

CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS - CUBA PASSION



TRIP CODE

CUTSCHP

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Cuba



INTRODUCTION

Culturally rich, evocative and historically complex - Cuba is a place like no other. Add to this its vast stretches of white Caribbean beaches and clear, warm waters and Cuba makes for an intriguing honeymoon destination. Discover the delights of this fascinating country as you soak up the old-world charm and the atmosphere of vibrant Havana, stroll along the cobbled streets of Trinidad and then relax at Cuba's iconic beach resort town of Varadero on the Hicacos Peninsula. With beautiful hotels to welcome you each evening - Cuba will surprise and delight.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Welcome to Havana City

On arrival into Havana's international airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Cuba's capital Havana is a vibrant city teeming with beautiful if sometimes shabby colonial buildings, once the most heavily fortified city in the Americas. The city was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century and it is now a diverse and fascinating mix of castles, fortresses and Spanish colonial buildings intermingled with modern high rises. The Old City (Habana Vieja), with its narrow streets and overhanging balconies is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the centre of the original city. Soak up the atmosphere as you sip on a Mojito, a refreshing blend of rum, lime, sugar, mint leaves, soda water and ice or sample a Cuba Libre, made with Cuban rum, coke and lime.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

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DAY 2: Old Havana City Tour

Today you will embark on a walking tour of Old Havana, starting in the historic centre and taking in sites such as the Plaza de Armas, Plaza San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de la Catedral. You will visit some of Ernest Hemingway’s hangouts, such as the Ambos Mundos Hotel, La Bodeguita del Medio and El Floridita bar. The tour continues with a visit to the Cuban Arts Factory Project (FAC). On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking guide and served a welcome cocktail. The guide will explain the project to you and take you round the Arts Factory, providing information on the artists and their various projects. At the end of the city tour you will be dropped off back at your hotel and the rest of the day is at leisure.



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DAY 3: Modern Havana City Tour

Today sees you exploring modern Havana. You will be met at the hotel by your private car and taken on a panoramic tour of the city, first visiting La Cabaña Fortress for a view of old and modern Havana across the bay, then touring modern Havana, stopping at Revolution Square and the Capitol Building. After a fascinating day, the evening is yours to relax in the hotel or maybe sample some of Havana’s world-class music. Enjoy dinner tonight at La Guarida, one of the most elegant ‘paladares’ (private Cuban Restaurants) in Havana. In a building that dates back to the early 20th century, the restaurant opened in 1996 and serves delicious Cuban cuisine in an exclusive atmosphere.



DAY 4: Trinidad City

This morning you will be transferred from Havana to a private hotel in Trinidad. Trinidad is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, a beautifully preserved Spanish colonial settlement built on the back of the sugar and slave trade. At the peak of the sugar industry there were 56 sugar mills in the region. The town is lined with cobble-stoned streets and mansions adorned with Italian frescoes.



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DAY 5: Trinidad City Tour

Today you can enjoy a walking tour of Trinidad with a private guide, giving you flexibility to choose specific sights of interest to you. The following highlights are typically included:

Palacio Cantero - This neo-classical palace is now the Museo Historico Municipal with a beautiful courtyard and steps leading up to a tower where you will be rewarded with beautiful views of the city.

Palacio Brunet - The Palacio Brunet overlooks the Plaza Mayor, Trinidad's tranquil main square. The palace now houses the Museo Romantico and displays a fine collection of antique furniture from the colonial period. There is the option to go to the 2nd floor where you can take a beautiful picture of terracotta rooftops stretching away to the church tower, framed by the mountains in the background.

The Canchanchara - This is an 18th century town house with lively music and a bar serving a traditional drink of the same name, made from lime, water, honey and a healthy portion of rum. As you wander the streets of the colonial centre you will see the extensive restoration work that has been carried out. Your local guide will give you plenty of information on the history of Trinidad and contemporary town life. Many of Trinidad's colonial squares and streets are cobbled so we would recommend comfortable shoes when exploring the city. The tour lasts for around 2 hours and after the tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure.



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DAY 6: Trinidad to Varadero

Today you will be transferred from Trinidad to Varadero. Varadero is Cuba's iconic beach resort town. Set on the narrow Hicacos Peninsula, it is the largest resort in the Caribbean with miles of white sandy beaches and surrounded by clear, tranquil warm waters. 140 kilometres from Havana, Varadero was the first modern city in Cuba. The Hicacos Peninsula stretches for over 20 kilometres and averages 700 metres in width, surrounded by the sea, and offering over 30 dive sites.




NO IMAGE
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DAY 7: Varadero

Today you take a catamaran cruise around Varadero (Crucero del Sol). You will be collected from your hotel and taken to the Marina Gaviota where you will board the catamaran for your sea tour. On board there is an open bar with beer, sodas and Cuban cocktails, music and snacks. On the cruise there will be the opportunity for an interactive swim with dolphins and snorkelling at a beautiful coral reef on the north of Cuba’s central region. A buffet lunch will be served at Cayo Blanco, with lobster, fish and other dishes available. There will also be time for a swim here. At the end of the cruise you will be transferred back from the marina to your hotel.



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DAY 8: Varadero - Day 8 to 10

The next few days are at leisure giving you plenty of time to explore Varadero and the Hicacos Peninsula, relax on the miles of white sandy beaches, go diving or enjoy the facilities and activities on offer at your resort. You may like to visit the Varahicacos Ecological Reserve, located at the northeastern end of the Peninsula. Established in 1974, the park covers 3 square kilometres of protected land and offers short hiking trails through scrub forests and a wide variety of flora and fauna including ancient giant cacti. There are a couple of interesting caves including Ambrosia Cave which features wall paintings and Musulmanes Cave where human remains dating back over 2,500 years have been found. Another option is to visit Casa de Al (Al Capone’s House), a beautiful stone and wood beachfront house that dates back to the 1920’s, and now one of the best restaurants in Varadero. Rumour has it that Al Capone once owned this house although he never lived there. Specialities of the house include seafood and paella but it is also possible to just enjoy a drink and the views. If you are happier to chill out at the resort, then there are 2 huge pools with hydro-massage, and sunbeds on which to relax. The resort has direct access to 100 metres of white sand beach and calm, shallow waters. It is the perfect place to swim or watch the sun setting. There are sunshades and sun loungers as well as hammocks under palm trees.



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DAY 11: Departure Day

Today you will be transferred by taxi from your hotel in Varadero to Havana International Airport, in time for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	Accommodation with breakfast everyday All inclusive package at Melia Las Antillas Walking tour of Old Havana Cuban's Art factory visit Panoramic guided tour Modern Havana in a classic car Dinner at La Guarida restaurant Walking city tour in Trinidad (Lunch not included) Dinner at a local Restaurant in Trinidad Catamaran Cruise - Varadero (Crucero del Sol)
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community

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projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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