



Colonial Heritage

FLIGHT DETAILS:

Direct flight **Miami to Havana - Charter Flight**

Departure: **Thursdays, 7:00AM**- Arrival time in Havana: 8AM

CHECK IN- 4:30AM

Direct flight **Cienfuegos to Miami - Charter Flight**

Return: **Friday, Evening 7:00PM** - Arrival time in Miami: Around 8:30PM

CHECK IN- 4:30PM

THIS IS A GENERIC SCHEDULE FOR FLIGHTS. WILL BE CONFIRMED BY THE TIME OF BOOKING.

➡ **DAY 1** Hola, bienvenido a Cuba! We will arrive in the morning. Meet our guide at the airport and visit "Finca Vigia" the home where Hemingway lived in Cuba. Lunch at Paladar Divino. Check in at Hotel in the neighborhood of El Vedado. Welcome cocktail and meeting with our guide that will explain the program for our trip. Time to rest, money exchange... Dinner will be served at 7PM at paladar "Cañonazo". We need to move quickly because the canon blast ceremony is scheduled for 9PM. After the ceremony we will have opportunities to take some pictures and to have informal chats with those young men who run the ceremony while serving their military duties. **OPTIONAL:** Returning our hotel we will pass by the Nacional Hotel. You may stay there and enjoy the live music at the Patio in front of the Malecon Habanero.

➡ **DAY 2** This morning we will walk through Old Havana in a guided tour for appreciation of the colonial buildings in this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Central Park, Obispo Street, Cathedral Square, the Old and Saint Francis Abbey and a book market are among the spots we will visit. After a short walk through cobblestone streets in Old Havana, lunch will be served at "Paladar Cuba 54". After lunch we will visit Callejon de Hamel guided by Elias, a specialist in Afro-Cuban religion. The area is a live carnival, a mix of art, music and tradition. We will visit the studio of painter Salvador Gonzalez who has decorated the walls of the buildings with Afro-Cuban concepts. Return to the hotel for rest and leisure. Dinner on your own. **OPTIONAL:** If your batteries are still charged you can go to Cabaret Parissien at Nacional Hotel, great music, great show.

➡ **DAY 3** After breakfast at the hotel we will meet self employed taxi drivers who run their businesses in old cars such as Chevy, Chrysler, Oldsmobile, all of them built in U.S. before the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Ride those cars to visit Art Studio of Jose Fuster. He is well known for his work converting a poor fishermen village into an open art gallery. Lunch at "La Cueva del Zorro". Return to Havana through 5th Avenue, the street where other countries have their embassies. After lunch, complete the Old Havana tour visiting the Cuban Association of Artisans where they will show us the way they express, through their art, the modern living of the Cuban people. Bargain and buy artworks from authentic Cuban painters. Return to the hotel for rest. Dinner will be served at Paladar Rejoneo.

➡ **DAY 4** Check out at 9AM. Depart to Las Terrazas. Visit this biosphere reserve and discover the living of Cuban artists and people in the countryside of Pinar del Rio, the westernmost province of Cuba. Visit the studio of Lester Campa or one of the artists living in the village. Visit other projects in town. Lunch at Casa del Campesino. Visit the coffee terraces and if possible visit the orchid garden.

Continue the trip to Vinales. Check in at private homes. Rest and wander around in the neighborhood. Dinner at home with the Cuban families. **Optional:** Visit the Main Square in town to attend a Creole party (Fiesta Guajira) with local musicians and dancers.

➡ **DAY 5** After breakfast we will head our steps to a tobacco farm to learn about the tradition of growing and making the best cigar in the world. Visit the faux prehistorical mural and if possible ride a horse in the surrounding area. Lunch will be served at the organic farm Finca Paraiso where you will learn about organic farming in Cuba. In the afternoon visit Cueva del Indio where you will ride a boat through the river under the cave. Continue with a visit to the center of the town for local-made crafts shopping. Dinner at a local paladar or at a Patio with the group. Depending on the schedule of Casa del Son, attend a Fiesta Campesina with live music and dance.

➡ **DAY 6** The breakfast will be early as we need to depart to Trinidad to explore its colonial architecture. Exotic lunch at Paladar "Palpite". We will make a stop to visit the historic Bay of Pigs, learn the role of the invasion in the history of the relations between Cuba and the USA. Continue our trip to Trinidad, one of the 7 first villages of Cuba. It was founded by Diego Velazquez in 1514. Together with the nearby Valle de los Ingenios (Sugar Mill Valley), it has been one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites since 1988. For this tour we have handpicked several "casas particulares" -private homes in the center of the Village- where we will be lodged. Dinner will be served at home accompanied by the Cuban friends.

OPTIONAL: Visit "Casa de la Trova" to enjoy a live performance of local musicians. The main spots in Trinidad are less than 2 blocks distance from our homes.

➡ **DAY 7** This morning we will meet the Historian of the Village who will offer a "walking lecture" about the Colonial Heritage in the region. We will be able to chat with other artists who will explain their motivation to create art in this ancient village of Cuba. We will visit the gallery of Danilo Moreno to discover the sculptures and the ingenuity of his creations with disposable materials. "Where others see garbage and death, Danilo sees the beginning of a new creation". The tour will continue with a visit to the Main Parish, the street market and the museum of Colonial art. Lunch will be served at "La Botija" Pizza Time! In the afternoon we will visit "El Valle de los Ingenios" -Sugar Mills Valley- it has around 70 historic sugar mills or ruins. They represent the importance of sugar to the Cuban economy over the centuries. It has Torre Iznaga -45 metres (148 ft). Visit the home of Santander, the most important ceramist of the Valley who works in the restoration of the village. Return home for a brief rest and to have one of the best sunset from the balcony of one of our homes. Diner on your own. After dinner we can burn calories dancing at "Casa de la Musica" in the center of the Village chatting with locals and our new friends.

➡ **DAY 8** Visit Parque El Cubano and other important spots in the Valley to learn about the projects to protect the environment in the area. Lunch at the park. Visit the gallery of Judit Vidal and continue to the village Ancon. We will visit the barrier reef and learn about endangered species and how they protect them. Enjoy the sunset. Farewell dinner will be served at paladar "Guitarra Mia" with a very special menu designed exclusively for InTouch.

➡ **DAY 9** Depart to Cienfuegos in the morning. Visit Castillo de Jagua to learn about the colonial history of this village. Late lunch at a local Paladar. Visit Palacio del Valle and the main square. Depart to Cienfuegos airport to board our return flight to Miami. Adios Cuba! See you soon!



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