



Program Agenda - 9 days / 8 nights

DAY ONE - Arrive in Havana

- Arrival in Cuba + lunch provided
- Walking tour of Havana's four historic plazas: San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de Armas, and Plaza de la Catedral
- Guided tour of Havana Club Rum Museum; taste some of Cuba's finest rum!
- Transfer to Casa for check in
- Special welcome dinner at El Aljibe, Cuba's most famous chicken restaurant
- Day Complete

DAY TWO - Havana

- Breakfast in casa
- Very special visit to interact with elementary school children and teachers. Learn how Cuban children move through the education process. Discuss with teachers the positive points of American primary education versus the Cuban process. We ask that everyone bring at least one lined notebook with pencils for the kids!
- Transfer to Finca Vigía (home of Ernest Hemingway), a fascinating museum in honor of the great American writer
- Lunch provided at *paladar 1830*
- Meet Malberti, a well known Cuban painter. Spend an hour at his studio to view his famous Cuban art.
- Return to casa. Dinner individually. Day complete.

DAY THREE- Havana

- Breakfast in casa
 - Meet with University of Havana Professor, Lionel Gonzales. Learn about the social, political and economic history of Cuba and its current status. One hour lecture followed by Q&A period. Great information.
 - Board van and head to Callejon de Hamel to learn about Cuba's exotic religion of Santeria. Hear from a Santeria priest and witness authentic Santeria dancers.
 - Noon buffet - lunch provided
 - Let's Dance! Transfer to Casa Son and receive an hour of individual salsa instruction and an informative history of this very special Cuban music. Become a salsa expert in no time!
 - Dinner provided
 - As a special event, visit La Cabana, the largest Spanish fort in the new world. View a very special historical event known as the "Canon Ceremony" and you won't want to miss it.
 - Return to casa. Day complete.
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DAY FOUR- Havana

- Breakfast in casa
- As a special bonus, Professor Gonzales will return and share how the American Mafia affected Cuban culture. The Professor is Havana's foremost authority on the subject and has devoted most of his life to this research. This will include a one-hour tour of Mafia "hot spots" in Havana culminating at the Nacional Hotel, Cuba's most famous landmark.
- Visit "Fusterlandia," home and neighborhood of Jose Fuster; known as the "Picasso of the Caribbean" for his amazing and world famous ceramic artistry. You will notice the striking similarities to the famous Spanish artist Gaudi. You have never seen anything like this before!
- Lunch provided at neighborhood paladar El Rejoneo
- After lunch, visit historic Revolution Square and the Revolution Museum; learn about the Cuban government's military museum of past wars and conflicts.
- ****Special Treat**** one hour city tour in an "antique car".

- Your antique car will drop you off at the San Jose Market. This is Cuba's largest indoor "flea market," where you can purchase Cuban handmade arts, clothing and paintings.
 - Return to casa. Dinner provided. Day complete.
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DAY FIVE- Day Trip to Vinales

- Breakfast in casa
 - Board van to enjoy full-day excursion to the beautiful mountainous province of Pinar del Rio, approximately 180 kms. This Westernmost region is known for its amazing valleys, landscapes and mountains.
 - Visit one of the famous Cuban tobacco farms (Finca de Tobacco). Learn how this mainstay crop of Cuba is planted, harvested and prepared for shipping to tobacco factories for final product. A special tour by 4th generation owner, Montesino, is the highlight.
 - After lunch, visit an authentic tobacco factory in Pinar del Rio. See how the tobacco leaves are transformed into the final product, Cohiba cigars.
 - Return to Havana casas. Dinner provided. Day complete.
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DAY SIX - Havana - Varadero - Cienfuegos

- Breakfast in casa
- Check out of your casa and bid your host family farewell
- Board van and head to Varadero, known at the "French Riviera of Cuba". Board your full-size catamaran for a six hour excursion to Cayo Blanco, an incredibly beautiful island just one hour from the Varadero bay. Enjoy snorkeling along the way. Lunch provided on the island.
- Continue on to the French-founded city of Cienfuegos, a waterfront city on Cuba's South Coast known as the "Pearl of Cuba"
- Check into your new casas; meet your new hosts
- Dinner provided. Day complete.

DAY SEVEN - Day Trip to Trinidad

- Breakfast in casa
 - Tour of the UNESCO city of Trinidad
 - Visit one of Cuba's oldest churches where you will find the only seated Jesus Christ in the Southern Hemisphere
 - Tour the Museum of Architecture. Learn about Trinidad's history of building
 - Local lunch and the breathtaking destination of Topes de Collantes; enjoy swimming in El Cubano waterfall pools
 - Return to Cienfuegos
 - Dinner individually. Day complete.
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DAY EIGHT - Cienfuegos

- Breakfast in casa
 - Walking tour of Cienfuegos. Your local guide will share with you this UNESCO city's history and main points of interest.
 - Visit Cuba Cementerio Tomas Acea. Learn about special burial rituals and customs.
 - Lunch provided
 - Visit the Palacio del Valle, the most famous building in Cienfuegos. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the ocean and city from the top terrazza.
 - Use the remainder of the day to explore this very special seaside city
 - Special farewell dinner provided at paladar El Prado
 - Day complete.
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DAY NINE- Cienfuegos to Havana

- Breakfast in casa
- Say goodbye to hosts and transfer back to Havana for flight home. Sandwiches provided at airport.