

Cuba Highlights

SOLD OUT

February 1st-8th 2025

\$1675 per person due now as final payments have already been made

Book the trip [here](#)

Included: Walking tour of Old Havana, Cayo Blanco day trip on catamaran, Cooking Class, Che Guevara Museum and 7 breakfasts

This trip takes you from the bustling and vibrant Havana, to the historic Santa Clara, and gives you the chance to experience the more traditional and rural sides of Cuba, with stays in Trinidad, Cienfuegos and Vinales. These places in Cuba are common favorites for travelers who have come to Cuba seeking authentic cultural experiences. While Trinidad presents us with beautiful white sand beaches, colonial architecture, waterfalls, and a charming village atmosphere, Viñales offers stunning mountainous scenery, sprawling tobacco fields and friendly locals. A local Cuban tour guide accompanies the tour group throughout as well as your hosts Melissa and Wade. All accommodations will be in guesthouses, which are small private businesses in Cuba that are typically owned and run by local families. (Rooms are air-conditioned with an ensuite bathroom.)

Day 1 Havana

Welcome to Havana! This has to be one of the most exciting cities in the world. It's definitely intriguing and unique. If you arrive early today, you'll have time to do some exploring on your own before meeting the rest of the group tonight at the welcome meeting.

Day 2 & 3 Viñales

After breakfast enjoy a guided walking tour of the historic center of Havana. After that we take the 4 hour drive to Viñales. On the way we usually stop for lunch. Surrounded by picturesque limestone pincushion hills ("mogotes"), Viñales is a small and culturally rich village, with friendly and welcoming residents. Upon arrival in Viñales the time is yours with the expectation of an included cooking class.

Viñales is one of the more agriculturally productive areas, so an abundance of local seasonal fruit and vegetables is always on offer such as enormous avocados and mangoes, pineapples, papaya, guava, and several varieties of sweet potatoes. It is here that we will take a cooking class.

It's one of the cooler areas of Cuba, so it's also a nice escape from the hotter parts of the country. The nightlife is very active in this village with the local residents more than willing participants in dancing to the local live music.

Day 4 Cienfuegos

We head to the French founded city of Cienfuegos through the densely vegetated Peninsula de Zapata swamp-lands, and along the beautiful Bay of Pigs. This is where the landing of a counter-revolutionary exile militia occurred in 1961. There is a museum here that recounts the events of this conflict which resulted in the first defeat of a U.S backed take-over in Latin America. We will also make stops at a beautiful swimming hole (cenote) which resembles a huge natural tropical fish tank, and if the conditions are favorable, a stop at the beach for snorkeling. (Equipment available for a small fee)

Cienfuegos appeal lies partly in the European flavor of its colonial hub, with a wide Parisian-style boulevard and elegant colonnades, and there is an ambience to inspire Cuba's most celebrated Son singer to write the words "Cienfuegos is the city I like best".

Day 5 & 6 Trinidad

For many visitors to Cuba, Trinidad is their standout favorite destination. No other colonial city in Cuba is so well preserved, and the local residents are extremely friendly and festive. Trinidad is steeped in religiosity, none the least of which is Santeria, which is one of several Afro-Cuban religions.

The thing however that visitors most love about Trinidad is the nightlife. There are no less than 10 live music venues all within a short walking distance. Many of these have lovely outdoor settings, in courtyards, and within the walls of old colonial ruins.

Not far inland is the Valley of Sugar Mills. This area of rich fertile soil is where the Trinidad colonists got most of their ludicrous wealth from. A 10 minute drive in the opposite direction will get you to a beautiful calm Caribbean beach called Playa Ancón.

Included in our time in Trinidad is a catamaran day trip to Cayo Blanco.

Optional activities:

Steam Train ride through the Sugar Mill Valley \$20

Bus to the beach \$2 per person (taxi \$8) Payable on sight

Day 7 Havana with a stop in Santa Clara

On the way back to Havana we stop in the town of Santa Clara, a key city in the Cuban Revolution. Upon entering Santa Clara, there is a huge statue of Ernesto Ché Guevara, to commemorate his death and that of the revolutionaries who died along with him in Bolivia. TWe will visit the museum here dedicated to his amazing life.

It's the final night of the tour in Havana, and the guide will have some suggestions for a farewell dinner and fun night out.

Day 8 Havana

Say farewell to Havana or add an additional night and one of these activities. Today you are free to depart at any time.

Extra Night in Havana \$82

Optional Havana activities

Classic Car Tour

4:15pm to 6:15pm

\$75 a person

Get a panoramic tour of Havana in a nostalgic and stylish classic convertible car. Relive a 1950's fantasy accompanied by one of our local guides, as we pass through the famous Havana suburbs of Miramar, Vedado, and Central Habana. With the wind in your hair, you'll see 'embassy row', the mansion-lined 5th Avenue, Chinatown, and the seafront Malecon. We make a short stop at the spectacular Plaza de la Revolucion - the scene of many speeches by Fidel, and finish with a sunset cocktail in the garden of an iconic Havana location.

Old Havana Street Eats

1:00-3:30 PM

\$50 a person

Cuba might not be internationally known for its street food, but locals know that Havana streets are full of cheap, convenient, and tasty comfort food and if you want an authentic local experience, this is one you can't miss! Perhaps you've already heard about "peso" pizzas - the legendary 50 cent pizzas that many a budget traveler has lived off of while in Cuba- or maybe

you've seen pictures of freshly fried churros in your Instagram feed, on this tour you'll try those and more!

The tour starts in Havana's Parque Central. From there we'll walk down popular pedestrian street Calle Obispo to sample all the fried or sugary delights that the vendors have to offer. We may end up with a frozen treat sold by one of Havana's most colorful characters in Plaza Vieja, or perhaps a hot chocolate in the Museo del Chocolate Cafe. We never know what we'll find, the concept of "here one day, gone the next" is a familiar one in Cuba, it's part of what keeps things interesting!

This is a cultural tour and along the way you'll learn about Cuban tastes, history, and economy. Itinerary subject to change based on availability of suitable locations. Tour can accommodate vegetarian, but not vegan or gluten-free travelers. Please let us know about allergies or dietary restrictions when booking and we will do our best to accommodate.

Optional trip add ons

Extra night at start or end of trip in Havana \$82
Airport transfer 1-2 people only \$55 each way
Single room \$475

IMPORTANT

Please note our trips are for adults only. A current COVID booster is required. Travel insurance is required for all travelers. Check out [Insure My Trip](#).

Please don't put Cuba in the written field

VENMO My [Venmo](#) is @melissa-nance-19 and the last 4 digits of my phone number are 5411. .
Please don't put Cuba in the written field

INVOICE- To receive an invoice that allows you to use a credit card or do an ACH transfer please email me at pennypinchingglobetrotter@yahoo.com Please note there is a 3.75% fee for this service.

Our cancellation policy is as follows:

Should you cancel no more than 30 days after making your deposit you get a 100% refund minus a \$150 admin fee per booking

Should you cancel between 30 days of booking to 180 days before the trip you will get a 50% refund minus the \$150 admin fee per booking

Once we are within 180 days of the trip starting there are no refunds.

Note-should you find someone to fill your spot I can transfer your balance to them minus the \$150 fee per booking if it's 75 days before departure. Should you become sick or have other issues it's highly likely the required travel insurance would kick in and reimburse you so be sure and check with your provider.

Book the trip [here](#)