



Havana, Matanzas and Veradero, Cuba
7 nights – 8 days
June 10 - 17, 2016

Offered exclusively by STG Tours

Day 1: JFK or Miami - Havana (4 nights)

Fly from New York or Miami International Airport to Havana, Cuba. After clearing Cuban immigrations and customs collect your luggage and proceed through the arrivals terminal and meet your private guide outside the terminal and transfer directly to Old Havana (Habana Vieja).

- Visit the Plaza de la Revolucion
- Welcome lunch at a local restaurant in Old Havana.
- Guided walking tour of Old Havana including the Plaza de Armas, the Used Booksellers Market and the Plaza de la Catedral, Obispo Street– generally soak in the sights and sounds of Habana Vieja!
- End your walk through Old Havana at La Floridita Bar, a Hemingway favorite, and famous for its “discovery” of the Daiquiri. Hot Cuban salsa music and possibly your first Cuban cigar!
- Check-in to your hotel between 4:00 and 4:30PM.
- Welcome dinner at a local Paladar (private enterprise home restaurant) located within walking distance of your hotel.
- Optional after dinner suggestion: The Buena Vista Social Club.

Hotel to be advised (L, D)

Day 2: Havana – Capitanes Generales – Columbus - Fusterlandia

- Breakfast at the hotel
- This morning visit the former residence of the Governors of Havana (Palacio de los Capitanes Generales), a Cuban Baroque mansion and museum which showcases colonial-era art and artifacts.
- Visit the Cemetery of Christopher Columbus
- Lunch today is at El Aljibe Restaurant which recently received rave reviews by CNN’s Anthony Bourdain.

- After lunch visit to “Fusterlandia”, the home and surrounding neighborhood of “The Picasso of the Caribbean”, Jose Fuster.
- We drive along the Malecon overlooking the harbor of Havana.
- Before dinner we stop by the iconic Hotel Nacional and its Bar de la Fama (Bar of Fame) where you can enjoy one of its famed Mojitos.
- We drive along the Malecon overlooking the harbor of Havana.
- Dinner is included this evening at a Paladar in Vedado.

Hotel to be advised

(B, L, D)

Day 3: Havana – Hemingway – Murealeando – Artisans Market

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart our hotel and travel via vintage automobiles to the mansion and museum of Ernest Hemingway in San Francisco de Paula.
- We visit to the small town of Cojimar where Hemingway was inspired to write “Old Man and the Sea”.
- Lunch today is at Paladar Ajiaco in Cojimar.
- Enroute back to Havana after lunch we visiting the impoverished yet vibrant barrio of Muraleando. A small but devoted group of artists volunteer their time and skills to help establish a center for arts, music, dance and theatre.
- Stop at the Artisans Market Old Havana.
- Dinner this evening is on your own and not included.

Hotel to be advised

(B, L)

Day 4: Havana – Afro Cuban culture and history

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the Casa de Africa in Old Havana which houses sacred objects relating to the Santeria religion and collected by ethnographer Fernando Ortiz.
- Cross the Havana Harbor and visit the old port town of Regla which is a center of Afro Cuban religions, including the all male secret society of Abakua.
- Visit the diminutive Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla where we will find the Black Madonna which is venerated in the Catholic faith and associated in the Santeria religion with Yemaya (spirit of the ocean and patron of sailors).
- Visit the Museo Municipal de Regla which records the history of Regla and its Afro Cuban religions and the Yoruba Cultural Society where the Museo de las Orishas is located.
- We enjoy lunch today at the Afro Cuban Paladar San Cristobal.
- This afternoon is at leisure to further explore Havana on your own or perhaps simply “people watch” with a good cigar at an outdoor café in Old Havana. The choice is yours!
- Dinner included this evening is at another of Havana’s famed Paladars.

Hotel to be advised

(B, L, D)

Day 5: Havana – Matanzas – Veradero (3 nights)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Drive to Matanzas, the “City of Bridges” well known for its Afro-Cuban culture and history. Former Afro Cuban slaves, united in secret brotherhoods known as “Cabildos” gave birth to the rumba in Matanzas.
- Visit the Farmacia Matanzas, the oldest and by far the most well preserved pharmacy in all of Cuba.
- Visit the main square of Matanzas with lunch included at The Hotel Velasco
- After lunch we have the rare pleasure of visiting an in-home Santeria church and enjoy a presentation by a member who explains this uniquely Afro Cuban religion to us. Santeria is a fascinating mixture of modern day Catholicism and ancient religions brought to Cuba by former African slaves.
- Drive to Veradero – remainder of afternoon and evening at leisure
- We proceed to our deluxe beach resort in Veradero. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
- NOTE: All meals and unlimited drinks included at our resort.

Resort to be advised

(B, L, D

Day 6 & 7: Veradero

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner included at our resort
- All water sports including snorkeling and diving included at our resort
- Full days at leisure on one of the most pristine beaches in all the world.

Resort to be advised

(B, L, D

Day 8: Veradero – Havana – Miami or New York

After breakfast this morning we depart our resort and transfer Jose Marti International Airport in Havana where we check in for our flight back to the USA.