CUBA: HAVANA AND TRINIDAD | FEBRUARY 5–12, 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.
FEBRUARY 5

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• 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. ***

FEBRUARY 6

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• 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.

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• 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. **

• 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. ***
FEBRUARY 7

- Attend a 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 one of the leading economic minds in Cuba. The discussion will include useful information about how US travel supports Cubans and ways to support the Cuban Entrepreneurs through your visit.

- Learn about how Cubans maintain classic Fords and Chevys from the 1950s at a private Havana Car Garage. **

- Lunch at Paladar La Moraleja. Havana knows about yearnings and, for those who care, this Paladar was born out of the dream of a family that always wanted its own space to explore and offer gourmet pleasures. *

- 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”.

- Meet with some of Havana’s top thinkers and start-ups. CET will offer guidance on different ways of supporting their businesses during and after your visit. Options include meeting designers of a fashion company run by three women, a smartphone app developer whose service may become Cuba’s first Uber-like app, and a jewelry company founded by two musicians who have been out of work due to Covid. Local hosts will arrange these encounters. **

See your tour representatives to make reservations at Havana paladares (meal not included).*

FEBRUARY 8

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

- 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.

- Enjoy a boxed lunch/picnic at the beach.

- Arrival to Trinidad. Visit an art studio or artisan market to get a sense of how the local crafts and trade are indigenous to the region; and to learn about how tourism has helped to support their livelihoods with sales. ***
• 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. **

• Dine at Real Café, a private restaurant set in a beautiful house in the historic center of Trinidad. Support local entrepreneurs and learn about the local private sector by visiting this private restaurant. *

FEBRUARY 9 B, L, D

• Attend a discussion with Nancy Benitez, 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. **

• Join a walking tour of Trinidad’s historic center. Along the way, meet with local entrepreneurs and artists such as Carlos Mata, “the painter of the night,” who collects and restores antiques. Mr. Mata will discuss his passion for antiques and show you part of his collection, as well as his superb artwork. Stop at family homes for interactive discussions with Trinidad natives. **

• Enjoy lunch at Paladar San José, a private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza. The owner will tell us about his experience running this business. *

• Visit the Museum of Colonial Architecture, housed in the former home of the sugar barons of the Sánchez Iznaga family.

• Meet with local artists and private business entrepreneurs to learn about their startups in Cuba. CET will offer guidance on different ways of supporting their businesses during and after your visit. Options include Airbnb owners, ceramic artist Alejandro Bastida, jeweler Orbein and an embroidery shop and cooperative of local women. Local hosts will arrange these encounters. **

• Take part in a salsa lesson with private instructors to learn the moves of Cuba’s most famous type of dance. **

• Meet with a local university professor of Trinidad to learn more about the Cuban educational system.

• Attend a happy hour with local artists and musicians, followed by dinner at Paladar Sol y Son, a restaurant with a typical decoration of all Cuba with very old elements. Enjoy live music by their amazing local band. *

FEBRUARY 10 B, L, D

• Check-out and depart for Havana.

• Stop in Cienfuegos along the way, one of the country’s oldest and most beautiful cities. Cienfuegos, referred to as the “Pearl of the South,” is one of Cuba’s only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Housed on one of the country’s largest bays, the city offers beautiful ocean front landscapes, and is deeply rich in culture.

• City tour of Cienfuegos with a specialist form the City Historian’s Office. See Parque Marti, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and national monument, drive along Prado promenade and the Boulevard all the way to Punta Gorda and stop at the beautiful Palacio del Valle. Visit the local Jewish community for a discussion with its members at a family home. ****
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• Lunch at Paladar El Lagarto. With views and breezes from the bay of Cienfuegos, the location of El Lagarto is unbeatable. Support local entrepreneurs and learn about the private sector in Cuba by visiting this private restaurant. *During lunch, meet with a local cultural group for a presentation of their work and discussion about ongoing cultural projects in Cienfuegos. ***

• Continue on to Havana and check-in at your boutique hotel.

• 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. *

FEBRUARY 11
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• Discussion and Q & A about US-Cuba relations with Peter Kornbluh and former Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray.

• 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 lunch at Cinco Sentidos.

• Visit the Lizt Alfonso Academy, a dance school and community program for local children and youth. 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. ***

• Discussion with Cuban health professionals regarding the country’s effective response to COVID-19 and the development of a Cuban vaccine to prevent the disease.

• 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 defender of the traditional Cuban cuisine and 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. *

FEBRUARY 12
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• Check-out and depart for return flights home.

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.
PRICING

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING*

Per person double occupancy: $4,970

Single Supplement: $300

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

INCLUDED

- Five nights in a boutique hotel in Havana and two nights in casa particulares 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
- Cuba visa
- Compliance with US Treasury Department regulations
- Tips for meals included with the tour
- Pre-departure materials and post-tour photo book

NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare to/from Havana, Cuba
- Tips to guides, drivers and others
- Airline baggage fees
- Individual 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.