CUBA: HAVANA TO TRINIDAD | MAY 4–11, 2019

During this historic period of change, explore Cuba with The Nation on a journey specially curated for the progressive traveler.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

- Arrive in Havana this morning (a flight schedule will be recommended).
- Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal overlooking the Straits of Florida at the iconic Hotel Nacional.
- Check-in to the Hotel Capri, located near Havana’s famed Malecón seawall on the Bay of Havana.
- Meet with staff for an orientation.
- Attend a 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 and possibilities moving forward.
- Tonight enjoy a 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.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- Meet for a discussion with Raul Rodriguez about the state of U.S.-Cuban relations.
- Depart on a walking tour of Habana Vieja, the old city. Wander through the Plaza de Armas, a scenic, tree-lined plaza, which has served as an influential Cuban hub for centuries. It is surrounded by 18th-century buildings and dominated by the Basílica Menor y Convento de San Francisco de Asís, which dates from 1719. Visit the Plaza Vieja, surrounded...
Scheduled events and their timing are subject to change

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by sumptuous houses of the Havana aristocracy from the 18th and 19th centuries. Also explore the Plaza de la Catedral, which features the baroque Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana.

- Lunch is 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.

- Travel under the Bay of Havana to Morro Castle, a centuries old Spanish fortress overlooking the bay and the city skyline. Explore La Cabaña, one of the most important Spanish forts in the Americas. Also see a display of Soviet-made Cold War relics, including deactivated missiles from the “October Missile Crisis.”

- Later enjoy a private performance by Yassek Manzano and his musicians. Yassek is a well-known trumpeter who was a student of Winston Marasalis.

- Dinner tonight is at Río Mar, overlooking the confluence of the Almendares river and the sea.

MONDAY, MAY 6

- Take a private tour of Christopher Colon Cemetery, one of the oldest and most prestigious cemeteries in Latin America. Here you will learn about the early Republican years and see the extravagant mausoleums of Cuba’s founding families.

- Stop by the Litz 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.

- Attend a reception at the AltaMira art loft, the home and studio of a family of artists and enjoy the music of La Reyna y Real, a female hip hop/jazz duo. The group’s music focuses on breaking down stereotypes in Cuban society, including machismo, relationships, gender, and race.

- This evening attend an optional performance of the ballet Gisele at the National Theater (not included in tour cost).

TUESDAY, MAY 7

- Check-out of hotel and depart for Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its cobblestoned streets, pastel colored homes and small-town feel.
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• On the way stop at Playa Giron, the site of the famous Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961, including a visit to the Bay of Pigs Museum.

• Lunch at Tiki Bahía de Cochinos in Caletón, Playa Larga.

• Continue to Trinidad. Upon arrival in the later afternoon, check-in at bed and breakfasts, known as “casas particulares,” or “private homes.” Since the 1990s Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms 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, MAY 8

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

• Visit the gallery of Yami Martínez. 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 Musica.

• This afternoon and evening are free to enjoy the market or explore the city center on your own.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

• Check out of casas and head back to Havana.

• On the way, stop in Cienfuegos. Located on a beautiful bay, this is one of Cuba’s only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Visit the beautiful Palacio Del Valle, Prado Promenade and Parque Marti. Also see Tomas Terry Theater, one of the finest eclectic buildings of the city. It was in the last will and testament of Tomás Terry Adams, a wealthy sugar factory owner and mayor of Cienfuegos, to have this Italian-style theatre built after his death. World famous singers such as Italian tenor Enrico Caruso performed here.

• Lunch at El Lagarto, featuring lovely views of the Bay of Cienfuegos.

• Continue on to Havana and return to the Hotel Capri.

• Enjoy a free evening to rest, relax, and enjoy Havana on your own.
FRIDAY, MAY 10

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• This morning, visit 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.

• Lunch at La Makina Gastro Bar, located near the Museum of the Revolution and the Museum of Fine Arts in the heart of Old Havana, it is known for the exquisite cuisine dishes and a charming ambiance.

• Attend a discussion with Giulio Ricci, a Cuban economist, about the current process of economic reform.

• 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.

• Enjoy a festive farewell dinner at Paladar San Cristobal. Located in the heart of Central Havana, this paladar has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine. Enjoy great food while the local takes you back to the 1940s and 50s.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

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• Depart for flights back to the U.S.

PRICING

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING*

Double (per person): $5,455
Single Supplement: $370

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

INCLUDED

• Five nights in four-star accommodations in Havana and two nights in a private guest house 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
• Pre-trip departure information
• Cuban visa
• Compliance with US Treasury Department regulations

NOT INCLUDED

• Airfare to and from Cuba (a flight schedule will be recommended)
• Airline baggage fees
• Tips to guides, drivers and others.
• Individual house/hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.)
• Meals other than those listed on itinerary
• Anything not specifically mentioned as included