CUBA – SANTIAGO, CAMAGUEY, TRINIDAD AND HAVANA
“TRAIL OF THE REVOLUTION” | FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 4, 2019

Experience the magic of Cuba’s stunning colonial cities, verdant countryside, and historic sites, as we follow the trail of the revolution, ending in the bustling capital of Havana.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Arrive in Holguin from Miami on AA flight.

• Depart for Santiago, the capital of Cuba’s southeastern Santiago de Cuba province. Santiago is know for colonial architecture, Afro-Cuban culture, and revolutionary history. Enjoy a boxed lunch en route.

• Visit the Moncada Barracks, where the first armed assault of the Revolution took place. Led by Fidel Castro, a group of 90 men took to the Barracks on July 26, 1953 to attack the second largest military base on the island. Outnumbered 10 to 1, Fidel Castro and his men were defeated in the assault. Despite the defeat, once in power Fidel converted the Barracks into a school and established part of the building as the 26 of July Historical Museum.

• Check-in at Hotel Imperial, a recently renovated colonial gem, featuring an unbeatable location and a wonderful rooftop bar.

• Group orientation meeting with your trip leader and Cuban guide. On the rooftop of Hotel Imperial.

• Indulge in a welcome dinner at El Palenquito restaurant, followed by a private tumba francesa performance. Tumba francesa is a traditional cultural dance and musical style that emerged in the 18th century in the Oriente province. It combines music from West Africa and traditional French music.

Scheduled events and their timing are subject to change.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24  B, L

- Discussion with Architect Norka Cabrales, Santiago’s leading expert in the preservation and conservation of historical patrimony. At Maqueta de la ciudad.

- Visits to key historical landmarks: the romantic Parque Cespedes, the Museo de Arte Colonial/Casa de Diego Velázquez (the Spanish conquistador’s former residence), and the tree-lined Plaza de Dolores.

- Visit Santiago’s most famous landmark, the Cementerio Santa Ifigenia, which is lined in white marble. Cuban national hero José Martí is buried here, as is Compay Segundo of the renowned Buena Vista Social Club.

- Lunch at Restaurant Setos Cuba, a privately-owned restaurant (paladar) in Vista Alegre neighborhood.

- Visit the Casa Natal de José María Heredia y Heredia, the birthplace of the 19th-century poet who was among the first to champion Cuban independence. Enjoy a private performance by the Vocal Divas.

- Visit local art galleries and studios, including those of Rene Valdés and the gallery ‘Arte Soy’.

Evening free – dinner on your own

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25  B, L

- Check out and depart for Camaguey, a beautiful colonial city in the center of the island.

- Enjoy lunch at paladar Melangé, a grill restaurant popular for its innovative take on traditional Cuban cuisine and local specialties like ropa vieja.

- Check-in at Gran Hotel Camaguey. Open since 1939, it features a beautiful colonial style combining works in wood with fine decorations.

- Afternoon bicycle taxi tour of the historic center of Camaguey, World Heritage Site and the biggest in Cuba. Wander through its main plazas and streets and learn about its rich history and architecture.

- Dinner at Ferra’s Club followed by a performance by Maraguan, an artistic group created by students and professors from the University of Camaguey that has become an emblem of the local culture.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26  B, L, D

- Visit to the Ignacio Agramonte Provincial Museum, inaugurated in tribute to the birth of Major General Ignacio Agramonte and Loynaz. Enjoy the Visual Arts, Natural History and Decorative Arts halls.

- Get a glimpse into the local art community and learn about the history of renowned artists like: potter Nazario Salazar, plastic artist Orestes Larios, and Martha Jiménez, arguably Camaguey’s most famous artist. Martha is a sculptress, ceramist and painter and her work revolves around the role of women in Cuban society and around the world.

- Lunch at Meson del Príncipe, a cozy restaurant serving typical Cuban fare.

- Depart for Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its cobble stoned streets, pastel colored homes and small-town feel.

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out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, it’s a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.

- Enjoy a home-cooked meal at your casa.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- City tour with Nancy Benítez, a local architect, historian and restoration specialist. Ms. Benítez will provide an overview of the city’s history from an architectural, economic and infrastructural point of view.

- Visit the gallery of Yami Martínez at La Casa de los Conspiradores. Yami has achieved international recognition for her art depicting the strains of life on Cuban women.

- Lunch at Los Conspiradores paladar, located at the foot of the main plaza and the lively Casa de la Música.

- Visit to the archeological site San Isidro de los Destiladeros, near the city of Trinidad. Once a typical sugar plantation, it operated with slave labor in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Remnants of this thriving industrial heritage survive: an impressive owner’s house, three-story tower, cistern, main sugar factory, ancillary buildings, and dikes.

- Visit Playa Ancón. A ribbon of white beach on Sancti Spíritus’ iridescent Caribbean shoreline, Playa Ancón is often considered as the finest arc of sand on Cuba’s south coast.

**Evening free**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

**Morning free**

- Check-out of casas and head to Havana. Enjoy a boxed lunch en route.

- On the way we will make a stop at Playa Girón, the site where the famous Bay of Pigs invasion took place in 1961, including a visit to the Bay of Pigs Museum. World-renowned historian Peter Kornbluh, author of *Bay of Pigs Declassified* and organizer of the 40th
Anniversary conference on the invasion in Havana, attended by Fidel Castro and surviving Kennedy White House officials, will give history and insight on this significant moment in US-Cuba history.

- Continue to Havana.

Check-in at the Hotel Capri, which was one of the first hotel casinos built by the Mafia in Cuba. Owned by mobster Santo Trafficante, and run by George Raft, the hotel was at the time one of the largest casinos in Havana. Located blocks from the University of Havana, Coppelia ice cream, and the Havana seawall, the recent remodeling provides first class amenities, while leaving the history and original charm of “The Capri.”

Welcome dinner at Paladar Atelier. This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, but modern setting.

Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719. Visit the Plaza Vieja, surrounded by sumptuous houses of the Havana aristocracy from the 18th and 19th centuries. Visit Plaza de la Catedral and the Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana.

- Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar. Famous for its ropa vieja and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek magazine’s top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. The restaurant’s location in the beautiful cathedral square is unbeatable.

- Visit the Lizt Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for local youth, specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on their lives. The talent and work ethic at this school are impressive.

- Spend the early evening at Café Madrigal with Frank Delgado, renowned singer and songwriter, for a discussion about the nueva trova movement in Cuba, followed by a musical performance. Café Madrigal, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork. Enjoy tasty tapas and cocktails.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

- Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment and restoration programs. It’s bound to leave you with a better understanding of why Havana looks the way it does today.

- Walking tour of the Old City. Wander through the Plaza de Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. See the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

- Visit to the Museum of Cuban Art. We will be accompanied by Nelson Herrera, an art historian, who will provide an overview of Cuban art and artists over the last four centuries.

Free time – lunch on own

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• Discussion and musical performance by La Reyna y Real, a female hip hop/jazz duo. The group’s music focuses on breaking down stereotypes in Cuban society, including machismo, healthy relationships, gender relations and race.

• Discussion with Ricardo Torres, economist from the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy. Get an overview of the Cuban economy, reforms, and growth outlook from the leading economic minds in Cuba.

• Attend a reception at the AltaMira art loft, the home and studio of a family of artists. A few years ago, Edel Bordón and his family embarked on a journey to establish an art collective in their apartment building. He and his wife, Yamilé Pardo, created the art space, which features an exhibition and work space off its main lobby and displays the couple’s collaborations with their neighbors.

Nightlife Suggestions:

• Enjoy live music, art and dancing at La Fábrica de Arte Cubano. Rock star X Alfonso has turned this into meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3  B, L, D

• Visit to the Nostalgic Cars restoration garage. Owners Nidialys Acosta and Julio Alvarez have taken advantage of the recent economic opening to put together a fleet of over 20 pristine clasicos to provide professional service to their clientele. We will visit the garage to see how they restore these beauties from the 1950s.

• Visit a centuries-old mansion in the Vedado neighborhood. Step inside this stately residence to discover what lies behind the crumbling facades of Havana’s impressive mansions. Josie, who has lived in the house for over 60 years, will show us around and explain its rich history.

• Visit to the home and studio of mosaic artist Fuster, who has converted his neighborhood into an art project featuring murals, mosaic art and other designs.

• Lunch at El Aljibe, a government-run restaurant famous for its black beans, baked chicken and large family-style portions.

Free time

• Discussion with Cristina Escobar about US - Cuba relations. Cristina is a news journalist, political commentator, one of the most visible figures on Cuban television and an expert on US - Cuba relations.

• Farewell dinner at Río Mar, located in the luxurious Miramar neighborhood, it has a lovely terrace overlooking where the Almendares river flows into the sea.

MONDAY, MARCH 4  B

• Check-out, departure for the airport.
CUBA  February 23–March 4, 2019

PRICING

Per person double occupancy: $5,455
Single supplement: $370

Rates are based on standard accommodations. Suites, superior rooms and other upgrades carry an additional fee.

Flights: Airfare to/from Cuba is not included in the tour cost. We will recommend flights and will provide a transfer to those who arrive and depart at designated times.

INCLUDED

- Four nights in four-star accommodations in Havana, two nights in Santiago, one night in Camaguey and two nights in a private guest house (a Casa-Particular) in Trinidad
- Daily breakfast
- Lunches and dinners as listed on the itinerary
- All local ground transportation
- Speaker fees
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- Cuban visa
- Compliance with US Treasury Department regulations

NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare to and from Cuba.
- Tips to guides, drivers and others
- Airline baggage fees
- Lodging en route to Cuba
- Individual house/hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.)
- Meals other than those listed on itinerary
- Anything not specifically mentioned as included