

Cuba

Private Cuba Cultural Tour: Havana to Viñales

Havana - Viñales Valley - Las Terrazas

BEST SEASON

All year round

PRICE

From US \$4,175 pp excluding local flights

How LONG

8 Days / 7 Nights



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

This active exploration into the heartland of Cuba allows travelers to visit some of its lesser-known and beautiful UNESCO-designated traditional towns and nature reserves. Take in the sights, sounds, and flavors of old Havana on a guided walking tour and bicycle-taxi. We learn to prepare traditional Cuban dishes, visit with artists in their private studios, and take in a presentation from a musicologist who introduces us to the sensuous Latin rhythms ubiquitous in the city. In the beautiful Viñales Valley, a small tobacco farmer shows us how to roll the best cigars and in Viñales National Park and Biosphere Reserve we hike on easy trails and cycle down meandering country roads through spectacular landscapes of towering limestone karsts covered in rainforest. Visit and hear the fascinating story of the Las Terrazas “Green Revolution” project initiated by Castro in 1968, which has since turned into a nature reserve and eco-community.

Quick Summary

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

Day & Location	Transportation, Highlights and Accommodations	Meals
Day 1 Havana	Fusterlandia, welcome dinner OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	D
Day 2 Havana	Agromarket with chef, cooking lesson, private jazz session, talk on socioeconomics in Cuba with Marta Nuñez Sarmiento or Lourdes Sanchez Oramas OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BLD
Day 3 Havana	Antonio Jimenez Foundation for Man and Nature, walking and bici-taxi tour of Old Havana, gelato, Clandestina, Arte Corte Community Project OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BL
Day 4 Viñales Valley	Transfer to Viñales and afternoon Biking tour to organic farm OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BLD
Day 5 Viñales Valley	Hiking to Lookout and visit a local Farm OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BLD
Day 6 Terrazas – Havana	Las Terrazas Green Revolution Community Visit, Artist visit, zip lining (optional) OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BL
Day 7 Havana	Drumming lesson, Aldaba Recording studio, Hemmingway's' farm, Jewelry maker, farewell dinner OV: Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel	BLD
Day 8 Departure	Plaza de la Revolucion en route to the international airport for departure	B

ITINERARY IN DETAIL



Day 1 | Havana and Fusterlandia

Bienvenidos a Cuba. Upon arriving in Havana, our local expert guide will warmly welcome you. Following lunch, venture to the Jaimanitas neighborhood on the outskirts of Havana to explore the home of Jose Fuster, a prominent Cuban artist renowned for drawing inspiration from Gaudi and Picasso. A glimpse at his house reveals the neighborhood's transformation into a masterpiece. Engage with a successful ceramist, gaining insight into her inspirational work. Later, check

into your hotel, attend an orientation meeting, and enjoy a welcome dinner at a private

paladar. Nestled in Vedado, this intimate paladar stands out for its fusion of Cuban cuisine, classic glamour architecture, and interior design. Situated amidst the mansions of Cuba's pre-revolution aristocracy, it offers an immersive experience. The evening presents opportunities to immerse yourself in Afro-Cuban jazz or live salsa music after dinner. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 2 | Culinary Exploration and Cultural Insights

Embark on a culinary journey in Cuba, witnessing a resurgence of traditional flavors influenced by global cuisines. Explore community life as you visit the local farmer's market with a Cuban chef, selecting ingredients for a hands-on cooking lesson a lo Cubano! Learn to prepare classic dishes like ropa vieja, tostones, ajiaco, and master the art of mixing a mojito. After a stroll through Old Havana, gather for a private jazz

concert and engage in a conversation with the musicians about Cuban music. Enjoy a casual meeting with a distinguished sociologist from the University of Havana, providing valuable insights into Cuba's evolving economic class structure with a focus on the changing roles of race and gender in defining success amidst rapid socio-economic shifts. Conclude the day with dinner at one of Old Havana's premier paladares, where Afro-Cuban style meets international flavors for a fusion dining experience. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 3 | Old Havana Exploration on foot and Bici-Taxi Sightseeing

Begin your day at the Antonio Jimenez Foundation, delving into Cuba's conservation initiatives and the inspiring journey of its founder, Antonio Nuñez Jimenez. Walk through the enchanting streets of Old Havana, absorbing its sights, sounds, and flavors, then continue the exploration via bici-taxis through residential neighborhoods and iconic city landmarks. Pause for

street food tastings, savor fresh cane juice, coconut water, or gelato, and explore unique spots like Clandestina, a print-making shop, or the Dador fashion store. Visit Arte Corte, a vibrant community project centered around a barber shop, notably visited by Obama two years ago. As the night falls over Havana, choose from various entertainment options, including performances at the Bertolt Brecht Theater, live Afro-Cuban jazz, or the chance to catch local legend Ray Fernandez in action. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 4 | Bikes, Cowboys and breathtaking Viñales Valley

Explore the cultural and adventure heartland of Cuba in Piñar Del Rio, renowned for its cowboy culture and the production of the world's finest cigars. Visit a local tobacco and coffee farmer's house to witness the craftsmanship behind Cuban cigars. Wander through the fields, step into the farmer's studio where cigars are hand-rolled and savor a cup of coffee from their crops.

Viñales National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcases breathtaking views of karst outcrops surrounded by tropical forests, farms, and diverse villages with Spanish, Portuguese, French, and West African influences. Enjoy an organic lunch at Cueva De La Vaca Organic Restaurant, featuring traditional Cuban recipes infused with the unique farm flavors from guajiros' traditional charbroil methods. Stroll through the rural town, interacting with cuentapropistas (private entrepreneurs), primarily engaged in farming and ecotourism. Opt for a leisurely bike ride on meandering roads, allowing you to immerse yourself in the picturesque landscapes of Viñales. Pedal through the tranquil countryside, breathing in the fresh air and enjoying the scenic beauty of the valley. This relaxed cycling experience provides an intimate connection with the surroundings, offering glimpses of local life, vibrant tobacco fields, and the unique charm of Viñales Valley. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 5 | Hiking Viñales Valley and Antonio's Farm

Today join a hiking adventure deep within the enchanting Viñales Valley, commencing just beyond the Cueva de los Indios cave. Guided through verdant vegetation, you'll ascend gradually, allowing for a manageable pace and a gradual increase in altitude. Approximately thirty minutes into the hike, you'll encounter a secluded, unassuming structure that has served as a farmer's home for the past 15 years.

Welcomed by the farmer, take a moment to rest and savor a refreshing coconut or a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Revel in the stunning panoramic view as you engage in conversation with the farmer, gaining insights into his life. Continuing your ascent, still at a comfortable pace and elevation, you'll eventually reach a point on the trail where the vastness of the ocean unfolds before you. Follow this trail for another 45 minutes, descending slowly to capture a breathtaking view of Viñales Valley. Traverse through local farms until you arrive at Antonio's farm, where a warm greeting awaits. Indulge in a delightful lunch at this remote farm, offering you the opportunity to witness various crops, including tobacco if in season. Experience a hands-on demonstration of cigar rolling and, should you choose, partake in smoking a freshly rolled cigar. Concluding your journey, depart either on foot or by oxen cart, returning to the road where your driver will meet you for a comfortable return to your accommodation. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 6 | Las Terrazas Green Revolution and Optional Zip line Canopy Adventure

On your return to Havana, pause to explore an orchid farm before heading to the ecotourism rural development project, Las Terrazas. Initiated in 1968 as a "Green Revolution" project by Fidel Castro, it has evolved into a tight-knit community of 250 members nestled in the Sierra del Rosario Mountains. A local guide offers insights into the community's history, challenges, and

successes. Visit the home of a renowned artist residing in this inspiring landscape, discovering the creative inspiration it imparts. Additionally, seize the opportunity for a canopy tour with a zip-line adventure through the community (at an additional cost). Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 7 | Drumming and Hemmingway's Farm and Museum

Learn about the various rhythms that make Cuban music through a private drumming class with a master drummer. You can try your hand at such instruments as the claves, bongos, maracas, guiros, and many other instruments. Visit Aldaba Recording Studio and take a tour of the facility. If we are lucky, we may see artists recording. Lunch will be served at Cojimar, a locals'

favorite. It's a short drive to Finca Vigia, Ernest Hemingway's home while he lived in Cuba. Later, delve into the world of creativity with a visit to a successful jewelry maker or local artist. Explore their studio, gaining firsthand insight into their artistic process, techniques, and the inspirations behind their unique creations. Enjoy a farewell dinner at one of the best paladares in Havana, then for anyone up for a night in Havana, celebrate your journey with a digestif and local music. Overnight at Casa Particular or Authorized Hotel.



Day 8 | Havana Adieu: Departure or Unwind a Little Longer!

Explore the Plaza de la Revolución, one of the largest city squares in the world and serves as a significant site in the country's political and cultural history. Continue to the international airport for your departure flight. Alternatively, consider extending your stay for further exploration and enjoyment.

Note: *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. Accommodations vary widely and both services and amenities may not be up to the standards you might expect, ie. 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 people traveling together	\$4,695
Based on 4-5 people traveling together	\$4,175

This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability at time of booking. Rates apply until December 15, 2025

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
- 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 including two beverages per meal and restaurant gratuities]
- Private air-conditioned transportation within Cuba
- All entrance fees to scheduled activities and guest lecture fees
- 2 bottles of water per person per day
- Green Planet Expeditions travel consultation and pre-departure services

Not Included

- International airfare
- Cuba Tourist Visa Fee
- 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 main guides and drivers. 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



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 [Reserve a Trip form](#) 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 + 1 800- 430 9498 or contact us via email at travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com