

EXPLORE CUBA TOUR



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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1300 168 910



10 Days Explore Cuba Small Group Tour

Duration: 10 days

Departs: November 2021 to December 2023

Stay: 9 nights local Casa B&B

Travel style: Escorted small group tour - max. 12 people

Booking code: CUBAE10M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

10 Days Cuba Escorted Small Group Tour

About the holiday

Cuba will captivate you in a way that you're unlikely to have experienced before!

Your 10-day Cuba group tour will help you unlock the mysteries of Cuba's cultural heritage and begin a love affair with this lively destination.

From the highlights of Havana and Cienfuegos, to vibrant Vinales and beautiful beaches, you will enjoy all that the island nation has to offer. There's so much to see, do and experience in ten days that you're bound to leave feeling both stimulated and relaxed.

Why you'll love this trip...

Experience Cuban hospitality at a Casa Particular

An English-speaking Cuban guide accompanies our Cuba group tours

Try out some sultry salsa steps & visit a Havana jazz club

Get curious exploring spellbinding Havana Veija, the magnificent old town

Enjoy a true Mojito with amazing views to match

Visit the final resting place of the immortalised Che Guevara

Immerse yourself in warm Caribbean waters

Take in the historic French-influenced architecture of Cienfuegos

Travel dates

Departs Havana

2021 - Sundays in November & December

2022 & 2023 - Sundays in February, March, April, October, November & December

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date.

Want to stay longer or add international flights?

Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.



Escorted tour includes:

Accommodation

- 9 nights local Casa Particulars (Cuban B&B)

Meals

- 9 breakfasts

Transport

- Private minivan
- Local Viazul bus & taxi

Small group tour

- Minimum 2 & maximum 12 passengers
- English-speaking tour guides

Package excludes:

International flights - please request airfare quotes

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Video & camera permits

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

*Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.
Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.*

For more information phone 1300 168 910

visit www.mytravelxp.com or email help@mytravelxp.com



Flexible Tour Bookings!

Pay 21 Days Before Departure

To offer more flexibility and greater peace of mind, the due date for the final balance of payment is now reduced to 21 days prior to the departure date. This reduces risk and means you won't lose your money by locking in a great deal early.

Pay Less Up Front

Pay only \$210 per person deposit to lock in a great deal for the tour of your dreams.

No Change Fees

There will be no penalties or fees to alter your tour booking up to 21 days prior to your departure date. This includes changes to: the tour, departure date, destination and/or passenger name.

If you need to change your tour booking:

- Notify us in writing at least 21 days before your departure if you are unsure about travelling and you will be given the option to keep any monies paid toward the original booking as Future Travel Credit, usable on a tour departing until 31 December 2022.
- If you change to a trip or departure that is more expensive than your original booking, you will need to cover the difference in price. If the trip or departure is less expensive than the original, a Future Travel Credit will be issued for the difference.
- If you wish to make a change with less than 21 days to your departure date, standard Terms & Conditions apply.

Visit www.mytravelxp.com for more information

Call our office on 1300 168 910 - we're here to help!



Tour Overview:

Come with us to a place unlike any other. Our 10-day Cuba small group tour will excite all of your senses and is the best way to begin your love affair with this lively destination. Cuba's rich history and culture will come to life over 10 magical days, and we are quite sure that you won't want to leave.

Imagine yourself walking along the cobblestoned streets of gorgeous Trinidad and discovering the magic of Havana. Another highlight is the Mogote hills in the achingly beautiful town of Viñales. The air is fresh and sweet, filled with rich aroma of tobacco and pulsating Cuban rhythms. Even the noise of those stunning 1950's cars will be music to your ears. We include a lot into 10 days, and yet you will be both stimulated and relaxed.

Itinerary:

DAY ONE: HAVANA

There's so much life in Havana, and yet this bustling city never feels overwhelming. The only difficult thing about the city is knowing where to start exploring. The best way for those on our 10 day Cuba group tour to get started is with a pair of comfortable walking shoes. The entire city is fascinating, but fortunately many of the main points of interest are within a fairly compact area. Take a leisurely stroll through Havana's Old Town, with pauses for coffee (and Cuban coffee is amongst the best in the world), or for a magical mojito. The architecture of this part of the city is an attraction in itself. The first day of our 10 day Cuba group tours is the perfect way to ease yourself into Cuban life. You can even join your guide and fellow tour group members for dinner if you arrive in time. Please note that the first day of the tour is a joining day with no formal activities planned. We do organise your accommodation for this evening and an optional dinner with your guide and group.

DAY 2: CIENFUEGOS

We'll show you Playa Girón, which is otherwise known as the Bay of Pigs. This was the site of the infamous failed invasion of Cuba. Its brutal history is nowhere to be seen, and it's now an area of profound natural beauty. You'll want to dive straight into that beautiful ocean, and don't worry - there will be time.

While most of Cuba was settled by the Spanish, it was actually the French who made Cienfuegos into the city it is today. French migrants flocked to the area in the 1800's and their architectural influence on the city is obvious. On some streets you might think you're walking through Paris (although with infinitely better weather). At the entrance to the harbour you'll see the Castillo de Jagua, an ancient fort that allowed the city to withstand the pirate attacks that were once common in Cuba. Many buildings in the town have been given UNESCO world heritage status, and you might think you've never seen such a beautiful town... until we show you some other places.

A harbour city by location, the 'Pearl of the Caribbean' has seduced Cuban travellers for years due to its elegance and beauty. Explore the wide streets and promenades or enjoy a walk by the Malecon, the longest promenade on the island. "Cienfuegos is the city I like the best", wrote Beni More, one of Cuba's most important musicians in the first half of the 20th century.

DAY 3 & 4: TRINIDAD

While Che Guevara is synonymous with Cuba, his final days were actually spent in Bolivia. Cuba felt he needed a hero's burial and memorial, and this is located in Santa Clara, to where his body was returned. Our 10 day Cuba group tours will take you to this remarkable spot near Trinidad. It was in Santa Clara that Guevara and his rebels successfully derailed a military train carrying weapons and ammunition to be used against Fidel Castro. This act was credited with winning the revolution.

After Santa Clara we'll take you to remarkable Trinidad. Founded in 1514, the central parts of the city have been lovingly maintained, and you might wonder if you've been transported back in time. Many buildings are painted in sensational shades of colour, making Trinidad a true treat for the eyes. Trinidad was once the heart of Cuba's sugar industry (and a lot of sugar cane is still processed here). You simply have to take a visit to the sugar district, where many of the old mills can be found. For a fairly small city, there's an amazing amount of nightlife as well.

Take the opportunity to visit a local waterfall, historic sugar mill or one of Cuba's best beaches - Playa Ancon. An evening at one of Trinidad's effervescent music venues is a must!

DAY 5 & 6: VINALES

Viñales is reasonably close to Havana, and has been popular with visitors for generations. In the heart of the Pinar del Rio valley, most of Cuba's tobacco production takes place in and around Viñales. This is the place to see where those world-famous cigars come from, and to get some for yourself.

The geography in the area is stunning, and the town is ringed by stark mogotes - small hills with sheer rock faces. All of our Cuba group tours offer you the chance to take salsa lessons, and Viñales is the best place to do this.

The nightlife is lively, but not as crowded as larger cities - just in case you don't want to have an audience!

DAY 7: HAVANA

We'll welcome you back to heavenly Havana for the last days of your tour. Your guides will be able to tell you about some amazing places to see that you might not have considered. On the afternoon of Day 7, you will take a tour of the city by classic car.

There are currently an estimated 60,000 pre-1960 American cars hurtling through Cuba today and before the embargo there were at least 150,000. Buicks, Chevys, and countless other cool-finned cruisers rumble down the crumbling streets of Havana, many abandoned by their American owners when they fled in 1959 and kept going by Cuban ingenuity. This iconic mode of transport is the perfect way to see wider Havana and a very different side of the city. Here you will be chauffeured around some of the most famous areas of Havana including New Havana, Old Havana, the affluent neighbourhood of Miramar and the famous cemetery of Colon.

DAY 8: WALKING TOUR OF OLD HAVANA AND CALLEJON DE HAMMEL

The best place to start any Havana experience is in the Old City. Havana's Old City is one of the best preserved and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1982. The streets are lined with colonial architecture, 16th century fortresses and countless churches. After breakfast your local guide will meet you at 9am at your hotel and take you on a walking tour of Old Havana and you will visit La Catedral San Cristobal de la Habana, described by the novelist Alejo Carpentier as 'music set in stone'. You will also visit famous landmarks such as Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras (now a restaurant) and the Plaza de Armas, complete with a statue of Manuel de Cespedes, one of the leaders of the independence movement. There are plenty of good museums to visit on the walking tour including Museo de la Revolucion and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

Your guide will also give you the option to visit Saint Francis of Assisi Square, Arms Square, the Old Square and Cathedral Square.

On the walking tour you will experience a panoramic tour through the "Malecón", the Revolution Square, Central Park, Opera House, Capitol building, former Bacardi Building and Museum of the Revolution, former Presidential Palace with plenty of opportunities for photos. You will also have the opportunity to have lunch at an authentic family-run Cuban restaurant (Paladar).

In the afternoon we recommend visiting Callejon de Hammel in central Havana. Callejon de Hammel is where the Cuban artist fraternity congregate, and is a wonderful place to experience day-to-day Cuban life. Located in central Havana, the alley is brightly decorated in Cuban sculptures, art and paintings. You might also be able to catch a glimpse of a dance exhibition or meet Lazaro Salsita, who opens his home to teach neighbourhood children the art of papier-mâché. Make sure you check out Local artist Salvador González Escalona's neighbourhood makeover.

DAY 9 & 10 CIGAR FACTORY AND RUM MUSEUM

When anyone mentions Cuba two of the first things that come to mind are Cigars and Rum cocktails, immortalized by Hemingway.

Cuba has a long history of producing the world's best cigars and rum, and today you will be able to see for yourself how both of these famous exports are produced and learn all about their history and importance to Cuba's economy. Visit the Havana Rum Museum, housed in a converted old Palace where you can see the production process for this valuable export.

Of course, you will have the chance to taste some good rum in the Havana Club and also buy some to take home with you.

The next stop might be the Hotel Conde de Villanueva, an attractively restored 18th century mansion in the historic centre of the city. The hotel has one of the most popular cigar shops in town, and many people have personal humidors here to store their precious cigars. Here you will meet a “torcedor” or cigar roller, who will answer all your questions while you watch him go about his special craft. At the end of the demonstration you can do a cigar and coffee tasting, and buy some of the freshly-rolled cigars. From here you will go to visit el Floridita, one of Hemingway’s favourite bars to sample a genuine Cuban daiquiri before moving on to the Partagas Cigar Factory where the mystique behind cigar making will be revealed, and you will find out why Cuban cigars are so revered. Even non-smokers and teetotallers will enjoy the tour and get a deeper understanding of the history and culture of this fascinating city.

Please note that Day 10 is the departure day with no activities planned, meaning you are free to depart at any time.

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client’s benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

Have any questions about the itinerary? Call us on 1300 168 910.

Is this tour for me?

Our group tours are perfect for those who want the freedom and flexibility to travel at their own pace, along with the security, camaraderie and cultural insight that comes from travelling with a local English-speaking guide and small group.

Accommodation

A Casa Particular is a Cuban Homestay or B&B. Staying in a Casa Particular is a brilliant way of immersing yourself in the life and culture of fascinating Cuba. When you choose a Casa Particular for your accommodation, you will meet the local people on a one-to-one basis and get a rare glimpse into the everyday life of ordinary people in Cuba. In addition, your host or hostess will be able to advise you on all things Cuban - the best restaurants, the best music and Salsa venues and any seasonal attractions that are only known to the locals!

At the end of your stay in Havana we like to use Casa Particular accommodation in Havana Centro or Havana Vieja. Please note that a lot of the best Casa’s in these areas are up several flights of stairs. If these stairs are likely to cause you problems, just let us know ahead of time and we will source a suitable alternative.

Airport transfers

We include an airport transfer on arrival for all of our Cuba group tours. On departure, your local Cuban guide will help organise your transfer at market rates (no commission).

Transportation

On our Cuba group tours, we use a mixture of private minivan transportation, local Viazul bus and taxi.

Estimated travel times

How long does it take to travel between destinations on this 10 Day Cuba Group Tour? It's not as though we're going to whisk you from town to town as fast as possible. A leisurely pace of life is something the Cuban people pride themselves on, so on a longer journey we will of course stop for lunch, a chance to stretch your legs, and to take a closer look at the beautiful countryside.

From Havana to Cienfuegos (via Bay of Pigs): 5 hours

From Cienfuegos to Trinidad (via Santa Clara): 4 hours

From Trinidad to Viñales: 7 to 8 hours

From Viñales to Havana: 3 hours

Spending money on tour

Everyone is different in the amount of money they will spend on one of our Cuba group tours. Your main expenses will be food, drinks, airport departure transportation, souvenirs, optional activities, and tips. We estimate that you will need to allow USD\$40 - USD\$55 per day on average for expenses.

My Travel Experience is a full-service travel agency

Want flights, car hire, escorted tours, airport transfers, travel insurance & more? My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike other online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include whatever travel services that you want to pre-book.

Plus, we are with you all the way - from your first enquiry, until your departure and when you safely return home. You will always be able to reach us. Email us today on reservations@mytravelxp.com with your preferences for any of our travel packages!

Email any questions to help@mytravelxp.com or call 1300 168 910.

Book with Confidence!

New safety measures, more flexibility and greater peace of mind.

The wellbeing and safety of our passengers and staff is always a priority, especially as we adjust to a new world for travellers. My Travel Experience is committed to ensuring your peace of mind with customer-friendly booking practices and enhanced health & safety standards on our trips. We work closely with tour operators that have received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which enables travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols. We are also able to offer our clients as much flexibility as possible when making bookings, will let you know of all travel operator conditions and will help you if any unexpected situations arise.

Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to us about planning your next holiday.



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. Between 21-90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 14 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically or via Express post.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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