



Photographs by Flickr photographers, commercial use allowed.

Flickr photographer Pedro Szekely

VINTAGE CARS, ART, MUSIC AND DANCE

Cuba is in a unique world of its own - brimming with a lusty energy, warm people and eclectic culture. Step into another world as you prepare to explore this alluring destination with an open mind and great expectation of something completely out of the ordinary.

Havana – Las Terrazas – Viñales – Santa Clara – Cienfuegos – Trinidad

Tour Highlights

- Explore Havana's vivacious art and culture scene and visit a dance company
- Visit Havana's first farm-to-table restaurant
- Meet a small, sustainable community in a nature reserve in the mountains
- Learn about tobacco production and go horseback-riding, hiking and cave-exploring in the stunning Viñales Valley
- Discover historic Trinidad and its nearby stunning coastline
- Explore Cienfuegos and Santa Clara



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Havana

Dinner

Truly the heart and centre of Cuba, Havana is too beautiful to be overlooked and too contradictory to be explained. Havana is music and colours, one of its biggest attractions being its resilient and colourful people. Prepare your senses for the unique experience of this seductive city.

On arrival at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport, your guide will escort you to your private transport and hotel for check-in. Once settled in, enjoy pre-dinner cocktails, dinner and a lively musical night with young, emerging jazz musicians.

Day 2: Havana - Cocktails and Dance

Breakfast

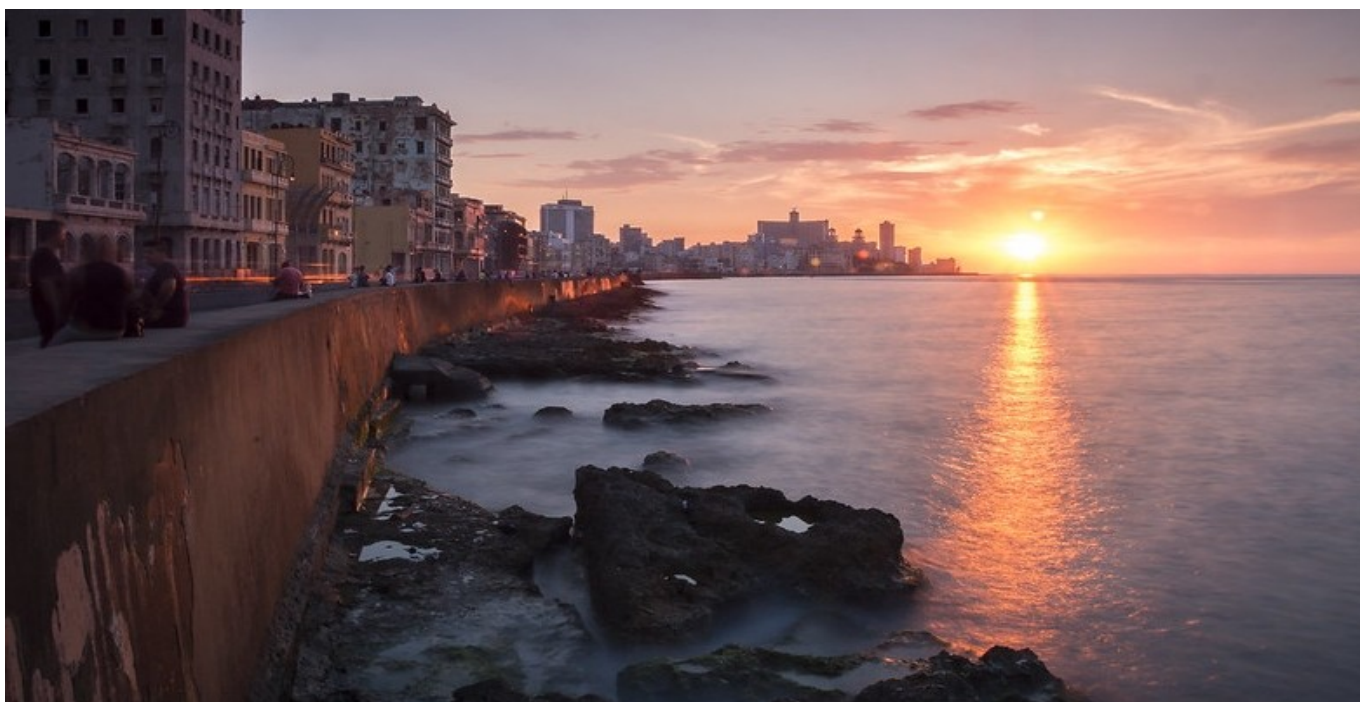
Discover Havana's most-loved spots today. Tour the streets in an open-top vintage car for a 'Hemingway experience'. Havana is home to two famous watering holes of the famed late Ernest Hemingway, and to this day, there is a bronze statue of Ernest drinking at the end of a bar. Follow in his footsteps and explore some of his favourite places in the city. Free time for lunch, then visit Havana's largest crafts market, set in a 19th century shipping warehouse. Next, head to another Hemingway-chosen bar for a cocktail, and optional Spanish-Cuban fusion dinner (for own account.) Dance the night away at a popular club-style restaurant.

Day 3: Havana – Art and Culture

Breakfast

Begin the day with a visit to a special contemporary dance academy. Watch a dance rehearsal of a genre unique to Cuba, and enjoy privileged conversations with the dancers about their experiences and careers. Recommended lunch venue is a uniquely-decorated restaurant, a setting always enjoyed by film-lovers. (Own account)

Head out for a curated art tour and visit the homes and studios of three visual artists, where you will experience the real essence of Cuba and the passion of its many creatives. Free for dinner this evening and perhaps a stroll along the city's most famous promenade.



Flickr photographer, kuhnmi

Day 4: Havana – Las Terrazas Community (77km) – Viñales (106km)

Breakfast

Today offers something truly unique with a visit to the pioneering ecovillage of Las Terrazas, which dates back to a reforestation project in 1968. In this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, you can explore stunning natural surroundings and a vibrant art community. Free time for lunch and to enjoy a swim in one of the area's idyllic natural pools. Continue onwards to Viñales valley and check in to your boutique accommodation. Free for dinner and the rest of the evening.

Known as the land of greens and browns, Viñales lies on the western side of the island . As you drive up the winding road to the quaint town, a unique scenery takes your breath away: tobacco fields and mogotes merged into a picture-perfect background. Life in the countryside unveils before your eyes, as a farmer tills the ground, rolls an unassuming top-dollar cigar, plunges into the local ponds, and races a horse through endless fields only to disappear into a limestone cave. Simply said, this is Viñales.

Day 5: Viñales

Breakfast, Lunch

Spend the day exploring the incredible Viñales Valley. Admire the limestone hills dotting the landscape while on horseback, visit a tobacco-growing farm and learn about the production process, and hike through and investigate the second-largest cavern system in the Americas at the Santo Tomas Caves. *A visit to the Indian Cave is steeped in history. The small cave network has walking paths and a subterranean river, and before colonial times served as a home for the indigenous inhabitants of the area.*

Lunch is included today, but you will be free for dinner this evening.



Flickr photographer, Mondo 79

Day 6: Viñales – Havana (183km) – Cienfuegos (238km)

Breakfast

Drive back to Havana where you will spend time learning about farm-to-table processes in and around the city, and enjoy lunch in its first farm-to-table restaurant (for own account). Continue on to Cienfuegos, check in to your hotel for the night, enjoy free time for dinner and perhaps take a stroll along the city's promenade.

Situated on a beautiful bay, Cienfuegos is unassumingly charming. One of the best laid-out cities in Cuba, its magnificent turn of the 20th century architecture was birthed during the Enlightenment Period. Cienfuegos is an important cultural centre, boasting a world-class chorus and its own ballet troupe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site not to be missed.

Day 7: Cienfuegos

Breakfast

Spend the morning exploring Cienfuegos on a walking tour. Known as “The Southern Pearl” and beautifully set on a natural bay, Cienfuegos boasts neoclassical buildings, a New Orleans influence, and the historic castle of Our Lady of Angels of Jagua. Free for lunch, then delight in a recital by one of Cuba's best, award-winning choirs.

Recommended for dinner is a nostalgic, Cuban cuisine restaurant. (Own account.) If you still have the energy, party the night away with locals at a club afterwards.



Flickr photographer, Richard Weil

Day 8: Trinidad – Day Experience (178km round trip)

Breakfast, Lunch

One of the best-preserved colonial towns in the world, Trinidad is about form and colour. Cobble-stoned streets, ample verandas, high wooden doors and windows, plazas, churches, and bright colours are the essence of Trinidad. The charming town offers a bit of everything: history, architecture, outdoor adventure, beach, culture, exceptional food and music, and friendly people.

Discover what makes Trinidad a UNESCO-worthy site on a beautiful morning walking tour, and visit an old sugar plantation estate. Enjoy lunch in a restaurant resembling a museum, then head out for a 10-kilometre bicycle ride to the breathtaking Playa Ancon beach.

Enjoy the rest of the day on this ribbon of white sand on the warm Caribbean shoreline. After the relaxing excursion, drive back to Cienfuegos where you will be free for dinner.



Flickr photographers Enrico Strocchi & Pedro Szekely

Day 9: Cienfuegos – Santa Clara (72km) – Havana (278km)

Breakfast, Dinner

Wave goodbye to Cienfuegos as you make your way to dynamic Santa Clara. The geographic centre of Cuba, Santa Clara is rich in colonial but especially revolutionary history, yet remains modern with its cultural flare and friendly atmosphere. Free time for lunch here, then drive back to Havana, check in to your accommodation and spend the afternoon at leisure. End your last day of activities with a charming dinner and delight in a sultry jam session at one of Buena Vista Social Club's venues.

Day 10: Havana – Departure

Breakfast

Morning at leisure, until it is time to take a private transfer to the Airport, armed with memories to last a lifetime and a promise to return to magical Cuba one day.

RATES DELUXE 4*: US\$ 3,450 PER PERSON SHARING; US\$ 4,692 PER SINGLE

RATES LUXURY 5*: US\$ 4,968 PER PERSON SHARING; US\$ 7,590 PER SINGLE

Inclusions:

- Required documents: OFAC Affidavits, Cuban Visa (if flight is via the USA)
- Private transportation throughout the program in air-conditioned vehicles
- Accommodation: 9 nights
- Meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches and 2 dinners.
- Personalised assistance throughout program: Operator's concierge and Cuban guide
- Activities & tours: guest speakers, visits, entrance fees covered as per itinerary

CHOICE OF HOTELS IN SEPARATE DOCUMENT