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# **CUBA**

## **Escorted Tour**

### **15 days tour from \$3999**

Per person twin share, including flights from Australia



**Call Destination International Holidays on 1300 813 391**  
**or email [leanne@ditravel.com.au](mailto:leanne@ditravel.com.au)**  
**[www.ditravel.com.au](http://www.ditravel.com.au)**

On our Cuba small group tour, you will not only experience the very best in Cuban history, culture, sites & landscapes, but you will meet & interact with a cross-section of locals, each with their own story to tell & experiences to share.

**Departs Mondays in 2021:**

01 May to 31 May

01 November to 30 November

**Price:**

From \$3999 per person twin share

Single supplement from \$500

**Your Package Includes:**

- Return economy airfares from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane to Havana, Cuba (contact us for other Australian cities)
- 14 nights Casa B & Bs in Cuba.
- Private transportation, local Viazul bus & taxi
- Internal flight (Baracoa to Havana)
- Breakfast Daily
- English Speaking Tours Guides

**Excludes:**

- Single supplement
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (required)
- Meals & sightseeing not specified in the itinerary
- Optional tours
- Departure transfer on final day
- Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, WiFi, laundry etc
- Any items or services not listed in the above inclusions or in the itinerary

*Subject to confirmation by the airlines, hotels & local operators.  
Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.*

Deposit of \$2500 per person required at time of booking.  
Balance due 90 days prior to departure.

**Call Destination International on 1300 813 391  
for enquiries & reservations.**

### **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

### **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

***Add on a 4 day Mexico City Tour for \$999 per person – See below***

### **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.

## 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.

## 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

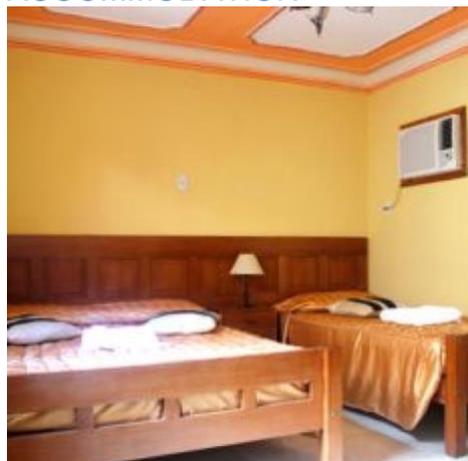
Santiago de Cuba to Baracoa: 5-6 hours

## 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).

### 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).



### 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 Cubas 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.

***Add on a 4 day Mexico City Tour for \$999 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 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: Depart 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.

**Please note: The day by day descriptions published are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and a multitude of other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that ultimately are for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible and open minded in this regard.**

**Not ready to go home yet?**

**We can help you extend your holiday with great travel deals.**

**Call Destination International on 1300 813 391  
for enquiries & reservations.**



ATAS Accreditation Number: A10718

ATAS vets travel agents against strict criteria to ensure they meet certain standards, are reliable and professional businesses. ATAS agents need to meet high levels 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 stringent requirements in order to become nationally accredited. Our accreditation means we are the best in the industry, credible and a professional business that takes pride in its staff being expertly trained. 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 operators that currently do not sell their holidays in Australia and we have approached these reputable businesses to represent them 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.



### **DESTINATION 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 120 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 travel insurance claims and provide a statement for your insurance company.
- \$50 per person travel document printing fee

#### **CANCELLATIONS**

This office will charge a 15% cancellation fee on all refundable portions of a cancelled tour. All tour cancellations must be received in writing.

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 try and solve it directly with the supplier

whilst overseas. If it is not possible to do so, please submit your claim 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.



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