

Cuba

Cuba: Your Private Kayak & Cultural Journey

Havana - Playa Larga - Trinidad and Cienfuegos

BEST SEASON

PRICE

How LONG

All year round

From US \$5,095 pp excluding local flights 9 Days / 8 Nights



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Experience the vibrant allure of tropical Cuba as you embark on an extraordinary outdoor adventure. Immerse yourself in the captivating blend of cultural heritage, tantalizing cuisine, and awe-inspiring natural wonders. Delve into the literary and cultural tapestry of historical Havana, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos, where you'll wander through enchanting cities, revel in mesmerizing music and dance, and marvel at the vibrant colonial architecture that paints the landscape. By special permission, venture into lush tropical forests, embrace the crystal-clear waters and pristine beaches of the Caribbean, and indulge in thrilling snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking escapades. Picture yourself savoring delightful seafood picnics on sun-kissed shores. This remarkable itinerary effortlessly combines exhilarating kayaking and outdoor excursions with leisurely walks and enriching cultural exchanges, offering a truly immersive exploration of Cuban culture and its astounding wildlife. Kayaking is the ultimate way to access secluded and untamed hidden gems that lie beyond the wildest dreams of most travelers.

Quick Summary

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner OV: Overnight

Day &	Transportation, Highlights and	Meals
Location	Accommodations	
Day 1	Arrival transfer, orientation, short walk, Fabrica de Arte and	
Havana	Dinner at Terra OV: La Reserva or similar	D
Day 2	Havana and Old Havana walking city tour, UNESCO World	BLD
Havana	Heritage site OV: La Reserva or similar	
Day 3	Crocodile breeding center in Boca de Guama. Kayaking in	BLD
Playa Larga	Bay of Pigs OV: Casa Enrique or similar	
Day 4	Kayak at Zapata National Park. Evening private dinner,	BLD
Playa Larga	followed by dancing and music OV: Casa Enrique or similar	
Day 5	Museum tour in Playa Giron. Coastal snorkeling, botanical	BLD
Trinidad	garden tour OV: Finca Kenia or similar	
Day 6	Trinidad city tour, home visit with photographer Julio Munoz	BLD
Trinidad	or local sculptor, Casa de la Musica	
	OV: Finca Kenia or similar	
Day 7	Guanaroca Nature Reserve, river kayaking to Cienfuegos	BLD
Cienfuegos	OV: Hotel Jagua or similar	
Day 8	Return to Havana, visit Hemingway Museum, Cojimar, Plaza	BLD
Havana	de la Revolucion in Classic convertible cars	
	OV: La Reserva or similar	
Day 9	Transfer to airport for departure on Classic convertible	В
Departure		

ITINERARY IN DETAIL



Day 1 | Arrival to Havana, Cuba

Welcome to Havana!! Your private guide and driver will meet you at the airport to take you to your accommodation. After you settle into some of the city's best bed and breakfasts, known locally as casas particulares, you will get a comprehensive orientation to prepare you for your time in Cuba. If time

allows it explore the neighborhood, and immerse yourself in the lively culture of Cuba at your own pace with your guide. When available to the public, your guide will take you to the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), a dynamic and innovative cultural hub in Havana, where art, music, and creativity converge under one roof. This converted factory space showcases contemporary art exhibitions, live performances, film screenings, and more, offering a unique and immersive cultural experience. On the same premises, Tierra Restaurant complements the artistic atmosphere with a menu that features both Cuban and international cuisine, providing a delightful culinary journey for visitors to savor amidst the vibrant art scene and where dinner will be served. Overnight at La Reserva Casa Particular or similar.



Day 2 | Havana in a day

Explore the captivating allure of Havana with our expertly guided tour, where you'll discover the city's unique charm characterized by its warm-hearted locals, lively architecture, and thriving cultural scene. Embark on a picturesque journey with a scenic drive that unveils the treasures of Havana, including the bustling malecón, historic landmarks, and the diverse

tapestry of its neighborhoods, all while immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of Havana's cultural heritage. Delve deeper into the enchantment of old Havana during an enlightening walking tour, meandering through a maze of vibrant buildings and cobblestone alleyways that have earned the city its prestigious World Heritage designation. Take a moment to indulge in a classic mojito and savor the flavors of authentic Cuban cuisine at a local paladar, a true symbol of your arrival in this remarkable city. As the day draws to a close, you can either return to your comfortable hotel or seek recommendations from your knowledgeable guide to further immerse yourself in Havana's vivacious nightlife. Overnight at the La Reserva Casa Particular or similar.



Day 3 | Boca de Guama-Playa Larga

Explore the Criadero de Cocodriles (crocodile farm) in Boca de Guama, where you'll learn about crocodile conservation and reintroduction efforts. This facility breeds Cuban and American crocodiles and holds cultural significance as an indigenous site named after a Taino chief. Our journey proceeds to a charming small town that hosts one of Cuba's esteemed national art and

music schools. Here, we embark on an enthralling visit, expertly guided by a faculty member, offering unique opportunities to interact with both students and staff. Depending on the day's activities, we may have the privilege of observing a band class, engaging in conversations with a sculptor, or even participating in an invigorating dance lesson. Following this enriching experience, we pause for a delightful lunch before making our way to our Casa Particular (Bed & Breakfast) accommodation nestled in the tranquil village of Playa Larga. After some well-deserved relaxation time or a leisurely beachfront stroll, we commence our first kayaking adventure. With paddle in hand, you'll glide gracefully across the waters of the Bay of Pigs, all the while being regaled with captivating stories about the area by your knowledgeable guide. The two-hour session will swiftly pass, and before you know it, it will be time to return to the shore for a delicious dinner. Stay in a modest local home for the night. Overnight at a Casa Particular, Casa Enrique or similar. **Kayak Paddle: Approx. 3 miles, 1.5-2 hours paddling time depending on weather and timing factors.**



Day 4 | Kayaking at Zapata National Park, a bird paradise

Embark on a captivating journey through the pristine coastal expanse and protected marine sanctuary of Zapata National Park, all from the vantage point of a kayak. This exceptional ecosystem is a haven for an array of bird species, marine creatures, and distinctive flora and fauna, providing a sensory feast for nature enthusiasts. Savor a picturesque picnic lunch beneath

the gentle sway of palm trees, where your well-informed guide will regale you with enthralling stories from Cuba's vibrant history. Immerse yourself in tales of gold trade, legendary pirates, and the pivotal Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961, an epochal event that unfolded right here in this very locale. As the day unfolds, return to Playa Larga, where an enchanting evening of music, dance, and captivating narratives await. These festivities pay homage to Cuba's rich cultural heritage and promise to be a delightful and memorable experience. Depending on availability, you may have the privilege of enjoying an informative presentation and engaging in discussions with the park's director. This unique opportunity sheds light on the park's vital mission and the diverse range of programs it encompasses. Conclude your day of exploration with a delectable dinner infused with the flavors of fresh, locally sourced ingredients. It's a perfect moment to pause, savor the day's experiences, and reflect upon the transformative moments that have shaped your extraordinary journey thus far. Overnight at a Casa Particular, Casa En rique or similar. **Kayak Paddle: 7-10 miles, approx. 3.5-4 hours total paddling time.** The starting location for this paddleboarding adventure will be determined based on the traveler's interests and abilities, ensuring a customized and enjoyable experience.



Day 5 | Playa Giron – Museum Tour – Snorkeling – Botanical Gardens

Embark on an exciting journey to a pristine snorkeling spot, where you'll be captivated by the stunning array of vibrant tropical fish. Playa Giron, a picturesque town renowned for its powdery white beaches, offers a unique opportunity to delve into Cuban culture and the revolution. Immerse yourself in history at Playa Giron's local museum, which showcases artifacts from the

twentieth century, vividly illustrating the Cold War era and the significant Bay of Pigs Invasion. After lunch at a local paladar discover the wonders of Cuba's largest botanical gardens, home to an impressive collection of 2,000 plant species celebrated for their beauty and medicinal properties. Your knowledgeable guide will enlighten you about the plants' origins and fascinating history. Dinner is in Trinidad and overnight at a Casa Particular, Casa Kenia or similar.



Day 6 | Kayaking – Colonial Trinidad Walking Exploration – Meet a Trinitarian Artist

Awaken in the historic city of Trinidad, Cuba's thirdoldest gem, and feel an immediate sense of rejuvenation. Immerse yourself in the enchanting colonial ambiance and profound culture of this UNESCO Heritage site, where time seems to stand still. A short drive transports us to the banks of a nearby river, a place where Hernan Cortez made landfall five

centuries ago. Here, embark on a tranquil paddle along the tree-lined waterway, where diverse bird species thrive and the panoramic view of Trinidad above is nothing short of breathtaking. Trinidad, once a prominent sugar cane producer, boasts a vibrant UNESCO World Heritage colonial town. Join us in an immersive exploration of the local lifestyle and culture as we wander through the city's cobblestone streets, each direction unveiling its own unique vista - the majestic Escambray mountains to one side and the glistening Caribbean Sea on the other. The heart of the city, Plaza Mayor, captivates with its lively ambiance, surrounded by picturesque former sugar barons' residences, now transformed into captivating museums showcasing art, architecture, and the rich tapestry of local history. Later, step into the home of the esteemed photographer Julio Munoz, who has collaborated with some of the world's finest photographers. Seek his expert advice on capturing the perfect shot as he generously shares his extensive knowledge. In the event that Julio is unavailable, we will visit the residence of a talented husband-and-wife sculptor duo who lead a non-profit art project. Following these enlightening visits, we gather for another festive dinner at a local Paladar, followed by an opportunity to savor the vibrant atmosphere of the Casa de la Musica, an outdoor venue set on the city's steps. Overnight at a Casa Particular, Casa Kenia or similar. Kayak Paddle: 3.5-4 miles, approx. 1.5-2 hours total paddling time.



Day 7 | Guanaroca Nature Reserve Kayaking-Cienfuegos

Begin your day with a visit to the enchanting Guanaroca Nature Reserve, sprawling across 15,000 acres in Cienfuegos. This remarkable sanctuary safeguards a diverse array of indigenous plants and animals, exclusive to this region including a flock of

resident flamingos. Immerse yourself in the verdant surroundings Laguna Guanaroca, a brackish lake formed by the Arimao River. Embark on a scenic kayak expedition along the river, eventually reaching the picturesque Bay of Cienfuegos. Here, a delectable seafood feast awaits on the inviting shoreline. Next, journey to the captivating city of Cienfuegos, often hailed as the "Pearl of the South." Its distinct creole architecture and lingering French ambiance harken back to its colonial heritage. The city is divided into two sections: the central zone, characterized by the grandeur of Paseo del Prado and Parque Martí, and Punta Gorda, a slender peninsula boasting charming 20th-century homes that epitomize the essence of the era. Delight in a leisurely exploration of the city, engaging with the friendly locals and taking in the sights. Don't miss the opportunity to visit Teatro Tomás Terry, an exquisite theater nestled on the northern side of Parque José Martí. It serves as a splendid example of Creole architecture and is sure to leave a lasting impression. As night descends, we conclude our day

with a delightful dinner, followed by accommodations thoughtfully arranged at local casas, providing you with an authentic and comfortable overnight stay. Overnight at Casas Particulares or Hotel Jagua or similar. Kayak Paddle: Approx. 5 miles, 2.5-3 hours total paddling time.



Day 8 | Return to Havana Via Ernest Hemingway Museum and Cojimar Fishing Village

Return to Havana, making a stop at Ernest Hemingway's former residence, now a museum dedicated to the iconic author. Explore the captivating artifacts and immerse yourself in Hemingway's story, including a glimpse of the fishing village where his boat once docked. Our journey continues to Havana, where we visit

the sprawling Mercado San Jose, a treasure trove of art and crafts, offering the perfect opportunity to find unique souvenirs. Embrace the Cuban spirit as you hop into a classic car, a quintessential element of Cuban life, and venture to the Plaza de la Revolucion. Discover the city's history and admire the impressive murals depicting Cuba's revolutionary leaders. Conclude the day with a delectable meal at an authentic Cuban parador restaurant, savoring the last moments of our unforgettable Cuban festivities. Overnight at La Reserva Casa Particular or similar.



Day 9 | Hasta la Vista Havana!

Prepare for your departure by transferring to the airport, where you have the opportunity to cash in any remaining CUCs at the gift shop or exchange them for dollars. As you await your return flight, take a moment to reflect on the incredible memories and experiences you've gathered during your time in Cuba. We sincerely hope that this journey has left an indelible mark on your heart. Safe travels on your journey back home!

GREEN PLANET EXPEDITIONS APPROACH IN CUBA

Experience the 'Green Planet Expeditions' approach of immersive exploration in Cuba during our legal Support for the Cuban People expedition. For 5-6 hours each day, we delve into the vibrant fabric of Cuban life, both in urban and rural settings. This meticulously crafted itinerary has been designed in collaboration with our knowledgeable local guides, following the principles of 'Green Planet Expeditions approach'. Drawing from their extensive experience exploring Cuba, we connect you with diverse local Cubans, many of whom are our friends and personal acquaintances. Indulge in culinary delights at some of Cuba's finest paladares, privately owned restaurants and cafes. Our accommodations range from classic boutique hotels to renovated casas particulares, privately-run B&Bs where enterprising Cubans open their doors, sharing their lives and earning income by hosting visitors. This trip is intended to be eye-opening and thought-provoking, leaving you feeling invigorated and grateful for the opportunity to delve into the depths of Cuban culture. It is important to note that each trip is unique due to various factors, including government policy changes, rescheduled activities, and last-minute cancellations. Our guides are skilled at adapting to these changes, ensuring that each trip provides a captivating and in-depth experience that is truly one-of-a-kind.

Note: We are traveling under a Support to the Cuban People license as authorized by the Office of Foreign Assets Control by the general license of 565.574. Actual routes and activities may vary. As tourism to Cuba continues to evolve, together with our in-country experts, we are always looking for new travel opportunities to share deeper and more personal insights through our expanding network of friends, boutique hotel proprietors, artists and musicians, professors, and diplomats, and other Cubans who have much to share with us. Due to such rapidly changing developments in Cuban tourism, we may change programmed activities as new opportunities arise, and substitute accommodations when other properties come online. Because of increasing tourism to Cuba domestic prices continue to rise and are subject to change without notice, so it's best to book your trip ASAP to lock in your cost.

Important: Travel in Cuba requires a flexible attitude. Our days are full, and as required by U.S. law, we have a full-time agenda of support to the Cuban people activities. Cuba has its own beat, and things don't always run on time. Note that the activities, visits, and accommodations listed are not guaranteed; but we endeavor to do our best to provide the intended experiences of this program. Accommodation varies widely and both services and amenities may not be up to the standards you might expect, i.e.. Sometimes hot water or air conditioning doesn't work, or elevators are out of service. We ask all our guests to consider the scarcity of resources living under an ongoing economic blockade, and to appreciate the authenticity of your experiences among the people, food, adventures and tourist services that are all uniquely Cuban! Your trip leader and local guides do their best to help you feel welcome and comfortable, so you can enjoy this fascinating and educational experience.

Pricing

2025	Price per person sharing double occupancy	
Based on 2-3 adults traveling together	\$5,675	
Based on 4-5 adults traveling together	\$5,095	

This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability at time of booking.

*Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break departures have a supplemental cost per person due to price increases of local accommodations; it varies depending on the Casas Particulares and Bed and Breakfasts you will stay at and other factors. Minimum age: 12 years old.

Included

- All guided tours and excursions (subject to change)
- Certification of travel to Cuba under the U.S. Department of Treasury general license Support to the Cuban People Program
- Carefully chosen people-to-people activities, personal visits and presentations with experts in a variety of fields and topics and access to exclusive experiences

- Bilingual Local Guide and Specialized local activity guides based on activity (kayaking, snorkeling, hiking, etc)
- All necessary equipment for activities
- Accommodations in authorized hotels and private casas particulares and B&Bs
- Meals as indicated [B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner typically including one beverage]
- Private air-conditioned transportation within Cuba
- All entrance fees to scheduled activities and guest lecture fees
- Drinking water available at all times
- Gratuities for presenters, luggage handling, bellboys and restaurant staff
- Green Planet Expeditions travel consultation and pre-departure services

Not Included

- International airfare
- Cuba Tourist Visa Fee (\$80-\$120 p/person)
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than those listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services or goods, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Gratuities for drivers and guides. Details will be provided in our pre-departure material for your convenience.
- Mandatory Travel Insurance: To ensure a smooth travel experience, all participants are required to have a comprehensive travel insurance policy. This policy should include trip cancellation, medical services, and coverage for active adventures or evacuations. "Cancel For Any Reason" (CFAR) coverage is highly recommended to protect your investment in case of unforeseen circumstances
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATIONS



La Reserva or similar

La Reserva Vedado is a beautifully restored boutique guesthouse located in the heart of Havana's vibrant Vedado neighborhood. This colonial-era mansion combines classic Cuban charm with modern comforts, offering travelers an elegant and tranquil retreat in the bustling city. Each room is uniquely decorated with vintage furniture and local artwork, providing a blend of traditional and contemporary styles. All rooms come

with air conditioning, free WiFi, a private bathroom with complimentary toiletries, and a minibar. Some rooms also feature private balconies, offering views of the surrounding gardens or city. Guests can enjoy breakfast in the lush garden patio, relax in the cozy common areas, or sip a cocktail at the bar. The guesthouse is within walking distance of iconic landmarks, such as the Malecón and the University of Havana, making it a perfect base for exploring the city's cultural and historical highlights.



Casa Enrique or similar

Casa Enrique in Playa Larga is an ideal stay for kayaking enthusiasts, located just steps away from the beach, offering easy access to the Bay of Pigs' calm waters. This family-run guesthouse provides a cozy, welcoming atmosphere for travelers looking to explore the area's natural beauty. The rooms offer ceiling fans and private bathrooms. After a day on the water, guests can relax on the rooftop terrace, where live music is sometimes played, creating a perfect setting for unwinding.

Delicious homemade meals, including fresh seafood, are served in the outdoor dining area with garden views. With its proximity to the beach and warm hospitality, Casa Enrique offers a memorable retreat for your kayaking trip, making it a basic but ideal base for adventure and relaxation in Playa Larga



Casa Kenia or similar

Hotel Explora Atacama offers a luxurious and immersive experience in the heart of the Atacama Desert, near the town of San Pedro de Atacama. Surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, this upscale hotel is designed to provide both comfort and adventure for its guests. The property features 50 well-appointed rooms, each with views of the desert or gardens, and decorated with a minimalist, natural style to complement the

surroundings. Guests can indulge in the hotel's four outdoor pools, sauna, and open-air hot tubs for relaxation after a day of exploration. Explora Atacama also offers exclusive access to private thermal baths and an on-site observatory, ideal for stargazing under the Atacama's famously clear skies. The hotel provides all-inclusive packages that cover gourmet meals, drinks, and a selection of over 40 guided excursions, including hikes, horseback rides, and visits to salt flats, geysers, and ancient ruins. The restaurant serves local flavors with a refined twist, while the bar offers a variety of Chilean wines and craft cocktails. The hotel also has Wi-Fi access, though limited to certain areas, ensuring guests can disconnect and immerse themselves fully in the natural beauty of the desert.



Hotel Jagua or similar

Hotel Jagua, located in the picturesque city of Cienfuegos, is one of Cuba's most iconic hotels, offering a blend of 1950s elegance and modern comfort. Situated in the upscale Punta Gorda neighborhood, this hotel boasts stunning views of Cienfuegos Bay and is within walking distance of the city's main attractions, including the beautiful Palacio de Valle. The spacious rooms at Hotel Jagua feature a retro style with modern amenities, including air conditioning, en suite bathrooms, satellite

TV, and private balconies with stunning views of the bay or the lush gardens. Hotel Jagua features an outdoor swimming pool, perfect for cooling off after a day of sightseeing. The hotel also offers WiFi, a fitness center, and live music performances in the evenings, adding to the vibrant atmosphere of this historic hotel.

Casas Particulares



A Casa Particular is a type of private homestay in Cuba, where local families open their homes to travelers, offering a more personal and authentic experience compared to hotels. Staying in a casa particular allows you to immerse yourself in Cuban culture, often giving you the chance to interact with your hosts, learn about their daily lives, and even enjoy homemade Cuban meals. Accommodations typically include private bathrooms with warm water, and some casas even offer

WiFi, although we can't guarantee which ones will have these amenities. The spaces can range from simple, rustic rooms to more comfortable and well-appointed options, ensuring a warm, welcoming atmosphere no matter where you stay. Many casa particulars are well-located, often close to major attractions, beaches, or cultural spots. Some Casas have the tourist rooms separated from the rest of the house, while other have a shared living room. Think of it as a Cuban version of a bed and breakfast, but with a unique local twist. It's one of the best ways to see Cuba through the eyes of its people, providing not just a place to sleep, but a connection to the country's heart and soul. Invariably, travelers find that they enjoy their stays in casa particulars even more than in hotels. The genuine hospitality, local flavor, and personal touches create unforgettable memories that you simply can't replicate in a traditional hotel setting. So, if you're looking for an adventure that feels like home, these casas particulares will be your home away from home.

Booking your Green Planet Expedition

How to reserve a trip

To secure your spot on a trip, you can conveniently book online using our <u>Reserve a Trip form</u> or by calling **1-800-430-9498**. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of the reservation form and the initial 50% trip deposit.

Please note that we are unable to hold space until the deposit is received. If the requested space is unavailable, we will promptly provide alternative options for your consideration (if an upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply).

Pre departure service

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will email you a comprehensive Predeparture Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions, and more. You will receive a final trip email including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks before departure.

Terms and Conditions

Green Planet Expeditions has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels, and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary; however, it is possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays, and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is

described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included.

Caring for our planet is integral to our ethos. In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, a carbon emissions mitigation fee is incorporated into all our trips. This fee contributes to environmental initiatives that offset the carbon footprint associated with our journeys, ensuring a positive impact on the destinations we explore. Your safety and peace of mind during the journey is our top priorities. The purchase of traveler's insurance is mandatory for all participants, and it must cover trip delays, trip cancellations, baggage, accident, or sickness. In some specific cases like Antarctica, it must cover evacuation.

All information and services provided are subject to our Terms and Conditions.

At Green Planet Expeditions, we craft strategically curated journeys that immerse travelers in the finest of nature, culture, and local traditions, always seeking out opportunities for exceptional dining experiences. Our expertise lies in tailor-made trips to destinations where we maintain close relationships with local partners, ensuring flawless execution with the assistance of passionate guides deeply connected to their heritage and committed to its preservation.

We believe that tourism, when harnessed thoughtfully, becomes a powerful catalyst for conservation and community upliftment in the destinations we visit.

As with any good recipe, our trips are infused with the following flavors:

- Positive impact on the areas you choose to visit, directly or indirectly.
- Amazing private local guides.
- Lovely small boutique hotels according to your budget.
- Good food, no matter how remote the destination is, we strive to offer good cuisine.
- Our trips frequently include surprises, which often turn out to be the highlight of the journey.
- When open to it, visits to less-known destinations, reserved for the daring few, and engages in intimate and meaningful encounters with locals—a cherished treasure highly valued by discerning travelers, as we have discovered through our years of experience in the industry.

Still haven't found what you're looking for?

We offer a wide range of amazing trips that may not all be listed on our website. Plus, we can custom-build pretty much whatever your heart desires, so let us know what we can do for you. If you have any questions about our expedition cruises, private trips, or just want to talk travel, give us a call at +1800-430 9498 or contact us via email at travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com