



Cuba: Island Nation Isolated by Politics – Vibrant Culture Brimming with Promise
Offered by the Hershey Derry Township Historical Society

November 30 – December 8, 2017

Land & Air from Miami \$4649 per person, dbl occ (Solo Supplement \$600.00)

Limited to 22 passengers! Deposit \$250.00

DAY 1, Thursday, Nov. 30 - Arrive in Miami – (optional group air from EWR/BWI/PHL to MIA arranged February, 2017.) Arrive in Miami and check-in to your hotel at Miami Airport. Meet your Tour Manager at tonight's welcome orientation. After a Welcome Drink with your fellow travelers, the remainder of the evening is at leisure. **Overnight:** Miami

DAY 2, Friday, Dec. 1 - Flight to Cienfuegos, Cuba

After breakfast, participate in a briefing by your Tour Manager about Cuba and the adventure that awaits you. Following the briefing, an interactive discussion on US-Cuba relations from a Cuban-American perspective will take place at the hotel. Enjoy lunch at leisure before departing to the airport for your included charter flight to Cienfuegos, on Cuba's southern coast, one of the chief seaports of the country. Upon arrival, you'll meet your Cuban guide. This lovely city, known as the "Pearl of the South" is adorned by architecture reflecting its French colonial roots. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for a reception and dinner.

Overnight: Cienfuegos **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3, Saturday, Dec. 2 - Excursion to Trinidad

Morning visit to the delightful Cienfuegos Province Botanical Gardens, the oldest of its kind on the island, welcoming you with a soothing setting of palms, orchids, bamboo plants and a myriad of other tropical plants. As you walk, you'll learn more about the garden's ties to Harvard University and its founding as a research center for sugar cane. Continue to Trinidad, Cuba's best-preserved colonial city, with its winding cobblestone streets and pastel-hued houses, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the walking tour, you will see the Old Cathedral and the Palacio Cantero, the city's history museum, housed in a restored neoclassical palace. Stop at a rationing store to see the process of buying local staples. After, visit a ceramic studio to observe a pottery demonstration and meet the owners who will tell you about their traditions, handed down from generation-to-generation.

Transfer back to Cienfuegos, where you begin a walking tour of the city's highlights. Meet some of the storekeepers in this area to hear about shopping opportunities in Cuba and understand the difference between CUC and CUP stores. Continue to Parque Marti, the serene central park flanked by the provincial government building, Palacio del Ayuntamiento and the Arco de Triunfo. Next, to the impressive Teatro Tomas Terry with its grand gold-leafed mosaics on the façade, embellished with Carrera marble and hand-carved Cuban hardwoods; in the past, this theatre has witnessed performances by Enrico Caruso and Anna Pavlova. After some free time on El Bulevar, Cienfuegos' quintessential shopping street, enjoy group dinner.

Overnight: Cienfuegos **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4, Sunday, Dec. 3 - Visit to Historic Santa Clara

This morning, depart on a scenic drive to the historic city of Santa Clara, in the geographic center of Cuba. The city's fiery personality has been shaped over time by the presence of the nation's most prestigious university outside Havana, and a long association with Che Guevara, whose liberation of Santa Clara in 1958 marked the end of the Batista regime. Begin the day with a visit to the Monument, Mausoleum and Museum built to honor Ernesto "Che" Guevara; the imposing "Che" statue can be seen for miles around the city. Continue the visit to the Museo de Artes Decorativas, an 18th-century mansion, now a museum, filled with Baroque desks, art nouveau mirrors and art deco furniture that emphasize the country's diverse architectural heritage. Here enjoy a performance by the Catedra Studio group playing traditional and old Spanish Renaissance music. At the end of the performance, you have the opportunity to interact with the musicians. Continue your visit at Alegria de Vivir, a community project for the elderly. The insightful visit reveals how art, music, and dance play a crucial role in the everyday lives of its senior residents. Enjoy lunch in Santa Clara before a walking tour through the center of the city, view the Parque Vidal and the Teatro de la Caridad, the Plaza del Mercado Central, and the former City Hall before returning to Cienfuegos for the evening. Enjoy a musical performance, before having an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Cienfuegos **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5, Monday, Dec. 4 - Havana and the Bay of Pigs*

This morning, head to the historic Bay of Pigs Museum in Playa Giron* which will give you a Cuban perspective on the Bay of Pigs invasion. Afterwards, on to picturesque Cienaga de Zapata National Park, one of finest bird watching areas in the world situated on Cuba's south coast, for a lecture by one of the park's naturalists. A leisurely lunch follows at Casa Enrique, a private guest house. Meet the proprietors of this family-run and privately-owned business, learn about their many talents as they share their stories and views of private enterprise. After lunch you are on your way to Havana, the energetic city that you've all been waiting to see; Cuba's distinctive capital has captivated the imagination of travelers for decades. A special dinner tonight celebrates your arrival in Havana.

Overnight: Havana **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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DAY 6, Tuesday, Dec. 5 - Havana

The first thing you'll notice in Havana this morning are the streets filled with colorful and bright vintage "Old Styler" American cars. Today's walking tour begins with a presentation by a Cuban architect on Havana's rich architectural heritage, as you leisurely stroll through the cobblestone streets of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stop to admire the 16th and 17th century buildings being carefully restored and transformed. Lunch at the Hostal Valencia with its old-world charm, decked out like a Spanish posada with hanging vines and huge carved doorways. Continue on with a visit to the Muraleando community project featuring murals and sculptures celebrating Cuban life. After Muraleando, visit a local artist's home studio and enjoy a discussion on Cuban lifestyles, art, and private enterprise. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure

Overnight: Havana **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7, Wednesday, Dec. 6- Havana

This morning, visit the Jose Marti's Language School for a friendly Spanish lesson-- it's not too late to learn some great expressions to take home. Visit the Santovenia Elderly Center in El Cerro, a local center for the elderly that is a major part of Cuba's healthcare system. Experience lunch at Havana's Il Divino paladar, where you savor some of Cuba's latest cuisine, supplied by the adjacent two-acre farm La Finca Yoandra, charmingly named for the owner's wife. Then, learn more about Ernest Hemingway on your visit to Finca Vigia ("Lookout Farm") in San Francisco de Paula, Hemingway's winter home from 1939 to 1960. He loved Cuba and its people, who returned that affection to the American author by simply calling him "Ernesto". View the novelist's 9,000-volume library, his yacht Pilar and the typewriter on which he wrote some of his greatest works, including his last masterpiece, *The Old Man and The Sea*. On your return to the city, you're invited to attend a discussion led by a Cuban scholar on the current political policies between the U.S. and Cuba. Enjoy an evening of live music and dinner before continuing to the fortress of San Carlos de la Cabana to observe the "Canonazo Ceremony", a tradition that dates to the 17th century.

Overnight: Havana **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Thursday, Dec. 7 – Havana – HERSHEY CUBA - ONLY ON OUR ITINERARY

Today an excursion to Hershey to visit the Old town with lunch. Visit the village built by Chocolate King Milton Hershey – a sugar refinery, housing for workers, shops, a medical facility, offices and a residence for Hershey plus Hershey Gardens where we'll enjoy a light lunch amidst the tropical landscape. Tonight, enjoy a festive Farewell Dinner. On the last night in Cuba, bid a fond goodbye to your Cuban guide, your fellow travelers and an amazing journey in Cuba.

Overnight: Havana **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Friday, Dec. 8 - Return Home

Transfer to the airport for your flight that takes you from Havana back to Miami to connect to your departing flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

*Please note the visit Bay of Pigs Museum in Playa Giron may have unexpected closures for renovations and routine maintenance. Alternative sightseeing will be advised locally.

A significant portion of our in-country programming is customized to maximize our cultural experience. Many of the places we visit are not tourist destinations and are thus not always available. Therefore, this program may have variations during our travels but changes will offer a similar cultural immersion.

INCLUSIONS:

Meals as stated.

Tourist class hotels – Courtyard by Marriott (Miami), Hotel Jagua, Parque Central/Hotel Nacional

Air travel from Miami.

Modern mid-size motor coach.

Whisper headsets.

Attraction entries or replacement of attraction with equal value.

OPTIONAL:

Group transfer to regional airport and round trip flight to Miami. Budget \$400.00.

Travel Protection – highly recommended. Offered as a group policy to eliminate “age penalty.”