

# **USA-CUBA TOUR – THE FORBIDDEN ISLAND TOUR**

**(8 Days/7 Nights)**

## DRAFT ITINERARY

### **DAY 1 – THURSDAY: MEET AND GREET IN FT. LAUDERDALE, THEN FLY TO HAVANA**

- Arrival in Ft. Lauderdale and depart for Havana, Cuba at 12:14pm
- Transportation from airport to 5-star hotel
  - Check-in and relax
- Meet & greet fellow guest and people-to-people tour orientation
- Dinner is open for the group, we can make recommendations and help with transportation.
- People-to-People activities/tour starts at 8:30am

### **DAY 2 – FRIDAY: BEAUTIFUL MORNING RUM & CIGAR FACTORY TOURS AND HISTORY**

- Breakfast at hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you'll meet your Cuban guide
- Guided Factory tour in Havana
- Visit the Havana Cigar factory & the Great Theater of Havana
  1. Visit the Partagas Cigar Factory where a Cuban expert will teach us about the tobacco production process and the history of Cuban tobacco industry.
  2. We'll walk through Centro Havana with a Cuban historian and we'll learn about historical churches and buildings in Cuba.
  3. Then we'll visit the great theater of Havana, where we'll meet local Cuban performers and artist who perform in the main Opera and Ballet shows.
- We'll settle down for a nice lunch at a nearby restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- Then it's off to see and learn about "The Old Man and the Sea" Cuban style, we'll visit Hemingway's home and farm and learn from a Cuban expert all about his adventures, challenges, and contributions while living in Cuba. We'll visit the El Floridita bar and restaurant and taste a famous Cuban Daiquiri at one of Hemingway's favorite places. Then we'll visit Cojimar and learn about one of Hemingway favorites hangouts from local Cubans who knew Hemingway.
- Return to hotel to relax and freshen up
- Meet for Dinner at a nice Cuban Restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))

- We can plan some entertainment at the famous Tropicana (Not Included) – Starts at 9:30pm

### **DAY 3 – SATURDAY: GETTING TO KNOW HAVANA, ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY, EDUCATION**

- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you'll meet your local Cuban guide
- Guided tour of Old Havana (full-day walking) UNESCO site
  1. Visit Old Havana with a special guided walking tour with a local Cuban historian, where you'll learn about the history of Cuba and its people through visiting the Plaza de Armas, El Templete, and La Cathedral San Cristobal de la Habana. During these stops we'll meet various groups of Cubans people and we'll have an opportunity to discuss opening life in Cuba. This tour will take you from the Malecon all the way to the capital with stops along the way, such as, La Bodeguita for an authentic mojito and El Florita for a strawberry daiquiri just the way Hemingway enjoyed them.
  2. During this tour, we'll relax and enjoy lunch at an authentic Cuban restaurant in the heart of Havana during our walking tour (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- Return to hotel to relax and freshen up
- Meet for Dinner at a nice Cuban Restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- After Dinner, we're off to see Cuba Historical Cannon Ceremony – Starts at 8:30pm
- Back to Hotel

### **DAY 4 – SUNDAY: BEAUTIFUL DAY IN HAVANA, CUBA!!!!**

- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you'll meet your Cuban guide
- We'll visit Fusterlandia in a Vintage Classic Convertible Car where we'll meet local artist who have contributed to Fusterlandia and get a chance to meet Jose Fuster.
- Then the Classic cars will drop you off at the beautiful Hotel Nacional
- Lunch at Hotel Nacional (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- We'll meet an expert on hotel Nacional history and we'll learn about all about the famous and mysteries of this beautiful hotel. We'll also get a chance to visit the beautiful garden of Hotel Nacional
- Then we're off to visit the Callejon de Hammell show and dance of Afro-Cuban religions through the art created by Salvador González. The buildings are lined with brightly-colored

paintings, murals, sculptures and objects, which depict rituals and deities. Also, rumba groups play here every Sunday.

- Back to your hotel to rest and relax
- Meet for dinner at Local Cuban Restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- Back to hotel to rest and relax
- We can recommend some entertainment like the Buena Vista Social Club (not included)

#### **DAY 5 – MONDAY: BEAUTIFUL TOUR OF CUBA’S COUNTRYSIDE (VINALES), SEE HOW CIGARS ARE GROWN AND PRODUCED IN CUBA**

- Breakfast at hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you’ll meet your local Cuban guide
- Guided tour through Pinar del Rio province to Vinales
  1. The scenic drive along the “Ruta del Tobacco” will take you into the lush surroundings of the Pinar del Rio Province.
  2. While visiting a tobacco farm and see a Cigar rolling demonstration, we’ll learn from an agricultural expert on Cuban farming challenges and future expectations.
  3. Lunch at an authentic Cuban Paladar (included)
  4. Visit the Mural de la Prehistoria (The Great Wall) with a Cuban local historian expert
  5. Boat ride through underground India caves with a local Cuban historian expert
  6. Horseback Riding (optional)
- Return to Havana hotel to relax and freshen up
- Dinner at a lovely Cuban Restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- Back to Hotel
- We can plan some entertainment for you at Club 1830 – Salsa (Not Included)

#### **DAY 6 – TUESDAY: BEAUTIFUL TOUR OF CUBA’S SOUTHSIDE (MATANZAS), SEE THE HISTORICAL SITE OF THE BAY OF PIGS**

- Breakfast at hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you’ll meet your local Cuban guide
- Guided tour to Matanzas providence “Playa Giron” for the Bay of Pigs tour
  1. The scenic drive through the heart of Havana and Matanzas that will give you a real look at Cuba and her beauty, all while being humbled as you take in the landscape and the people.

2. Once there we will start off by visiting the Matanzas province "Playa Giron" where you'll meet a local Cuban historian that will teach you the history of the Bay of Pigs from Cuba's perspective. We'll visit and then hear from an expert during our tour of the museum.
  3. Boat ride through the lagoon to see reproduction of an Indian village, where you'll learn about the Indian tribes of Cuba from local experts.
  4. Visit the beach where Cubans confronted American trained forces
  5. Lunch at an authentic Cuban Paladar (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
  6. There will be chances to swim and snorkel in some of the most beautiful waters on the south side of Cuba.
- Return to Havana hotel to relax and freshen up
  - Dinner is on your own, we can make some recommendations for you (not included)
  - Recommendation – Jazz Café (Not Included)

### **DAY 7 – WEDNESDAY: ART ADVENTURE & HISTORY TOUR OF HAVANA OR FULL DAY WALKING TOUR OF HAVANA**

- Breakfast at hotel (included)
- Meet in front of Hotel where you'll meet your Cuban guide
- Guided Art tour through Havana
  1. Learn about Cuban society through Art – see everyday life through the eyes of several of the city's artists and experts.
  2. Enjoy tailor-made behind-the-scenes with art professors as we visit to Art Centers, Galleries and Museums, such as National Museum of Fine Arts, Napoleon Museum, Museum of Chocolate, Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi.
  3. Meet the artists and hear their stories while immersing yourself in the vibrant and exciting Havana Art Scene.
- Late lunch at an authentic Cuban Paladar (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito))
- Learn from experts as we visit Bellas Artes, Museum of Cuban Art, National Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Decorative Arts
- Return to hotel to relax and freshen up
- Dinner at nice Cuban Restaurant (includes 1 main entrée and 2 drinks (water, soda, juice, beer, Cuban Libre, Mojito)) – VIP
- Entertainment after dinner (Not Included)

## **DAY 8 – THURSDAY: SAY FAREWELL TO CUBA OUR OLD FRIEND**

- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Transfer from hotel to Havana's José Martí International Airport
- Havana to Ft. Lauderdale departures
- Process through Customs and Immigrations
- Back home