

Note: the following letters are used to denote: B=breakfast, L= lunch D= dinner

## **Cuba Tour 2020**

- Discover the heart and soul of the Cuban society
- Eight days and seven nights in the Pearl of the Caribbean
- Participants 10 Minimum
- Accommodations:
  - Hotel Capri, 4 stars, Vedado
- Fully escorted by full time expert English-speaking Cuban guide
- Most meals are included in this proposal and detailed below
- Luxury tour coach and full time chauffeur

### **Day 1 –Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> : Arrive to Havana [D]**

- Arrival at José Martí International Airport from Miami
- Welcome session by the tour guide including a very brief overview of the health care system and the tour activities in general.
- Private check-in to Hotel with assistance from your guide.
- Free time to settle in and rest up at your hotel.
- Bus tour of Modern Havana
- Transfer to Mediterraneo Habana restaurant for welcome dinner, included.

**Day 2 -Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup> : Havana, Cuba / Cuban Health Care System presentation /Visit a polyclinic / [B,L,D]**

- Breakfast in hotel
- A special presentation and dialogue: "Overview of Cuba Society" by a Professor of Havana University.
- Lunch at restaurant Mojito Mojito private restaurant, included
- Visit to a polyclinic in Havana
- Return to hotel to rest and freshen up
- Dinner at Los Naranjos Private restaurant (included)
- EVENING HIGHLIGHT: We witness a most dramatic ceremony – El Cañonazo – the Firing of the 9PM Cannon at the Fortress of San Carlos de la Cabaña. This enchanting colonial reenactment dates back to 1519 when the city of Havana was enclosed by a tall thick rock wall to ward off attacks from pirates and the English. The cannon firing signaled the closing of the city gates for the night. If you were outside at the time, you were in "vedado" or the forbidden zone. Today Vedado is an important cultural hub and beautiful section of modern Havana.

**Day 3-Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> ELAM/ Visit Cuban High schools [B,L]**

- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Visit ELAM. Interchange with students and professors
- We'll feast on a delicious lunch hosted by José Fuster, one of Cuba's most important ceramists and painters at his whimsical studio in Jaimanitas, just outside of Havana.
- Visit a high school in Old Havana. Interchange with students and professors.
- Dinner not included.

**Day 4- Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> : Havana, Health care system/Hemingway [B,L, D]**

- Breakfast in hotel
- Visit Maternity Hospital “Ramón González Coro. Meet staff and talk about future work
- TOUR HIGHLIGHT: Lunch at El Ajiaco private restaurant (included)
- Visit Cojímar, small fishing Village one of Hemingway’s favorite’s places
- Visit Finca La Vigía (House and farm of Ernest Hemingway Museum)
- Dinner at Decamerón
- Attend to Buena Vista Social Club at Havana Café (included)

**Day 5 –Friday January 10<sup>th</sup> : Consultorio/Clinic Cira García [B,L]**

- Breakfast in hotel
- Visit a “consultorio”
- Lunch at Bonita private restaurant (included)
- Visit Cira Garcia Clinic, part of the Public Health National System of Cuba for attention to foreign patients from the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba, to foreign business men established in Cuba and to foreign persons who come to the country. (Included)
- Return to hotel to rest and freshen up
- Dinner not included

**Day 6 –Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> : Community projects/ Rum museum  
[B,L]**

- Breakfast in hotel
- Visit to the Convento de Nuestra Señora de Belén [Convent of Our Lady of Belén], a humanitarian health project in Old Havana. Construction on the Convent was begun in 1712. It was expanded and remodeled several times over the centuries. Finally abandoned in 1925, it fell into grave disrepair. In 1991 restoration began and continues with amazing results. Today the Office of the Historian, local Public Health authorities and the Order of the Sisters of Charity jointly manage the Belén Convent. It is home to fifty elderly people and provides physiotherapy and ophthalmological services to many more elderly in the community. Other activities include exercise classes, board games, cognitive rehabilitation, films, crafts workshops, and "love among the elderly" lectures.
- Lunch at El Rum Rum private restaurant (included)

**Excursion The Art of Rum:**

- \* Get to know about the origin and development of the rum production in the island.
  - Visit to the Rum Museum.
  - Tasting of the Havana Club Rum.
  - Cocktail-making lessons: the barman will teach the costumers how to prepare their own Cuban cocktail.
  - Tour of the most famous bars of the old town: the Floridita and the Bodeguita del Medio including the tasting of a cocktail at the Ambos Mundos or the Beltrán de Santa Cruz hotels.
- Evening is free. Your guide will keep you posted on entertainment options

## **Day 7: Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> : Old Havana Walking Tour [B,L, D]**

- Breakfast in hotel (included)
- Followed by a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll visit four of the five historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere. It contains the largest collection of remaining colonial-era architecture. This is a private tour led by your Cuba Explorer Tours guide.
- Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Catedral de San Cristóbal de la Habana built by the Jesuit order.
  - \* Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:
  - \* Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.
  - \* Palacio del Segundo Cabo [Palace of the Second Lieutenant] dates from 1770.
- Lunch at La Moneda Cubana (included)
- Visit The Museum of the Revolution. The Museum of the Revolution is a museum located in the Old Havana section of Havana. The museum is housed in what was the Presidential Palace of all Cuban presidents from Mario García Menocal to Fulgencio Batista. It became the Museum of the Revolution during the years following the Cuban revolution.
- Evening is free. Your guide will keep you posted on entertainment options.

- Enjoy a panoramic ride in old convertible cars to your dinner at Rio Mar private restaurant (Included in tour cost)

### **Day 8-: Havana, Home [B]**

- Breakfast at hotel. (included)
- Check-out at hotel.
- Transfer to José Martí International Airport for Flights home.

### ***TERMS AND CONDITIONS***

- See <http://cubaexplorer.com/terms-and-conditions/>
- A non-refundable deposit of 299.00 USD is required upon registration.
- Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure.

### **INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

- All taxes. Prices listed are the total amounts you pay. All amounts are quoted in US dollars.
- Airport transfers: We meet you at José Martí Int'l Airport in Havana and take you to your hotel upon arrival. We return you to José Martí Airport for departure.
- Hotels as listed in tour itinerary or similar.
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners as per itinerary.

- All activities, services, speakers, meetings and meals as described in tour itinerary except those noted as “optional” or “not included in cost.”
- Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation and a full-time professional driver.
- An expert Cuban English-speaking guide and translator whose background matches tour content throughout the program.
- Ongoing support from Cuba Explorer Tours staff in North America and Cuba before, during and after your stay.
- Emergency collect call access to our North American staff while in Cuba.
- Emergency cash advances for our tour participants who face complications accessing funds from aboard while in Cuba.

#### **NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

- Cost of airfare to and from Havana.
- Cuban Visitor visa.
- Gratuities for Cuban tour guide, bus driver, chambermaids, restaurant staff, porters, etc.
- Optional travel interruption and cancellation insurance.