



SPARROW PHOTOGRAPHY

L I F E , C A M E R A , A C T I O N .

Sparrow Travel A Cuban Photographic Adventure December 1-9, 2023

Please note that sunrise is about 6:15 am and sunset is 8:10 pm during our journey!

Friday, December 1st Bien Venidos (L, welcome cocktail, D)

10:50 am Depart Miami International Airport on recommended American Airlines flight number 2705. Please purchase your tickets with AA and include this leg of your flight. Airfare to and from Cuba is not included.

12:00 pm Arrive at José Martí International Airport in Havana. After we clear customs and meeting Adrianna our guide we are off to lunch at **La Divina Pastora**. We will enjoy a panoramic view of Havana from here and we will briefly stop at the garden of El Morro Castle for our first group picture and then we visit the **Christ of Havana** spot to enjoy the perfect view of the Capital.

4:00pm Check-in to **Grand Aston Hotel in Vedado** or **Catedral Hotel in Old Havana**.

5:30pm Welcome cocktail and brief Orientation Meeting, followed by a dynamic overview of the history and development of the Capital with the outstanding architect and former city planner **Miguel Córyula**.

8:00 pm Welcome Dinner at **Café de Oriente with live music**.
(Overnight Havana)

Saturday, December 2nd Havana (B, L)

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

9:00 am Morning Presentation by a local photographer at their home (**Roberto Chile** requested).

11:00am **Guided walking tour** around stunning Old Havana, including its most important plazas with local photographer (**Adrian Garrido** requested or another). Our walk takes us through Havana's oldest neighborhood to learn about the historic, architectural, and cultural significance of this area, which was declared a World

Heritage Site in 1982 by UNESCO. Explore the four main plazas of the 18th-century colony: Plaza de Armas, which originally housed the main administrative buildings of the colony; Plaza Vieja, the oldest of the plazas; Plaza de la Cathedral, site of the baroque cathedral of Havana, and Plaza de San Francisco, site of the basilica of San Francisco and the old Havana stock exchange. We finish our stroll at **Arte Corte**, community project.

1:00 pm Lunch at **La Bodeguita del Medio**, birthplace to the mojito cocktail.

3:00pm We will also stop at **Fototeca** to see their current exhibition and to hear about the important role this institution plays in preserving the photographic work on Cuban photographers.

4:00pm Enjoy a guided tour of the **Capitol building** (or Alicia Alonso National Theater).

5:00 pm Catch bus to hotel and enjoy time to rest.

8:00 pm Dinner on your own but we will make a group reservation La Tierra, a private paladar within the vibrant interactive art space of the **Fabrica de Arte Cubano!** Experience contemporary photography, fashion, mixed media art and live music!
(Overnight Havana)

Sunday December 3rd *Matanzas to Cienfuegos* *(B, L)*

7:30 am Breakfast at the hotel

8:00 am Check out and depart of Matanzas and Cienfuegos!

On the way we will have a brief stop at the iconic Plaza de la Revolucion.

We will leisurely stop at the highest bridge in Cuba on the way, the Bacunayagua to enjoy the view of the Yumuri Valley. We arrive in the impressive 330-year-old city of Matanzas in about 2 hours. The City preserves its tangible heritage as well as its culture in very subtle way, so that you have to walk its streets to find the mystery. We will tour key sights with a stop at the La Hermita hill to enjoy an aerial view of the city, walk through the main squares of the city and peruse local art galleries.

1:00pm Lunch at El Chiquirrin

2:30 pm Explore the publishing house of **La Vigia** and their artists' personally manufactured paper books.

3:15pm Exchange with the **AfroAtenas** community project. Then we are off to Cienfuegos. We will arrive in time to check into our *casas particulares*. We have an evening free to enjoy local paladares and will have suggestions for some great locally owned dining!

(Overnight Cienfuegos in a *casa particular*), there are no legal hotels to stay in here).

Monday December 4th *Cienfuegos* *(B, L)*

8:00 am Breakfast at our *casas*.

9:00am Check out of our *casas*.

9:30 am Exchange with the community of the **Benny More Art School** (*donations welcome here*).

11:00am After we will have time to walk around the Parque Marti and explore local artists' galleries.

12:30pm Lunch at El Lagarto (or another).

2:00pm Visit to the house and workshop of local artist Santia Hermes who organizes, along with his wife, the community project Trazos Libres (Free Strokes).

3:30pm Visit to the **Tomas Terry Theater**. Here we will also enjoy an exchange with Honey and the **Coro de Cienfuegos**.

4:45pm Leave for **Trinidad**, a World Heritage Site located in Cuba's south central region. The group will learn about the history of this town and how the local architecture reflected the prosperity of sugar, tobacco and fruit trading, as well as about the 19th-century European influence. The drive is about 1.5 hours.

6:30 pm Check in to the hotel Ronda.

Evening Dinner is on your own and we will make a group reservation at **Vista Gourmet**, a private paladar.

Evening You are free to enjoy a music event at one of the many outstanding venues including **la Casa de la Trova a...or Palenque de los Congos Reales** and **Ruinas del Teatro Brunet**.

(Overnight Trinidad)

Tuesday, December 5th *Trinidad* *(B, L)*

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel

9:00 am Walking tour of the city center and visit to local galleries.

10:00am Exchange with local **Veterans of war** during different Cuban battles in the 20th century to learn about Cuban history told by its protagonists.

11:30am Visit the home of **Julio Munoz**, a Cuban photographer and "horse whisperer" or the art studio of Judith Vidal.

1:00pm Lunch at Sol Ananda.

2:30pm Excursion to the **Valley of the Sugar Mills** including a stop at the Manaca Iznaga plantation and tower.

4:00pm Later afternoon walking photography tour of Trinidad, including the headquarters of **Congos Reales**.

6:30pm Dinner and evening are yours to enjoy!

Evening You are free to enjoy a music event at one of the many outstanding venues including **La Casa de La Musica!**

(Overnight Trinidad)

Wednesday, December 6th *Trinidad -Play Giron- Havana* *(B, L)*

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Check out of the hotel and leave for La Habana.

10:30 am We will stop at the **National Park at the Peninsula of Zapata**, an important area of great biodiversity and wetlands, that is a bioserve and a Ramsar site where the Bay of Pigs is located. Upon arrival we will tour the park. We will be accompanied by an expert guide as we hike through these wild wetlands in the Bermejas Refuge. Visit the Bay of Pigs Museum.

Lunch and time for swimming and snorkeling at Puta Perdiz.

4:00pm Leave for Havana. It is about a 3-hour drive back to the Capital.
 7:00pm check into the hotel again.
 Eve Dinner and evening are yours to enjoy!

Thursday, December 7th Havana (B, L)

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel
 9:00 am Enjoy a docent lead tour of the **Bellas Artes Museum** to experience the contemporary arts wing. Then enjoy a bit of free time to stroll the Prado.
 10:30 am Exchange with locals at the **Rafael Trejo Boxing gym** (*donations welcome*)
 Lunch . at Hemingway's Floridita.
 2:00pm Visit the studio of well-known photographer **Roberto Salas for an artist** lecture and portfolio overview. You will also see some of his father Osvaldo Salas body of work. Roberto has had "privileged" access to Fidel Castro and other revolutionary leaders over the years.
 4:00pm Enjoy a performance and exchange with the children's circus project, **Angeles del Future.**
 5:00pm Free time to rest and have dinner on your own.
 6:30pm **Visit to the la Forteleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña!** Here we will have free time to walk around and shoot as the sun is setting on Havana.
 8:30 pm **Classic Car ride back to the hotel.**

(Overnight Havana)

Friday, December 8th Havana (B, D)

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
 9:00 am Experience the intensive labor behind the making of world class cigars as we tour a **Cigar Factory.**
 10:00 am Tour of the **Superior Institute of Arts (ISA)** the Head of Photography Department, including the Ricardo Porro complex, Photography building and the School of Ballet building.
 Or enjoy a visit to the **National School of Ballet** to photograph the rooms and students practicing.
 12:30 – 3:00 pm Free time for lunch on your own and shopping at the **Alcamenes de San Jose Arts & Crafts Market**
 3:30 pm Enjoy time to explore the **Museum of the Revolution.**
 5:00pm Free time.
 7:30 pm Farewell dinner at La Guarida Paladar

(Overnight Havana)

Saturday, December 9th

Hasta Luego

(B)

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Check out of hotel.

9:00am Join us for a visit to Regla, as we end our day to visit la Virgin de Regla, the Black Madonna also known as Yemaya.

10:30am Followed by a visit to Hemingway's Museum of the Finca Vigia.

12:00pm Transfer to the airport for your flights back to the US. Recommended flight after 3 pm.

12:30 pm Check into flight AA 744 to Miami at 3:40 pm for an arrival at 4:50 pm
Please have Euros at the gate to purchase lunch at gates.

