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Scenic Cuba Tour

9 Days / 8 Nights

Havana | Viñales Valley | Pinar del Río | Las Terrazas

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★ CUBA TOURS

SIGNATURE CUBA TOURS

UNDISCOVERED CUBA

CLASSIC CUBA

SCENIC CUBA

VINTAGE CUBA

JAZZ IN HAVANA

WEEKEND IN HAVANA

SPECIALITY CUBA TOURS

HAVANA MARATHON TOURS

CUBA BY LAND & SEA

HAVANA ART BIENNIAL

Overview

Cuba is a country that can't be easily defined. Just when you think you've pinpointed Cuba's essence in the raw energy and hustle of Havana, its urban hub, the island's softer side—the outlying rustling tobacco fields, the farms tended by ox-driven plows—beckons to be explored.

Experience both worlds on our nine-day Scenic Cuba tour under the care of our expert Cuban guide and experienced insightCuba tour leader, both dedicated to fostering authentic connections between you and local residents. Explore city life in Cuba's biggest metropolis before voyaging to the western province of Pinar del Río, known for its quiet, red-earth pastures and breathtaking national park, Viñales.

While these two destinations hit your senses in wildly different ways, the warmth and spirit of their people will remain steadfast. Lifelong residents reveal the real Cuba in ways never before possible.



You'll spend the first part of your trip in Havana, where beautiful sixteenth-century Colonial buildings surround cobblestone streets, Buena Vista-style guitar rifts flutter from cafes and romance ignites near the Malecón, the city's magnificent seaside boulevard, where couples stroll and Cuban leisure life bustles.

From Havana, travel to the province of Pinar del Río. This is western country: a tranquil land with a temperate climate and decidedly fewer tourists than the big city. Here, you'll be introduced to the Sierra del Rosario, a wooded range and UNESCO World Heritage Biosphere Reserve that boasts waterfalls and flower-lined paths, and Cuba's version of Yosemite Valley, Viñales.

Enjoy the magic in simple things, such as walking on clay road, or taking in the region's famous lush eco communities and the massive limestone rocks seemingly rising before your eyes.

Scroll down to see what's included, the sample itinerary, departure dates, and pricing

"Such a rich variety of experiences and contacts with people there.... It truly is a trip of a lifetime... I am so glad I chose this tour and insightCuba!"

Dawn L.
Scenic Cuba Tour

"It was a fabulous trip, and exceeded our expectations.... This was a life-time and life-changing trip. I am sure the lessons I learned will continue to emerge as I ponder the trip, challenge my thinking, and hear more about Cuba in the news in the years to come."

Joan N.
Scenic Cuba Tour

What's Included

- ★ One night at the **Sofitel Miami Hotel**, including breakfast and airport transfer
- ★ Private welcome reception and pre-tour briefing
- ★ Superior accommodations at the **Melia Cohiba** in Havana
- ★ Standard accommodations in Pinar del Río
- ★ InsightCuba exclusive-guided
- ★ All meals while in Cuba, except for two paladar evening dining experiences on your own
- ★ U.S. Department of the Treasury license and insightCuba letter of authorization
- ★ Small group size (usually 16 or fewer guests; never more than 24)
- ★ All entrance fees to scheduled
- ★ Travel health insurance, emergency medical evacuation, and trip cancellation coverage (up to \$1,000)
- ★ Fresh bottled water while touring
- ★ InsightCuba travel guidebook
- ★ 24 hour emergency customer service hotline

"This is the BEST trip I have ever taken."

Judy K.
Scenic Cuba Tour

programming, including; unique handpicked people-to-people activities; insider access to Cuba's famous places and those rarely seen; and private visits and lectures with Cuba's renowned experts

- ★ Experienced insightCuba tour leader
- ★ Expert Cuban guide

activities and events

- ★ Flight package (cost additional) including: round-trip charter air from Miami to Havana, Cuban visa, priority check-in at Miami International Airport, and baggage fee for first checked bag
- ★ All in-country ground transportation and airport transfers via luxury motor coach
- ★ Private Cuban Driver

- ★ Gratuities for luggage handling, restaurant service, and programmed activities throughout tour*

*Customary end-of-tour gratuities for the Cuban guide, driver, and tour leader are left to the guest's discretion and should be based on your satisfaction with the level of service received.

Sample Itinerary

*A significant portion of your in-country programming is customized for each group to maximize your cultural experience. Many of the places we visit are not tourist destinations and are thus not always available. Therefore, this program should be considered as a sample only – please keep in mind that your particular tour may vary. Final itineraries are sent to guests one to two weeks prior to departure.



Day 1-2: Miami / Havana

Your trip begins at the Sofitel Miami Airport hotel, where your group will gather for a short briefing and welcome reception. After breakfast at the hotel the following morning, you'll board your charter flight to Havana.

After clearing immigration and customs, you'll head to *Juana La Cubana*, a delightful *paladar* (privately owned restaurant), for your first lunch on Cuban land. There, you'll enjoy the performance of a local children's dance troupe and an all-female rap group, and learn more about Cuba's music scene.

Next, visit the famous *Callejón de Hamel*, an outdoor haven for Afro-Cuban musicians and artists in Centro Habana. At the end of the day, we'll check into our hotel in the heart of Havana. Orientation with your insightCuba tour leader and welcome dinner at El Templete will follow.

Meals Day 1 | Enjoy dinner on your own, at your leisure

Meals Day 2 | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3: Havana

Right after breakfast, we'll visit an interactive community project devoted to traditional embroidery and other handicrafts. Here, you'll also have the rare chance to see a dance demonstration of the different orishas, part of Cuba's Santería religion.

After this, you'll take a guided tour of Finca "La Yoandra," an organic farm. The variety of fruits and vegetables will spoil you! We'll continue our organic theme with lunch at *paladar Il Divino*.

Next, we'll meet the dynamic artists and musicians behind *Muraleando*, one of Havana's most groundbreaking projects, where artists converted an old water tank into an art-and-performance space.

Lastly, meet university students and business professionals by your hotel's poolside, for candid discussions about daily Cuban life. Dinner tonight will be at El Aljibe.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4: Havana

En route to one of Cuba's most renowned photography organizations, *Fototeca*, we'll stop to take in the colonial splendor of Old Havana: its cobblestone streets, vibrant dynamics and stunning architecture. For lunch, we'll indulge at *Sloppy Joe's*, where yesteryear's movie stars and baseball heroes gathered.

After lunch, we'll meet with the local artists at the *Casa Taller Antonia Eiriz*, a house-turned- museum. The day's highlight will be a visit to Hemingway's home, *Finca Vija*, where you'll likely come to understand why the novelist chose to spend twenty years in Cuba.

The day will end with dinner at La Union Francesa.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5: Havana

Begin the day by discussing contemporary issues in Cuba with a social psychologist and PHD professor at University of Havana.

We'll then head to *Cemetery Colon*, for an insightful visit with a local guide. Here, you'll see imposingly built, elaborate gravestones, similar to ones you would find in Europe.

Next, students and chefs at the Culinary School of Havana will teach you about culinary arts in Cuba, while preparing your lunch. If you've always loved Cuban cuisine, this is your chance to learn how to prepare an authentic *ropa vieja*, and make your own savory mojito.

Afterwards, we'll take a fascinating private tour at the Film Institute (ICAIC), hosted by leaders in Cuba's film industry. An exclusive screening of Cuban filmmakers' work (including a children's movie) will be held.

Dinner tonight is on your own. Your tour leader will be happy to recommend the best local *paladares*.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6: Havana / Pinar del Río

After breakfast, we'll leave Havana behind to begin a beautiful journey exploring the magical *Pinar del Río*.

Along the way, we'll stop for a visit at the Patio de Pelegrin community project, an organic farm, art space and coffee shop all in one. There, we'll enjoy a lunch prepared by the community.

After check-in at the hotel, we'll meet with members and musicians of a remarkable local opera and theatre group, all of whom perform around the world.

Dinner tonight will be at paladar Café Ortuzar.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7: Pinar del Río / Viñales Valley

On your second day in Pinar del Río, we'll depart for the *Viñales National Park* to meet a local guide. At a tobacco-drying house, a tobacco farmer will teach you how to roll cigars.

For lunch today, you'll walk through a carved cave to reach *El Palenque de los Cimarrones*, where traditional Afro Cuban music will be playing.

After the savory smoked pork lunch, we'll wander into *Viñales Valley*, Cuba's Yosemite-like habitat, then take a walk into Viñales city. You'll walk on clay and admire up close the giant limestone rocks that make Viñales famous.

Treat yourself at the end of the day to a savory coco loco (a mix of honey, rum and coconut water). Take our word for it: you won't be disappointed! Dinner tonight is on your own.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch



Day 8: Pinar del Río / Las Terrazas / Havana

Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll check out, then visit the private studio of a national Cuban artist, famous for his controversial artworks. We'll head out to the local cigar factory in Pinar del Río.

On our way back to Havana, we'll stop at *Las Terrazas*, a quaint, wholly self-sustainable eco community. We'll enjoy a typical Cuban lunch in the community that also acts as a nature reserve, while meeting with its residents and leaders.

On arrival in Havana, enjoy a farewell dinner and live music at *Tocororo*.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Havana / Miami ¡Adios!

After breakfast, we'll check out of the Meliá Cohiba hotel, visit a local food co-op,



and lunch at La Casona del 17. Then, we'll go to the airport, where you'll board your flight home.

Meals | Breakfast, Lunch

Tour Dates & Prices

SCENIC CUBA TOUR

DATE	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (PER PERSON)	STATUS
Dec 5, 2014 – Dec 13, 2014	\$4,695	SOLD OUT
Dec 19, 2014 – Dec 27, 2014	\$4,695	SOLD OUT
Dec 26, 2014 – Jan 3, 2015	\$4,795	SOLD OUT
Jan 16, 2015 – Jan 24, 2015	\$4,795	SOLD OUT
Feb 6, 2015 – Feb 14, 2015	\$4,795	SOLD OUT
Feb 27, 2015 – Mar 7, 2015	\$4,795	Book Now!
Mar 20, 2015 – Mar 28, 2015	\$4,795	Book Now!
Apr 17, 2015 – Apr 25, 2015	\$4,795	Book Now!
May 22, 2015 – May 30, 2015	\$4,595	Book Now!
Jun 12, 2015 – Jun 20, 2015	\$4,595	Book Now!
Jul 3, 2015 – Jul 11, 2015	\$4,595	Book Now!

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: For single-occupancy pricing, add \$500.

Flight Package

SCENIC CUBA TOUR

- ★ Round trip air from Miami to Havana
- ★ Cuban visa
- ★ Baggage fee for first checked bag
- ★ Priority check-in at Miami International Airport

DEPARTURES	FLIGHT PACKAGE
Jan 8 - Dec 19	\$595
Dec 20 - Jan 7	\$645

-Flight Package Prices are subject to change unless accompanied by confirmed booking



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Special Diets in Cuba

You might have heard—rightly—that vegetarian, paleo, gluten-free and other special diets are still...

Insight Paladares: Bistro Havana Kohly

Of all things possibly associated with a 1950's nouveau riche bedroom community in Havana a bistro...

Cuba travel ramps up as restrictions ease: <http://t.co/2d9l2lr4Ov> via @USATODAY

Travel to Cuba Eases, but Airlines Will Miss Initial Rush <http://t.co/49QbpU6BtP> via @nytimes <http://t.co/bf896jDsL3>

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Discover Cuba through its People

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