



*2 great Cuba tours below*

***Cuba Tour and Cruise***

***16 days from***

***\$3999***

***Book by 30 June 2018***

*Prices are per person twin-share.  
Single supplement is from \$900*



**Phone 1300 813 391**

**Destination International [www.ditravel.com.au](http://www.ditravel.com.au)**

Seemingly on the cusp of dramatic change, there has never been a better time to visit Cuba- the place that Christopher Columbus once described as "the most beautiful country human eyes have ever seen." Cuba is a Caribbean island nation under communist rule.

It has sugar-white beaches and is dotted with tobacco fields, which play a part in the production of the country's legendary cigars. The capital, Havana, is lined with pastel houses, 1950s-era cars and Spanish-colonial architecture in the 16th-century core, Old Havana. Salsa music plays in the dance clubs and cabaret shows are performed at the famed Tropicana.

This tour includes a 7 nights cruise of Cuba and neighbouring islands, and a 9 day Escorted land tour of one of the most exciting Caribbean Islands on the cusp of change. Now is the time to explore this island nation before it changes forever.

### **Includes**

- Return airfares from all Australian Capital Cities to Havana Cuba.
- 7 nights MSC Armonia Cruise of Caribbean Jamaica, Caymen Islands and Mexico including all meals and entertainment on board
- 1 night Havana Pre tour
- 8 Day Explore Cuba Escorted Tour visit Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinada, Vinales

#### **Departures 10 or 17 Nov 2018**

Cruise/Tour (Standard Inside Cabin) from \$3,999.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Outside Cabin) from \$4,499.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Balcony Cabin) from \$4,999.00 per person.

#### **Departures 21 July, 04, 18 Aug, 01 Sept, 13, 27 Oct 2018**

Cruise/Tour (Standard Inside Cabin) from \$4,799.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Outside Cabin) from \$5,299.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Balcony Cabin) from \$5,799.00 per person.

#### **Departures 05 February or 05 March 2018**

Cruise/Tour (Standard Inside Cabin) from \$4,499.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Outside Cabin) from \$4,799.00 per person.

Cruise/Tour (Standard Balcony Cabin) from \$5,299.00 per person.

**Day 1:** Fly from Australia to Havana and transfer from airport to Havana cruise terminal. The cruise itinerary can differ depending on your departure date.

DAY	PORT	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
1	Havana, Cuba	-	-
2	Havana, Cuba	-	-
3	Havana, Cuba	-	17:00
4	At Sea	-	-
5	Montego Bay, Jamaica	08:00	19:00
6	George Town, Cayman Islands	08:00	15:00
7	Cozumel, Mexico	10:00	18:30
8	Havana, Cuba	13:30	-

**Day 8:** Arrive back in Havana and Overnight at Casa Havana.



## 8 DAY CUBA TOUR ITINERARY



### DAY 9: HAVANA

There's so much life in Havana, and yet this bustling city never feels overwhelming. The only difficult thing about the city is knowing where to start exploring. The best way for those on our 8 day Cuba group tour to get started is with a pair of comfortable walking shoes. The entire city is fascinating, but fortunately many of the main points of interest are within a fairly compact area. Take a leisurely stroll through Havana's Old Town, with pauses for coffee (and Cuban coffee is amongst the best in the world), or for a magical mojito. The architecture of this part of the city is an attraction in itself. The first day of our 8 day Cuba group tours is the perfect way to ease yourself into Cuban life. You can even join your guide and fellow tour group members for dinner if you arrive in time.

Please note that the first day of the tour is a **joining day** with no formal activities planned. We do organise your accommodation for this evening and a optional dinner with your guide and group.

This tour does not spend a lot of time in Havana, so we do recommend booking an extra night or two here if you have the time (or book our 10 Day Vivacious Cuba Group Tour). Our team would be more than happy to provide any recommendations or advice as to the best sights, excursions and activities to focus on. We can also arrange half and full days tours in Havana and its surrounding regions.



### **DAY 10: CIENFUEGOS**

We'll show you Playa Girón, which is otherwise known as the Bay of Pigs. This was the site of the infamous failed invasion of Cuba. Its brutal history is nowhere to be seen, and it's now an area of profound natural beauty. You'll want to dive straight into that beautiful ocean, and don't worry – there will be time.

While most of Cuba was settled by the Spanish, it was actually the French who made Cienfuegos into the city it is today. French migrants flocked to the area in the 1800's and their architectural influence on the city is obvious. On some streets you might think you're walking through Paris (although with infinitely better weather). At the entrance to the harbour you'll see the Castillo de Jagua, an ancient fort that allowed the city to withstand the pirate attacks that were once common in Cuba. Many buildings in the town have been given UNESCO world heritage status, and you might think you've never seen such a beautiful town... until we show you some other places.

A harbour city by location, the 'Pearl of the Caribbean' has seduced Cuban travellers for years due to its elegance and beauty. Explore the wide streets and promenades or enjoy a walk by the Malecon, the longest promenade on the island. "Cienfuegos is the city I like the best", wrote Beni More, one of Cuba's most important musicians in the first half of the 20th century.



### **DAY 11 & 12: TRINIDAD**

While Che Guevara is synonymous with Cuba, his final days were actually spent in Bolivia. Cuba felt he needed a hero's burial and memorial, and this is located in Santa Clara, to where his body was returned. Our 8 day Cuba group tours will take you to this remarkable spot near Trinidad. It was in Santa Clara that Guevara and his rebels successfully derailed a military train carrying weapons and ammunition to be used against Fidel Castro. This act was credited with winning the revolution.

After Santa Clara we'll take you to remarkable Trinidad. Founded in 1514, the central parts of the city have been lovingly maintained, and you might wonder if you've been transported back in time. Many buildings are painted in sensational shades of colour, making Trinidad a true treat for the eyes. Trinidad was once the heart of Cuba's sugar industry (and a lot of sugar cane is still processed here). You simply have to take a visit to the sugar district, where many of the old mills can be found. For a fairly small city, there's an amazing amount of nightlife as well.

Take the opportunity to visit a local waterfall, historic sugar mill or one of Cuba's best beaches – Playa Ancon. An evening at one of Trinidad's effervescent music venues is a must!



### **DAY 13 AND 14: VINALES**

Viñales is reasonably close to Havana, and has been popular with visitors for generations. In the heart of the Pinar del Rio valley, most of Cuba's tobacco production takes place in and around Viñales. This is the place to see where those world famous cigars come from, and to get some for yourself.

The geography in the area is stunning, and the town is ringed by stark mogotes – small hills with sheer rock faces. All of our Cuba group tours offer you the chance to take salsa lessons, and Viñales is the best place to do this.

The nightlife is lively, but not as crowded as larger cities – just in case you don't want to have an audience!



### **DAYS 15 AND 16: HAVANA**

We'll welcome you back to heavenly Havana for the last days of your tour. Your guides will be able to tell you about some amazing places to see that you might not have considered. A tour of the city by classic car is included in your 8 Day Cuba Group Tour, so you'll get to see Havana as a local would.

As a special treat at the end of your tour we'll take you to a special rooftop in Havana's Old Town that makes a sublime mojito (or a non-alcoholic alternative).

You'll be taught how to make a classic Cuban cocktail before enjoying a farewell dinner with your group and guide, with an unbeatable view over the rooftops of the city. Then it will be time to say goodbye, but we are sure you'll come back to see us as soon as you can...

Please note that Day Eight is the tours **departure day**, meaning you are free to depart at any time.

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### **Life aboard MSC Armonia**

MSC Armonia is based in Havana, Cuba, a country that has recently opened up to cruise ships, and is attracting much attention. From Havana 7-night cruises offer three itinerary options: spend the first two nights in the Cuban capital as a base for sight-seeing, then visit Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Cozumel in Mexico; stay two nights in Havana, then visit Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and the brand new company port Ocean Cay in the Bahamas; or, spend one night on board in Havana, then call at Belize, Roatan (Honduras), Costa Maya (Mexico), and Isla de la Juventud. (The latter is the original Treasure Island, and of Captain Hook and Peter Pan fame.) The Line offers good affordable cruise vacations the Italian Way, filled with fun activities and having a wide appeal. There are lots of children during school holidays.

MSC Armonia has been in service since 2004. In July 2015 she returned from a refit with more balcony cabins, public areas, restaurants, and kids' areas. Extended by 24 m, at 65,591 GT, with 194 cabins added, she now carries 2142 passengers. Her Italian décor avoids the neon glitter of some cruise lines, and accentuates marble, wood, brass, and soft furnishings. Guests are young adult couples, singles, and families with children of all ages with their associated noise (joie de vivre, or some may say ambiance). The ship appeals to mainly Europeans with multiple languages used onboard. The ship has few concessions for the physically challenged. During the northern Summer most passengers are from the Continent, but on the cruise you will also meet guests from the U.K., USA, and Australia. Europeans tend to smoke more, even in the no-smoking areas. Kids under 18 cruise free on some itineraries sharing a cabin with 2 adults.

### **Accommodation**

Two-thirds of the cabins have an outside view, and of these just one-quarter have a private balcony. Interior and Ocean View cabins are small at 12.9 sq.m. All cabins have interactive TV, AC, telephone, hairdryer, mini-bar/fridge, safe, wardrobe, bathroom with shower, and cotton towels. Two single beds can be converted to a double bed. Outside cabins have a large rectangular viewing window. The 132 suites with private balcony come with a large double bed, a sitting area with sofa, a substantial walk-in wardrobe, bathrobes, a well-stocked mini-bar, and an expanded bathroom with tub. The suites are well laid out and nicely furnished.

Many 'Ocean View' cabins on deck 7 have obstructed views, so be alert to this. For all cabins continental breakfast is complimentary from 7.30 to 10 am, while room service snacks can be bought at other times, but there is a per-item charge for other orders. For suites, a basket of fruit is provided at embarkation, and replenished daily. There are five cabins for the disabled, and no single cabins.

### **Food and Dining**

The principal dining room is La Caravella Restaurant, with open seating for breakfast and lunch, and two seatings for dinner. Instead of paying for cold water in dining rooms, fill your own bottle in your cabin, chill it in the mini-bar, and bring it with you at meal times. The smaller L'Approdo Restaurant shares the same menu.

Dining is notable for its quantity rather than its quality, though the food is a highlight for many passengers. The alternative specialty restaurant is Kaito, an authentic Japanese venue with an extensive, outstanding menu. The quality is high, and it is really worth having at least one meal here. Le Vele Cafeteria is a casual, self-serve, 24-hour buffet. There is also a grill and pizzeria. A number of other cafés are located around the ship. MSC Cruises provide better-quality ingredients, mostly from Europe, featuring Italian cuisine and regional wines, and daily fresh pizza dough and sauces.

There's no tea or coffee for lunch and dinner in the dining rooms, only in the buffet. You may have to ask for milk. For coffee and pastries head for The Coffee Corner. There are eight themed bars that include La Cabala Lounge, a piano lounge, and Sotto Vento Pub.

Dining at breakfast and lunch in La Caravella may have you seated with others of a different language, given the continental background of the passengers.

### **Entertainment**

The two-deck Theatre dell Opera presents productions shows, cabaret, plays and other theatrical presentations. Some productions may be short, just 30 minutes. Entertainment includes the Opera Lounge for social dancing, the Byblos Discotheque, an extensive Internet café; and the Monte Carlo Casino. The ship has a number of bands and small ensembles to provide music for dancing and background. To get away from the constant activity and noise, retire to Library/Card Room.

The Health Centre is operated by Blue Ocean, and treatments include acupuncture. Facilities include steam room, sauna and beauty parlour. Fitness amenities include a gym, climbing wall, jogging area, two adult pools, two whirlpools and mini golf. Children have three play areas and their favourite, an ice-cream parlour. A "baby-parking" service is helpful when parents want to go on shore excursions. Teens have their own area on the top deck. A few occasional notes: Children sail free on certain itineraries, and in July/August there may be 400 or so. Heavy smokers are everywhere, and the staff are more focused on Italian passengers. Port calls may be short time-wise.



## **ABOUT THE TOUR:**

### **OUR 8 DAY CUBA GROUP TOUR – LIVELY CUBA – BEGINS EVERY SUNDAY IN HAVANA. TOUR ITINERARY SNAPSHOT:**

- Day One: Tour arrival Day in Havana
- Day Two: Cienfuegos via Day of Pigs
- Day Three: Trinidad via Santa Clara
- Day Four: Trinidad
- Day Five and Six: Vinales
- Day Seven: Havana
- Day Eight: Departure Day

Come with us to a place unlike any other. Our 8 day Cuba group tour will indulge all of your senses and is the best way to begin your love affair with this vibrant destination. Cuba's rich history and culture will come to life over 8 magical days, and we are quite sure that you won't want to leave.

Cuba is in a state of fascinating transition, and is ready to open itself up to the world like never before. Imagine yourself ambling along the cobblestoned streets of gorgeous Trinidad and discovering the magic of Havana. Another highlight is the Karst Valley in the achingly beautiful town of Viñales. The air is fresh and sweet, filled with rich aroma of tobacco and pulsating Salsa beats. Even the noise of those stunning 1950's cars will be music to your ears. We cram a lot into 8 days, and yet you will be both stimulated and soothed.

On our 8 Day Cuba Group Tour you will have a Locally Sourced Cuban guide travel with you from destination to destination and you will stay in Cuban B&B's (Casa Particulares).

Rest your weary head at a Cuban Bed and Breakfast, known as a Casa Particular. Experience the warmth of Cuban hospitality by staying with a Cuban family, who will make you feel right at home

No Spanish? No problem. Our local Cuban guides speak English so you'll never feel left out during your 8 day Cuba group tour

## **INCLUDED ACTIVITIES**

On our 8 Day Cuba Group Tour, we like to include a number of 'must do' activities and still leave you with some free time to choose from a range of optional activities or explore independently.

- GUIDED ORIENTATION WALKS AT EACH DESTINATION
- 1 x DRINK AT TH PALACIO DE VALLE IN CIENFUEGOS
- CHE GUEVARA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
- INFORMAL SALSA LESSON IN TRINIDAD
- VINALES TOBACCO FARM
- LUNCH AT AN ORGANIC FARM IN VINALES
- HAVANA CITY TOUR IN A CLASSIC CAR
- MOJITO MAKING CLASS AND FAREWELL DINNER ON A ROOF-TOP IN OLD HAVANA

## ACCOMMODATION



*Casa Maribel in Havana Vieja & breakfast is served at a Casa in Cienfuegos on one of our tours in Cuba*

For the Cuba group tours we run, we use authentic Casa Particulares (Cuban B&B's). Staying at a Casa Particular and interacting with Cuban locals provides an enriched cultural experience and is often a highlight for many of our tour participants. At the end of your stay in Havana we like to use Casa Particular accommodation in Havana Centro or Havana Vieja. Please note that a lot of the best Casa's in these areas are up several flights of stairs.

If these stairs are likely to cause you problems, just let us know ahead of time and we will source a suitable alternative.

You are welcome to request extra accommodation on any of our Cuba group tours.

## WHAT IS A CASA PARTICULAR?

A Casa Particular is a Cuban Homestay or B&B. Staying in a Casa Particular is a brilliant way of immersing yourself in the life and culture of fascinating Cuba. When you choose a Casa Particular for your accommodation, you will meet the local people on a one-to-one basis and get a rare glimpse into the everyday life of ordinary people in Cuba. In addition, your host or hostess will be able to advise you on all things Cuban – the best restaurants, the best music and Salsa venues and any seasonal attractions that are only known to the locals! Casa Particular (or Casa Particulares in the plural form) is Spanish for 'private home'. In 1997 the Cuban government allowed local people to rent out their properties to visitors for the first time; prior to this all accommodation on the island was owned by the government, and this is why these Cuban-styled B&B's or rental apartments are called Casa Particulares to distinguish them as privately run establishments.

Owners of a Casa Particular have to pay an annual per-room tax to the government and are entitled to "advertise" their establishment by placing a small sign on the door – two blue triangles – "roofs"- against a white background.

Most of the owners/operators are fiercely proud of their businesses and really strive to give holiday makers a brilliant and authentic Cuban home-stay experience.

### **MEET OUR TEAM OF LOCAL CUBAN TOUR GUIDES**



Our team of passionate Cuban tour guides are dedicated to making your Cuba tour the best it can possibly be.

### **IS THIS CUBA TOUR FOR ME?**

Our group tours are perfect for those who want the freedom and flexibility to travel at their own pace, along with the security, camaraderie and cultural insight that comes from travelling with a local English-speaking guide and small group.

- Cuban B&B's (Casa Particulares) are family run business which are set-up to provide B&B style accommodation to foreigners – a unique cultural experience. Casa's are generally much nicer than normal Cuban dwellings but can be more basic than foreigners are used to. It is important to remember that each room at a Casa is unique in its size and set-up. Whether you stay in a hotel or Casa, sometimes power cuts and breaks in hot water are unavoidable in any developing country.
- Part of the experience of traveling through Cuba is experiencing Cuban resourcefulness. Spare parts are often difficult and expensive to come by, so don't be surprised if your notice that 'Cuban innovation' has been used to keep various things working.
- Access to the internet in Cuba is getting better but can still be variable, slow and unreliable. It is also relatively expensive to get online at a hotel or one of the various Wifi zones that have been set-up across the country. Traveling through Cuba offers a great opportunity to take a break from your electronic devices and have a truly relaxing experience.
- Cuba is a unique travel destination and that is what makes it so popular. It is part of the 'laid back Caribbean' and things don't always go to plan or schedule. A great sense of humour and patience are qualities that will go a long way in making your stay in Cuba an enjoyable one.

### **ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES**

How long does it take to travel between destinations on this 8 Day Cuba Group Tour? It's not as though we're going to whisk you from town to town as fast as possible. A leisurely pace of life is something the Cuban people pride themselves on, so on a longer journey we will of course stop for lunch, a chance to stretch your legs, and to take a closer look at the beautiful countryside.

From Havana to Cienfuegos (via Bay of Pigs): 5 hours

From Cienfuegos to Trinidad (via Santa Clara): 3 hours

From Trinidad to Viñales: 7 to 8 hours

From Viñales to Havana: 3 hours

### **TRANSPORTATION**

For the greatest efficiency and comfort, all of our Cuba group tours use air-conditioned, private transportation between destinations wherever possible.

### **SPENDING MONEY ON TOUR**

Everyone is different in the amount of money they will spend on one of our Cuba group tours. Your main expenses on our 8 Day Cuba Group Tour will be food, drinks, airport departure transportation, souvenirs, optional activities, and tips. For our 8 Day Cuba Group tour we estimate that you will need approximately CUC50.00 – CUC60.00 per person, per day to cover your local expenses.

### **OUR SINGLE SUPPLEMENT POLICY**

If you've ever been a solo explorer, you'll know the annoyance of having to pay a supplement in order to have a single room. That's not our style, so we waive the single supplement on all our Cuba group tours. You still have the option of sharing a room if you want – it's entirely up to you.

### **FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

As a minimum, you will need an average level of fitness and mobility to join this tour. Partaking in small group travel can be more physically demanding than your more conventional holidays. You should be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb a couple of flights of stairs, step on and off buses and other forms of transport, and carry your own luggage.



**Consultant Cati with Manolo the Tour Guide and her happy travelling companions.**



WE'RE  
PROUD  
TO BE **ATAS**  
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# CUBA

## Escorted Land Tour

15 days tour from **\$4299**

**Per person twin share**

**No Single Supplement**



Departing from Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane.

**The Deal: CUBA ESCORTED TOUR**  
**15 days from \$4299**

On our 15 day Cuba Group Tour -Majestic, you will not only experience the very best in Cuban history, culture, sites and landscapes, but you will meet and interact with a cross-section of locals, each with their own story to tell and experiences to share.

**Duration: 15 days**

**Book by: 30 June 2018**

**Departure Dates: every Monday from 01 Aug to 31 Aug 2018. 15 Oct to 19 Nov 2018. And 01 Feb to 31 March 2019.**

**Tour: \$4299 – 15 DAY – BEST OF CUBA ESCORTED TOUR**

Phone: Destination International on 1300 813391

[www.ditravel.com.au](http://www.ditravel.com.au).

### **Explore:**

**Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Camaguey, Santiago de Cuba, Baracoa**

- **Your Package Includes**
- Return economy airfares from Australia Capital Cities to Havana, Cuba.
- 14 nights Casa B & Bs in Cuba.
- •private transportation, local Viazul bus, taxi and an internal flight (Baracoa to Havana).
- Breakfast Daily
- English Speaking Tours Guides

### **The Deal:**

Want to see the very best Cuba has to offer? Engage in the lively culture, enthralling history and breath-taking beauty of this evocative and vibrant Caribbean island on our 15 Day Cuba Group Tour – Majestic. Current economic and political transformations in Cuba suggest that there is no better time to take one of our tours in Cuba. Saunter down Trinidad’s cobble-stoned streets, discover Havana’s secrets through the windows of degenerate colonial buildings and let yourself move to the cool beat of Santiago de Cuba. Pristine beaches, pirates, salsa and Che are all on the agenda on a tour that aims to constantly excite, enthuse and enlighten.

- Experience Cuban hospitality at a Casa Particular
- A Local English-speaking Cuban guide accompanies all of our Cuba group tours
- Lose yourself in the winding colonial streets of Camaguey
- Dance the night away in Santiago de Cuba on one of our tours in Cuba
- Get curious exploring the spell-binding Havana Veija
- Soak up the picturesque underwater landscape at the Bay of Pigs
- Enjoy a scrumptious cocktail over stunning views
- Visit the final resting place of the immortalised Che Guevara
- Take in the historic French-influenced architecture of Cienfuegos

ABOUT THIS TOUR

Cuban B&B's, English-speaking local Cuban guide, the 'best of' excursions  
On our 15 day Cuba Group Tour -Majestic, you will not only experience the very best in Cuban history, culture, sites and landscapes, but you will meet and interact with a cross-section of locals, each with their own story to tell and experiences to share.

**THE MOST POPULAR OF OUR CUBA GROUP TOURS – BEGINS EVERY MONDAY IN HAVANA**  
**15 DAY CUBA TOUR ITINERARY SNAPSHOT**

- Day One: Tour arrival Day in Havana
- Day Two: Cienfuegos via Day of Pigs
- Day Three: Trinidad via Santa Clara
- Day Four and Five: Trinidad
- Day Six and Seven: Camaguey
- Day Eight and Nine: Santiago de Cuba
- Day Ten, Eleven and Twelve: Baracoa
- Day Thirteen and Fourteen: Havana
- Day Fifteen: Departure Day

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**Add on a 4 day Mexico City Tour for \$899 per person – See below**

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Owners of a Casa Particular have to pay an annual per-room tax to the government and are entitled to "advertise" their establishment by placing a small sign on the door – two blue triangles – "roofs"- against a white background. Most of the owners/operators are fiercely proud of their businesses and really strive to give holiday makers a brilliant and authentic Cuban home-stay experience.

## MEET OUR TEAM OF LOCAL CUBAN TOUR GUIDES



Our team of passionate [Cuban tour guides](#) are dedicated to making your Cuba tour the best it can possibly be.

## ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES

Below are the estimated travel times between destinations on this 15 Day Cuba Group Tour. For the longer journeys on all of our tours in Cuba, our guides like to break-up the journey by stopping for lunch and at various points of interest along the way.



Havana to Cienfuegos via Bay of Pigs: 5 hours  
Cienfuegos to Trinidad via Santa Clara: 4 hours  
Trinidad to Camaguey: 6 hours  
Camaguey to Santiago de Cuba: 7 hours  
Santiago de Cuba to Baracoa: 5-6 hours

### **TRANSPORTATION ON OUR TOURS IN CUBA**

On our Cuba group tours we use a mixture of private transportation, local Viazul bus, taxi and an internal flight (Baracoa to Havana).

An internal flight from Baracoa to Havana is included as part of this tour. Please note that on occasions, due to flight availability, the group might need to be transported to Santiago de Cuba or Holguin to fly from there.

### **ACCOMMODATION**



*Casa Maribel in Havana Vieja & breakfast is served at a Casa in Cienfuegos on one of our tours in Cuba*

For the Cuba group tours we run, we use authentic Casa Particulares (Cuban B&B's). Staying at a Casa Particular and interacting with Cuban locals provides an enriched cultural experience and is often a highlight for many of our tour participants. At the end of your stay in Havana we like to use Casa Particular accommodation in Havana Centro or Havana Vieja. Please note that a lot of the best Casa's in these areas are up several flights of stairs.

If these stairs are likely to cause you problems, just let us know ahead of time and we will source a suitable alternative.

You are welcome to request extra accommodation on any of our Cuba group tours. This can be done using our online form at the time of booking.

### **SPENDING MONEY ON TOUR**

Everyone is different in the amount of money they will spend on our Cuba group tours. Your main expenses on our 15 Day Cuba Group Tour will be food, drinks, airport departure transportation, souvenirs and optional activities. For our 15 Day Cuba Group tour we estimate that you will need between USD\$600 – USD\$850 for expenses

## OUR SINGLE SUPPLEMENT POLICY

We believe that you should be able to have the privacy that comes with having your own room on tour, and not have to pay anything extra for this. That's why it is our policy is to waive the single supplement fee on all of our Cuba Group tours. Of course you can still choose to share a room with a fellow traveller, as this can often be part of the fun of traveling – it's your choice!

## MAP



## ITINERARY



### DAY ONE: HAVANA

Known as the capital of fun during the 40's and 50's, this spellbinding city immediately captures the curiosity of her many visitors. But where do you start? We recommend those booked on our 15 Day Cuba Group Tour put on your walking shoes and take in Havana's rich history, grand monuments, world famous cigars and scrumptious cocktails.

You can easily get lost in Havana Vieja (old Havana), the old city of cobblestoned alleyways and colonial buildings, ancient squares and noted churches. The perfect day to get your bearings and meet your guide and group for an optional evening meal.

Please note that the first day of the tour is a joining day with no formal activities planned. We do organise your accommodation for this evening and a optional dinner with your guide and group.



## **DAY TWO: CIENFUEGOS**

Stop off at Playa Girón/ Bay of Pigs, long associated with the USA's first military failure in Latin America. The natural beauty of this area is stunning, with cave systems, coral formations and an abundance of sea life making it a must for snorkelers, divers and ocean lovers alike.

If Cuba had a Paris then it would probably be Cienfuegos, which stands out for its rich French-influenced architecture. A harbour city by location, the 'Pearl of the Caribbean' has seduced Cuban travellers for years due to its elegance and beauty. Founded in 1819 by Don Luis de Clouet, Cienfuegos luckily managed to remain free of pirate attacks, allowing this popular city to prosper. Explore the wide streets and promenades or enjoy a walk by the Malecon, the longest promenade on the island. "Cienfuegos is the city I like the best", wrote Beni More, one of Cuba's most important musicians in the first half of the 20th century. Check it out for yourself and see what you think.



### **DAY THREE, FOUR AND FIVE: TRINIDAD**

Stop at the Che Guevara mausoleum and memorial in Santa Clara, where Che's remains are immortalized following their discovery in Bolivia in 1997.

Santa Clara holds a special place in Cuban history, where in December 1958, Commander Ernesto Che Guevara led his revolutionary rebels in the derailment of the armoured train carrying the ammunition Batista had sent to defeat Fidel – the revolution was won.

Then it's on to the favourite destination of many a traveller to Cuba. Trinidad was founded in 1514 by Diego Velázquez and is considered a jewel in Cuban colonial architecture. For some, Trinidad is a living museum, stuck in the time of Cuba's first War of Independence when local sugar plantations were devastated by fire. The vibrant colours and soulful music littered along cobbled streets will simply take your breath away.

Take the opportunity to visit a local waterfall, historic sugar mill or one of Cuba's best beaches – Playa Ancon. An evening at one of Trinidad's effervescent music venues is a must!



### **DAY SIX AND SEVEN: CAMAGUEY**

Don't get lost in "La Ciudad Confusa" (the maze)! The labyrinth of winding streets and alleys of Cuba's third largest city shouldn't be enough to put you off visiting the beguiling city of Camaguey – a city built to confuse pirates.

With its large number of squares and parks, colonial architecture and enriched spiritual persona, Camaguey is a mecca for Cuban arts and culture. Plan a visit to a famous historical landmark or explore a myriad of art galleries and handicraft exhibits – it's entirely up to you! There are also some of Cuba's best beaches close by at Playa Santa Lucia.

A guided tour on the back of a bicycle taxi is our gift to you!



### **DAY EIGHT AND NINE: SANTIAGO DE CUBA**

The second largest city in Cuba is surely its most dynamic. With a myriad of ethnicities calling Santiago home, it's hard not to get swept away in its joyous and prepossessing surroundings. Plus its music and dance scene is quite possible the best in Cuba.

As the most Caribbean of Cuban destinations with a backdrop of mountains and rugged terrain, Santiago de Cuba has many things to show off and be proud of. It is the hub of most of the music genres in Cuba and the locals are hospitable, resourceful and virtuous.

Make sure you visit one of Santiago de Cuba's famous tobacco factories when in town and take in a famous music venue or two in the evening on your 15 Day Cuba Group Tour.



### **DAY TEN, ELEVEN AND TWELVE: BARACOA**

Cuba's first colonial capital, Baracoa is set amongst a mixture of palm, chocolate and banana trees. It is a land blessed with many rivers and a healthy annual rain fall, which has worked to create some of the most lush vegetation and rainforest you will ever encounter.

The town has remained relatively unchanged over the years, with several houses dating back to the 19th century and a system of colonial fortifications that includes Matachin Fort and La Punta Fort. From Baracoa there are many outdoor excursions to go on, each making use of its beautiful surroundings. Explore the bountiful rivers in the area or go boating between the tall cliffs at the mouth of Yumuri River. You can also see over 900 species of endemic flora, including around 360 that are found only in this area. Baracoa's cuisine is world famous in Cuba and a BBQ group lunch is the best way to sample the delicious local produce.



### **DAY THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN: HAVANA**

Back in Havana you have the opportunity to explore some more and experience Cuban nightlife one last time. A full day tour of the city including time in a classic American car is included as part of your 15 Day Cuba Group Tour – enjoy!

Please note that Day Fifteen is the tour **departure day** with no activities planned, meaning you are free to depart at any time.



**DURATION**

15 days, 14 nights

**START**

Havana, Cuba

**FINISH**

Havana, Cuba

**GROUP SIZE**

2-12

**MEALS**

14 breakfasts, 1 lunch included

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

None

**ACCOMMODATION**

Cuban B&B's/ Casa Particular's - 14 nights

**TRANSPORT**

Private Minivan, VIAZUL bus, taxi, internal flight



## **Add on a 4 day Mexico City Tour for \$899 per person**

### **Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Mexico City**

*Arrive in Mexico City. A welcome pack will be waiting at the hotel including all the information you need for your tour.*

*Modern meets ancient in Mexico City - one of the world's largest urban centres. Although crowded and smoggy, D.F. (Distrito Federal) offers a great variety of impressive museums, galleries and architecture, along with exciting night life and delicious street food. Today is just an arrival day, there are no organised activities. If you arrive early perhaps head to the Zocalo, the city's huge central square, to see Aztec ruins and colonial architecture or relax in one of the many parks, plazas and gardens.*

**Accommodation:** Hotel (1 night)

**Meals Included:** There are no meals included on this day.

#### **Day 2: Mexico City**

Today, your Guide will pick you up from your hotel at 08.45am before making your way to pick up the rest of travel companions for today. Embark on an exploration of Mexico City including the Zocalo, Metropolitan Cathedral and Templo Mayor. See one of Diego Rivera's most famous murals at Museo Mural and explore the fresh food stalls at Mercado San Juan.

Your trip will finish at approximately 4pm at the Palace of Fine Arts (Palacio de Bellas Artes) about 9 min walk from your hotel.

**Accommodation:** Hotel (1 night)

**Included Activities**

Mexico City Tour

Meals: There are no meals included on this day.

#### **Day 3: Mexico City**

- Today your Intrepid Urban Adventures guide will pick you up from your hotel at 10am before heading to the Basilica de Guadalupe. After the visit to the Basilica you will pick up the rest of your travel mates for today. Head out of Mexico City by local transport, experiencing how locals move about this crowded city. Hop off at the archaeological area of the Teotihuacan pyramids. As you tour the grounds, you'll visit the Moon Pyramid, the Calzada de los Muertos (Dead Pass), and the Sun Pyramid, which is the tallest and most spectacular in the area — it's 63 metres to the top.
- After exploring the pyramids, we'll continue the afternoon walking through the streets of a nearby town. Our first stop will take us into a family-run business where you will learn about 'obsidian' — the material that the Teotihuacan people use as a main element to make their tools, idols, and decorations. As well, you'll get to sip an ancient sacred drink called 'pulque,' which is extracted from the heart of the maguey (another kind of cactus) — considered by some to be the great-grandfather of tequila.



- Next up on this Mexico tour, pay a visit to the cactus product factory to try some of their produces which include jams, candies, spicy lollies, alcoholic creams, and other products made by the local people from the endemic vegetation such as nopal, xoconostle, and tuna (a cactus fruit, not tuna fish!).
- To finish our journey, we'll visit a local family for dinner. Their menu is always changing based on whatever they've cooked for the day — but there's always delicious options for every palate. You'll be welcomed into their home and experience traditional dinner customs.
- After dinner, we'll head back to Mexico City, arriving at about 9.30pm.

**Accommodation**

Hotel (1 night)

**Included Activities**

Hidden Teotihuacan & Family dinner

**Day 4: Mexico City**

There are no activities planned for the final day, departure flights can be at any time.

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

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**Booking conditions apply  
All tours are subject to confirmation  
from the Airlines, Hotels & Tour Operators**

For Reservations, Free Brochures & Enquiries phone

**Phone 1300 813 391**

Email: [cati@ditravel.com.au](mailto:cati@ditravel.com.au)

**How to book:**

Our office is located in Kew in Melbourne.

You can call our office on 1300 813391.

You can email us.

You can call our office and make an appointment to come and meet with one of travel consultants.

**Deposit \$3500 per person.**

**Balance is due 90 days prior to departure.**

Payment can be made by:

Visa or MasterCard – there is 1.1% bank fee charged for all major credit cards that will be added to your tour cost at time of payment.

You can also pay by cash or cheque by depositing these funds directly into our bank account at any Bendigo bank in Australia. There are no bank fees charged when you direct deposit the funds directly into our bank account.

## **Reservations Phone 1300 813391**



ATAS Accreditation Number: A10718

ATAS vets travel agents against strict criteria to ensure they meet certain standards, are reliable, well trained and professional businesses. ATAS agents need to meet high standards of business discipline, training, compliance with Australian Consumer Law and compliance with a strict code of conduct – ensuring your piece of mind when booking travel.

We have met these strict standards and criteria in order to become nationally accredited. Our accreditation means we are the best in the industry, credible, well trained and a professional business. This means you can book your travel knowing you're in the safe hands of a trusted and reputable travel agent.

Further information can be found at <http://www.atas.com.au/>

Affordable Holidays - HOW DO WE DO IT???

We go directly to our overseas suppliers to source the best possible price and holiday for you. That's why our holidays are so affordable!! There are many overseas wholesalers that currently do not sell their holidays in Australia. We have approached some of these businesses to see if we can represent them here in our country. These travel professionals offer exceptional service and tours at just the right price. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will do our best to find you a holiday that fits within your travel budget.

### **INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS BOOKING CONDITIONS**

**Please read this information prior to making your reservation**

#### **BROCHURE VALIDITY**

The information presented in our brochure is correct to the best of our knowledge, but is subject to change without notice. Changes can occur with respect to prices, itineraries, duration of holidays, service standards, tour content, airfares and schedules. This is out of our control. Please ensure you advise details of your requirements at the time of booking.

#### **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)**

The Australian GST does not apply to international travel. Any service fees, courier, cancellation and amendment fees are subject to GST. You will be charged GST where applicable.

#### **DEPOSIT**

A deposit is required to confirm your booking (varies depending on package booked). Receipt of deposit will be taken as an understanding by Destination International Holidays that the customer has checked their confirmed travel arrangements and has read and agreed to the terms and conditions.

#### **FINAL PAYMENT**

Payment in full must be made no less than 90 days before travel, unless required earlier by any supplier.

**PRICES**

All prices for our tours are advised in Australian Dollars (\$AUD). They are based on airfares, schedules and tariffs at the time of printing. Destination International Holidays reserves the right to vary the cost of the tour, taxes and airline prices if necessary by reason of currency fluctuation, cost increase, or airfare increase. All prices are subject to confirmation from local tour operators. Once full payment has been received by Destination International no surcharges in respect to currency fluctuations will be applied.

**ITINERARY CHANGES**

Destination International Holidays reserves the right to amend the itinerary for reasons such as service requirements, road or weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Where a change is of a significant nature, it will be advised to our customers in writing. Destination International Holidays reserves the right to substitute hotels, lodges, inns and camps with properties of similar standard

**AMENDMENT FEES**

Any deviation to packages advertised or quotes will incur a fee of \$150 per person.

Should you need to alter your confirmed reservations, there will be an automatic fee charged of \$150 per amendment or transaction, plus any new arrangements made. Additionally, there may be cancellation fees levied by the tour operator or fees may be applicable where arrangements have been pre-purchased.

In addition, we charge

- \$50 per person for all airline seat reservations and baggage charges plus any airline fees.
- \$100 per person for all Tourist visa processing plus the cost for the visa fee.
- \$75 per person to reissue any travel documents lost in the mail.
- \$100 per person to process insurance claims when travel insurance has not been purchased from this office.

**CANCELLATIONS**

Cancellation fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given as follows:

Days' Notice	90 or more	75-90	65-75	65-1
	Loss of Deposit and 50% loss of fare	75%	85%	100%

The above are Destination International Holidays cancellation fees. Airlines and Tour Operators may have additional fees. Transfer of a confirmed booking to another tour or departure date is deemed a cancellation of the original booking.

There will be no refund for cancellation of unused services on or after commencement date. Please note that employees of any overseas suppliers are not authorised by Destination International Holidays to make any undertakings to our clients in respect of refunds or other matters.

**ACCOMMODATION**

There will be variations in the size, standard and presentation of rooms and facilities within the one hotel. This is beyond the control of Destination International Holidays.

**CLAIMS**

If you encounter any problems on your holiday, you should to try and solve it directly with the supplier whilst overseas. If it is not possible to do so please do so in writing within 30 days of completing your Destination International Holidays arrangements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

You must be insured for the duration of your trip. You need comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, health requirements, luggage and additional expenses. Insurance policies rarely cover for loss of cash.

**PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS**

You must familiarise yourself with any visa and health requirements that may be applicable in the countries you are visiting. You are responsible for all entry/exit health and any other documents required by laws, regulations, orders, demands or requirements of countries visited or transited.

Please note that passport and visa requirements are not the responsibility of Destination International Holidays. We will not be held liable for any loss or expense due to the failure to comply with the above. We recommend that you be in possession of a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended stay overseas.

**CONSULAR ADVICE**

Official travel advice issued by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by calling 1300 555 135 or visiting their web site [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au). You must review this information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

**TOUR CONDITIONS**

Destination International Holidays does not itself provide carriage services, accommodation, transport or tours. Destination International Holidays acts as an agent for the "Service Providers"). All products and services provided by Service Providers are provided on those Service Providers own terms and conditions which may include limitations and exclusions of liability.

All bookings with Destination International Holidays and all tickets, vouchers, receipts, coupons, exchange orders and other like documents issued to the client, are subject to each Service Providers terms and conditions governing the provision of products and services to be provided by that Service provider. Destination International Holidays shall not be liable for any acts, omissions or defaults whether negligent or otherwise, of any Service Providers. Destination International Holidays shall not be liable (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, delay or inconvenience resulting directly or indirectly from circumstances outside of Destination International Holidays control, including acts of nature, war, civil disturbances, strikes, floods, acts of government or authorities, breakdowns, accidents, disease, quarantine, terrorism, medical or customs regulations, and alterations, cancellations or delays concerning itineraries, timetables or accommodation.

**CONTRACT**

The contract between Destination International Holidays is governed by the laws of the State of Victoria. By booking with Destination International Holidays the client agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions referred to in our brochure.

