



CUBA, A People to People Experience
Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce
Pacific Harbor Travel
May 03 – 14, 2017

Day 1: Wednesday, May 03 - San Francisco to Atlanta

This evening we will leave from the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History traveling via our chartered motor coach to the San Francisco Airport. From here, we will board our Delta Airlines non-stop, overnight flight to Atlanta. We'll change planes in Atlanta and continue our journey on Delta Airlines non-stop to Havana.

Day 2: Thursday, May 04 - Atlanta to Havana (5 nights)

Today we arrive on the beautiful island of Cuba in time to transfer to Old Havana and have lunch at a paladar located within Old Havana. After lunch we will embark on a guided walking tour of Old Havana including the Plaza de Armas, the Used Booksellers Market and the Plaza de la Cathedral. We tour the former residence of the Governors of Havana, the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, and a Cuban Baroque mansion and museum which showcases colonial-era art and artifacts.

We'll check into our hotel, **Hotel Parque Central**, around 4:30pm with enough time to freshen up before our welcome dinner which will be at a paladar located within walking distance of our hotel.

Lunch and dinner provided.

Day 3: Friday, May 05 – Havana, Culture and Education

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning. After breakfast, we have a full day of activities planned. We will be visiting the Plaza de la Revolucion, the Cemetery of Christopher Columbus, and the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry. This institute was established by the Cuban government in 1959 as a means of informing and educating the people. It is dedicated to the improvement and production of Cuban films and artistic expression and it is highly significant and important to Cuban culture. Lunch will be at one of the ever popular paladares, Paladar Decameron.

This afternoon we will have the wonderful experience of visiting a local primary school (ages 5-12). You should plan to bring school supplies, or perhaps some children's clothing that can be left as gifts to the school. It is so rewarding to have this time to interact with the teachers and young people of the Cuban community.

We arrive back at our hotel, the Hotel Parque Central, in time to meet with a Cuban expert who will lead an open discussion on the current day tendencies of the Cuban economy and the recent changes announced by the Cuban government in terms of free enterprise. This is an open discussion so come with any questions you may have.

Dinner this evening will be at the paladar Casa Miglis, located in Centro Habana. We'll be entertained with live music so wear your dancing shoes and be prepared for some Salsa!

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Day 4: Saturday, May 06 – Havana, Hemingway's Footsteps and Urban Agriculture

We will have breakfast at the hotel this morning and then we are off on a half hour drive to Finca Vigia. There is a great historical and cultural significance between Cuba and the United States and there is no better way to explore part of this wonderful history than by visiting the mansion, and now national museum, of Ernest Hemingway, Finca Vigia. The mansion, where Hemingway lived from 1930 to 1960, preserves his 9,000 book library, personal effects such as guns and animal trophies, and his fishing boat, Pilar.

From this historical experience, we visit the communal District of Alamar on the outskirts of Havana. Alamar began as, and in large part still is, a social housing project during the 70's and 80's. Now hundreds of thousands of Cubans live in apartment blocks no higher than four stories in Soviet style pre-fab concrete buildings. We will stop in various areas of Alamar especially to see the "organoponico;" plots of land between buildings that are cultivated by local Cubans to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. These cultivated products are sold inexpensively to the locals. This is suburban Havana at its best in terms of viewing up-front and personal how many modern day Cubans live on a daily basis. Few visitors to Cuba have the opportunity to visit this area and mingle with its inhabitants.

From here we visit Cojimar, the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. We will have time to stroll through this local fishing village before having lunch at paladar El Ajiaco in Cojimar.

After lunch we return to Havana. We'll have the opportunity to see the view point over the city from Morro Castle.

We end our day with a cigar rolling demonstration and rum tasting. Cubans refer to this as an extraordinary "marriage" of Cuban cigars, coffee and rum.

Dinner is on our own tonight. Take this opportunity to get out and explore the local cuisine and night life. There are an abundant amount of restaurants and clubs within walking distance of our hotel.

Breakfast and lunch provided.

Day 5: Sunday, May 07 – Havana to Las Terrazas and Fusterlandia

After breakfast at the hotel, we are off on an hour and a half drive to Las Terrazas in Pinar del Rio Province, a “must see” in Cuba and known worldwide for its magnificent scenic beauty. We’ll have a brief stop at the Clinica Las Terrazas to learn how medical services are handled in rural Cuba. After the clinic, we will visit Café Maria, the town’s only coffee shop and heralded as the “best coffee in the country.” From here we stop at the home and private studio of artist Lester Campa; subject to him being in residence at the time.

Lunch today is an authentic country meal prepared and served outdoors at a local farmhouse near Las Terrazas.

On our way back to Havana, we have the distinct pleasure of visiting “Fusterlandia,” the home and surrounding neighborhood of “The Picasso of the Caribbean,” Jose Fuster.

We’ll have dinner this evening at a paladar in the Vedado section of Havana.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Day 6: Monday, May 08 – Havana – Art, Culture and Classic Cars

Breakfast is again at the hotel and then put on your dancing shoes as we are off to a dance lesson! We’ll be visiting Club Salseando Chevere in Old Havana. The club is a combination dance school, theater and nightclub and is recommended as one of the 10 best places for nightlife in Cuba. After our salsa and rumba lessons at the school, we’ll be off to visit the Galleria La Lavanderia, a project of young Cuban artists. While here, we will have an opportunity to meet founder and famed artist, Rafael Perez. We then have a special visit arranged to Pro Danza, the school in which most, if not all, future Cuban ballet artists and performers are trained from an early age. Pro Danza is operated by the daughter of Alicia Alonzo, Cuba’s most famous and endearing Prima Ballerina from an earlier time.

Lunch today will be at El Aljibe restaurant located in the very pretty Miramar district. El Aljibe serves the best chicken in Havana; it’s all in the secret family preparation of the special marinade! CNN’s Anthony Bourdain recently gave El Aljibe rave reviews.

There is a small but devoted group of artists that volunteer their time and skills to help establish a center for arts, music, dance and theater. This group is located in the vibrant barrio of Muraleando and we will be visiting here after lunch. The remainder of the afternoon is free.

Tonight we have a special treat. We’ll be taking a one hour ride along the panoramic Malecon and through the Vedado section of Havana in the American classic cars that Havana is so well known for. At the end of our ride, we will be dropped off at a local paladar for our farewell to Havana dinner.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Day 7: Tuesday, May 09 – Havana-Cienfuegos-Sancti Spiritus (2 nights)

Right after breakfast, we’ll board our bus to begin our four hour journey to Cienfuegos. We’ll have time to explore the lovely main plaza of this French Colonial jewel and its historic Teatro Terry along with the Punta Gorda Peninsula.

We’ll have lunch at paladar Villa Lagarto which overlooks the Bay of Cienfuegos.

After lunch, we will have a cultural experience with the community of Cienfuegos. Our experience will depend on what's happening that day. It may be the Choir or the Orchestra of Cienfuegos or perhaps a community cultural project. After our day in Cienfuegos, we have a one hour drive to Sancti Spiritus, a typical Cuban small town near Trinidad and one of the original seven cities founded in Cuba by the Spanish five centuries ago. We'll check into the **Hotel Plaza, Hotel del Rijo or the Don Florencio Hotel** for two nights.

We'll have dinner at a paladar (still to be determined which paladar) in Sancti Spiritus.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Wednesday, May 10 – Sancti Spiritus-Trinidad

We'll have breakfast at our hotel, then on the road to Trinidad (about half an hour away). Here we'll visit the Casa del Alfarero, a pottery house that was founded and has been managed by the Santander family for generations. We'll then stop at the Templo de Yemaya where a Santeria Practitioner, along with some of the religion's devotees, will explain the basic principles of Santeria.

We'll have our lunch today at a local restaurant in Trinidad after which we will visit the Architecture Museum of Trinidad. From here we will have the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to wander the cobblestone streets of Trinidad and visit its open air market and the local artisan's workshops. Or perhaps you may want to spend some time at a great local dance club called the Casa de la Trova where you can sit in on an open salsa and rumba review.

Dinner this evening will be at a paladar in Sancti Spiritus.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Day 9: Thursday, May 11 – Sancti Spiritus-Santa Clara-Varadero (3 nights)

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning. After breakfast we board our bus for a brief tour of Sancti Spiritus which will include a visit to a Cuban Rations Store where we will learn about food rationing in Cuba and the country's dual currency system. We then proceed for about an hour's drive to Santa Clara where we will enjoy a special visit to the Santa Clara Music and Performing Arts School with dance, theater and music performances by the students. Should this school not be available or in session, an equally enjoyable and interesting visit to another community project will be substituted. If time permits, we will also make a stop at the Che Guevarra Museum and Mausoleum.

We will have buffet lunch in the Los Caneyes Hotel in Santa Clara.

We are next off for a three hour drive to Varadero arriving late this afternoon. We should be checking into our hotel, the **Iberostar Varadero Hotel**, between 4:00pm and 4:30pm. The Iberostar is an all-inclusive resort located on stunning Varadero beach.

The Iberostar is an all-inclusive resort; all meals and unlimited drinks are included. All water sports equipment with the exception of dive gear is also included.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Day 10 and 11: Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 – Varadero

These two days are for your relaxation or exploration. The town of Varadero is easy to get around and offers many leisure and cultural activities. There is also a hop on/hop off bus that leaves from the Iberostar. Or just have a day at the beach. Whatever you do, enjoy!

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at the resort and at your convenience.

Day 12: Sunday, May 14 – Varadero-Havana-Atlanta-San Francisco

This morning have your breakfast and then board our bus for Jose Marti International Airport in Havana where we will check in for our flight back to Atlanta. In Atlanta we will go through passport control and customs and then connect to our non-stop flight to San Francisco via Delta Airlines. We will be met by our chartered coach in San Francisco and finish up at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History.

Package price of \$5497.00 per person based on double occupancy includes:

- Roundtrip chartered coach from Santa Cruz to San Francisco and return at scheduled times.
- Roundtrip air San Francisco-Atlanta-Havana-Atlanta-San Francisco.
- Double/twin room accommodations at hotels mentioned in itinerary or equivalent.
- Meals per day as mentioned in itinerary.
- One drink of your choice (water, soda, beer, wine) with each included meal. NOTE: unlimited drinks and all meals are included at the resort in Varadero.
- A private, English speaking national guide throughout the tour.
- All transportation as noted in the itinerary by PRIVATE modern air-conditioned vehicles.
- All entrance fees to included tour sites.
- 2 bottles of water per day per person while onboard vehicles (except transfer days).
- Cuba visa fee of \$85.00 per person.
- Cuba departure tax of \$25.00 per person.
- Cuban travel insurance covering medical repatriation expenses only (required by the Cuban government).
- Authorization documentation allowing each passenger to clear US immigration/passport control upon returning to the United States provided by Vaya Sojourns, Inc. (USA Office of Foreign Assets Control: licensed Cuba Travel Service Provider).

Package price does not include:

- Single supplement of \$1800.00.
- More than one drink at meals as mentioned in itinerary; additional drinks at your expense.
- Gratuities to local guide, bus driver, restaurant waiters, hotel maid service and hotel porters.
- Expenditures of a personal nature (laundry, telephone, internet fees, etc.).
- Anything else not mentioned in the "Included" above.

Important Reservation Information**Travel Protection Plan**

Although our quotation does not include the cost of a Travel Protection Plan, we strongly encourage clients purchase this protection at the time of initial trip deposit. If passengers would like to purchase the Travel Insured International Travel Protection Plan, there will be an additional cost of \$353.00 per person payable with the deposit. If you are traveling as a single, the cost will be \$519.00.

Passports and Visas

It is the responsibility of each tour participant to obtain a valid passport. You must have at least 6 months validity on your passport from the date of departure from Cuba. If you are holding a passport issued by a country other than the United States, it is your responsibility to check with the consulate of the country to be visited for entry requirements. A visa for entry into Cuba is required for U.S. passport holders. This visa is acquired from Delta Airlines and is included in the cost of your trip.

Payment Schedule

At the time of booking, a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit plus the Travel Protection Plan (if selected) is required for each participant. Final payment is due to Pacific Harbor Travel by March 01, 2017. Credit cards cannot be accepted for deposit, travel protection, or final payment; a check must be made out to Pacific Harbor Travel.

Cancellation Penalties

For cancellations received prior to March 01, 2017, the penalty is \$500.00 per person plus the cost of the travel protection plan (if it was selected). Cancellations received March 01, 2017 and later, the full amount paid is non-refundable.

We strongly suggest purchasing the Travel Protection Plan. If a plan was purchased, please note that after the 14 day free look period, the Travel Protection premium is non-refundable.

Change Fees

Pacific Harbor Travel reserves the right to charge a \$100.00 per person change fee should any component of the tour be voluntarily changed inside of 90 days prior to group departure. Voluntary changes are not permitted within 14 days prior to group departure. Once airline tickets have been issued, the tour participant is responsible for any airline imposed amendment fees for voluntary changes. Dependent on the airline, these fees can be \$200.00 per person and higher, and tickets may, at times, be fully non-refundable.

Travel Service Provider:

Vaya Sojourns, Inc.: Office of Foreign Assets Control License #CU79275
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