

# ***DISCOVER MEXICO & CUBA***



**MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE**

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

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1300 168 910



## Latin Magic Mexico & Cuba Tour with Flights

Duration: 20 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 8 nights Mexico hotels, 11 nights local Casa B&B in Cuba

Travel style: Escorted tours & flights from Australia

Booking code: CUBMX20M

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

Email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com)

# 20 Days Mexico & Cuba Guided Tours & Flights

## About the holiday

This vibrant tour helps you discover the real Mexico and Cuba, with carefully chosen accommodation and uniquely local experiences!

Starting in Mexico, this is your chance to tour the country's National Palace and Palacio de Bellas Artes. Visit Casa Azul, the museum dedicated to the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, and explore the archaeological site of Teotihuacán, also known as the City of the Gods. Take a walking tour of Queretaro, renowned for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture, and enjoy San Miguel Allende, whose history is intertwined with Mexican Independence. Travel via the lush farmlands of El Bajío to the silver mining town of Guanajuato. Of course, a deep dive into Mexican culture wouldn't be complete with exploring Guadalajara, the quintessential Mexican city where tequila and Mariachi were born.

Ready to see the very best Cuba has to offer? Fly from Mexico to Havana and engage in the lively culture, enthralling history and breathtaking beauty of this evocative and vibrant Caribbean island. Saunter down Trinidad's cobble-stoned streets, discover Havana's secrets through the windows of degenerate colonial buildings and let yourself move to the cool beat of Vinales. Pristine beaches, pirates, salsa and Che are all on the agenda on a tour that aims to constantly excite, enthuse and enlighten.

From the must-see sights of Mexico City to the many highlights of Havana, you will enjoy all that these great nations have to offer. The only difficult part of the tour is when it comes to an end and it's time to say goodbye.

## Travel dates

**2023 & 2024** - see our website for current departures

*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for travel at other times of the year.*

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



## Escorted tours package includes:

### Flights

- Return economy class airfares to Mexico City & Havana
- Fly from Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane (a surcharge applies from other cities)

### Accommodation

- 8 Nights hotel accommodation in Mexico
- 11 nights local Casa Particulares (Cuban B&B)

### Meals

- Daily breakfasts
- Other meals as per the itinerary

### Transport

- Dedicated coach transportation in Mexico
- Private minivan in Cuba
- Local Viazul bus & taxi in Cuba

### Group tours

- English-speaking tour guides in Cuba and Mexico
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary

## Package excludes:

Visa fees & Cuba tourist card

Airline seat selection fees

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Hotel tourism fees

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 airlines, hotels, tour companies & local operators.*

*Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.*

## Tour highlights:

- Visit Casa Azúl, the museum dedicated to the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo
  - Tour Mexico City's historic centre, including the National Palace and Palacio de Bellas Artes
  - Visit the mysterious archaeological site of Teotihuacán, also known as the City of the Gods
  - Walking tour of Queretaro, known for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture
  - Enjoy San Miguel Allende, whose history is intertwined with Mexican Independence
  - Travel via the lush farmlands of El Bajío to Guanajuato known for its silver mining history
  - In Morelia, a UNESCO Site, view the elegant historic centre and inspirational cathedral
  - Visit the House of Eleven Courtyards, housing small shops where artisans display their wares
  - Explore Guadalajara, the quintessential Mexican city where tequila and mariachi were born
- 
- Guided orientation walks at each destination visited in Cuba
  - Swim and snorkel at the Bay of Pigs
  - Che Guevara Memorial and Museum, Santa Clara
  - Enjoy an informal salsa lesson in Trinidad
  - Visit the tobacco farm and drying house in Vinales
  - Lunch at an organic farm in Vinales
  - Havana city tour in a convertible classic car
  - Learn how to make the perfect Mojito in Havana
  - Enjoy a rooftop dinner in Havana
  - Visit a rum museum in Havana
  - Uncover the mystery of how Cuba's famous cigars are made at Partagas Cigar Factory
  - Visit Callejon de Hamel in Havana
  - Take a fascinating walking tour to discover the secrets of Old Havana

For more information phone 1300 168 910

visit [www.mytravelxp.com](http://www.mytravelxp.com) or email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com)

## Itinerary:

### **DAY 1, Saturday - Depart for Mexico**

Welcome to Mexico City, the nation's capital. Please make your own way to the hotel. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 7 PM. We recommend that you select flights which arrive by 5 PM

**Overnight:** Mexico City

### **DAY 2, Sunday - Coyoacán, Mexico City Tour**

The day begins in the neighbourhood of Coyoacán. Here, visit Casa Azul (Blue House), now a museum where Frida Kahlo lived most of her life. After an exploration of this city, continue to Xochimilco with its Floating Gardens, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Mexico City and tour the Centro Historico. Stop at the Zocalo (Central Square) to view the National Palace, known for Diego Rivera's dramatic murals. Travel past the city's iconic buildings, including the art nouveau Palacio de Bellas Artes and the Metropolitan Cathedral. This evening, celebrate your arrival to Mexico at dinner

**Overnight:** Mexico City **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 3, Monday - Teotihuacán, Travel to San Miguel de Allende**

Depart Mexico City and travel to the archaeological site of Teotihuacán, known as the City of the Gods, built around 100 BC. View the Jaguar Temple before continuing to the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and the Avenue of the Dead, flanked by temples and palaces. Later, depart to the city of Queretaro. Take a walking tour of the city's historic centre. In the afternoon, continue to San Miguel Allende. Dinner tonight is at the hotel

**Overnight:** San Miguel de Allende **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 4, Tuesday - City Tour of San Miguel de Allende**

Begin with a morning tour of the city. Stroll the cobblestone streets to the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, and the Templo de San Francisco church. Spend the afternoon at leisure, or join the *optional* tour to the city of Dolores Hidalgo where the seeds for the Mexican independence movement began

**Optional:** Half-Day Dolores Hidalgo (PM)

**Overnight:** San Miguel de Allende **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 5, Wednesday - Guanajuato, Travel to Morelia**

Today, travel to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Guanajuato. View the colonial buildings, tree-filled plazas and brightly colored houses. After leisure time for lunch in the main square, visit the major historic sites of the city including the Juarez Theatre, San Diego Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Guanajuato. Stroll along the Alley of the Kiss and stop at the Garden of the Union. Later, proceed to Morelia for dinner and overnight

**Overnight:** Morelia **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 6, Thursday - Patzcuaro, Tzintzuntzan**

Morning drive past scenic Lake Pátzcuaro to the hillside town of Pátzcuaro. Visit Vasco de Quiroga Square and the House of Eleven Courtyards, originally a convent, now housing a labyrinth of small shops where artisans display their crafts. In the afternoon, travel to the ancient capital of Tzintzuntzan, ceremonial centre of the pre-Columbian Tarascan state. Circular pyramids called Yacatas were built to protect the city. Visit the old Franciscan Monastery of Santa Ana before returning to Morelia for an evening at leisure

**Overnight:** Morelia **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 7, Friday - Travel to Guadalajara**

Depart for Guadalajara, where tequila and mariachi music were born. After lunch, arrive in the city and check into the hotel. On this evening at leisure, acquaint yourself with the downtown at your own pace

**Overnight:** Guadalajara **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 8, Saturday - Walking Tour of Guadalajara, Tlaquepaque Artisan Square**

The discovery of Guadalajara begins with a walking tour in the heart of the city. Visit the Metropolitan Cathedral with its twin golden spires and stained glass windows. Pause at the Government Palace to view the powerful murals by famed artist Jose Clemente Orozco. Next, visit Tlaquepaque with its renowned artist's village. Time to explore the area and sample local favourites at one of the sidewalk cafes. Tonight, bid adios to your Tour Manager at dinner

**Overnight:** Guadalajara **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 9, Sunday - Depart Mexico, Fly to Cuba**

Check out of the hotel this morning and make your way to the airport in time for your departure flight to Cuba.

Arrive in Havana to commence your tour. You will be met upon arrival at the airport and transferred to your accommodation for the evening in Havana.

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 10 - Havana free day**

How to sum up Havana? This complex, culturally-rich, and fascinatingly contradictory city can perhaps be described in a single word: Alive. There's a lot of hustle and bustle, but our expert local guides will ensure that your Cuba group tour will never be overwhelming. The first day of your time in Cuba is considered to be a joining day. While there are no activities planned on this first part of the Cuba tour, your accommodation will have been arranged and you have the option to meet your guide and fellow tour members for a delicious dinner.

The heart of this scintillating city is undoubtedly Havana's Old Town (La Habana Vieja). This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a sublime assault on your senses, with the beauty of the colonial era architecture combining with the spirit of the locals to make an experience that almost feels like some kind of immersive theatre production. Many of the main points of interest are within a conveniently close proximity to each other, so you can experience much of the city on foot (so be sure to pack some comfortable walking shoes).

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 11 - Cienfuegos via Bay of Pigs**

Cienfuegos is often referred to as the Paris of the Caribbean, but upon arrival, you'll wonder why anyone needs to compare this pearl of a city to anywhere else. There's also a treat on the way to Cienfuegos. We'll make a stop at Playa Girón, which is otherwise known as the Bay of Pigs. This infamous spot was where the US attempted to stage an invasion of Cuba, which was ultimately a failure... and a big one at that. At the Bay of Pigs, you can visit the local museum to learn more about the area's history and there will also be time for some swimming and snorkelling on one of Cuba's best reefs.

And then it's time to go to Cienfuegos, whose Parisian comparisons come from the French settlers who made the city their home. Many of them came to Cuba from other territories in the New World and their architectural influence on the city is obvious. The wide boulevards and expansive parklands are ravishing, and history is on proud display at every turn. 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 on your Cuba group tour. Take a gentle stroll through Parque José Martí, and then spend some time sitting by the oceanfront Malecón. Though perhaps not as well-known as the walkway of the same name in Havana, the Malecón in Cienfuegos is actually the longest seaside esplanade in the whole country.

**Overnight:** Cienfuegos **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 12 - Trinidad via Santa Clara**

Stop at the Che Guevara mausoleum and memorial in Santa Clara, where Che's remains are immortalized following their discovery in Bolivia in 1997. Santa Clara holds a special place in Cuban history, where in December 1958, Commander Ernesto Che Guevara led his revolutionary rebels in the derailment of the armoured train carrying the ammunition Batista had sent to defeat Fidel - the revolution was won. Then it's on to the city of Trinidad where you will spend the next 2 nights.

**Overnight:** Trinidad **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 13 - Trinidad**

The favourite destination of many a traveller to Cuba. Trinidad was founded in 1514 by Diego Velázquez and is considered a jewel in Cuban colonial architecture. For some, Trinidad is a living museum, stuck in the time of Cuba's first War of Independence when local sugar plantations were devastated by fire. The vibrant colours and soulful music littered along cobbled streets will simply take your breath away. 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!

**Overnight:** Trinidad **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAYS 14 & 15 - Viñales**

How will you know you're getting close to Viñales on your Cuba group tour? Perhaps it will be the red, rich, fertile soil. Maybe it will be the mogotes - dramatic, circular rock formations that look like a beauty mark jutting upwards from the earth. Maybe it's the fact that your guide will start to excitedly tell you that you're almost there! 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. A closer exploration of this remarkable farmland with a succulent lunch at an organic farm is going to be a highlight during your time in Cuba.

When the sun goes down, the village of Viñales comes out to play. There is a remarkable energy to the township, which is deceptive given its relaxed, laid-back atmosphere. **Overnight:** Viñales

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch (day 15)

### **DAY 16 - Return to Havana**

Oh Havana, you're so heavenly. It's time to head back to the Cuban capital for the last days of your tour. There will be a number of arranged activities, plus plenty of chances to explore at your own leisure. Don't forget that there are a couple of amazing treats waiting for you during these last days of your Cuba group tour. You'll get to see all the different elements of the city while on four wheels in one of those classic American cars that the island is famous for. You'll also be taken to one of our favourite spots in the whole city, a rooftop terrace in Havana's Old Town.

You will be taught how to make a delicious mojito (or a non-alcoholic alternative if you prefer) before enjoying a stunning dinner with your guide and the fellow members of your Cuba group tour. Is there a better way to end the day than with a relaxing dinner while watching the sun go down over one of the most glorious cities in the world?

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 17 - Havana walking tour**

Time to put on your comfortable shoes for a walking tour of Havana's Old Town. You'll get to know her like an old friend as you walk through her ravishing network of plazas, essentially the places that the city was built around. Old Havana is the village where the modern city grew from. It was once a walled settlement (to protect the fledgling outpost from pirates and hostile foreign forces). Of course, Havana couldn't be contained, and her history will come to life as your expert guide leads you along her streets. Speaking of streets, this portion of your group tour includes a stop on the Callejon de Hammel. This nifty little street is where a number of local artists chose to live and work. And like the boundaries of Havana, their creativity couldn't be contained. The street is basically one big artist's studio, with lavish, vibrant murals and street art.

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 18 - Cigar Factory & Rum Museum**

Today, we take some time to get familiar with some of Cuba's finest products. The Havana Rum Museum is housed in a colonial-era mansion in the heart of the city and details the history and cultural significance of this heavenly drink, and naturally there will be chances to taste the product. Next on the agenda is the Partagas Cigar Factory, where the mystique behind cigar making will be revealed, allowing you to gain a sense of the significance of these beauties. You will also witness firsthand the amount of effort, care and tradition that goes into making these Cuban treasures (even non-smokers will find this tour very interesting).

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 19 - Havana free day**

Spend one final day in Havana at your leisure. Use this opportunity to catch up on some of the things you wanted to do but may have missed out on, or maybe you can revisit some of your favourite sites, activities, or venues.

**Overnight:** Havana **Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 20 - Depart Cuba for Australia**

It's time to make your way to the airport in time for your flights back to Australia. While all good things must come to an end, we'd rather think of today as the beginning of precious memories.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**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 on a group tour.

## 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.

You are welcome to request extra pre or post tour accommodation on any of our Cuba group tours. Please let us know at the time of booking and we can advise rates.

## 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).

## 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.

Want to know more? Call us on 1300 168 910 or email  
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## 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!

## 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 [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com) with your preferences for any of our travel packages!

To speak to our expert travel designers, please call 1300 168 910.

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## 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. 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. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

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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