



## Quantum Travel Services

3943 Irvine Blvd., #603

Irvine, CA 92602

Tel: (714) 730-6333

(800) 921-8858

[www.quantumtravel.com](http://www.quantumtravel.com)

[info@quantumtravel.com](mailto:info@quantumtravel.com)

## Cuba Custom Group 8-Day Cultural & Educational Tour



Havana, Pinar del Rio, Viñales, Cienfuegos,

Trinidad & Santa Clara

**Includes airfare from Los Angeles**

**December 20 - 27, 2017**

**Traveling to Cuba will not only change your perspective on Cuba, but on your own life!**

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL HAVANA

Meet and greet at Havana International Airport on arrival day.

Private transfer to your handpicked accommodation.

★ Welcome dinner and orientation by your tour escort at a private restaurant.

Return to your accommodation

*Meals included: Dinner*



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**DAY 2: HAVANA**

Breakfast at your accommodation

Meet with a professor, and listen to the history of Havana, including a visit to the National Hotel and its Hall of Fame.

Take a classic convertible 1950s car around modern Havana. Stop at the Plaza de la Revolution square and drive along the Malecon, Miramar, the Vedado area and the Christopher Columbus cemetery.

Visit the Havana Club Rum Museum

★ Lunch at a paladar

Explore historic La Habana Vieja, a part of town founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, on a guided walk of the Plaza Vieja, Plaza de Armas, Plaza San Francisco de Asis and Catedral, and the Bodeguita del Medio. Have exchanges with the locals in what is nowadays like an incredible open-air museum of architecture, art and culture. Learn more about the history of the area while strolling along the narrow colonial streets and interacting with the Cuban people.

Visit the live traditional Cuban music where you will learn about the music instruments and basics of Son and Salsa.

Return to your accommodation.

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*





### Day 3: HAVANA & PINAR DEL RIO / VINALES

Early breakfast at accommodation.

Board private transportation for a full-day trip outside of Havana.

This westernmost region, located about 2 hours west of Havana, is known for its amazing valleys, landscapes and mountains. This is one of the Cuba's most fertile areas and where some of the world's best tobacco is grown, harvested, dried and processed. Some of the finest Cuban cigars are produced here.

Visit a privately-owned tobacco farm to learn how this mainstay crop of Cuba is planted, harvested and prepared for shipping to tobacco factories to create the final product: Cuban cigars.

Visit a cigar factory in Pinar del Rio.

★ Lunch at the only Cuban Organic farm on the island, Finca de Organico

Take a tour of the farm led by its owner and founder.

Return to your Havana accommodation.

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*



#### **DAY 4: HAVANA, CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD**

Breakfast at your accommodation.

The next three days will be spent outside of Havana. Explore more of Cuba with numerous occasions to meet the locals and learn about their way of life.

On the way to Cienfuegos, this charming port city is a UNESCO World Heritage site that's also known as the "Pearl of the South", drive through the Cienega de Zapata and visit the fish's cave and Playa Larga, a beautiful and popular snorkeling site. Stop in Cienfuegos and enjoy a city tour, including Teatro "Thomas Terry".

★ Lunch at a paladar

Departure to Trinidad City.

Trinidad: Experience more of the island's history in Cuba's best preserved colonial city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This picture-perfect cobblestone town thoroughly reflects life in Spanish colonial times.

Upon arrival, check in to your accommodation

Explore the city, that includes visiting the cobblestone streets of the city of Trinidad, a beautifully preserved Spanish colonial town including the Manaca Iznaga tower, 44 meters (144 feet) high, which was built in 1750, next to a hacienda, to control the slaves. Today, after climbing the stairs, it reveals striking panoramas of the surrounding area.

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*





**DAY 5: TRINIDAD**

Breakfast at your accommodation.

Drive through Topes de Collantes and learn about another side of Cuba's landscape.

Visit the "El Nicho" area, a mountainous nature reserve with cascading waterfalls. "El Reino de las Aguas" is a gentle two kilometers (1.2 miles) hiking trail to spectacular waterfalls.

★Lunch at a paladar in the country side

Return to Trinidad

Visit the most famous bar in Trinidad, La Canchánchara. It is housed in a mansion, dating from 1723, and named after a regional drink made from lemon juice, honey and rum that is served in glazed ceramic pots. Raise your glasses for this famous drink.

Walk around Trinidad's historic center

Visit the Palacio Cantero (history museum)

If times allowed, visit the Craft Market

Return to your accommodation

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*



## **DAY 6: TRINIDAD, SANTA CLARA & HAVANA**

Breakfast at your accommodation.

On the way to Santa Clara, head to the Valley of the Sugar Mills. The sugar industry flourished between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and is a huge part of Cuba's history and economy.

Visit the Che Guevara mausoleum and museum

★Lunch at a paladar

Depart to Havana

In Havana, check in to your accommodation

★Dinner at a paladar

Attend the Cannon Ceremony The cannon ceremony takes place every evening at Castillo de San Carlos de la Cabana and is performed by young military men. The canonazo ceremony is a tradition that started in the 17th century. A cannon would be fired to alert the community that the gates would be closed to the city.

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*





**DAY 7: HAVANA**

Breakfast at your accommodation.

Visit the Finca Vigia, where Ernest Hemingway wrote his famous novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and other works. The interior has remained intact, as if Earnest has just left the house for a break in between writing sessions. Explore the village of Cojimar. This sleepy seaside village served as the setting for *The Old Man and the Sea*. Meet today's fisherman. See how the locals live on a walking tour which also takes you to the Hemingway statue. You will also be treated to a cocktail in the restaurant, Las Terrazas, the preferred hangout of Hemingway.

★ Lunch at a paladar

Visit the "Callejòn de Hamel" and enjoy a private Afro Cuban Dance performance

Visit Art and Crafts Fair (San Jose Mercado)

Return to your accommodation

For the evening, there are many options that we can recommend

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*



## DAY 8: HAVANA

Breakfast at your accommodation.

Depart for Jaimanitas to visit Fusterlandia. Visit the community project of Jose Fuster, known as the Picasso of the Caribbean for his amazing ceramic artistry.

If time permits you will also visit the community project of the artist Rox.

★ Lunch at a paladar

Transfer to Havana airport

Flight departure to Los Angeles

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*



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### TOUR INCLUDES

- ) Round trip airfare from Los Angeles
- ) Cuban Medical Insurance
- ) 7 Nights certified lodging in hand-picked homestay accommodation
- ) Private bus, van or car with driver
- ) English speaking Cuban professional guide
- ) 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 2 dinners (16 meals) as mentioned in the itinerary
- ) Sightseeing and excursions as listed in the itinerary

### SERVICES WE OFFER IN CUBA

- ) 24/7 assistance from our concierge representatives
- ) Our team can assist you with making reservation for the paladars. A paladar is a privately owned, in-home restaurant where you can learn more about authentic Cuban cuisine
- ) Money Exchange. This will prevent you from standing around, waiting to exchange cash in the airport
- ) Mobile telephone & charger rental with numbers of our local representatives
- ) One-hour WiFi scratch card: wherever you find WiFi available, you'll be able to log on using this card

### ABOUT TRAVELING IN CUBA

- ) Travel in Cuba is different from most other destinations.
- ) The tourist industry is not very developed, thus the traveler must be flexible
- ) Due to the uniqueness of this destination, expect adventure and surprises, as well as fun and learning