

CUBA

Cuba's singular history and unique society make it an essential destination to visit for any globetrotter. Derelict buildings stand next to modern renovations, classic cars share the roads with horse drawn carts and bicycles, while infectious salsa rhythms float around every street corner. The Caribbean climate ensures year-round warm weather, and the soft white sandy beaches and azure waters provide the perfect place to unwind after a cultural journey back in time.

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HAVANA

Havana portrays a long history of wealth visible in the impressive buildings standing derelict next to pristine renovations. Old Havana has pedestrian streets and plazas with excellent hotels, museums, bars, cafes and restaurants with open air seating.

Excursions available:

- Cuban Art & Architecture Tour
- Walking Tour Historical Old Havana
- Tobacco & Rum Tours
- Visit Cuban Family
- Traditions & Religion
- Salsa Dance Lessons
- Tropicana Show

Saint Francis of Assisi Square, Havana



Leafy Colonial Square



Capitol Building, Havana

Florida Tourist

Located on Obispo, the main street of Old Havana, ideal for those who wish to explore and be close to the city's cultural life, hotel Florida has a Spanish-styled inner courtyard with marble floor, plants, arches and columns. Rooms are fully equipped, decorated in a functional colonial style, some are small and most have balconies. There is also a restaurant and classic bar aiming at elegance.

Palacio O'Farrill First

Location in Old Havana, the hotel is a magnificent neoclassical palace with large bedrooms, a restaurant and bar, an inner courtyard, a very old well, and a roof-top terrace with great views of the city.



Internal Courtyard

Santa Isabel First

The Santa Isabel is located in the very heart of Old Havana, close to the waterfront Malecon and facing the charming Plaza de Armas (a cobbled square flanked by colonial-era buildings, museums & restaurants). The colonial grandeur of the façade where crystal chandeliers, period furnishings and Spanish-styled courtyard take one back in time. The hotel has twenty-seven rooms with private facilities, all decorated in a functional style, bar, restaurant and has a large rooftop terrace.

Saratoga Deluxe

An elegant building with a predominance of the neoclassical, located in one of the main streets of Old Havana, in front of a park and with a great view of the Capitol building. It is considered to be the best hotel in Havana. The 96 rooms reflect the elegant proportions with french windows and classic traditional balconies with wonderful ironworks. There is a rooftop pool with a magnificent view of the city, a restaurant and very pleasant bar.

PRICES

2 SHARING SEASONS	3 NIGHTS EXCLUDING UK FLIGHTS	EXTRA NIGHTS
SARATOGA		
Jan-Apr; Nov	£569	£161
May-Oct; 01-22Dec	£448	£130
23-31Dec	£618	£185
SANTA ISABEL		
Jan-27Mar; 05-29Apr; Nov-21Dec	£460	£133
28Mar-04Apr; 22-31Dec	£573	£171
30Apr-30Oct	£299	£80
PALACIO O'FARRILL		
Jan-27Mar; 05-29Apr; Nov-21Dec	£315	£58
May-15Jul; 21Oct-31Dec	£409	£63
30Apr-30Oct	£230	£57
FLORIDA		
Jan-27Mar; 05-29Apr; Nov-21Dec	£315	£58
May-15Jul; 21Oct-31Dec	£409	£63
30Apr-30Oct	£230	£57

Prices above are per person in a Standard Room or rooms as shown above for double occupancy including accommodation and Breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers to/from Havana airport.



Havana City Street

UNIQUE SOCIETY

Discover Cuba's unique way of life in the palm-shaded squares and crumbling Spanish architecture of Old Havana, filled with a surreal mix of 1950's classic American cars and relics of the Cold War. Outside the city, life takes a slower pace, where farmers subsist growing sugar cane and tobacco in the warm and humid Caribbean climate. Further colonial delights in Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santiago and Baracoa show a long history, culture, wealth and are a deep source of Cuban pride.



Days 1-4 Morning departure on a daytime flight to **Havana**. Next day, tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with handsome squares and magnificent colonial architecture, contrasting with 1950s cars, derelict buildings and cyclists. Visit the Museum of the Revolution, Memorial to José Martí, the Plaza de Armas and the Malecón on the seafront. Next days are free to explore and discover the wealth of local life, art, music and history. (B)

Day 5 Full day excursion to Viñales. Guided walking tour around this picturesque provincial town and visit

the surrounding countryside including the underground river at El Indio caves, a tobacco plantation and workshop at Pinar del Rio. (B)

Day 6 Morning departure for Cienfuegos, stopping on the way to visit the historic Bay of Pigs Museum, the site of the failed invasion in 1961. Continue to Cienfuegos, where we spend the night after taking a tour of this charming colonial city. Stroll along the wide boulevards and visit the monument to famous Cuban singer, Benny Moré. (B,L)

Days 7-9 Continue to Trinidad on the scenic route via the Escambray mountains, staying at a central guest house for 3 nights. Next day walking tour of this colourful, historic town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the cobbled streets, admiring the colonial mansions, churches and palm lined squares. Life moves slowly here, and horses still draw carts along the main street. Soak up the atmosphere on the café terraces with live music and salsa dancing. (B)

Days 10-11 Return to Havana, stopping en route at **Santa Clara** to see the Che Guevara monument. Clients staying on the beach will then be taken to Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria. The next day, transfer to the airport for your return flight arriving home the following day, **Day 12**. (B)

Cuban Musicians



The Sombrero Tour departs every Monday, throughout the year – 12 days, including 10 nights' accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (1 overnight), all transfers, transport and excursions with English speaking guide and meals as shown. Please see pages 190 - 193.

Suggested extensions :

Varadero Beach Resort , Cayo Santa Maria & Cayo Ensenachos : See p.182

Santiago de Cuba & Baracoa for 6 days / 5 nights : See p.183

The Sombrero Tour

10 night itinerary:

Havana - 5 nights

Full day Viñales

Cienfuegos - 1 night

Trinidad - 3 nights

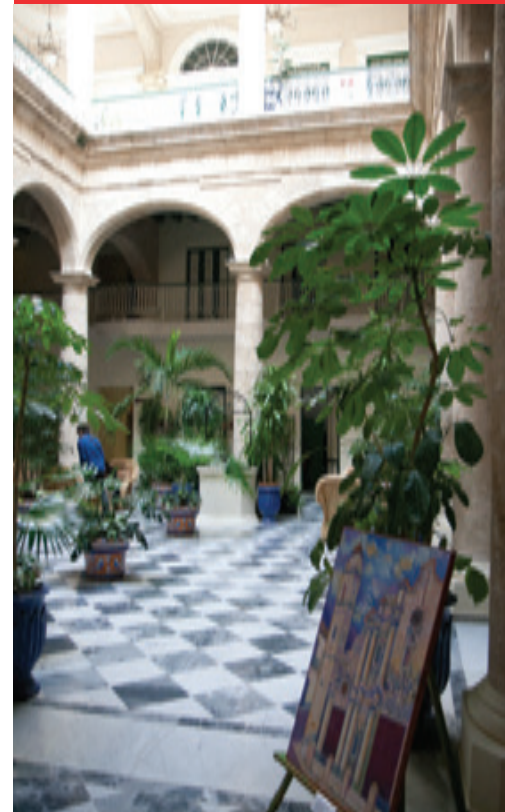
Visit Santa Clara, Havana - 1 night

Extensions to:

Beaches at Varadero/Cayo St. Maria

Santiago & Baracoa - 6 nights

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Internal Courtyard, Havana

PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOURS		
Departures every week throughout the year		
	Tourist	First
2 Sharing		
Low Seasons (Jan-Jun; 02 Sep-16 Dec)	£2302	£3732
High Seasons (1 Jul-01 Sep, 17 Dec-31 Dec)	£2552	£3982
Santiago & Baracoa Extension £ 1053 per person sharing a room		
Varadero 4 nights Extension £681 per person sharing a room at Sol Palmeras Hotel or £781 per person sharing a room at Paradisus Varadero		
Prices per person including transatlantic flights and all taxes payable in the UK. Direct flights on VIRGIN from London Gatwick or via Madrid on AIR EUROPA, from Gatwick.		
Business Class upgrade on Air Europa £968 for High Season and £1152 for Low Season.		
TAILOR-MADE SERVICE: We can prepare a personalised itinerary to fulfil your individual requirements.		

Havana Street Cafés



CAYO SANTA MARIA & ENSENACHOS BEACHES

Cayo Santa Maria and Ensenachos are located in the Cayos of central Cuba, requiring an internal flight from Havana but accessible by road from Trinidad. With pristine beaches and clear waters, it makes an ideal beach getaway for those who prefer more exclusive hotels and fewer people.

Iberostar Ensenachos

Deluxe - All inclusive

Located in the exclusive Cayos (Cays) district of central Cuba, the Iberostar Ensenachos is a luxury resort with all suite accommodation. The suites are large, modern and comfortable, divided among bungalows decorated in the colonial style. The Park Suites make up the family area, including childrens play area, while the Spa Suites are in an adults-

only area for enhanced exclusiveness and relaxation. The hotel has a spa offering a variety of treatments, and 6 restaurants, ranging from buffet to gourmet and specialist Asian cuisine. There is access to 2 white sandy beaches, and a number of activities and watersports are available such as windsurfing, kayaking, catamaran sailing and beach volleyball.



Cuban Beaches

VARADERO BEACH

Varadero is a peninsula two hours from Havana, lined with long beaches and a number of large all-inclusive hotels managed by international groups, offering the usual cocktail of watersports and beach activities. There is no feel of being in Cuba but the sea is clear and warm and the sand soft and white, ideal for a beach resort. There is also a nearby park and nature reserve.



Sol Palmeras, Varadero



Iberostar Ensenachos

Melia Buenavista

Deluxe - All inclusive

Located at the point of Cayo Santa Maria, the hotel is an adults-only resort with access to 3 beaches. The suites are spacious, comfortable and modern, and all have a terrace, air-conditioning, and outdoor shower. There are 3 speciality restaurants, 24 hour room-service, a spa, gym and a range of watersports on offer.

Melia Cayo Santa Maria

First - All inclusive

Located in the centre of Cayo Santa Maria, the hotel is a family friendly all-inclusive resort with 358 rooms. The rooms are colourfully decorated and simple but spacious, with air-conditioning, terrace or balcony, and minibar. The resort has 6 restaurants and 3 bars including one at the poolside and one at the beach.

Paradisus Varadero

First - All inclusive

The hotel is spacious and decorated in a good style (unlike many others), aiming for the highest standards of luxury in Cuba, although Cuban cuisine can be considered a bit bland. All meals, drinks, snacks, entertainment and activities are included. The rooms have views of the bay or the exotic tropical gardens. The Garden Villas have private pools for those who prefer privacy. The white sand and clear waters make this an ideal place to relax, sunbathe or enjoy watersports.



Room at Paradisus Varadero

Sol Palmeras

Tourist Superior - All inclusive

The hotel has 408 rooms in its horseshoe shaped main building, plus 200 more isolated bungalows set among the gardens. The small beach is separated from the hotel by a band of trees, hiding it from view but giving it a natural feel. Suitable for families, there is a central swimming pool, tennis courts and access to a golf course.

PRICES

2 SHARING SEASONS	3 NIGHTS INCLUDING TRANSFERS	EXTRA NIGHT
CAYO SANTA MARIA		
IBEROSTAR ENSENACHOS		
All Year	£1046	£231
MELIA BUENAVISTA		
All Year	£1115	£271
MELIA CAYO SANTA MARIA		
All Year	£747	£149
VARADERO BEACH		
PARADISUS VARADERO		
All year	£984	£257
SOL PALMERAS		
All Year	£631	£148

Prices are per person in a Standard Room for double occupancy including accommodation and breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers. Prices for Triple room, Single Room and child fares available on request.

TRINIDAD

Trinidad is a historic colonial city, World Heritage Site, of Spanish Colonial Architecture with cobbled streets, magnificent mansions with Carrara marble floors. Visit the Baroque churches and museums, or explore the surrounding Escambray mountains. Time here has stood still and the pace of life is slow. There are restaurants and cafes with outdoor tables and a lively nightlife with salsa music and dancing.



Main Square, Trinidad

Accommodation

The Grand Hotel Iberostar Trinidad is a First Class hotel and the only one in the centre of town, overlooking the main square, so it is in great demand. It has 36 rooms, half with city-view balcony or terrace and 4 junior suites, all with complete amenities. It has a fine restaurant and bar. Adults only.

Another option is to stay in one of the several small guesthouses with comfortable rooms with private facilities, and a good way to experience the flavour of local life, people and culture.

BARACOA

Christopher Columbus landed here on the 15th August 1511 on his first voyage to the Americas. Baracoa is a small historic town, located on the remote south western corner of the island, over the mountains from Santiago de Cuba and Holguin. The town sits on a bay surrounded by hills with three old forts worth a visit. Walk the narrow streets to the main square, cathedral and absorb the local atmosphere. Stay at hotel El Castillo, with a pool, terrace and a great view of the town, rooftops and the sea.

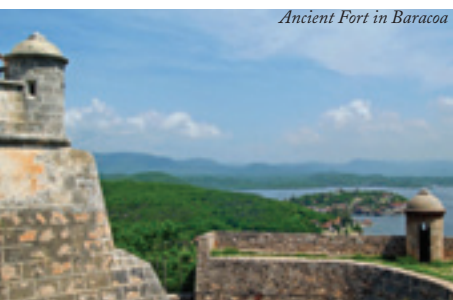
Santiago & Baracoa 7 Days • 6 Nights

Days 1-3 Overland journey from Havana or Trinidad to Camaguey and overnight. Explore the town and continue to Santiago de Cuba for two nights. Tour of the city visiting the main square, Cathedral, Museum of Cuban History

and Moncada Barracks, where the Cuban revolution started. Afternoon free to walk the city streets and absorb the unique atmosphere. (B)

Days 4-5 Long journey by road to Baracoa, where Columbus landed in 1492. Pass Guantanamo Bay, cross the remote mountain scenery and stay for two nights. Walk around the small colonial village, the seafront Malecón and visit one of the surrounding forts. In the afternoon, friendly local people sit on their front porches chatting. (B)

Days 6-7 Return to Santiago and overnight. The next day fly to Havana.



Ancient Fort in Baracoa

CIENFUEGOS

This quiet provincial town was once an important port, a trading route and agricultural centre surrounded by fertile fields and plantations.

Visit the castle of Jagua at the entrance of the bay, the Cathedral, the Jose Marti Park in the Plaza de Armas, the botanic gardens and the provincial museum. The city is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list and close to the Bay of Pigs, site of the Cold War-era failed invasion.

Cienfuegos & Trinidad 4 Days • 3 Nights

Day 1 Depart by road from Havana to Cienfuegos, with a stop at the Bay of Pigs. Overnight in Cienfuegos, and take a tour of the city's wide avenues and waterfront.

Days 2-3 Travel by road to Trinidad, a beautifully run down colonial city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stay for 2 nights, with a half day walking tour of the charming cobbled streets, visiting the once grand mansions and churches.

Day 4 Visit Che Guevara's mausoleum on the way to Havana or Varadero beach.



Colonial Architecture in Cienfuegos

PRICES

ALL YEAR	4 DAYS • 3 NIGHTS
CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD	
First Class	£1127
Tourist Class	£786
ALL YEAR	7 DAYS • 6 NIGHTS
SANTIAGO & BARACOA	
Tourist Class	£1053

Prices are per person based on two sharing a double room, transport, transfers, guided excursions with English-speaking guide. Breakfast, tax, service charge included.

SANTIAGO

Santiago is Cuba's second largest City but relatively small; it has long been Havana's rival for literature, music and politics, being the "Cradle of Fidel's Revolution". The city has a lively and cosmopolitan mix of Afro-Caribbean flavours, ideal to walk the narrow streets, admire the colonial architecture and hustle and bustle of daily life on the main square. Music and dance are a fundamental part of local culture. There are modern hotels and small guest houses to use as a base to explore this fascinating city.



Santiago de Cuba