



CUBA

Escorted Tour

10 days Fly/Tour From **\$3799**



Departing from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane.

On our 10 day Cuba Small Group Tour 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: 10 days

Book by: 31 July 2018

\$3799 per person Tour Departure Dates:

- 25 July to 07 Sept 2018.
- 10 Oct to 30 Nov 2018.
- 27 January to 27 March 2019
- 01 to 31 May 2019

Ex Sydney Melbourne and Brisbane:

\$3799 per person.

Ex Melbourne and Adelaide price:

\$4099 per person.

Ex Perth \$4599 per person.

Phone: Destination International on 1300 813391 – www.ditravel.com.au.

- Explore :Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Camaguey, Santiago de Cuba, Baracoa
 - ***Your Package Includes***
 - Return economy airfares from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Havana with Air Canada or Qantas and Aero Mexico.
 - 9 nights Casa B & Bs in Cuba.
 - •private transportation, local Viazul bus, Breakfast Daily
 - English Speaking Tours Guides
 - Small Group only 10 passengers.

Our 10 Day Vivacious Cuba tour, condenses some of the very best sites, sounds and sensations of Cuba into a fun-filled, culture-laden adventure.

OUR 10 DAY VIVACIOUS CUBA GROUP TOUR BEGINS EVERY SUNDAY IN HAVANA

Come with us to a place unlike any other. Our 10 day Cuba group tour will excite all of your senses and is the best way to begin your love affair with this lively destination. Cuba's rich history and culture will come to life over 10 magical days, and we are quite sure that you won't want to leave. Cuba is in a state of unique transition, and is ready to open itself up to the world like never before. Imagine yourself walking along the cobblestoned streets of gorgeous Trinidad and discovering the magic of Havana. Another highlight is the Mogote hills in the achingly beautiful town of Viñales. The air is fresh and sweet, filled with rich aroma of tobacco and pulsating Cuban rhythms. Even the noise of those stunning 1950's cars will be music to your ears. We include a lot into 10 days, and yet you will be both stimulated and relaxed.

- 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 10 day Cuba group tour.
- Try out some sultry salsa steps by dancing the night away. We'll show you where the best spots are
- Visit a Cigar Factory and Rum Museum in Havana
- Visit a Havana Jazz Club
- Lose yourself in Havana's magnificent Old Town (La Habana Vieja). Of course, we won't actually let you get lost since we know this city like no other
- Visit vibrant Viñales – the home of Cuba's tobacco production and scenery to die for
- Immerse yourself in warm Caribbean waters.
- You haven't experienced a true Mojito until you've had one in Cuba, with amazing views to match.

- Take in the final resting place of the revered Che Guevara
- Be amazed by the French inspired architecture of Cienfuegos.

IS THIS 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.



ITINERARY



DAY ONE: 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 10 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 10 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 an optional dinner with your guide and group.



DAY TWO: 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 Cubas most important musicians in the first half of the 20th century.



DAY THREE AND FOUR: 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 10 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 FIVE AND SIX: 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!



DAY SEVEN: 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. On the afternoon of Day 7, you will take a tour of the city by classic car.

There are currently an estimated 60,000 pre-1960 American cars hurtling through Cuba today and before the embargo there were at least 150,000. Buicks, Chevys, and countless other cool-finned cruisers rumble down the crumbling streets of Havana, many abandoned by their American owners when they fled in 1959 and kept going by Cuban ingenuity. This iconic mode of transport is the perfect way to see wider Havana and a very different side of the city. Here you will be chauffeured around some of the most famous areas of Havana including New Havana, Old Havana, the affluent neighbourhood of Miramar and the famous cemetery of Colon.



DAY EIGHT: WALKING TOUR OF OLD HAVANA AND CALLEJON DE HAMMEL

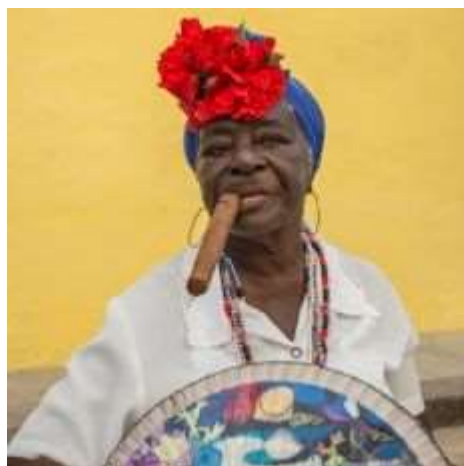
The best place to start any Havana experience is in the Old City. Havana's Old City is one of the best preserved and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1982. The streets are lined with colonial architecture, 16th century fortresses and countless churches. After breakfast your local guide will meet you at 9am at your hotel and take you on a walking tour of Old Havana and you will visit La Catedral San Cristobal de la Habana, described by the novelist Alejo Carpentier as 'music set in stone'. You will also visit famous landmarks such as Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras (now a restaurant) and the Plaza de Armas, complete with a statue of Manuel de Cespedes, one of the leaders of the independence movement. There are plenty of good museums to visit on the walking tour including Museo de la Revolucion and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

Your guide will also give you the option to visit Saint Francis of Assisi Square, Arms Square, the Old Square and Cathedral Square.

On the walking tour you will experience a panoramic tour through the "Malecón", the Revolution Square, Central Park, Opera House, Capitol building, former Bacardi Building and Museum of the Revolution, former Presidential Palace with

plenty of opportunities for photos. You will also have the opportunity to have lunch at an authentic family-run Cuban restaurant (Paladar).

In the afternoon we recommend visiting Callejon de Hammel in central Havana. Callejon de Hammel is where the Cuban artist fraternity congregates, and is a wonderful place to experience day-to-day Cuban life. Located in central Havana, the alley is brightly decorated in Cuban sculptures, art and paintings. You might also be able to catch a glimpse of a dance exhibition or meet Lazaro Salsita, who opens his home to teach neighbourhood children the art of papier-mâché. Make sure you check out Local artist Salvador González Escalona's neighbourhood makeover.



DAY NINE AND TEN: CIGAR FACTORY AND RUM MUSEUM

When anyone mentions Cuba two of the first things that come to mind are Cigars and Rum cocktails, immortalized by Hemingway.

Cuba has a long history of producing the world's best cigars and rum, and today you will be able to see for yourself how both of these famous exports are produced and learn all about their history and importance to Cuba's economy.

Today you can visit the Havana Rum Museum, housed in a converted old Palace where you can see the entire production process for this valuable export. Of course you will have the chance to taste some good rum in the Havana Club and also buy some to take home with you.

The next stop might be the Hotel Conde de Villanueva, an attractively restored 18th century mansion in the historic centre of the city. The hotel has one of the most popular cigar shops in town, and many people have personal humidors here to store their precious cigars. Here you will meet a "torcedor" or cigar roller, who will answer all your questions while you watch him go about his special craft. At the end of the demonstration you can do a cigar and coffee tasting, and buy some of the freshly-rolled cigars.

From here you will go to visit el Floridita, one of Hemingway's favourite bars to sample a genuine Cuban daiquiri before moving on to the Partagas Cigar Factory where the mystique behind cigar making will be revealed, and you will find out

why Cuban cigars are so revered. Even non-smokers and teetotallers will enjoy the tour and get a deeper understanding of the history and culture of this fascinating city.

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

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

DURATION

10 days, 9 nights

START

Havana, Cuba

FINISH

Havana, Cuba

GROUP SIZE

2-12

MEALS

9 breakfasts

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

None

ACCOMMODATION

TRANSPORT

Cuban B&B's/ Casa Particulares - 9 nights

MEET OUR TEAM OF LOCAL CUBA TOUR GUIDES



Our Cuba tour guides truly love showing the delights of Cuba to guests. By the time your 10 day Cuba group tour has finished, some of that passion for Cuba will have inevitably rubbed off on you!

ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES

How long does it take to travel between destinations on this 10 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): 4 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 a mixture of private transportation, local Viazul bus and taxi.

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 10 Day Cuba Group Tour will be food, drinks, airport departure transportation, souvenirs, optional activities, and tips. For our 10 Day Cuba Group tour we estimate that you will need between USD\$400 – USD\$550 for 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 have the option of sharing rooms if you want – it's entirely up to you.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Our small Cuba group tours include your arrival transfer from the airport on arrival. When you're ready to leave, your local Cuban guide can arrange your airport transfer on departure at local prices.

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.

GETTING READY TO TRAVEL TO CUBA

Do you need any further information about what to expect when you visit this magnificent country? Take a look at our comprehensive Cuba travel guide to learn more, and to start planning your Cuban adventure.

INCLUSIONS

English-speaking local Cuban guide, transportation between destinations, 9 breakfasts, airport transfer on arrival

Plus:

Orientation walks at each destination, Havana city tour in classic car, visit to a Vinales tobacco farm, Che memorial & museum, informal salsa lesson in Trinidad or Vinales, 1 x drink at the Palacio de Valle in Cienfuegos, Havana Rum Museum, Cigar Factory, Callejon de Hammel, Old Havana Walking Tour

There are also a range of optional activities and excursions you can enjoy on all of our Cuba group tours

EXCLUSIONS

International flights, all lunches and dinners (unless specified), travel insurance, Cuba Visitor Visa & passport costs, drinks, Tips & Gifts, optional activities, – see our Cuba Travel Library or 'Ask Us' for more details.

ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR

Our Cuba group tours use only the best Casa Particulares – Cuban B&B's. These Cuban Bed and Breakfast establishments offer a taste of authentic life on the island. You will be staying as a guest of a family in private accommodation. You'll have privacy while still being able to interact with the locals as much as you want. It's a stark difference to most types of accommodation, and you will truly be made to feel welcome – you might forget that you're a paying guest and not a long lost family friend!

A number of accommodation options are in older buildings without an elevator. If you have issues with mobility and will be unable to comfortably climb several flights of stairs, please let us know. We can happily find you a wonderful alternative to suit your needs. We've got you covered if you want to spend a few extra days in Havana before or after your Cuba group tour. Just use our easy online form when you make your booking.



One of our favourite Casa's in Havana, Casa Alta-Habana is located right in the heart of Havana Vieja just next to the beautiful Plaza Vieja.



Booking conditions apply. FREE BROCHURES.
All tours are subject to confirmation from the airlines, hotels and tour operators.



CUBA

Escorted Tour

15 days Tour **From** **\$4499**



Departing from Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane.

The Deal: CUBA ESCORTED TOUR **15 days from \$4499**

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 2017

Departure Dates: every Monday from 01 January to 31 December 2017.

And again from 01 Jan to 31 March 2018.

Tour: \$4499 – 15 DAY – BEST OF CUBA ESCORTED TOUR

Phone: Destination International on 1300 813391 – www.ditravel.com.au.

- Explore:Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Camaguey, Santiago de Cuba, Baracoa
 - ***Your Package Includes***
 - Return economy airfares from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Havana with Air Canada. Other flights available via the USA and Mexico at a higher price.
 - 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 Vieja
- 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

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.

Add on a 4 day Mexico City Tour for \$699 per person – See below

- 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

IS THIS 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.

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!

WHAT IS A CASA PARTICULAR?

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.

ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES

Below are the [estimated travel times](#) between destinations on this 15 Day Cuba Group Tour. For the longer journey's 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, [optional activities](#). For our 15 Day Cuba Group tour we estimate that you will need between USD\$600 – USD\$850 for expenses (not including the [on location payment](#)).

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!

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

We include an [airport transfer on arrival](#) for all of our Cuba group tours. On departure, your [local Cuban guide](#) will help organise your transfer at market rates (no commission).

TOUR VIDEO

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 cobble stoned 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 traveler 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 possibly 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, that 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.

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

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 \$699 per person

Itinerary

Expand All

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 Intrepid Urban Adventures guide will pick you up from your hotel at 08.45 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 - Urban Adventures

Meals Included

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 - Urban Adventures
- Family dinner - Urban Adventures

Meals Included

- 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.



Exciting

Cuba

First Class Escorted Tour

15 days from \$6999.



per person twin share from all Australian Capital Cities. Colonial architecture. Cigars. Vintage cars. Sugar plantations. Salsa dancing. Idyllic powder-white beaches. Whatever springs to mind when you think of Cuba, this beautiful Caribbean country still remains something of an enigma to those who have yet to discover its magic first-hand.

\$6999 per person twin share. \$9999 single room

Dispel the mystery surrounding Cuba and immerse yourself in its history, culture and vivacious spirit on an unforgettable 15-day small-group tour, which will have a maximum capacity of just eight people. Includes nightly accommodation in four and five-star hotels, daily breakfasts and select additional meals, airport transfers, private transport between destinations and more for just \$9999 per person (twin share), valued up to \$10,999.

What We Like

Cuba is primarily renowned for its iconic streets lined with colourful colonial buildings and retro cars, so the beauty of its Caribbean scenery – with lush vegetation, postcard-perfect white sand beaches and crystal-clear aquamarine waters – may take some by pleasant surprise.

Music and dance are a huge part of Cuban culture and you'll have plenty of opportunities to get your groove on with the locals. Rumba fans will delight in the action at Palenque de los Congos Reales, where rumba drums and fire-eaters make for an electrifying evening show.

Experience a bygone era and enjoy stepping back in time as you enter the town of Trinidad. Locked in the 1850s, you'll never grow tired of wandering through this perfectly preserved town.

2017 Tour departure dates:

25 June 2017, 24 July 2017, 28 Aug 2017, 02 Oct 2017, 09 Oct 2017,
23 Oct 2017, 13 Nov 2017, 26 Nov 2017.



15 DAY CUBA TOUR ITINERARY.

DAY 1

Arrive at your leisure on Day 1 as no activities are planned, although you are invited to meet with your guide and accompany them for an evening meal (at your own expense).

Overnight: Havana.

DAY 2

Meet your local guide at 9am for a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Havana, and discover the Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana (Havana Cathedral), the Palacio de los Marqueses (now a restaurant), the 16th century Plaza de Armas square, the Malecón, Revolution Square, Central Park, the Opera House, the National Capitol Building, the art-deco Bacardi Building, the Museum of Revolution (housed in the former Presidential Palace), museums, parks and more. Should you wish, you can also visit Saint Francis of Assisi Square, Arms Square, the Old Square and Cathedral Square. Cuba is world-renowned for its iconic classic cars, and a chauffeured cruise around Havana's most famous spots is an experience you won't forget in a hurry. After your tour, stop at Hotel Nacional in Havana Vedado for a sunset drink overlooking the Malecón. In the evening, your guide can take you for a cocktail at the La Terraza bar and for dinner at a favourite local Paladar (family-run restaurant), Café Laurent in Havana Vedado (not included). To finish the evening, you might choose to visit Havana's most famous jazz club: The Vixen and the Crow.

Overnight: Havana

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch at a fantastic Cuban Paladar, and one complimentary drink at Hotel Nacional

Also included: Old Havana walking tour, tour of Havana by classic car

DAY 3

Today, discover two more Cuban icons: cigars and rum. Visit Havana-Club Rum Museum, where you'll learn all about how this famous export is produced and have the chance to taste and purchase should you wish. Follow in the footsteps of writer Ernest Hemingway as you visit his home and past haunts, including his

favourite bar, el Floridita, where you can taste an authentic Cuban daquiri. Visit Partagas Cigar Factory, where you can find out why Cuban cigars are so sought-after. Finally, stop at Callejón de Hamel, a street in Centro Habana daubed with colourful murals and sculptures. In the evening, you may choose to join an optional Tropicana Cabaret open-air performance (for an additional fee), set over lush tropical gardens in Havana's Marianao neighbourhood.

Overnight: Havana

Meals included: Breakfast and a complimentary Cuban Daquiri at El Floridita Bar, one of Hemingway's favourite haunts

Also included: Visit to Havana Rum Museum, Partagas Cigar Factory and Callejón de Hamel

DAY 4

Today, explore Havana at your leisure, or with your guide should you wish.

Overnight Havana

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 5

En route to Las Terrazas, visit the fishing village of Jaimanitas, the home of Cuban artist Jose Fuster. Fuster adorned his home and more than 80 buildings in the surrounding neighbourhood with ornate mosaic murals and domes, and added a chess park with giant boards, a theatre and swimming pools. Next, visit the Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a place of exceptional beauty with its pretty whitewashed village, lake, mountain stream and old coffee-estate ruins. Walk around the town and discover the art, woodwork and pottery studios that are open to the public. Pass lush landscapes and colourful houses en route to the stunning village of Soroa with its botanical garden filled with thousands of orchids.

Overnight: Castillo de Las Nubes in Soroa

Meals included: Breakfast

Also included: Visit to Soroa waterfall and orchid garden, the Las Terrazas township and Los Jazmines lookout point

DAY 6

Day 6 is dedicated to one of the most breathtaking locations in Cuba, Vinales, set in the lush valley of Pinar del Rio province. Enjoy a walking tour of the township and farmlands and lose yourself in the local music and dance scene before stopping for lunch at an authentic Cuban Paladar (not included). Visit a tobacco plantation and see a fully-operating secadero (drying house). Finally, visit the caves of Cuevas del Indio, where you can enjoy an unforgettable underground boat tour or horse ride. Viñales is a small town and municipality in the north-central Pinar del Río Province of Cuba. The town consists mostly of one-story wooden houses with porches.

Overnight Vinales

Meals included: Breakfast

Also included: Tour of Vinales township, guided farmland walk, visit to Mural de la Prehistoria, boat ride through underground caves, visit to tobacco farm and drying house and visit to Los Jazmines lookout point

DAY 7

Enjoy a day trip to Cayo Jutias, where you can make the most of a serene and unspoilt 3km white-sand beach in Pinar del Rio on the northern coast, and hike through the mangroves should you wish. This beautiful destination is so remote that the only facilities are a thatched ocean-side restaurant serving local seafood

and a dive centre supplying kayaks and snorkelling trips.

Overnight: Vinales

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 8

Today you'll meet your guide early to depart for the Bay of Pigs, famous as the site of the USA's military invasion. The natural beauty of this area is simply stunning, with coral, cave systems, reef fish, barrcudas and The Jaruco shipwreck making it a paradise for snorkelers and divers. Take a swim in the ocean or through the flooded caves. After lunch at local Paladar (not included) you'll embark on a short drive (1.5 hours) to Cienfuegos. Marvel at the French-influenced architecture of this waterside city known as 'Perla del Sur' (the pearl of the south), and the ornate Moroccan-inspired Palacio de Valle. Cienfuegos, capital of Cienfuegos Province, is a city on the southern coast of Cuba. It is located about 250 km from Havana and has a population of 150,000. The city is dubbed La Perla del Sur.

Overnight Cienfuegos

Meals included: Breakfast and one complimentary drink at Palacio de Valle

Also includes: Visit to the Bay of Pigs where you can snorkel or dive and visit the local museum, and walking tour of Cienfuegos

DAY 9

Enjoy a day trip to the beautiful El Nicho waterfalls. Wildlife lovers can spot birds in the protected sanctuary and thrill-seekers can hike through the caves and bathe in the waterfalls.

Overnight Cienfuegos

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

DAY 10

En route to Trinidad, you'll make a stop in Santa Clara, the scene of the last battle of the Cuban Revolution in 1958. Marvel at the myriad of architectural styles and visit a cigar factory and the trendy La Casa de la Ciudad, where the town's up-and-coming artists can be found. You'll also have the opportunity to visit the Che Guevara mausoleum and memorial, which houses the remains of revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, and learn about his role in the demise of the dictator Batista and the rise of Fidel Castro. Upon arrival in Trinidad, you'll have an introductory walk around the city with your guide, who can suggest the best optional activities appropriate to the time of year. Take part in an optional salsa lesson and soak up the atmosphere of live music under the stars on the steps of the Casa de la Musica beside the Cathedral in Plaza Mayor.

Overnight Trinidad

Meals included: Breakfast

Also included: Visit to the Che Guevara memorial in Santa Clara, walking tour of Trinidad and an evening of Cuban dance and music at Casa la Musica

DAY 11

Today you will explore Trinidad and the surrounding region. Visit the Valle de los Ingenios – or 'Valley of the Sugar Mills' – which is dotted with the ruins of dozens of 19th century sugar mills, slave quarters and manor houses, including the notorious Manaca Iznaga estate. From 1795, this sugar mill was owned by the wealthy Pedro Iznaga, who made his fortune by trafficking slaves. Trinidad is a town in the province of Sancti Spíritus, central Cuba. Together with the nearby

Valle de los Ingenios, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1988

Overnight Trinidad

Meals included: Breakfast

Also included: Visit to Valley of the Sugar Mills and Playa Ancon

DAY 12

Today you'll depart for a heavenly three-day visit to Varadero, which boasts spectacular white-sand Caribbean beaches lined with lush tropical vegetation and sparkling turquoise waters. Finish your trip in absolute luxury with an all-inclusive stay at the Royalton in Varadero.

Overnight in Varadero (all-inclusive)

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Varadero, covering Cuba's narrow Hicacos Peninsula, is a popular beach resort town. Along its 20km of Atlantic Ocean coastline is a string of all-inclusive hotel and spa complexes, and a golf course. Near the peninsula's eastern tip is Reserva Ecológica Varahicacos, a preserve with trails and an ancient burial cave. Parque Josone is a park with a pond and gardens.

DAY 13

Overnight in Varadero (all-inclusive)

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 14

Overnight: Varadero (all-inclusive)

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 15

As your Cuban adventure draws to a close, you will be transferred back to the airport in Havana ready to catch your chosen flight.

Meals included: Breakfast

[15-Day Small-Group Cuba Tour](#)

Colonial architecture. Cigars. Vintage cars. Sugar plantations. Salsa dancing. Idyllic powder-white beaches. Whatever springs to mind when you think of **Cuba**, this beautiful Caribbean country still remains something of an enigma to those who have yet to discover its magic first-hand. Dispel the mystery surrounding Cuba and immerse yourself in its **history, culture** and **vivacious spirit** on an unforgettable **15-day small-group tour**, which will have a maximum capacity of **just eight people**. Includes **nightly accommodation** in four and **five-star hotels, daily breakfasts** and select **additional meals, airport transfers, private transport** between destinations and more for just **\$6,999 per person (twin share), valued up to \$8,999**.

Bonus: enjoy a **luxurious wind-down** at the end of your trip at the **all-inclusive five-star** Royalton Hicacos Varadero Resort & Spa with unlimited food and drinks (including alcohol).

Itinerary Highlights

Day one provides your first glimpse of colourful **Havana** with its famous **colonial buildings** and **vintage cars**; the perfect starting point for your Cuban adventure.

The next day is an opportunity to discover Cuba's fascinating capital in greater depth. Enjoy a **walking tour** of UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Old Havana**,

incorporating famous landmarks such as the Baroque-style **Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana** (Havana Cathedral), the 16th-century **Plaza de Armas** square, museums, parks and more.

Cuba is world-renowned for its iconic **classic cars**, and a **chauffeured drive** around Havana's most famous spots is an experience you won't forget in a hurry. In the evening, you might choose to visit **Havana's most famous jazz club**: The Vixen and the Crow.

Discover two more Cuban icons: **cigars** and **rum**. Visit the **Havana-Club Rum Museum**, where you'll learn all about how this famous export is produced and have the chance to taste and purchase should you wish, and **Partagas Cigar Factory**.

Follow in the footsteps of **Ernest Hemingway** as you visit his home and past haunts, before visiting **Callejón de Hamel**, a street in Centro Habana daubed with **vibrant murals** and sculptures.

Visit the **Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, a place of exceptional beauty with its pretty **whitewashed village, lake, mountain stream** and **old coffee-estate ruins**. Pass lush landscapes and quaint houses en route to the stunning village of **Soroa** with its **botanical garden** filled with orchids.

See some of Cuba's most breathtaking scenery in the tobacco-growing region of **Vinales** and visit the **caves of Cuevas del Indio**, where you can enjoy an unforgettable **underground boat tour** or **horse ride**.

Paradise awaits at **Cayo Jutias**, where you can bury your toes into the powdery white sands of one of the province's most picturesque and tranquil **beaches**.

Visit the **Bay of Pigs** – famous as the site of the USA's military invasion – and spot **coral, reef fish, barracudas** and more as you snorkel in this beautiful area's **aquamarine waters** and explore **cave systems**.

Marvel at the **French-influenced architecture** of the waterside city of **Cienfuegos**, known as 'Perla del Sur' (the pearl of the south), and the ornate Moroccan-inspired **Palacio de Valle**.

Step back in time to one of Cuba's most celebrated destinations, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of **Trinidad**, which is regarded as an 'outdoor museum' with its **colonial buildings** and **cobbled streets**. Enjoy a **tour of the city** and a **salsa lesson** should you wish, followed by **live music** under the stars.

Explore the surrounding regions of Trinidad, dotted with **old sugar mills**, slave quarters and manor houses.

Soak up the scenery at what is arguably one of the **Caribbean's best beaches** in the resort town of **Varadero**, whilst staying in **five-star luxury** at the Royalton Hicacos Varadero Resort & Spa.

Your Package Includes

Return economy airfares from All Australian Capital Cities to Havana, 14 nights accommodation in four star hotels on Cub Tour, including three nights in the **all-inclusive, five-star** Royalton Hicacos Varadero Resort & Spa in Varadero, which includes **unlimited food and drinks, including alcohol**.

Daily breakfasts and other **select meals and drinks** as noted in the itinerary.

Convenient return transfers from Havana International Airport.

Guided walking tours in every city by an English-speaking local guide.
A tour of Havana by **classic car**.

Important Information

CUBA INFORMATION

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): 4 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 a mixture of private transportation, local Viazul bus and taxi.

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 between USD\$400 – USD\$550 for expenses (not including the on location payment).



OUR TOP 10 CUBA TRAVEL TIPS FOR A GREAT TOUR EXPERIENCE IN

CUBA!

1 – MONEY, MONEY MONEY

Familiarise yourself with the dual Cuban currency system early on. Make sure you have access to enough cash for the duration of your trip (Euro, GBP or CAD is best) or a credit or debit card that is likely to work – review our [‘Important Info’](#) section for more details.

2 – PAPERWORK

Travel insurance and a Cuban tourist visa are a prerequisite – it is a requirement of the Cuban government and of Locally Tours.

3 – LANGUAGE

Make an effort to learn a little Spanish before you go. Cubans will appreciate you trying to speak Spanish and will be more welcoming as a result (especially if it is done with a smile).

4 – ADAPTERS

Remember your adapter(s), it could be difficult to buy or borrow one in Cuba.

5 – CONNECTIVITY

Don't choose Cuba as a destination if you plan to be online or on the phone the whole time... choose it if you plan not to be.

6 – EMPATHY

Have some empathy with the demands that come with experiencing a country that has a very different way of life. A good sense of humour, plenty of patience and a willingness to learn are all very important qualities.

7 – ADAPT

Never look to impose your own culture, traditions or beliefs on others and instead look to appreciate and understand those of the locals.

8 – JUDGEMENT

Use good judgement and avoid doing anything that does not feel safely controlled.

9 – PREPARE

Pack well. Study the Locally trip notes before your tour and pack all those essential items to ensure a comfortable journey.

10 – HAVE FUN

Bring an open-mind and be ready to have fun... we cannot stress this enough!

If you have any more Cuba Travel Tips, let us know and we will be more than happy to post them on

Alternative styles of accommodation if you are interested in meeting the locals – please let us know if you would like to try this style of hotel.

Accommodation

Our Cuba group tours use only the best Casa Particulares – Cuban B&B's. These Cuban Bed and Breakfast establishments offer a taste of authentic life on the island. You will be staying as a guest of a family in private accommodation. You'll have privacy while still being able to interact with the locals as much as you want. It's a stark difference to most types of accommodation, and you will truly be made to feel welcome – you might forget that you're a paying guest and not a long lost family friend!

A number of accommodation options are in older buildings without an elevator. If you have issues with mobility and will be unable to comfortably climb several flights of stairs, please let us know.

WHAT IS A CASA PARTICULAR?

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.

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!

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.

All of our Locally Cuba Tours include transportation – whether it be the group or private tours we run in Cuba. We also include the transportation to any of the activities or excursions we includes as part of our Cuba tours as well.

The transportation we use on our Cuba Tours depends on a number of factors including a) Type of tour b) number of people on tour c) distance travelled and d) road and weather conditions.

For our private Cuba tours we most often use private cars or minivans while on our group tours we use the very comfortable Viazul bus service, taxis, private buses and

bicycle taxis. Where possible, we also encourage our tour participants to walk around the cities and towns they visit.

For our tours that go as far as Sanitago de Cuba or Baracoa, we generally also use the domestic flight service operated by either [Aerogaviota](#) or [Aerocaribbean](#).

UNDERSTANDING THE CUBA TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Because of Cuba's economic and political background, the transportation system works slightly differently to other places around the world.

Local Transportation laws permit Cuban tourists to travel on government-subsidised transportation which might include buses, trucks and horse-drawn carriages.

The government has however set-up a separate bus service that tourists can use called Viazul. These buses are relatively modern and air-conditioned. They are comfortable to travel on and often stop a number of times between destinations for food and refreshments.

The Viazul bus service is used by Locally Cuba Tours on our [small group Cuba tours](#) on many occasions.

You can view the [Viazul Bus Schedule](#) here.



PRIVATE CUBA TOUR TRANSPORTATION

For both our small group tours and private tours, we use 'private' transportation between destinations. This might consist of an air-conditioned private car or mini-bus to transport our tour participants between destinations. This type of transportation allows us to make many unscheduled stops at various points of interest on your journey. We are also able to be more flexible with our arrival and departure times.

We leave it with our Local Cuba guides to determine the best mode of transport for each tour they run (unless already finalised as part of a [Private Cuba Tour](#) booking). There might be occasions where taking an authentic bicycle taxi or Classic American Car is the best way to explore the city. Or the Viazul bus service might be the best option due to road and weather conditions.

Of most importance to us is your comfort and well being, so you can rest-assured we have your best interests at heart.



DOMESTIC FLIGHTS IN CUBA

On our [15 Day Cuba Group Tour](#) and some of our [Private Cuba Tours](#), we travel east to destinations such as Baracoa and Santiago de Cuba. Because of the significant drive times involved in getting to these places, we almost always use a domestic flights to get our tour participants back to Havana.

The airline used for these domestic flights is either Aerogaviota or Aerocaribbean. Flight times are generally around the 1.5 hour mark and both airlines have a historically good safety record.

AIRPORT ARRIVAL TRANSFER

For almost all of the Cuba tours we run, we include an airport transfer on arrival – for your peace of mind and comfort.

A Locally Cuba Tours representative will be waiting outside of the Terminal doors, with a sign with your name on it.

It is however very easy to catch your own taxi from the airport. It should cost you 25CUC (remember 1USD = 1CUC) and take around 30-40 minutes dependent on traffic.

Locally Cuba Tours can arrange airport transfers from Varadero to Havana as well if requested.

Cuba is a very safe place in many ways but as safe as this island is, there are still occasional incidents of crime (although violent crime is almost non-existent). Cuba safety is our number one priority at Locally Tours.

In Cuba hustlers are called Jineteros/ Jineteras

Although Cuba does not have a concept of crime as it exists in other countries, it is still important for a traveler to use good judgement. There is generally a high concentration of police in most cities and no known terrorist threat.

Here are some helpful safety tips when traveling through Cuba:

Do not flaunt your wealth. Cubans are very poor compared to most tourists so it is advised to show respect in this regard

Look after your belongings in crowded areas to avoid becoming the victim of a bag snatcher or pick pocketer

At night, travel in taxis in groups of 2 or more

If you are doing anything adventurous, you might not know the level of inspection, safety laws and training involved. Use good judgement and avoid doing anything that does not feel safely controlled.

Read the Jineteros & Scams section [here](#)

Locally Cuba Tours prides itself on the extensive network of ground operations, tour leaders and local contacts in Cuba which keep us informed and up-to-date on Cuba safety and on all local situations in which we operate. Our passengers' safety in Cuba is of the utmost priority and we rely on these networks to allow us to make the operational decisions necessary to keep our trips running safely. We often know of situations on the ground before the media and we are in constant contact with our local offices, tour leaders, local operators, and colleagues in order to closely monitor and inform you of the most current information affecting any regions where we operate.

From a medical perspective, Cuba is very safe providing you are careful with what you eat and drink

Please also read our Safety Guidelines for further information on the operational safety standards you can expect on every Locally Tours trip.

As whole, the island is considered to be free of most dangerous fauna

For further reference, we also recommend that you check your government's travel advisory website(s)

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade – www.smarttraveller.gov.au

Canadian Foreign Affairs & International Trade – www.voyage.gc.ca

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs – www.mfat.govt.nz/travel

UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office – www.fco.gov.uk

USA Department of State – www.travel.state.gov

World Health Organisation – www.who.int/en

WOMAN TRAVELLERS

In terms of personal safety and well being, Cuba is a very good destination for woman travellers. In most instances, streets can be walked alone at night and violent crime is almost non-existent. Cuban males have a machismo side to their culture, so can be very chivalrous and protective of females. This however can work both ways and Cubans have also been known to pursue relentlessly. In some cases Cuban males might make incessant whistling and kissing sounds which can make foreigners understandably uncomfortable. The first step to overcoming this annoyance is by simply ignoring these advances. In some cases it might be necessary to be a little more forceful and some simple, clear Spanish phrases should do the trick. As with all travel destinations, it is good to be very clear with local men what you are and are not interested in.

Some phrases you might use are:

“No moleste” (don’t annoy me)

“Esta Bueno ya” (that’s enough)

“Que falta respeto” (you are being disrespectful)

Spending Money on Tour

Many people traveling to Cuba believe that it will be as affordable as other developing countries they have been to. Unfortunately this isn’t really the case, with prices for food, drinks and services being comparable to the more ‘Western’ countries.

Given Cuba’s unique political and economic ideals, the government places heavy taxes on anything considered ‘not-essential’ or anything related to travel and tourism. Having introduced a tourist currency – CUC’s – the government is able to control the prices charged for tourism related services meaning Cuba is a lot more expensive to travel through than one may first think.

The amount you will spend per day differs from person to person and from tour to tour. You might really enjoy a night out, want to stock up on Cuban rum and cigars or simply do as many optional activities as you can on your Cuba tour. Locally Cuba Tours recommends you budget anywhere from 30-50CUC per day, during your time in Cuba (not including the on location payment)

Remember, if you plan to exchange currency you should bring Pounds, Euros or Canadian Dollars.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE EXPENSES YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN CUBA:

- Taxi from Havana Airport to your hotel or Casa: 25CUC (unless you have an airport transfer booked)
- On Location Payment
- Drinks
- Souvenirs (rum, cigars, clothing)
- Food (this could be anywhere from 10CUC – 50CUC per day dependent on your budget)
- Tipping
- Optional activities and excursions
- Airport departure tax (25CUC)

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Local English-speaking guide
- Transportation between destinations
- Breakfasts
- A selection of the 'best of' activities and excursions
- Airport Transfers

To enter Cuba, the Cuban government (and Locally Tours) requires you to have Cuba travel insurance which you may be required to present at immigration when entering the country.



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.

www.ditravel.com.au

Our exclusive focus is on supported travel arrangements which provide our customers with a breadth and depth of service complimented by local expertise that is simply unparalleled.



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 of 50% per person of the total price is required to confirm your booking. Receipt of deposit will be taken as an understanding by Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 65 days before travel.

PRICES

All prices for our tours are advised in Australian Dollars (\$AUD). They are based on

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.

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 & Rail & Cruise Tours.

CLAIMS

If you encounter any problems on your holiday, you should 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours arrangements.

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 & Rail & Cruise Tours. We will not be held liable for any loss or expense due to the failure to comply with the above. We

airfares, schedules and tariffs at the time of printing. Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours no surcharges in respect to currency fluctuations will be applied. Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours cannot be held responsible for any service that we are unable to provide due to that particular component being unavailable.

ITINERARY CHANGES

Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels, lodges, inns and camps with properties of similar standard.

AMENDMENT FEES

Should you need to alter your original reservations, there will be an automatic fee charged of \$50 per amendment or transaction. Additionally there may be cancellation fees levied by the tour operator or fees may be applicable where arrangements have been pre-purchased.

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
% of Fare	Loss of Deposit (50%)	75%	85%	100%

The above are Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours to make

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. You must review this information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours does not itself provide carriage services, accommodation, transport or tours. Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours shall not be liable for any acts, omissions or defaults whether negligent or otherwise, of any Service Providers. Destination International & Rail & Cruise Tours 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 & Rail & Cruise Tours control, including acts of nature, war, civil disturbances, strikes, floods, acts of government or owns, accidents, disease, quarantine, terrorism, medical or customs regulations, and alterations, cancellations or delays concerning itineraries, timetables or accommodation.

CONTRACT

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

any undertakings to our clients in respect of refunds or other matters.

Our exclusive focus is on supported travel arrangements which provide our customers with a breadth and depth of service complimented by local expertise that is simply unparalleled

How to book:

Our office is located in Kew in Melbourne.

You can call our office on 1300 813391.

You can email us on mark@ditravel.com.au

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

Payment can be made by:

Credit card – there is 2% bank fee charged for all major credit cards that will be added to your tour cost at time of payment. We only accept visa and MasterCard.

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.

Booking conditions apply. FREE BROCHURES.

All tours are subject to confirmation from the airlines, hotels and tour operators.

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Deposit \$3500 per person. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

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Credit card – there is 2% bank fee charged for all major credit cards that will be added to your tour cost at time of payment. We only accept visa or mastercard.

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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.

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Interviews by appointment only:

Level 1, 12 Hoddle St, Abbotsford, VIC, 3067

Phone 1300 813391

Office hours – Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

Postal Address:

6/10 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford, VIC, 3067

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DESTINATION INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS BOOKING CONDITIONS

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DEPOSIT

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FINAL PAYMENT

Payment in full must be made no less than 90 days before travel.

PRICES

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International Holidays reserves the right to substitute hotels, lodges, inns and camps with properties of similar standard.

AMENDMENT FEES

Should you need to alter your original reservations, there will be an automatic fee charged of \$100 per amendment or transaction. Additionally there may be cancellation fees levied by the tour operator or fees may be applicable where arrangements have been pre-purchased.

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	Loss of Deposit and 50% loss of fare	75%	85%	100%

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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.

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