

8 DAY ORIGINAL

USD\$ 450 + 200 CUC Local Payment

Duration:	8 days / 7 nights
Group Size:	Minimum 2 / Maximum 16 / Average 10
Accommodation:	Guesthouses throughout. Twinshare.
Single Supplement:	Single Room for the tour - US\$245 extra (read more)
Transport:	Private transport throughout: mini-bus, micro-bus, or taxi depending on group size
Activities included:	Walking tour of Old Havana, Che Guevara Museum
Other Inclusions:	7 breakfasts , airport arrival transfer, local guide throughout
Suggested combinations:	Combine with the Eastern Cuba Short Stay , or a Beach stay package!

Itinerary Summary

- Day 1 - Arrival Day **Havana**
- Day 2,3 - **Viñales**
- Day 4 - **Cienfuegos** via Bay of Pigs
- Day 5,6 - **Trinidad**
- Day 7 - **Havana** via Santa Clara
- Day 8 - Departure Day



Please note: Itineraries for the tours in Cuba can and do change during the course of the year due to a variety of reasons. We are not always able to advise you in advance of these changes. We ask for your understanding and flexibility in these cases.

Description

If your time is *limited*, this 8 day tour of Cuba an *ideal* way to sample some of the *best* of Cuba - the bustling and vibrant **Havana**, the historic **Santa Clara**, and the enchanting and rural sides of Cuba - with stays in **Trinidad**, **Cienfuegos** and **Viñales**. These places are common *favourites* for travellers who have come to Cuba seeking *authentic* cultural experiences. While Trinidad presents us with beautiful white sand beaches, colonial architecture, waterfalls, and a *charming* village atmosphere, Viñales offers *stunning* mountainous scenery, sprawling tobacco fields and friendly locals. A local Cuban tour guide accompanies the group throughout, and accommodation is nearly entirely in the homes of Cuban families.

Itinerary Details

Day 1 - Arrive Havana

Havana has to be one of the **most exciting cities in the world**.

Its definitely *intriguing* and *unique*. Your base in Havana during the tour is in one of our homestays in the middle of Old Havana.

This part of Havana is Cuba at its *most intense* - narrow streets with old crumbling buildings and full of locals who are not placed there for the tourists but rather because this is their home. You will see them working, going to school, socialising, and going about their daily lives. Simply wandering the streets will give you a new experience and fill you with many questions about how the country functions.

The tour package itself does not include much time in Havana, so we recommend that you book an extra night or two in Havana, either before or after the tour. After the tour is probably preferable, as by then, you will have learnt a bit about how things work in Cuba and how to get around. Plus you'll have the chance to talk to your tour guide and get some recommendations of what to do and see in Havana. When you book the tour you can request these extra nights when you book.

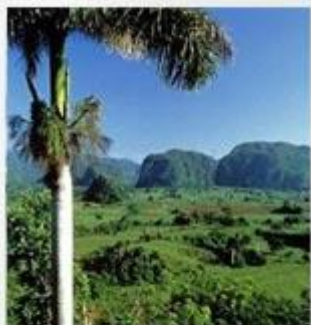


El Capitolio

The tour package includes an **airport arrival transfer**. This is a private car that will take you directly from the airport to your homestay accommodation in Havana for the first night of the tour. Today is programmed as an *arrival day* so we haven't included any activities until tomorrow morning. Your tour guide however will be in touch with you at your homestay, and communicate any group meeting times. For those who arrive early enough, the tour guide will arrange to get together and go out for dinner to explore Havana at night.

Day 2, 3 - Viñales

Before departing Havana, we have a guided walking tour of the historic centre of Havana (approx 2 hours). From Havana to Viñales it's about a 4 hour drive, and on the way we



The Valley of Viñales

usually stop for lunch. Surrounded by **picturesque limestone pincushion hills** ("mogotes"), Viñales is a small and *culturally rich village*, with friendly and welcoming residents and wide **variety of outdoor activities** available. Exploring caves, hiking, biking, horseback riding or simply enjoying the views of the valley and *sprawling tobacco fields* below are all options. Viñales is one of the more agriculturally productive areas, so **an abundance of local seasonal fruit and vegetables** is always on offer such as *enormous avocados* and mangoes, pineapples, papaya, guava, and a several varieties of sweet potatoes. It's one of the cooler areas of Cuba, so it's also a nice escape from the hotter parts of the country. The nightlife is *very active* in this village with the local residents more than willing participants in dancing to the local live music.

Day 4 - Bay of Pigs / Cienfuegos

We head back past Havana to the **French founded city of Cienfuegos** through the densely vegetated *Peninsula de Zapata* swamp-lands, and along the beautiful **Bay of Pigs**. This is where the **landing of counter-revolutionary exile militia** occurred in 1961. There is a museum here that recounts the events of this conflict which resulted in the *first defeat* of a U.S backed take-over in Latin America. We will also make stops at a **beautiful swimming hole** (*cenote*) which resembles a huge natural tropical fish tank, and if the conditions are favourable, at **beach for snorkelling**. **Cienfuegos** appeal lies partly in the *European flavour* of its colonial hub, with a wide Parisian-style boulevard and elegant colonnades, and there is an ambience to inspire Cuba's most celebrated Son singer to write the words "*Cienfuegos is the city I like best*"

Day 5, 6 - Trinidad



Trinidad's historical centre

For most visitors to Cuba, Trinidad is their **standout favourite destination** (well, for the ones that make it this far anyway). No other colonial city in Cuba is so well preserved, and the local residents are extremely *friendly and festive*. Trinidad is steeped in religiosity, none the least of which is **Santería**, which is one of several **Afro-Cuban religions**. The thing however that visitors most love about Trinidad is the **nightlife**. There are no less than 10 live music venues all within a short walking distance. Many of these have lovely outdoor settings, in courtyards, and within the walls of old colonial ruins. We are near the lovely Valle de los Ingenios (Valley of Sugarmills) and Playa Ancón - where you can enjoy **long stretches of unspoiled, white sand beaches**. Scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming in waterfalls and horse-riding are other optional activities.

Day 7 - Havana



Callejon de Hammel
Havana

On the way back to Havana we stop in at the town of Santa Clara, **a key city in the Cuban Revolution**. Upon entering Santa Clara, there is a huge statue of **Ernesto Ché Guevara**, to commemorate his death and that of the revolutionaries who died along with him in Bolivia. There is also a museum here dedicated to his *amazing life*

It's one final night of the tour in Havana, and your tour guide will have some suggestions for a farewell dinner and fun night out.

Day 8 - Depart Havana

Today you are free to depart at anytime.

Summary of Travel Times

- Havana to Viñales - 3 hours
- Viñales to Cienfuegos via Bay of Pigs - 8 hours
- Cienfuegos to Trinidad - 3 hours
- Trinidad to Havana via Santa Clara - 7 hours

Arrival and Departure Accommodation in Havana

Arrival Accommodation

The *first* night of the tour in Cuba is programmed to provide you with accommodation in a B&B Homestay - located in **Old Havana**.

- In the case where homestay accommodation is provided, an **airport arrival transfer** will also be included.
- You can request extra nights *before* the tour in this same homestay when you book.

Departure Accommodation

The *last* night of the tour is programmed in B&B homestays located in **Old Havana**.

- You can request extra nights *after* the tour in the same homestay, or in a variety of hotels on the booking form.
- [Click here to see prices.](#)

Please ask for *other* accommodation options we offer in Havana for before or after the tour.

Late arrivals or Early departures

Late Arrival - If you plan to arrive on Day 2 or after, we can arrange for you to catch up to the group. This may involve you paying transport costs to do so.

Early Departure - The group will arrive back in Havana, around midday on Day 7, so a departure from Cuba in the evening of Day 7 is possible. An earlier departure than this is also possible and may involve you paying transport costs for us to send you back to Havana by yourself.

Spending Money

We estimate you will need between US\$450 and US\$600 for local expenses during the tour, such food and optional activities (but not including the Local Payment). [Click here to see details of expenses you will have while on the tour in Cuba.](#)

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Not Included in the Tour

- International Flights
- Visa and passport fees
- Insurance (Travel Medical Insurance is required to participate on the tour)
- All meals (except for 7 breakfasts)
- Drinks
- Tips
- Optional activities/day-tours/excursions
- Airport departure transfer

