

# 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.

web [veloso.com/cuba](http://veloso.com/cuba)

## 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*



*Leafy Colonial Square*



*Capitol Building, Havana*

## 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.



*Pool at the Saratoga hotel*

## Parque Central *First Class Superior*

The hotel is located on a square with a central garden right by the Capitol and on the edge of Old Havana. The construction is modern and the hotel has restaurants, bar and a wonderful rooftop swimming pool of a large size with sunbeds all around and a superb view of the city. The bedrooms are spacious and comfortable with wooden floor, private bathroom, minibar including coffee and tea making, laundry service, TV, safe, hair dryer and 24-hour room service.

## Casa Particular *Homestay*

Throughout Cuba it is possible to stay in private houses, Bed and Breakfast, where people rent rooms for an extra income. English is sometimes very limited. The standards of accommodation and service vary greatly so we select the best ones at the time of booking. This is a great way to have an insight into the lives of local people and their choices.

## Santa Isabel *First*

The hotel is located in Old Havana, close to the Malecon waterfront and facing a pleasant square with garden and trees. The building was the mansion of an aristocrat, converted to a boutique hotel. There are 27 rooms with modern facilities, a central courtyard and open walkways to the rooms decorated in a neoclassical colonial style. There is a rooftop bar with a great view, restaurant and cafe.

### PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

HAVANA	
Parque Central	£625
Saratoga	£568
Santa Isabel	£427
Casa Particular (Casa Feliz)	£241

*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 and old 1950s American cars

# 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. (B,L)



Viñales Valley Day 5

**Days 7-9** Continue to Trinidad on the scenic route via the Escambray mountains, staying for 3 nights. Next day walking tour of this historic town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the cobbled streets, admiring the colonial architecture 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)

**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 :

**Beach Resort :** See p.182

**Santiago de Cuba & Baracoa for 8 days / 7 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

**web** [veloso.com/sombrero](http://veloso.com/sombrero)



Traditional Cuban Musicians, Trinidad, Days 7-9

### PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOURS

Departures every week throughout the year

2 persons Sharing Double Room	Tourist	First
Seasons		
(Jan-Jun;02Sep-16Dec)	£2245	£3429
(1Jul-01Sep, 17Dec-31Dec)	£2396	£3682

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 Cabin upgrade on Air Europa £968 for High Season and £1152 for Low Season.

**Santiago & Baracoa 7 night Extension**  
£1253 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

**TAILOR-MADE SERVICE:** We can prepare a personalised itinerary to fulfil your individual requirements.

Havana street cafés with terrace and music, on a pedestrian square, very pleasant, Days 1-4





## 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 FROM 4 days • 3 nights

CAYO SANTA MARIA & ENSENACHOS BEACHES	
Iberostar Ensenachos	£1046
Melia Buenavista	£1115
Melia Cayo Santa Maria	£747

#### VARADERO BEACH

Paradisus Varadero	£984
Sol Palmeras	£631

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.

### 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.

## 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.



Main Square, Trinidad

## 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 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 de Cuba

## 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.



Colonial Architecture in Cienfuegos

### PRICES FROM

#### CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD

4 days • 3 nights £694

#### SANTIAGO & BARACOA

8 days • 7 nights £1596

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 & Baracoa 8 Days • 7 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 Afro-Caribbean atmosphere. (B)

**Days 4-5** Long journey by road to Baracoa, where Columbus landed in 1511. Pass Guantanamo Bay, cross the remote mountain scenery and stay for two nights. Walk around the small colonial village, the seafont 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 set off for Havana by road, overnighing in Camaguey en route. (B)



Ancient Fort in Baracoa