



Hello Cuba Travel (RN 201009693)
Authentic Cuba Travel (RN 201009735)
TICO Registration No. 50018706
ACTA Registration No. 9735559
IATA TIDS No. 96-5 3230 6.



877 280 2054 Toll Free North America
647 351 8191 Toronto and International
416-966-4987 Facsimile
info@authenticubatours.com Email
www.authenticubatours.com Website

SPRING BREAK 2012: CUBA, JEWEL OF THE CARIBBEAN!

Themes: Arts, Architecture, Adventure, Cultural, Educational
Travels to Havana - Cienfuegos - Trinidad

Cost: \$1,459 CAD (all tax incl.) *1

Includes:

- > Nice, Safe, Clean 3 star hotels
- > All Meals
- > 2 Complimentary Teachers Participation
- > Official Asistur Cuban health insurance
- > Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation
- > An expert Cuban English speaking guide and translator

FREE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

- > Complimentary Custom Website
- > Complimentary Facebook Page
- > Complimentary Poster
- > Parents Updates
- > You won't be alone when introducing your tour
- > Fundraising Ideas
- > 24/7 Support before, during and after your Cuba tour

*1 Price valid for a group of 20 paying students, air fare not included. We guarantee lowest fare for our school groups. Contact us for assistance.

DAY 1 - SATURDAY 10 MARCH. ARRIVAL

Arrival at "Jose Marti" International Airport in Havana.

Group welcomed by the **ACT Cuban Guide**.
Transfer to your hotel **Park View**, located in **Old Havana**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
Private group check-in.

Cuba has some of the **biggest and better conserved Spanish colonial architecture cores in America**. No wonder, Cuba's Architecture is one of the most significant attractions for foreign visitors to the largest island in the Caribbean.

Breakfast and dinner are complimentary.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY 11 MARCH. HAVANA

Morning: meeting with our guide for the morning, architect **Miguel Coyula** from the **Group for the Comprehensive Development of Havana City** at their headquarters in **The Scale Model of Havana City**, a museum that contains a model of the entire city of Havana.

The model took nine years to build and is the second largest in the world after one of New York. Havana's 727 square kilometers are represented in an area of 22 meters of length and 10 meters of width.

City planners needed to see and have a tactile sense of the impressive physical and cultural patrimony of Havana, spanning five centuries as a port city, island Caribbean capitol, and launching pad for the conquest of the Americas.

Guided panoramic motor coach tour of **Modern Havana**.

We will visit places like **Square of Revolution**, **University of Havana**, **Seawall**, **Vedado** neighbourhood, **1830 Restaurant**, **Miramar** neighbourhood, **Nacional Hotel**, **Cemetery Colon**, and others.

We will also see important examples of Art- Deco style architecture such as:



Hello Cuba Travel (RN 201009693)
Authentic Cuba Travel (RN 201009735)
TICO Registration No. 50018706
ACTA Registration No. 9735559
IATA TIDS No. 96-5 3230 6.



877 280 2054 Toll Free North America
647 351 8191 Toronto and International
416-966-4987 Facsimile
info@authenticubatours.com Email
www.authenticubatours.com Website

America Building is a theatre complex designed in 1941 by architects Fernando Martinez Campos and Pascual de Rojas, consisting of two theatres, a restaurant and some shops in the main floor and residential apartments in the upper floors. Its interiors are very well preserved and conserve all the details of the original monumental design.

Lopez Serrano Building, with its strong reminiscence of American Skyscrapers. Built in 1932 by Mira & Roisch, it was the highest residential building in Havana for many years.

The **House of Catalina Laza**, Havana's first art deco house, was built in 1926 by Juan Pedro Baro with marble from Carrara, ornaments from Lalique and sand from the Nile. Baro had it built for the beautiful Catalina Laza.

Lunch at **La Mina restaurant**.

Afternoon: guided walking tour of **Old Havana, UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Visit to **Square of Arms**, ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers and surrounded by impressive buildings such as:

Palacio de los Capitanes Generales was the former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.

Palacio del Segundo Cabo, the seat of the second authority of the island. Today it houses important publishing concerns.

Castillo de la Real Fuerza. The second oldest fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies. The castle was recently renovated and reopened in June 2008 to hold the impressive maritime museum. Well laid out exhibits chart Spain and Cuba's naval history.

Continue walking tour onto **San Francisco Square**, one of the oldest in the historical quarter.

Visit to **Plaza Vieja**, the only civic square of colonial times. Notice it doesn't have a church or government building around. Here we will visit important institutions for visual arts.

Visit to the **Cathedral Square**, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza of Cuba, named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Cathedral of Havana built by the Jesuit order.

Free time in the famous **ohandicraft market** of Old Havana where you can purchase all sorts of crafts and souvenirs by local artisans.

Evening: tonight we have a **Cuban band** playing for us! You'll learn to dance to Salsa, Son, Rumba, and other popular Cuban rhythms with instruction from bandleaders.

DAY 3 – MONDAY 12 MARCH. HAVANA

Morning: guided walking tour of **Havana's Parque Central** and surrounding buildings:

Centro Asturiano, inaugurated in 1927 designed by Spanish Architect Manuel del Busto features solid heavy façades constructed in Capellania Stones with clear influence of Spanish Renaissance. It houses the most majestic staircase of Cuban Architecture. Since 2001 the building houses the new Museum of Fine Arts.

Manzana de Gomez, first entire city block built in Cuba in the beginnings of the 20th century completely for commercial use with two inner diagonal streets that cross the building in all directions integrating the pedestrian circulation with the outer fabric.



Hello Cuba Travel (RN 201009693)
Authentic Cuba Travel (RN 201009735)
TICO Registration No. 50018706
ACTA Registration No. 9735559
IATA TIDS No. 96-5 3230 6.



877 280 2054 Toll Free North America
647 351 8191 Toronto and International
416-966-4987 Facsimile
info@authenticubatours.com Email
www.authenticubatours.com Website

Visit to the former **Centro Gallego**, built in 1915 by Belgian architect Paul Belau. The facades have a rich decoration derived from baroque and renaissance styles. Today, the center houses the Gran Teatro de La Habana, home of Modern Dance Companies.

Bacardi Building, designed in 1930 by Cuban architects Esteban Rodriguez Castells, Rafael Fernandez Ruenes and Jose Menendez Menendez, located in Las Murallas district. The rich façade design is based on polychrome granite imported from Bavaria and Norway as well as coloured brick, terracotta and Capellania stone. The elaborate decoration of the building crown features a bat, logo of the Bacardi company.

Visit the rooftop of the **Sevilla hotel** for an eagle view of the walk you have taken in the morning while enjoying a refreshing Mojito cocktail.

Visit to the **Capitolio Nacional**, designed by Cuban Architects and built by the American construction company of Purdy & Henderson.

This monumental building is one of Cuba's most outstanding architectural patrimony packed with artwork from Cuban and foreign artists.

The dome is 300.96 ft. high (7 inches higher than the highest capitol building in the US) and the recently renovated gardens are the work of the famous French Landscape architect, Forestier.

Light lunch at **Prado cafeteria**.

Walking tour along the **Paseo del Prado**, a pedestrian promenade remodelled in 1929 with the inauguration of Havana's Capitol Building.

Visit to residential buildings along the boulevard with clear influence from European and American architecture. Visit to the interior of the most

important residence: Cuba's former **president Jose Miguel Gomez Residence**.

Visit to **Telegrafo Hotel**.

Visit to the former **Asociacion de Dependientes del Comercio**, a Venitian neo-renaissance style building placed in a key corner of the Prado featured in the film Buena Vista Social Club.

Visit to the former **Casino Español**, currently used for wedding ceremonies for its lavish interiors.

Return to hotel.

Evening: attend **baseball game** at **Latino Americano Stadium**, popularly known in Cuba as "The Colossus of Cerro" is home of Ciudad Habana **Industriales**. The stadium holds 55,000 people. In 1999, it hosted an exhibition series between Cuban National Team and the Baltimore Orioles.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY 13 MARCH. HAVANA

Morning: guided tour of the **National Art Schools**. The schools were designed and built by architects **Cuban Ricardo Porro** and the **Italians Roberto Gottardi** and **Vittorio Garatti** from 1961 to 1965, in the former affluent neighbourhood of Country Club Park (today known as Cubanacán), specifically on the grounds of the **Havana Country Club** golf course.

Only two of the schools were completed, the rest being abandoned and awaiting restoration funding recently approved by the Cuban government.

Lunch hosted by **Jose Fuster**, one of the most important Cuban ceramists and painters today.



Hello Cuba Travel (RN 201009693)
Authentic Cuba Travel (RN 201009735)
TICO Registration No. 50018706
ACTA Registration No. 9735559
IATA TIDS No. 96-5 3230 6.



877 280 2054 Toll Free North America
647 351 8191 Toronto and International
416-966-4987 Facsimile
info@authenticubatours.com Email
www.authenticubatours.com Website

Afternoon: visit to **Partagas Cigar Factory**, founded in 1845 by Spaniard Don Jaime Partagas. Don Jaime owned many of the best plantations in the Vuelta Abajo tobacco-growing region of Cuba and being able to choose from among the finest tobaccos on the island made the brand Partagas incredibly successful.

Don Jaime is also believed to have experimented with various methods of fermenting and aging tobacco and is legendarily credited with hiring the first lector to read to and entertain the cigar rollers as they worked. Before and after the Revolution, the Cuban-produced Partagás has been one of the most revered and highest-selling brands of cigars in the world.

Return to hotel.

Dinner at hotel.

Evening: attend one of the most traditional and popular ceremonies in Cuba, **The Fire of the Cannon of 9 O'clock** at the **Fortress of San Carlos de La Cabana**.

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH. HAVANA – CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD

Morning: departure to **Trinidad**, in Central Cuba.

En route, we will visit **Cienfuegos**, a city of neoclassical buildings with a European flair.

Visit to **Palacio de Valle upon arrival**. This architectural jewel originated as a home for trader, Celestino Caceres, who later gave it as a wedding present to the Valle family who added to it (in a Mughal Style with carved floral motifs) a stunning Carrara marble staircase, cupped arches, bulbous domes and delicate arabesques.

Lunch at **Palacio del Valle** restaurant.

Afternoon: guided walking tour of Cienfuegos Historical Center.

We will visit neoclassical buildings around **Paseo del Prado** and the main **Square Jose Marti** such as:

The **Tomas Terry Theatre**, completed in 1895 and named after a sugar baron from Venezuela who arrived in Cuba with no money and made his fortune by buying sick slaves for a low price, to later nurse them back to health and reselling them.

This money was invested in a sugar estate that brought him the wealth to build several outstanding buildings in Cienfuegos, including this theatre, with materials specially brought over from Europe.

The **Casa de la Cultura**, home of another wealthy sugar baron, stunning mansion in neoclassical style.

The Cathedral built with the donation of wealthy families like the Lebrancs, the Albis, the Terrys. Inside you find the reproductions of the 12 Apostles in stained glass imported from Paris. Also the original machinery of the clock tower was built in France. Still in place and working.

We'll also visit the elegant art gallery **Galería de Arte Maroya** and review its impressively displayed collection of paintings, sculptures and antiques.

Now we journey on to the historic city of **Trinidad** and check in at all-inclusive **Costa Sur Beach Resort**.

You'll have time for dinner and a swim in the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea.



Hello Cuba Travel (RN 201009693)
Authentic Cuba Travel (RN 201009735)
TICO Registration No. 50018706
ACTA Registration No. 9735559
IATA TIDS No. 96-5 3230 6.



877 280 2054 Toll Free North America
647 351 8191 Toronto and International
416-966-4987 Facsimile
info@authenticubatur.com Email
www.authenticubatur.com Website

DAY 6 - THURSDAY 15 MARCH. TRINIDAD

Morning: guided by your guide, we will take a walking tour of **UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trinidad's Historical Center**, a perfect relic of the early days of the Spanish colony with beautifully preserved streets and buildings with hardly a trace of the 20th century anywhere.

Visit to the **Architecture Museum** (Casa de los Sanchez Iznaga), housing the most representative samples of the city's architectural development in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Visit to **Museo Lucha contra Bandidos**, former home of the San Francisco de Asis convent.

Visit to **Museo Romantico**, overlooking the Trinidad main square. It has an excellent exhibition of romantic style porcelain, glass, paintings and decorative furniture which belonged to the Conde de Brunet and other Trinidad notorious families.

We will stop at a mirador (lookout) over the **Sugar Mill Valley**, where the sugar barons used to have their countryside mansions and mills. This site is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Lunch back at the hotel.

Afternoon: Trinidad is well known for its **pottery makers**. We meet with a family that has been passing the tradition for generations: the Santander Family at **Casa del Alfarero**.

Free time to wander the streets of the historical centre or enjoy the beach.

Evening: free to enjoy the beach, hotel amenities, and the lively streets of Trinidad. How about live Cuban popular music on steps of **Casa de la Musica** – a great opportunity to dance with Cubans and your tour companions.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY 16 MARCH. TOPES DE COLLANTES

Morning: we will board former **Russian army trucks** for **Topes de Collantes** in the **Escambray Mountain Range**, Cuba's second highest mountain range- reaching 3, 700 feet atop Pico San Juan. The mountains are home to small mountain villages and are a delight for birders and walkers alike. Slopes are swathed in Caribbean pines, ancient tree ferns, bamboo, and eucalyptus.

Topes de Collantes National Park in the **Escambray mountains** in Central Cuba. A perfect place for encountering the **Cuban Emerald** (*Chloros-tilbon ricordii*), **Broad-winged Hawk** (*Buteo platypterus*), **Cuban Parrot** (*Amazono leucocephala*), **Fernandina's Flicker** (*Colaptes fernandinae*) ...

Arrival at **Hacienda Codina**, an old Spanish Hacienda, once part of a large Spanish coffee plantation where we will have a typical lunch. Followed by a walk around this area to admire the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Afternoon return to Trinidad.

Evening venue: Cuban Popular Music Live at Steps of Casa de la Musica not to be missed, and a great opportunity to dance with Cubans!

DAY 8 - SATURDAY 17 MARCH. DEPARTURE

Early morning departure to Havana City International Airport for departure.