

CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS - SIGNATURE CUBA



TRIP CODE

CULCHIC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Cuba



INTRODUCTION

Be transported back in time by a trip to the Caribbean island of Cuba. You will start your journey in Cuba's capital, Havana, amidst the vintage cars and colonial buildings. There you will tour the city's old town, visit a Cuban Cigar factory, and experience a traditional canon blasting ceremony among other highlights. From Havana you will travel to the city of Trinidad, stopping in Cienfuegos on the beautiful Bahia de Cienfuegos. In the Valle de Los Ingenios you will visit sugar cane plantations before exploring Trinidad's main plaza. Returning to Havana, you will stop in historic Santa Clara, the final resting place of Che Guevara.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive in Havana

Welcome to Cuba's vibrant, colonial capital, Havana. Founded by the Spanish in the 16th century, Havana is a city frozen in time thanks to an embargo placed on the country by the United States preventing trade. As a result, Havana has barely changed since the 1950's when Fidel Castro came to power. On arrival you will be fascinated by the number of old cars and colonial buildings that you pass enroute to your hotel. These are intermingled with modern high rise apartments with balconies that overhang Havana's narrow streets. Once you've settled in at your hotel perhaps head to the Malecon, Havana's coastal esplanade, where there are plenty of bars and restaurants to sit and soak up the atmosphere and enjoy a mojito or a Cuba Libre.



DAY 2: Havana tour

This morning you will visit a local cigar factory where you will discover the origins of Cuban tobacco and learn how it's grown, produced and exported. Within the factory you will visit the galley, where you will be shown how to shape cigars and hear a cigar factory reader. This unique profession involves reading aloud to the factory workers while they work each day. You will then enjoy a private walking tour of Havana's old town, or Habana Vieja. There you will visit the Plaza de Armas, the Plaza de San Francisco de Asis, the Plaza Vieja and the Plaza de la Catedral. As you walk your guide will acquaint you with Havana's places of interest and provide information on the locals' way of life. There's plenty of time to browse gift shops for handmade souvenirs and to take photos. In the evening you will be collected again from your hotel, this time to explore Havana by night. You will enjoy a ride along the seafront in a vintage car to the San Carlos de la Cabaña Fortress. There, you'll witness the canon blasting ceremony, a ritual that takes place every night and dates back to the colonial era when the city regularly had to fend off pirates. You will then visit a private restaurant (also known as a paladar) to sample some Cuban food and enjoy a drink.



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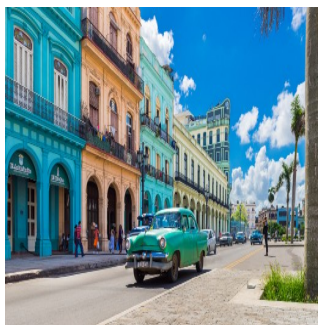
Cuba



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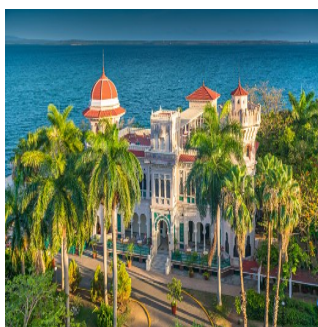
DAY 3: Havana tour

You will enjoy another vintage car ride touring some more of Havana's sites. From the vehicle, admire the streets of Central Havana, Vedado and Miramar. You will pass the Capitol Building, Revolution Square, Hotel Nacional and the University of Havana. You will stop to visit one of Havana's museums before enjoying a drink at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba. The hotel is a National monument and serves its own flagship cocktail which includes pineapple and apricot liquor, white rum, lime juice and sugar.



DAY 4: Havana to Trinidad via Cienfuegos

After breakfast, you will travel via a private service to the city of Trinidad. On the way you will stop in the city of Cienfuegos, which is located on the Bahia de Cienfuegos. This wonderful bay is guarded by the Castillo de Jagua. You will enjoy a couple of hours of free time to stretch your legs and explore. Some places you might like to visit include the Palacio de Valle, the Malecon of Cienfuegos, Paseo del Prado or Parque Jose Marti. Afterwards, you'll continue to Trinidad. Like Havana, Trinidad is a beautifully preserved Spanish colonial settlement. The city and nearby Valle de los Ingenios are considered UNESCO World Heritage sites. In the evening after you settle in at your hotel, perhaps visit the Casa de la Trova House and enjoy some traditional Cuban music from local troubadours.



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DAY 5: Valle de los Ingenios & Trinidad tour

Today you will enjoy a private tour of the Valle de los Ingenios and the city of Trinidad. The city of Trinidad was built as a result of sugar and slave trade and your first stop takes you to the Manaca-Iznaga tower in the Valle de los Ingenios. This tower was built to observe the slaves working in the sugar cane fields and you can climb its 136 steps to the top to view the valley landscape and the plantations below. Returning to Trinidad, you will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the city's main square, La Plaza Mayor. Located in the city's historical centre, La Plaza Mayor is surrounded by elegant mansions that now house museums. You will also see the Iglesia Mayor de la Santísima Trinidad Church. Built in a neoclassical style, it's one of the biggest churches in the country. You will then visit a ceramic workshop where you can discover how Cuban potters produce their works and have the chance to buy a souvenir. Your final stop is Taberna La Canchanchara, Trinidad's oldest and most famous bar which still has its original cedar roof intact.



DAY 6: Trinidad free day

Enjoy a free day to explore Trinidad at your leisure. Perhaps head to Playa Ancon where you can visit the beach and enjoy some snorkelling? Just be careful you don't stand on a sea urchin. Another great activity is to experience a folklore show at one of the town's numerous open air venues. Cuba has a rich and varied music and dance tradition that draws roots from Spain, Africa, and France. This is your chance to experience watching the mambo and the rumba firsthand.



DAY 7: Trinidad to Havana via Santa Clara

Today you will return via a private transport service to Havana, stopping enroute at Santa Clara. Santa Clara is the capital city of the Cuban province of Villa Clara and is known for its revolutionary landmarks. You will have two hours free time to explore the city's sites such as Che Guevara's Mausoleum, the Armoured Train Museum or the Museo Histórico de la Revolución. On your return to Havana, in the evening why not put on your dancing shoes and visit Casa de La Musica de Centro? Here you will discover a variety of Cuban salsa and timba performers and its common to see some famous Cuban bands.



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DAY 8: Havana Free Day

Today, enjoy a free day to explore Havana at your leisure. Perhaps use this time to take a trip to Playa del Este? Located around 30 minutes from Havana, there are a number of beautiful beaches in this area where you can take the day to relax and soak up some Caribbean sunshine. Popular beaches include Santa Maria del Mar, Playa Bacuranao and Playa Guanabo.



DAY 9: Depart Havana

You will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Accommodation | Hotel |
| Inclusions | <p>Inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in itinerary Other meals where stated <p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International flights Visa & reciprocity fees Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides & drivers Any items not mentioned as included |
| Difficulty Rating | 1 (easy) |
| Single Surcharge | A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information. |

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Notes

Prices are based on per person, twin share.
Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Price Dependent upon

Seasonality and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so, and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion, and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equipped with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals, or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums, and landmarks, our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e., shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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