



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, A NATURAL PARADISE!

Themes: Nature, Bird Watching, Adventure, Ecotourism  
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 is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity.** Its ecosystems are among the richest and best preserved in the Caribbean.

Cuba boasts more than **84 protected areas**, making up almost 14% of the lands and 16% of the shelf, along with **six UNESCO Biosphere Reserves**.

Its flora is abundant and varied; it is estimated that the 110,992 square kilometre archipelago contains almost 4% of all the world's plant life.

Breakfast and dinner are complimentary.

### DAY 2 – SUNDAY 11 MARCH. HAVANA

**Morning:** visit to the **Museum of Natural History Felipe Poey** located at **The University of Havana**. The museum displays the collection on endemic species brought together by eminent Cuban scientist Felipe Poey during the 19th century. The exhibit includes specimens of the world's smallest bird, an extinct pigeon and indigenous Cuban birds!

Introduction to the program and **lecture on Cuban endemic birds** by

Cuban Professor from University of Havana.

**Followed by** guided walking tour of **Old Havana**, **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Visit to **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.



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@authenticubatoours.com Email  
www.authenticubatoours.com Website

Lunch at **La Mina** restaurant.

**Afternoon:** 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.

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 **handicraft market** of Old Havana where you can purchase all sorts of crafts and souvenirs by local artisans.

**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 3 – MONDAY 12 MARCH. LAS TERRAZAS**

**Morning:** departure to **Las Terrazas**, in **Sierra del Rosario** where we start the morning tour of the rural town at **Rancho Curujey** for explanation of the area.

Enjoy the view of the village that lies above the shores of San Juan Lake and beneath the mountains.

We also visit the home/studios of **local artists and artisans**.

Visit to the ruins of a **French Coffee Plantation** built in 1801.

Continue to **La Moka**, an ecological hotel with trees growing up through the balconies and ceiling.

Later we can take a swim at **San Juan River cascades and pools**.

Lunch by the river.

**Late afternoon:** return to hotel in Havana.

## **DAY 4 – TUESDAY 13 MARCH. HAVANA – PENINSULA DE ZAPATA**

**Morning:** bus transfer to **Peninsula de Zapata**. The **Zapata Swamps**, located in the southern coast of Matanzas province, is the largest marsh in the insular Caribbean. Peninsula de Zapata National Park was declared **Biosphere Reserve** by **UNESCO** and **Ramsar Site**.



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

It covers an area of 5 000 square kilometers of woods and seacoast vegetation, marsh and mangroves.

The park is the natural home to over 160 bird species and 900 varieties of higher plant families. It is also a favourite stop for tens of thousands of migratory birds!

Visit to **Guama Crocodile Breeding Farm**, that has successfully bred one of the largest reptiles of Cuba since 1974: the **Cuban Crocodile** (*Crocodylus rhombifer Cuvier*), considered an endangered species that can be found at the Zapata Swamps and Lanier Swamps only.

The Cuban Crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer Cuvier*) is one of the two most aggressive species of crocodiles in the world and endemic to Cuba.

Visit to **La Boca and Guama Ceramic Workshop**.

Lunch at restaurant by **La Cueva de los Peces Cenote**, a geological formation that is formed when the roof of an underground river collapses leaving a pool of salt water connected to the sea by a system of immersed tunnels.

In the cenotes of La Cueva de los Peces live a wide variety of flora and fauna characteristic only of this region.

Check-in at **Playa Larga Hotel**. Remainder of the afternoon is free to relax by the warm waters of the Caribbean.

Dinner at the hotel.

## **DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH. PENINSULA DE ZAPATA**

Day excursion to **Las Salinas Wildlife Refuge**, unique Cuban site for bird watching where two continental corridors of migratory birds coincide.

Within the **Zapata Swamp** there are numerous areas designated for environmental preservation, such as Zapata Swamp Natural Reserve and Las Salinas wildlife sanctuary, which is part of the larger Zapata Biosphere Reserve (IUCN category VI) which in total is over 6,000 km<sup>2</sup> and the largest protected area, not only in Cuba, but also the Caribbean.

The swamp is not only known for its size but also for being the best preserved wetlands in all of the Antilles, designated as a "**Wetland of International Importance**" by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971. In mid-2001 an additional 4,520 km<sup>2</sup> were declared a Ramsar Site.

We'll be looking for:

**Roseate Flamingo** (*Phoeni-copterus ruber*), **Sand hill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*), **Roseate, Yellow-headed Warbler** (*Teretistris fernan-dinae*), **Spoonbill** (*Ajaia ajaja*), **Clapper Rail** (*Rallus longi-rostris*), **Common Black Hawk** (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)...

Packed lunch.

Return to your hotel for **snorkeling, scuba diving** and other **water sport** activities (optional).

Return to your hotel.



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

## DAY 6 – THURSDAY 15 MARCH. PENINSULA DE ZAPATA - TRINIDAD

**Morning:** departure to **UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trinidad**, 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**.

Trinidad is well known for its **pottery makers**. We meet with a family that has been passing the tradition for generations: the **Santanders**.

Check in at **Costa Sur hotel**, and take a swim in the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea (all inclusive).

## 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.

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.

**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*)...

**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.