

# Western Cuba culture

## Day 1 • Saturday • Bienvenido a La Habana

- Arrive at Havana's José Martí International airport (HAV).
- Transfer to, and check-in at your boutique accommodations is prearranged.
- Enjoy a welcome cocktail, freshen up, and settle in.
- Group arrival dinner with your guide and tourmates.
- Evening exploration with tourmates and time to meet Cubans.

## Day 2 • Sunday • Getting to know Old Havana and its people

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Walking tour of the four historic plazas in Old Havana with a local guide. Meet residents and shopkeepers along the way, many of whom are beneficiaries of our humanitarian travel project.
- Curated visit to Havana's Museum of Modern Art [Bellas Artes].
- Group welcome dinner at the private restaurant Mojito Mojito.
- Q and A gathering and discussion with an island expert on Cuban society and relations with the USA.
- Return to your boutique accommodations and freshen up.
- Group welcome dinner at the private restaurant Barbra in Central Havana.
- Meet the musicians of the renowned Buena Vista Social Club, and enjoy a performance of their enchanting melodies.

## Day 3 • Monday • The natural splendor of rural Cuba

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- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Day excursion to Las Terrazas in Artemisa province. We'll meet Cubans who will explain the workings of this self-sustaining eco-community.
- Enjoy lunch at La Casa del Campesino – ever popular with tour participants and locals alike.
- Return to your boutique accommodations and freshen up.
- Dinner not included, an occasion to sample Havana's stellar private eateries.
- Time to explore the city with tourmates and make new Cuban friends.

#### **Day 4 • Tuesday • Urban agriculture, Hemingway house**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Visit the UBPC Vivero Organopónico Alamar, 9 miles east of Havana. It's an urban organic farm operated by an independent collective with over 400 members.
- Lunch at Ajiaco paladar considered one of the best private eateries in the country.
- Visit Ernest Hemingway's Finca Vigía home and meet the docents and curators who maintain his vast library, manuscripts, and personal belongings.
- Return to your boutique accommodations and freshen up.
- Dinner not included, an occasion to sample Havana's stellar private eateries.
- Time to explore the city with tourmates and make new Cuban friends.

#### **Day 5 • Wednesday • Historic Cienfuegos and Trinidad de Cuba**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Enroute to Trinidad de Cuba, we'll visit the beautiful city of Cienfuegos and learn its history from Cubans.
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- Lunch at the family restaurant Villa Lagarto overlooking the bay of Cienfuegos.
- Onward to incredible Trinidad de Cuba. Check-in to your lodging, enjoy a welcome cocktail, freshen up, and get comfortable.
- Trinidad group welcome dinner at El Bolo Vista Gourmet private restaurant.
- Time to explore Trinidad with tourmates and new Cuban friends.

### **Day 6 • Thursday • Mountaintop excursion and nature romp**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
- Morning visit to Topes de Collantes in the Escambray Mountains. We'll meet and discuss rural life with locals.
- Lunch at the mountaintop restaurant Hacienda Codina.
- We'll stop at the expansive Valle de los Ingenios where sugar cane was cultivated for centuries. We'll hear the stories of the lives of slave laborers from Cubans.
- Return to your boutique accommodations and freshen up.
- Dinner not included, an occasion to sample Trinidad's stellar private eateries.
- Time to explore Trinidad with tourmates and new Cuban friends.

### **Day 7 • Friday • UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Trinidad**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Explore Trinidad's historic center and ancient buildings with Cubans.
  - We'll visit a ceramics workshop operated for five generations by members of the Santander family.
  - Lunch at Paladar Sol y Son, set in the courtyard of an ancient mansion.
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- Return to Havana. Check-in to your lodging, enjoy a welcome cocktail, freshen up, and get comfortable.
- Farewell group dinner at the private paladar El Atelier where the Obama family dined in 2016.
- Time to explore Havana with tourmates and new Cuban friends.

### **Day 8 • Saturday • Say goodbye to Cuba – for now**

- Greet the day with tasty breakfast at your boutique accommodations.
  - Transfer to Havana's José Martí International Airport for flights home.
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