. After admiring nature at its glory we will make our way to Viñales.

Beautifully rural, Viñales is endowed in mogotes, large limestone cliffs covered with flat flora and plant life and is the home of the world famous Cuban Cigars. It's one of the cooler areas of Cuba, so it's also a nice escape from the hotter parts of the country. Here we will start with an orientation walk before you have the afternoon and evening off. The nightlife here is very active with the local residents more than willing participants in dancing to the local live music.



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Soroa Orchid Garden
- Vinales Orientation Walk

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Live Music Venues (Entrance fee) - Subject to change depending on the performer - CUC2
- Botanical Gardens - USD1

DAY 9 - VIÑALES

Viñales Valley is a World Heritage site. It is a fascinating site, with its amazing "living landscape" of traditional farms and 300 meter high mogotes. It boasts an abundance of local seasonal fruit and vegetables, such as enormous avocados, mangoes and pineapples. It is a fascinating scene to see when oxen are working the fields and the scent of tobacco fills the air. In the morning we'll take a guided walk through this rich country side, to discover the life of Cuba's farmers and learn the secret methods of rolling a Cuban cigar directly from those who grow it. Not only will you get to try one, you get to learn how to roll them yourself!

There will be free time in the afternoon before we make our way to the Organic Farm, El Paraiso for dinner. It is a true paradise, not only does it offer a truly delicious farm-to-plate experience it also boasts amazing views of the valley. It will truly excite your senses!



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Viñales Valley Walk including Tobacco Farmhouse
- Dinner at Organic Farm

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Craft Markets
- Cave exploring – Cuevas del Indio or Gran Vaverna de Santo Tomas



DAY 10 - VIÑALES

Today we will visit Cayo Jutias, approximately 65 kms from Viñales, Pinar del Río's most discovered 'undiscovered' beach. The roads to get you there aren't the best, as such only those who are adventurous will make it here. You cannot see it's beauty from the distance as you have to wade your way through mangroves to the 3km-long white sand beach. It is the most picturesque and tranquil beach you have seen and hiding some natural beauties, like amazingly large Sea stars!

So you can make the most of this amazing discovery, soak up the sun and enjoy the warm Caribbean waters we will leave in the morning and will stay for lunch at the beach or even longer if you like...



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Cayo Jutias Excursion

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Salsa Lesson 1hr - CUC10

DAY 11 - HAVANA

It's time to say good bye to Viñales and head back to Havana today. You will have some free time to discover Havana after we settle into our casas.

When you think of Havana, one of the first things that comes to mind is a beautiful vintage convertible car, right? We cannot miss this for the world. So in the later afternoon we will set out on a drive in these amazing iconic American vintage cars. Drive down the gorgeous streets Havana discovering the city's best-kept secrets! Drive along the Malecon, follow the route of Fast and the Furious, visiting Revolution Square and the John Lennon Park are just some of the highlights of this cruise. Then finish by watching the sunset with a cocktail in hand from to tickle all senses!



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Classic Car Cruise

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Buena Vista Social Club - CUC30
- National Museum of Fine Arts - CUC5
- Morro Castle - CUC3
- Jose Marti Memorial Tower - CUC2

DAY 12 - HAVANA

UNESCO sure do have great taste, they know a good thing when they see it. Today you'll start the day with discovering Old Havana, a World Heritage site since 1982. See the glorious grandeur of this dynamic area, one of the Caribbean's most impressive historical cities. Wonder through the narrow streets and spacious plazas, admiring the Spanish architecture as you discover the birth place of Havana - Plaza de armas, and other iconic sites like Plaza San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de la cathedral, and hear about the love story of Havana before lunch at one of the amazing venues on Old Havana offering killer dacquiris before giving you the afternoon and evening off to further discover the beauties of Havana.



INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Old Havana Walking Tour
- Lunch in Old Havana

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Fusterlandia

DAY 13 - HAVANA

It's time to say good bye to this amazing island. We have not planned any activity for you today.

Your check-out time is 12pm. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we loved showing it to you!

This is where we depart, yet would strongly recommend that you stay a few more days to explore this unique city. If you would like to take this opportunity, please let us know and we can arrange extended accommodation for you for an additional fee



TOUR INCLUSIONS



Meals

12 Breakfasts
5 Lunches
2 Dinners



Accommodation

Standard Guesthouse (12 nights)



Transport

Private Vehicle



Included Activities

- Classic Car Cruise
- Viñales valley walk with cigar rolling
- Walking tour to El Cubano National Park
- Trekking to El Nicho Waterfall
- Visit to Las Terrazas Community
- Canopy tour
- Orchid Garden
- Day trip to Cayo Jutias
- Rum Tasting
- Art Pub Lunch



- Visit to Che Guevara's mausoleum
- Traditional Farm Lunch
- Organic Farm Dinner
- Dinner in traditional Paladares
- 1 hour Salsa Lesson
- Snorkeling in the Fish Cave
- Old Havana Walking Tour
- Lunch at Las Terrazas Vegetarian Restaurant

For bookings please visit
www.simplycubatours.com

Do we require a visa for this trip?

You will require a visa to enter Cuba, however the type of visa available to you depends on your nationality. We recommend that you contact your local embassy to discuss requirements prior to travel.

I am a solo traveler, is there a single surcharge?

Tour prices are based on a twin share basis. If you are traveling on your own, you will be sharing a room with someone of the same gender. If you wish to have your own room, there is a single surcharge payable.

Are tips included in the cost?

Tipping is not included in the price and it is at your discretion. Tips are greatly appreciated in Cuba, the amount you tip is based on your satisfaction. We provide guidance on tipping in our Essential Information document.

Are there vaccines required for this tour?

Potentially. It is best to check with your GP prior to travel for the most accurate information.

Can you organise additional accommodation?

Yes, we can book additional accommodation for before or after your trip. Please let us know your requirements at time of booking your tour, and we will make the arrangements for you.

What is the best luggage to take to Cuba?

A backpack and day pack, or small travel case with wheels and a day pack. Whatever you choose, just remember that generally you will have to carry your own luggage.

Are flights included?

As we have travellers from all around the world flights are not included in your tour price. Please contact your travel agent for the best flight deals.

Is travel insurance included?

Travel insurance is not included in your tour cost, however it is required to have it to travel to Cuba. We will require a copy of such upon the commencement of the tour.

www.simplycubatours.com



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