CUBA: HAVANA TO VIÑALES | JANUARY 15–22, 2022

Join us on this tour in “Support of the Cuban People.” The U.S. Government permits legal travel to Cuba under 12 different categories that range from journalistic activities to religious and humanitarian travel. One of the broadest and most common categories of travel is “Support for the Cuban People,” which requires travelers maintain a fulltime schedule of activities that involve meaningful interaction with individuals in Cuba and that those activities help Cubans become more independent. There are many ways in which travelers can fulfill this requirement while having an incredible experience in Cuba and enjoying thoughtful, respectful and kind interactions with the many Cubans you will meet with during your travels.

The Nation and our tour operator Cuba Educational Travel (CET), have a long history of working with entrepreneurs, cultural groups, religious organizations, community projects and families and individuals that are involved in interesting and exciting initiatives in Cuba. Our trips have always been aimed at supporting the Cuban people through connecting them with travelers visiting the island, so that all parties can benefit from the friendships and professional relationships that result. Moreover, we believe strongly in supporting innovative and impactful businesses and social and cultural initiatives and make sure there are economic benefits to our partners on the island.

Your program will vary based on your specific interests, but will include activities that directly benefit the Cuban people through conversations, knowledge sharing, follow-up initiatives, donations, normal business dealings and a variety of other actions. Excessive free time and recreational activities are not permitted, and travelers are required to work with CET and our local partners to maintain a full-time program that includes incredibly fun and interesting site visits, discussions, performances, tours, happy hours and meals that help our incredible neighbors on the island.
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Scheduled events and their timing are subject to change

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JANUARY 15

L, D

• Arrive in Havana by late morning.

• Meet fellow travelers and your local CET hosts at Río Mar for a welcome lunch.*

• Check-in to your small, boutique hotel located in the Vedado neighborhood of Havana.

• Later attend an orientation meeting with your CET representative and tour leader.

• Dinner at Paladar La Habanera. Located in an historic house that was built in 1930, the property has been beautifully renovated and features stunning architectural details and a lush patio.*

• After dinner enjoy a private performance by Victor Campbell and his jazz trio. Victor is one of the most talented pianists in Cuba, and he has played with all of the island’s top musicians. ***

JANUARY 16

B, L, T

• 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. Also learn about community projects that tackle development issues and social programs that visitors can help support.

• 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. ***

• Dinner this evening is on your own to enjoy local paladares. Your tour leader will give suggestions and can assist with reservations. You may also opt to enjoy live music, art and dancing at the popular, La Fábrica de Arte Cubano. Rock star X Alfonso has turned this into meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners. ***

• Depart on a behind-the-scenes walking tour of Old Havana. Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. Venture to the side streets to witness Cuban life first-hand stopping at local bodegas, markets and the popular gathering places where Habaneros play dominos and discuss sports, transportation, jobs and other topics of their daily life.

• Enjoy 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.*

• Take a sunset ride in classic cars from the 1950’s along the Malecon and Vedado neighborhood. Classic cars as taxis are one of Cuba’s first private businesses that emerged after an economic opening in 2010, becoming an important source of income for local families. **
JANUARY 17

B, L

• Discussion and Q & A about US-Cuba relations with *Nation* Cuba expert Peter Kornbluh and former Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray.

• Visit a health clinic to learn about the health care system. We will receive a tour of a typical neighborhood health clinic and have the chance to ask questions to doctors and nurses.

• Lunch at Paladar La Moraleja.*

• Stop at the Revolution Square, the most important political meeting place of the capital, surrounded by the José Martí Memorial, and other significant buildings such as the National Theater and the headquarters of the Cuban Communist Party.

• Visit Morro Castle, one of the oldest and most important Spanish forts in the Americas, and the site at La Cabana Fortress displaying Soviet-made Cold War relics, including deactivated missiles from the known “October Missile Crisis”.

• Dinner this evening is on your own.

JANUARY 18

B, L, D

• Depart for Viñales. Considered by many to be the most beautiful place in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world.

• Visit a private farm in the valley owned by the large family of Concha and Paco Hernandez. The descendants of Concha and Paco have farmed the same plot of land for many generations and their land is involved in the production of a multitude of fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Members of the family will give us a tour of this beautiful 40-acre farm before bringing us back to the farmhouse. Enjoy lunch at the farm.**

• 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.**

• Explore downtown Viñales. Walk along the main street and visit the central plaza and local markets.

• Beers and Cigars with Benito. Visit a tobacco farm & enjoy beers and fun convo with Viñales most famous cigar maker.**

• Enjoy a sunset dinner at Balcon del Valle (Balcony of the Valley). Enjoy the best traditions of rural Cuban cooking from one of the most beautiful lookouts of the valley.
JANUARY 19 B, L

- **Attend salsa-dancing lessons.** Side-by-side with Cuban dancers, we’ll learn new salsa techniques.**

- **Take a guided stroll through tobacco fields** to learn about the Valley’s most important crop, and other flora and fauna of the area.

- **Enjoy a farm-to-table experience on the grounds of a local farm,** *Finca Paraiso Agroecologica* (the Organic Paradise Farm), where we will learn more about Cuban agriculture and tobacco production, while indulging in an organic meal.**

- Return to Havana and check-in to our boutique hotels.

- Dinner this evening is on your own.

JANUARY 20 B, L, D

- **Attend a mini concert by Tiempo Havana,** a very talented music group. Learn about different ranges of Cuban traditional music, as well as jazz and blues.**

- Enjoy pasta pizza and salad at **Centro Asturiano’s Italian Restaurant.**

- **Discussion with Dr. Marcelino Feal,** a Professor of General Surgery at the University Hospital Calixto García. Dr. Feal will discuss Cuba’s development of a Covid vaccine and role in providing healthcare to other countries.

- **Discussion about legal issues** pertaining to the U.S. embargo and economic reform in Cuba with **Marta Deus,** President of Deus Consultant.

- **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. We will be welcomed by the owner, **Niuris Higueras,** a successful entrepreneur and member of Cuba Emprende.*

JANUARY 21 B, D

- **Morning talk 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 one of the leading economic minds in Cuba.

- 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.

- Enjoy free time for lunch and exploration of Old Town Havana.

- 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.***

- Return to hotel.
• Attend a reception at 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 workspace off its main lobby and displays the couple’s collaborations with their neighbors.**

• Farewell dinner at Grados, a private restaurant featuring traditional Cuban cuisine and a member of the slow food movement. Meet its owner and chef, Raulito Bazuk, an example of Cuba’s young, up and coming entrepreneurial class of creative professionals pursuing their dream. Trained in Uruguay and back working out of his mother’s home, Raulito’s cooking and presence transforms every meal.

JANUARY 22

• Check-out and depart for airport.

COMMITMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

As part of our commitment to local communities and their members, all businesses, cultural projects and community organizations are vetted and prioritized based on the quality of their products and services as well as their labor policies and community development practices.

* Paladar: Private Restaurant run by local entrepreneurs. Our visit helps local development and supports Cuban entrepreneurs and workers.

** Private business or business initiative, run by local entrepreneurs. Our visit helps local development and supports Cuban entrepreneurs and workers.

*** Cultural group. Our visit will help them financially and in their professional development.

**** Civil society Organization. Visit will provide useful support to their educational, cultural and humanitarian programs.
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PRICING

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING*

Per person double occupancy: $4,720
Single Supplement: $400

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

INCLUDED

- Six nights in a boutique hotel in Havana and one night in a casa particular in Viñales
- Daily breakfast. Lunches and dinners as listed on the itinerary
- All local ground transportation
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities and speaker fees
- Pre-trip departure information
- Cuba visa
- Compliance with US Treasury Department regulations
- Tips for meals included with the tour

NOT INCLUDED

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

FLIGHTS

Round-trip airfare to and from Havana is not included. A recommended flight schedule from Miami/Havana/Miami will be provided to registered travelers.

The Nation purchases carbon offsets to cover the emissions generated by our travel program in order to help mitigate effects on the climate.