

Hershey Derry Township Historical Society Cuba Tour

Supported by Dog Tag Tours

February 22 – March 3, 2019

Land & Air from Philadelphia \$5399 per person, dbl occ (Solo Supplement \$800.00)

Limited to 22 passengers! Deposit \$500.00



Your Cuban journey will be expertly supervised by a Tour Manager... who is tasked to details such as accounting for luggage, distributing room keys, announcing daily schedules, explaining menu options, and even locating rest rooms!!

And, joining the Tour Manager, is a Country Host/Guide, a Cuban citizen, who holds a Guide License issued by the Cuban government. The Country Host offers insights about a range of topics including the country's industries, agriculture, education structure, health care system and the history of this vibrant island.

Just as important, Local Hosts, specialists in architecture, geography, botany, arts and music, and more, are introduced during the daily itineraries.

This combination of Tour Manager, Country Host/Guide and Local Specialists offers a tremendously enriching tour experience! And our itinerary has been customized to include a visit to Hershey, Cuba, *not found on other tours!*

DAY 1 - Arrive in Camaguey, CUBA

Depart Philadelphia PHL AA Flight #2665 10:40 AM - Arrive Miami MIA 1:39 PM

Meet your Tour Manager who will accompany the group from this point through your return to the USA!

Depart Miami MIA AA Flight #4617 3:00 PM - Arrive Camaguey CMW 4:20 PM

Check-in to your hotel in Camaguey. Meet your Cuban Country Host at tonight's welcome dinner.

Overnight: Camaguey. Santa Maria Hotel. **Meals:** Dinner.

DAY 2 – Exploring Camaguey

Walking tour of Camaguey combined with a “rickshaw” ride through the pedestrian-only historic center is followed by a visit to one of the city's famed dance studios. The country's most talented dancers make their way to Camaguey's renowned dance companies. Watch rehearsal and learn about the challenges of operating a production company with limited resources. After lunch at a paladar, visit the studio of local artists, part of the “people-to-people” connection.

Overnight: Camaguey. Santa Maria Hotel. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 – Ranching and Rick Shaw

Outside the city, visit a working ranch, and volunteer to be the “black smith” of the group. Camaguey provides the majority of Cuba's meat and dairy products. Lunch is served at the ranch. Returning to Camaguey, your “people to people” encounter includes a “rickshaw” tour of the “pedestrian only” historic city center. Local arts and crafts exhibit African influences from the centuries of slave trade in the southern part of the country.

Overnight: Camaguey. Santa Maria Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 – Depart for Trinidad

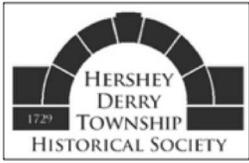
A full morning drive to reach Trinidad. After lunch, tour Cuba's best-preserved colonial city, with its winding cobblestone streets and pastel-hued houses, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the walking tour, you will see the Old Cathedral and the Palacio Cantero, the city's history museum, 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. And yes, give a try at the potter's wheel!

Overnight: Trinidad Iberostar Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 - 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. After a visit to the “Che” museum and monument, 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. 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 your late afternoon drive to Cienfuegos for the evening.

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



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DAY 6 - 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. During lunch at Casa Enrique, a private guest house, greet one of the area naturalists and hear about the conservation initiatives in the area. After lunch you drive to Havana, the energetic city that you've been waiting to see; Cuba's distinctive capital has captivated the imagination of travelers for decades. A special dinner tonight celebrates your arrival!

Overnight: Havana Hotel Nacional

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 - 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 Hotel Nacional

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 - Tobacco & Ernesto

This morning, drive west to the Francisco Donetien Cigar Factory in Pinar del Rio. Learn about the process of hand rolling the famous Habanos Cigars. Tour the various departments and meet the workers. Venture on to the Benito Tobacco Farm where the family introduces you to the growing cycle of Cuba's famed tobacco. Enjoy a country style lunch in nearby Vinales and meander through the quaint town center with its colorful homes. Admire the Mural de la Prehistoria.

A short side trip on the return to Havana brings you 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*.

The day concludes in Havana with 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 Hotel Nacional

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 - Hershey, CUBA - ONLY ON OUR ITINERARY

Today an excursion to Hershey to visit the Old town with lunch. Hershey, Cuba, was a bustling sugar mill town, complete with opportunities and services for workers and staff... a school, medical facility, theater, streets lined with pretty homes and screened in porches (which turned out to be disliked by the locals as the screened walls discouraged evening chatter and visits so much a part of Cuban culture.) 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 Hotel Nacional

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 - Return Home

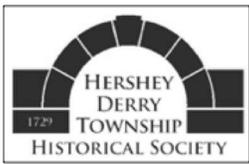
Transfer to the airport.

Depart Havana HAV AA Flight #2678 9:15 AM – Arrive Miami MIA 10:00 AM.

Depart Miami MIA AA Flight #2570 1:55 PM – Arrive Philadelphia PHL 4:50 PM.

Meals: Light Continental Breakfast included at the Hotel at 6:00 AM.

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.



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INCLUSIONS:

Meals as stated.

Full Time US Tour Manager.

Full Time Licensed Bi-Lingual Cuban Host/Guide.

Tourist class hotels.

Air travel from PHL included. Other departure cities available. Please inquire.

Air Travel from Miami to Cuba – Charter Flight. No deviations permitted.

Modern mid-size motor coach with complimentary water.

Whisper headsets.

Attraction entries or replacement of attraction with equal value.

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

Scenes from the 2017 Tour

