

Exploring Cuba Today

January 10-17, 2027

January 10th

Bienvenidos

- TBA Depart USA to Havana (HAV). Arrive at Jose Marti International Airport.
- 3:00pm Transfer to your 5-star hotel, the Gran Aston.
- 5:00pm Orientation Meeting with Welcome Mojito
- 6:00 pm Invited Speaker to hotel to give a historical overview of the development of Havana (Requested architect and urban planner *Miguel Coyula*). We will learn about the history and the current political economy of Cuba, while gaining valuable insights into the urban planning of the Capitol.
- 7:30 pm Welcome Dinner at San Cristobal Paladar

Meals included : Dinner

Overnight Havana

January 11th

Cuba and Its Capitol: Architecture and History

- 7:00-10:am Breakfast is served daily
- 9:00 am Enjoy a guided Walking City Tour of Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will engage with Cuban artists in their art studios, galleries, and markets to understand how artists negotiate among the tourist market, a socialist economy, and new opportunities for individual entrepreneurship. Visit the four major historical squares of Cuba, the Plaza de Armas, Plaza San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de la Cathedral. A historian will describe efforts to restore Old Havana buildings, attract tourism and new investment, and improve social services for local residents. We will see buildings and homes in different stages of reconstruction and meet with neighborhood residents.
- 11:00am Visit the National Ballet School to learn about arts education.
- 1:00pm Lunch at Dona Eutemia Paladar, followed by a visit to the Taller Grafica Arts Studio, and a continuation of our city tour.

- 3:00pm Explore Cuban Contemporary arts with a docent-guided tour of Havana's Museum of Fine Arts.
- 3:30pm We end our day with interactive contemporary dance at the Rosario Cardenas Dance Company.
- 5:00pm Time to rest.
- 7:00pm Optional Cultural Activity Visit to the Fabrica de Arte Cubano.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight Havana

January 12th

Diverse Voices Today

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:30am Visit with the Federation of Cuban Women (FWC). Learn about the history of gender rights in Cuba, including rights for women under the Constitution. Dialogue with representatives about current challenges and aspirations for women in Cuba.
- 11:00am Exchange with La Guiñera, a women-led community project. Learn about their work with youth, women, and workers to integrate educational and social opportunities, and improve standard of living through a highly popular community cultural center.
- 1:00pm Lunch at Jardin de los Milagros Paladar, and visit their hydroponic garden.
- 3:00pm Visit the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) to learn about Cuba's advancement in LGBTQ rights.
- 4:30pm Meet with filmmaker Gloria Rolando to watch the short film, *Dialogues with my Grandmother*, and discuss gender and race in Cuba.
- 6:00pm Return to the hotel. Free time to enjoy rest at hotel and dinner.

Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight Havana

January 13**Excursion to Matanzas**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am Check out of the hotel. Before leaving on our 2-day excursion, we will visit a local school to explore public education and literacy in Cuba.
- 10:30am Depart for Matanzas, a city known for its AfroCuban culture and legacy, which is called the “City of Bridges” or the “Athens of Cuba.” En route, we stop at the Bacunayagua Bridge for lunch, and visit a book-making workshop which is part of the independent publishing house *Ediciones Vigia*. We will have the opportunity to converse with local artists, poets, writers, and illustrators.
- 4:00pm Travel to Varadero, famous for its stunning beaches. Check into our hotel and enjoy the resort amenities and dinner.

Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**Overnight Varadero****January 14th****Afro Roots**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:30 am Visit to the Castillo de San Severino to learn about the Slave Route and the legacy of slavery in Cuba. This fort was declared a National Monument in 1978 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will also visit the museum for a brief overview of Ifa worship, Palomonte, Santeria, and other AfroCuban religions. Enjoy a performance of Orisha dance with AfroCuba.
- 1:00pm Lunch.
- 2:30pm Exchange with members of the La Marina Project, a restorative and Afro-descendant community cultural project.
- 4:00pm Return to hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**Overnight Varadero**

January 15th**Economic Outlook and US/Cuban Relations**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am Return to Havana.
- 11:00am Exchange with Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) for a discussion of Cuba–U.S. Relations & Historical Context, covering key historical moments, the embargo, and current diplomatic dynamics.
- 12:30pm Lunch.
- 2:00pm Exchange at el Centro de Estudios de la Economía Cubana (CEEC) on Cuba’s economic model, currency system, private sector growth, and foreign investment.
- 4:00pm Visit the Karibuni Project, a local development project that focuses on the empowerment of Black women. Founder and researcher Kenia Serrano will share stories demonstrating the power of community.
- 5:30pm Check into the Hotel Nacional. Free time for dinner and rest.
- 9:00 pm Meet in the hotel’s historic bar. At 9:40 we will walk 2 blocks to enjoy live Cuban Jazz at La Zora y El Cuervo.

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch**Overnight Havana****January 16th****Wrap up**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:30am Dive into the incredible work and life history of Roberto Salas, one of Cuba’s most influential photographers.
- 11:30am Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping for arts and crafts at the San Jose de Almancenés Artisan Market.
- 2:00pm Meeting with environmentalist and agroecologist Roberto Perez from the Foundation of Antonio Nunez Jimenez (FANJ) to learn about Cuba’s commitment to sustainability, and how the Tarea Vida (a state plan for confronting climate change) will impact future planning and development in Cuba.
- 4:00pm Visit Muraleando, a community arts project originally inspired by neighborhood artists who taught “art in the streets” The original efforts created art from objects found in trash dumps throughout the neighborhood. We hope to meet with

Manuel Dzeiaz Baldrice Manolo, co-founder and artist. Get ready to dance!

5:30pm Break

7:00pm Classic Car Cruise along the Malecon.

8:00pm Farewell dinner with invited guests (Educator Norma Guillard, Economist Camilla Piñero, and AltruVistas program director Cicely Sanchez).

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight Havana

January 17th

Hasta Luego!

am Breakfast and check out.

am Transfer to the airport

Meals included: Breakfast

This Journey is Powered by ...

