



Soul of Havana

FLIGHT DETAILS:

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

Departure: **Sundays, by Noon** - Arrival time in Havana: 1 or 2PM

CHECK IN- 10:00AM

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

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

CHECK IN- 5:00PM

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

➡ **DAY 1** Hola - Check in at Boutique Villa Vedado Palace in the neighborhood of El Vedado. It's location will allow us to enjoy the XX century spirit of Havana. Welcome cocktail and meeting with our guide that will explain the program for our trip. Dinner will be served at 6:30PM at the hotel Restaurant "Venezia". Visit fortress Morro-Cabaña to attend the Cañonazo (A blast of cannon) a ceremony from 17 Century. After the ceremony we will attend a presentation by our guide about the Colonial history related to pirates and buccaneers. 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.

➡ **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 La Moneda Cubana"* visited by Jay-Z and Beyoncé. 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 and leisure. Dinner will be served at Paladar "PortoHabana". On our way back to the hotel we will make a stop at Melia Cohiba Hotel.

Optional: Attend the Buenavista Social Club Show at Melia Cohiba Hotel.

➡ **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. They will explain us the opportunities they have with the changes to the self-employment regulations by the Cuban government. They are members of the Cuban Classic Car Club. Ride those cars to visit Art Studio of Jose Fuster in Jaimanitas. He is well known for his work converting a poor fishermen village into an open art gallery. He is also called "The Picasso of the Caribbean". We will have lunch at "La Cueva del Zorro". In the afternoon 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 will be served at Paladar "La California".*

➡ **DAY 4** Start the morning with a succulent breakfast at the gardens of the villa. Walk through Avenida Paseo exploring the architecture of the area. Visit the School of Creative Photography of

Havana and join a discussion with local Architect, Yuri Rodriguez about the actual restoration process that Old Havana is immersed. Talk with the owner of this school which is the first private school in Cuba after 2012 new regulations on self-employment. Continue the walking tour in El Vedado neighborhood and stops by Kingbar for a light lunch. Visit the Capri and Nacional Hotels to learn about the history of the mafia in Cuba. Return to the hotel for rest and preparation for our Cuban night party with local musicians. Dinner at the hotel.

Optional for late night: Get up-close with the night live of Havana at the KingBar nightclub.

➡ **DAY 5** Check out at 9AM. Depart to the Viñales valley. Its landscape is interspersed with dramatic rocky outcrops. Lunch at "Balcon del Valle" (Valley Balcony). Check in at casas particulares (private homes). After a brief rest with our guest at homes we will meet farmers in a tobacco plantation. They will explain us how they preserve their rich tradition in agriculture to grow and prepare the leaves for the famous Cuban cigars. This tour will be guided by a biologist who specializes in the flora and fauna of the province of Pinar del Rio. Dinner will be served at home at family style.

Optional: Visit the Main Square in town to attend a Creole party (Fiesta Guajira).

➡ **DAY 6** Visit Las Terrazas to learn about the environmental protection in this biosphere reserve. Sip a cup of coffee at Cafe de Maria. Visit the art studio of Lester Campa whose artwork is related to Mother Nature. Lunch at Casa del Campesino. Continue the trip to Havana and Visit Finca Vigia to learn about Hemingway's life in Cuba and the place that inspired him to write "The Old Man and the Sea". Depart to the airport to board our flight to Miami. Adios Cuba!

HOTEL AND RESTAURANTS MAY CHANGE DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY.

MEALS AT PALADARES "MONEDA CUBANA" AND "LA CALIFORNIA" ARE NOT INCLUDED.