

CUBAN STICKS & CLASSIC RIDES

October 24-28, 2019

TENTATIVE ITINERARY



Day 1: Orientation & Welcome Dinner

Following arrival at the airport and transfer to hotel, guests will relax and unwind with a cocktail and cigar. We will review our itinerary, answer questions, discuss our surroundings, and get ready for a fantastic week. Dinner will be at a nearby privately known restaurant, known as a paladar. A complimentary hand rolled cigar and cocktail are included.

Day 2

Rum Distillery Lesson

This museum showcases the history and stages of traditional rum production, the development of agriculture on the island, sugar cane production and harvesting, sugar mill life, and the processes of fermentation, distillation, filtration, ageing, blending and bottling.

Visit to Cigar Factory

Visit a factory where one of Havana's iconic cigar brands is produced and engage with workers. They will teach you about the cigar manufacturing process and share what it is like to work for a state-owned tobacco company. In the main gallery, one worker reads the news aloud as others roll cigars, sort tobacco, or weigh blends. Experienced cigar rollers inspect their work, and master rollers are available to speak about their inherited craft.

Classic Car Restoration Workshop

Learn the secrets of classic car restoration in Cuba from a professional at this family run business that grew out of a passion for vintage cars. The garage restores American classic cars in Havana. Guests can get their hands dirty helping or just watch as we bring one of these beauties back to its former glory. After the activity, cruise the streets of Havana in a classic car.

Day 3

Day Excursion to Viñales

Travel along the "Ruta de Tabaco" (Tobacco Route) to the lush surroundings of the Pinar del Rio province and experience the wonderfully relaxed town of Viñales. Along the way, visit a tobacco farm, and exchange with the family that operates the farm, as you learn about traditional techniques that are still in use for tobacco and other agricultural production.

Day 4

Hemingway Experience

The group will visit many places where acclaimed American author, Ernest Hemingway lived and frequented, including his home and sites where some of his most renowned works were set. Guests will visit Hemmingway's home in Cuba, now a museum, located on a hilltop in a Havana suburb. Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels living on this estate. Later, guests will visit Cojímar Village, a small fishing village, which was the background for "The Old Man and the Sea." The village honors the author's memory with a small gazebo that encircles a commemorative bust, sculpted from melted down propellers donated by local fishermen. Enjoy a cigar and cocktail with your lunch overlooking the bay.

Day 5

Depart for Airport

After breakfast, enjoy your last few hours in Havana, before being transported to the airport for your departing flight.

Frequently Asked Questions

A) **What is the current status of Cuba travel from the United States?**

Due to the U.S. Embargo, tourist travel to Cuba is not permitted. However, travel under 1 of 12 permissible categories is allowed. This Program is organized under the **Support for the Cuban People** General License pursuant to 31 CFR §515.574, as regulated by the U.S. Treasury Department, Office of Foreign Asset Control (“OFAC”), which requires meaningful contact with the Cuban people and a full-time itinerary.

B) **Is Cuba a safe travel destination?**

Despite U.S. economic objectives, by all accounts, Cuba has extremely low violent crime activity, including no gun crime, and is known to be one of the safest destinations in the hemisphere for tourists and residents alike. According to the United Nations, Cuba has the third lowest homicide rate in the hemisphere, just after Canada and Chile. Cuba’s government strictly and successfully enforces the possession of illicit drugs and firearms, making them virtually non-existent among the general population on the island, in great contrast to many of its regional counterparts.

Cuba is not a war-stricken nation, nor is it prone to civil unrest. The U.S. State Department ranks Cuba as a LOW-THREAT location for political violence, as political demonstrations, strikes, and protests are uncommon. Also, unlike in the United States, the police force does not use firearms or military equipment against the civilian population.

C) **What is the activity level required to participate in this program?**

Everyone of average fitness should be able to enjoy the program activities. Many of our tours include walking, often on uneven surface, that may be strenuous for some people. The Tour of Old Havana involves walking up to 2-3 miles (over a period of several hours) in a tropical climate. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding activity level. Finally, please consult your physician to see if your health condition is suitable for this trip.

D) **What other expenses should I expect?**

The Program Cost does not include international flights (expect \$380 - \$450 depending on timing and personal preferences), the Cuban Visa (\$50 - \$100), U.S. Passport (\$165), additional meals and transportation based on personal preferences (\$25- \$75 per day), and gratuities for services consumed.

E) **Will you arrange our flights?**

Each traveler is responsible for securing their own flight. However, we will provide suggested flights and guidelines for you to follow, in order to correspond with group transfers and logistics. Please make sure to email us a copy of your flight confirmation.

F) **What are the accommodations like?**

Participants will stay in a privately-owned boutique hotel (Bed & Breakfast style). The boutique hotels are beautifully renovated properties fully staffed with warm and conscientious personnel. All accommodations are immaculate, well-decorated, and well-kept. Each bedroom has a private bathroom with 24-hour hot water and air conditioning. Daily housekeeping and linen changes are included. Guests in boutique hotels may be required to walk up one flight of stairs.

G) **Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

For the fastest response, please send an email to Info@DiasporaTravelExperiences.com.

H) **Are payment plans available?**

We offer 6 months interest free financing through PayPal Credit, subject to terms and conditions.