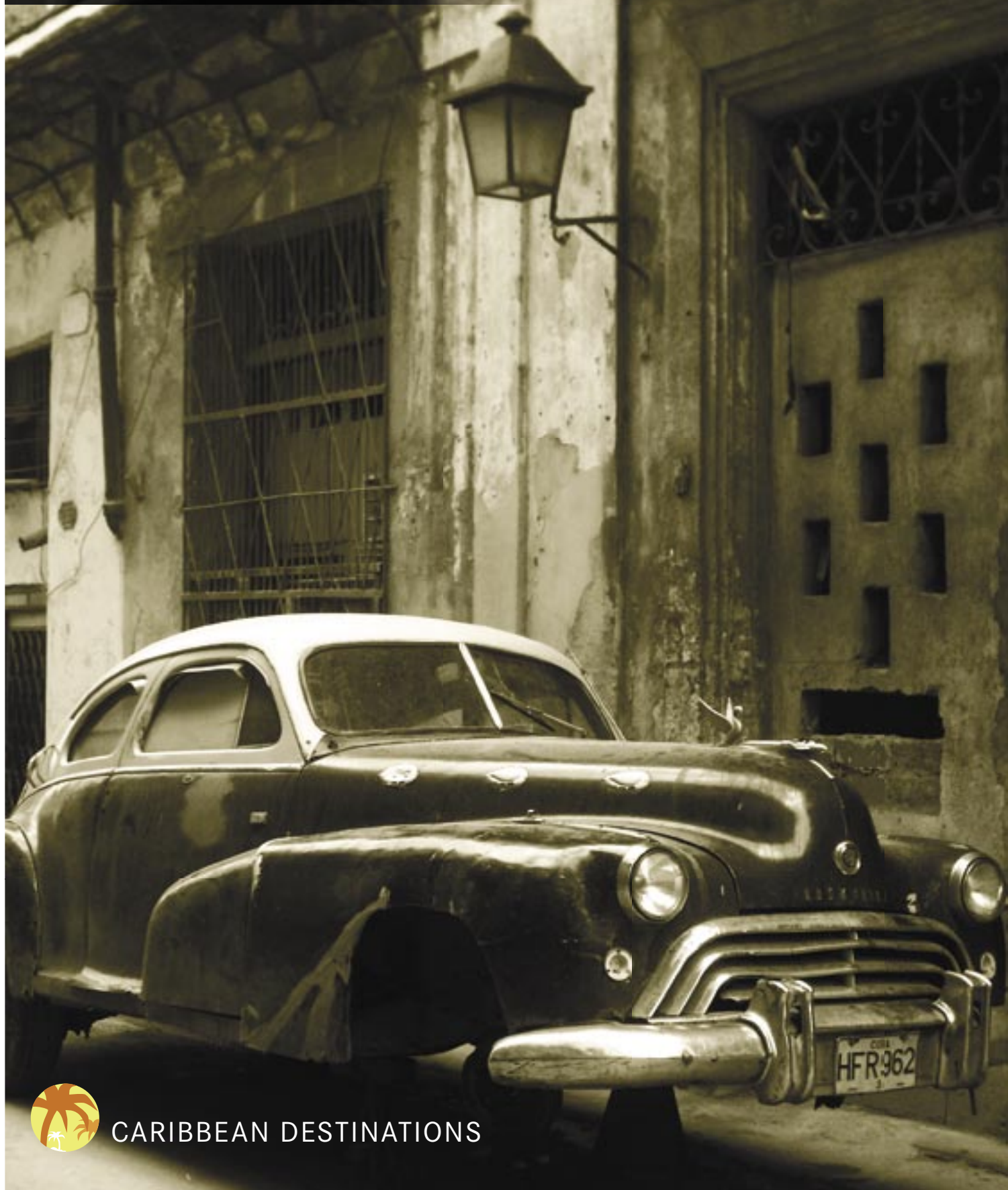


CUBA



CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS



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CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS

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CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS

We are delighted to introduce you to our dedicated Cuba brochure, although this is merely an introduction to the myriad of Cuban travel opportunities that are available through Caribbean Destinations. We have excellent personal knowledge of Cuba and regularly travel to the island to keep ahead of developments in this fascinating destination.

We are delighted to take this opportunity to share our deep knowledge and enthusiasm for Cuba with you, ensuring that your holiday is arranged to suit your exact requirements.



WHY BOOK WITH CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS?

Our expertise extends through the USA and West Indies area, enabling us to construct and tailor make travel packages to suit all individual budgets **saving you time and money.**

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT

When booking your holiday with Caribbean Destinations you can enjoy the best possible level of support from your first inquiry through to the end of your holiday. Our team has excellent knowledge of Cuba and can offer an unbiased and expert service. We also provide detailed information outlining what to take and expect when travelling to Cuba.

We have a dedicated local representative team in Havana on hand to offer advice during your stay in Cuba.

TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

Caribbean Destinations can offer the most comprehensive and flexible tailor-made holiday to Cuba, backed by the combined experience of handling many hundreds of tailor made travelers arriving into Cuba every year.

Our specialist team of travel consultants, all of whom regularly travel to Cuba (even on their holidays), have tremendous experience, in advising and designing your itinerary.

Whatever your requirements, Caribbean Destinations have the expertise to develop an itinerary to suit your needs. We are able to book and advise you on an extensive range of hotels throughout the island, to create itineraries around car hire and fly drive opportunities.

If you already have a reasonably clear idea about what you wish to do, then contact our sales team or drop into your local travel agent with your outline itinerary, dates and budget.

After discussing your requirements, we will then provide you with a more detailed quotation, which can be amended to suit your final requirements.



INTRODUCTION TO CUBA

The largest island in the Caribbean and situated just 90 miles south of Florida, Cuba boasts spectacular scenery and a rich cultural heritage as well as some of the world's best beaches with miles of soft white sand, lapped by clear warm waters.

Steeped in the history of Spanish colonialism and post war revolution, the grandeur of Cuba's rich history can be experienced in the vibrant UNESCO preserved cities of Havana and Trinidad which are virtually living museums of days gone by.

Let us introduce you to some of the most spectacular natural scenery in the Caribbean with mountain ranges, deep valleys, fertile plains rich in tobacco, coffee plantations and large areas of preserved natural habitats.

Enjoy the holiday of a lifetime as you explore this unique island. An exotic historical country of great diversity, Cuba combines all the ingredients to ensure an unforgettable holiday.

CLIMATE

Cuba has a tropical climate, with no extreme temperatures since it is cooled by the gentle breezes of the trade winds. It has two very definite seasons: the rainy season (from May to October) and the dry season (from November to April). It boasts an average of 330 sunny days a year and the average temperature is 25.5 degrees Celsius. The mean temperature of the coastal waters is 25 degrees Celsius in winter and 28 degrees Celsius in summer. The average relative humidity is 78%, yearly rainfall average is 1,515 mm. The driest months are August and December.

GENERAL INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT:	COMMUNIST STATE
CHIEF OF STATE:	FIDEL CASTRO
CAPTIAL:	HAVANA
LANGUAGE:	SPANISH
VISA:	VISA IS REQUIRED FOR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND TRAVELLERS
CURRENCY:	CUBAN PESO & TOURIST PESO
RELIGION:	CATHOLIC / AFRO CUBAN
POPULATION:	11 MILLION
CLIMATE:	WARMEST MONTH: JULY 30° C
	COOLEST MONTH: JANUARY 21° C
SEASONS:	RAINY: MAY – OCTOBER
	DRY: NOVEMBER – APRIL



Boutique Hotels of La Habana Vieja

Havana was founded in 1519 by the Spanish. By the 17th century, it had become one of the Caribbean's main centres for ship-building. Although it is today a sprawling metropolis of 2 million inhabitants, its old centre retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, and a homogeneous ensemble of private houses with arcades, balconies, wrought-iron gates and internal courtyards.

SEVILLA HOTEL

★★★



Dating back to 1908, the Sevilla still retains its outstanding architectural beauty whilst providing guests with all the comforts of a modern hotel. The hotel is ideally located very close to Old Havana, allowing easy access by foot to the varied sights, restaurants and bars of the Old City. The exquisite Roof Garden restaurant provides superb views over Old Havana.

FLORIDA HOTEL

★★★



On the narrow bustling Calle Obispo, this small intimate hotel has been recently restored and beautifully captures the charm of the historic city. Twenty-five colonial style rooms offer air – conditioning, private bathroom, satellite TV, radio, telephone, safe box, minibar option. Restaurant, 2 bars and boutique.

HOTEL SARATOGA

★★★★



The Hotel Saratoga is an elegant building constructed in neoclassical/eclectic style on an attractive corner in Old Havana, at the intersection of the Paseo del Prado and Dragones Street. It stands opposite the Capitolio building and the Parque de la Fraternidad and has a spectacular view of the prestigious Partagas Cigar Factory and Cuba's principal opera house, the Gran Teatro de La Habana.

SANTA ISABEL HOTEL

★★★★



Enjoying the most privileged position in Havana's Plaza del Armes Colonial Square in the very heart of Old Havana, the Santa Isabel was originally the palace of the Count of Santovenia and became Havana's most elegant hotel in 1867. The 17 luxury rooms enjoy air-conditioning, private bathroom, satellite TV, telephone, safe box, minibar option, balcony terrace and room service. Ten suites are also available. Restaurant, Café, 2 bars and boutiques.

PALACIO RAQUEL

★★★



Very close to Plaza Vieja and the St Francis of Assisi square, the elegant Raquel Hotel captivates with its harmonious Art Nouveau style. Built in 1905 it was conceived for offices, a warehouse and fabric store. Palacio Raquel consists of 25 rooms that have been carefully designed with great comfort and decorated with paintings by famous Cuban artists. All rooms have private facilities.

PALACIO DE SAN MIGUEL

★★★



The San Miguel Palace is located right near Havana's harbor overlooking the colossal Fortresses of La Cabana, El Morro and La Punta. This boutique Spanish Colonial mansion is distinguished by the elegant decor of its rooms, which shows off the high class life style of Havana in the 20's. It's ten comfortable rooms, the grand saloon, lobby bar and captivating terrace with excellent panoramic views make the Palacio de San Miguel a must for travelers who enjoy history and luxury.



Caribbean Destinations is delighted to offer the most extensive choice of Old Havana's historic boutique hotels, all of which have been carefully resorted to reflect the history and charm of their original style.

Declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1982, the beauty of Old Havana is reflected in its stained glass windows, mosaics, balconies, iron works, churches and tree lined squares.

With the continued restoration of Old Havana you will enjoy a wide range of restaurants and café bars whilst enjoying our beautiful collection of boutique hotels and hostals.



HOSTAL VILLANUEVA ★★★



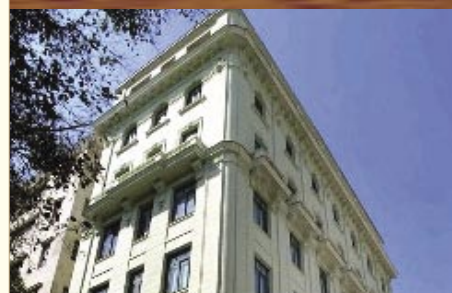
This charming luxury hotel, the former mansion of Claudio Martínez de Pinillos, the Villanueva Count, fascinates the visitors with its sobriety and intimacy. Its homely atmosphere, the breezy inner courtyard, its spacious corridors and its beautiful stained-glass windows, combine to create an ambiance of authentic colonial beauty, which perfectly harmonizes with the most modern comfort. The hotel, conceived for lovers of cigars, has very cozy rooms that are named after the famous Cuban tobacco fields.

BELTRAN DE SANTA CRUZ ★★★



An elegant house from the 18th century, located very close to Plaza Vieja. A small comfortable hostel reflecting the beauty of Spanish Colonial architecture. All 11 rooms are air conditioned with private bathrooms, 3 with balconies and one suite.

HOTEL PARKVIEW ★★



This property recently opened after an extensive refurbishment, having originally opened in 1928. It is located just off Paseo del Prado, Old Havana's famous promenade and provides a comfortable and handy location for those wishing to explore the old quarter on foot.

HOSTAL LOS FRIALES ★★★



A few steps away from San Francisco square de Assisi Convent and the beautiful Plaza Vieja, this property has been lovingly and uniquely



resorted to evoke the past with stained glass and old artifacts to complete the picture. A truly intimate and characterful hotel. 22 rooms all with air conditioning, private bathroom, satellite TV and minibar

HOSTAL VALENICA ★★★



Located in the heart of Old Havana only 200 meters from Plaza del Armes, this very small hotel is a former mansion built for Alderman Court Sotoloongo in the 18th century. Surrounding an open air Spanish style courtyard, the hotel is full of colonial character. All 12 rooms are different in style and size named after Spanish cities and offer private bathroom, cooling fans, colour TV and minibar. Award winning Paella restaurant, bar and cigar shop.

MESON DE LA FLOTA ★★



El Meson de la Flota has five comfortable rooms and a restaurant that resembles a Spanish tavern. The hostel is decorated with sea motifs and small replicas of old vessels. El Meson de la Flota hosts live flamenco performances, the best in the Old City. Located steps away from Plaza Vieja and the bay of Havana. All rooms have private bathrooms and air conditioning.



La Habana

1950's Chevies, Pontiacs and Buicks growl past, music blares, salsa, rumba, son and more. "Habaneros" and visitors alike sit in the Caribbean sun, enjoying lunch, a Cuban coffee or a "Mojito" rum cocktail. Endless words have been written describing the image of Havana. This is a city of vivid contrasts, from exquisite but faded Spanish architecture, narrow cobbled streets and leafy squares, to the dramatic Revolution Square and famous mural of Che Guevara.

TOURS FROM HAVANA

Havana City Tour

A half-day tour of Havana, including the sights of Old Havana, declared a UNESCO world heritage sight. Visit the Plaza de Armas and Plaza de la Catedral, before continuing to Modern Havana with a visit to Revolution Square.

Tropicana

A night at this famous night-club, an open-air extravaganza of music and dance, which has remained a highlight of Cuba since 1939. Over 200 artists and dancers performing at the 'rhythm of life' music. Return hotel transfers included.

Vinales Valley Day Trip

Full day tour to Vinales Valley. A chance to see some of the most beautiful countryside in Cuba, with this full day in Cuba's tobacco growing region. Visit a local cigar factory (closed weekends), enjoy a subterranean boat ride through the El Indio Cave System, explore the village of Viñales and absorb the views of the famous "Mogote" mountain scenery. Lunch in a restaurant in Viñales Valley is also included.

Traveling time: 3 hours each way.

HAVANA HIGHLIGHTS

La Bodeguita del Medio

Hemingway's favourite Havana hang-out. It is famous not only for its menu of out-of-this-world traditional Cuban dishes but also for its delectable Mojitos and its unique decor."

Bar Monserate

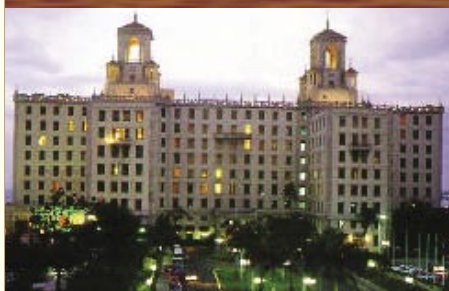
One of the liveliest bars in town. Mix cocktails and mix with the locals, while dancing the night away to live salsa music.

Chinatown

Explore Havana's small Chinatown and enjoy Chinese cuisine Cuban style.

NACIONAL HOTEL

★★★★



The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is arguably the most distinguished hotel in Cuba. Dating back to the 1930's, the Nacional continues to play host to a procession of celebrities, who come to enjoy its colonial ambience, exquisite décor and good facilities. Situated in an excellent location overlooking the 'Malecon' and Havana coastline, the hotel is set amidst landscaped gardens and is in the centre of the city, within easy reach of the major areas of interest.

TRYP HABANA LIBRE HOTEL

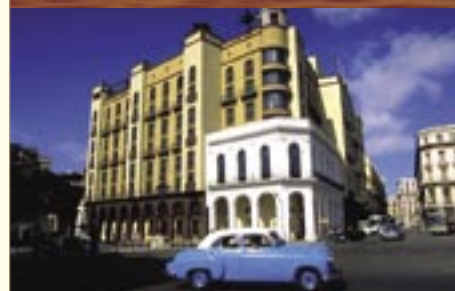
★★★



The Tryp Habana Libre, one of the most emblematic hotels in the capital, is located in the heart of the Vedado district near the two hundred year old University of Havana, the mythical Malecón seafront drive and only a few steps away from the famous Coppelia ice-cream parlor. This majestic 25-story hotel (572 rooms) offers a unique view of the ocean and of the magical city.

NH PARQUE CENTRAL HOTEL

★★★★



A modern colonial style property offering 4-star elegance in the very heart of this historic, fascinating city, where guests can enjoy excellent international standards and service. The hotel overlooks Havana's tree lined Parque Central and is within a short walk of all the main sights of Old Havana.

HOTEL CARIBBEAN

★



Located overlooking Parque Central Square on Prado and an easy walk to Old Havana. The Hotel Caribbean's 38 rooms, all have private bathrooms, air-conditioning or fan. A perfect hotel for the budget traveller looking for a central location.

Cienfuegos

Known as the “Pearl of the South”, Cienfuegos is a harbour city, overlooking a picturesque bay with a distinct French neoclassical influence in its shaded squares and tree – lined boulevards. Cienfuegos is one of the most beautiful cities in the country, capital of the Province of the same name.

HOTEL JAGUA

★★★



Built in the 1950's by Batista's brother, the magnificently located Jagua is the best hotel in Central Cuba (and quite famous, too). Situated on the peninsula next to the famous restaurant, Palacio de Valle, the Jagua features panoramic views of the sea and bay, a great swimming pool, well-appointed rooms and evening cabaret acts.

BOUTIQUE LA UNION

★★★



Centrally located on Jose Marti Square, this hotel has been beautifully renovated in its original colonial style whilst offering a wide range of modern comforts, and is an elegant and convenient choice whilst visiting Cienfuegos. All 49 rooms offer air conditioning, bathroom, satellite TV, radio, mini-fridge and safety deposit box.

PALACIO AZUL

★★★



Facing directly opposite the historical Cienfuegos Yacht Club, this boutique Spanish Colonial mansion has been recently fully restored to its former glory offering a warm and friendly atmosphere. The hotel offers only 7 beautiful sun filled rooms with private facilities.

HAVANA PACKAGES

Post Cards from Havana

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS – from \$550 pp

Day 1:

Transfer from Jose Marti Airport to your Hotel.

Day 2:

Visit National Capitol Building, Revolution Square, Havana University. In the evening transfer to the Fortress San Carlos de la Cabana enjoying the legendary cannon firing ceremony. Includes a three course dinner at Divina Pastora.

Day 3:

Walking tour along the main streets and Plazas in the historical centre of Havana. Visit Plaza de Armes, Plaza San Francisco, Plaza Vieja and Plaza Cathedral, Cigar Factory and the City Museum. Visit the Havana Club Foundation and its Rum Museum. Lunch at El Patio Restaurant with a cocktail included.

Day 4:

Transfer to Jose Marti airport or extend your stay in Havana.

Hemingway's Havana

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS – from \$550 pp

Day 1:

Transfer from Jose Marti Airport to your selected Hotel in Old Havana.

Day 2:

Hemingway's Havana tour includes a visit to "La Vigia farm, the former residence of the famous American writer. Tour along the fishing village of Cojimar. Return to Havana to visit Floridita Bar and Restaurant to enjoy a Daiquiri. Lunch at El Patio Restaurant with a cocktail included.

Day 3:

Walking tour along the main streets and Plazas in the historical centre of Havana visiting the most important sites of the city. Visit to the City Museum and the Cigar Factory. Transfer to Jose Marti Airport or return to your hotel.

The Essence of Havana

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS – from \$630 pp

Day 1:

Transfer from Jose Marti Airport to your selected Hotel in Old Havana.

Day 2:

Today you will be picked up at your hotel in an antique car, tour along the Malecon and down Fifth Avenue of Mirimar to the Club Habana, watch the sunset while sipping a Mojito.

Day 3:

Walking tour along the main streets and Plazas in the historical centre of Havana visiting the most important sites of the city. Visit to the Cigar Factory, "La Corona".

Day 4:

Transfer from your hotel to Jose Marti Airport or extend your time in Havana.

* All packages in Havana are based on any of the historical hotels: Telegrafo, Armadores de Santander, Palacio O'Farrill, Hotel Raquel and Hotel Florida. Breakfast included daily and meals as specified in packages.

Villa Clara

San Juan de los Remedios and Santa Clara

The town of San Juan de los Remedios, the eighth village founded by the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century, is one of the most picturesque colonial towns of Villa Clara is a perfect transit point travelling from Trinidad to Varadero and Havana.



The resting place of Ernest Che Guevara, Santa Clara is a typical Cuban town with memories of the revolution. The mausoleum and Museum dedicated to Che Guevara are worth a visit, as is the nearby Colonial town of Remedios.

Real name ERNESTO GUEVARA (1928-67), he was the Latin American guerrilla leader and revolutionary theorist, who became a hero to the New Left radicals of the 1960s. Born into a middle-class family in Rosario, Argentina, Guevara received a medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires in 1953. Convinced that revolution was the only remedy for Latin America's social inequities, in 1954 he went to Mexico, where he joined exiled Cuban revolutionaries under Fidel Castro. In the late 1950s, he played an important role in Castro's guerrilla war against Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, and when Castro came to power, he served as Cuba's minister of industry (1961-65).

A strong opponent of U.S. influence in the Third World, he helped guide the Castro regime on its leftward and pro-Communist path. The author of two books on guerrilla warfare, Guevara advocated peasant-based revolutionary movements in the developing world. He disappeared from Cuba in 1965, reappearing the following year as an insurgent leader in Bolivia. He was captured by the Bolivian army and shot near Vallegrande on Oct. 9, 1967.

SOL CLUB SANTA MARIA

★★★★



The exotic key of Santa Maria is a peaceful, untouched island and is reached by a causeway from the province of Villa Clara. Sol Cayo Santa Maria is the first luxury hotel to be established in this area, declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO, and the perfect place to 'get away from it all' amongst the same lush tropical vegetation which greeted Columbus when he first landed in 1492.

SANTA CLARA LIBRE HOTEL

★



The Santa Clara Libre Hotel is a 10-story hotel fronting Parque Vidal is currently the only official hotel option right in Santa Clara. The restaurant, located on the top floor, offers Cuban cuisine and a beautiful view of the city. When the night falls, the best choice is the disco, which is very popular among Santa Clara residents. The Santa Clara Libre Hotel is also within easy reach of the Ernesto Che Guevara Mausoleum. Facilities include 145 air-conditioned rooms with telephone, radio, TV, private baths, and mini-bar.

HOTEL MASCOTTE REMEDIOS

★★



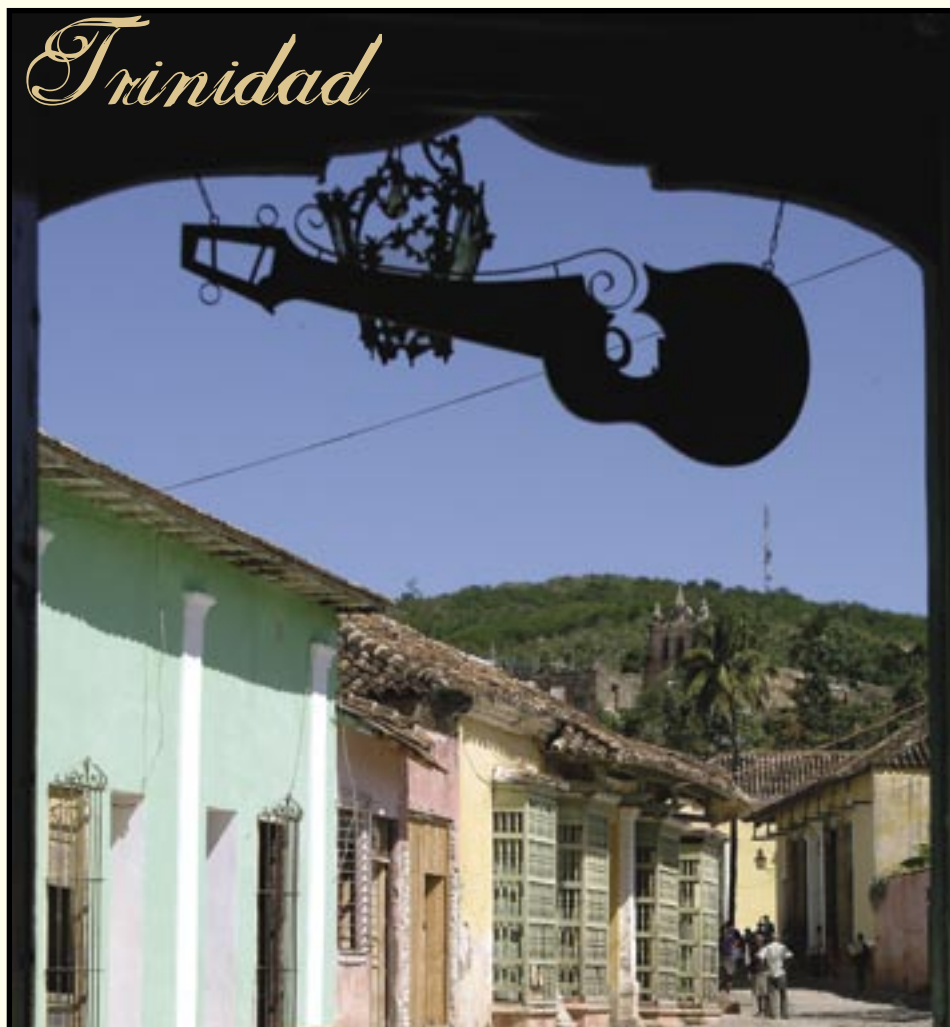
Located at the Central Square of the colonial village of San Juan de los Remedios, in the northern part of the province of Villa Clara. Ten comfortable rooms with private facilities reflecting days gone. All rooms are equipped with mini bar and TV. Enjoy authentic Cuban cuisine at the hotel restaurant and Café.

HANABANILLA HOTEL ESCAMBRAY SIERRA

★★



Built on one of the shores of the Hanabanilla lake, in Escambray Sierra, surrounded by beautiful and intense vegetation, the hotel offers broad possibilities for practicing different types of ecotourism. The lake offers the opportunity to fish the largest trouts captured in Cuban lakes. The Hanabanilla Hotel has 128 air-conditioned rooms, a very good restaurant, nice bars, a swimming pool, cafeteria and a night club.



Often referred to as the “soul of Cuba”, the central region of the island offers some excellent beaches, dramatic mountain scenery, important historical sights and picturesque colonial towns. Trinidad, the delightful UNESCO preserved museum city, is one of the main highlights of Cuba and acts as an excellent base from which to explore the region.

Founded in 1514, Trinidad is one of Cuba’s earliest settlements and has striking examples of preserved architecture dating back four centuries. Within a short distance are some excellent beaches and the Escambray mountains.

TRINIDAD HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy an evening of music and dance at the Casa de la Trova or the unique disco in a limestone cave at Las Cuevas.
- Explore the history of Trinidad and Cuba’s slave and sugar trades with visits to the city’s many museums and ornate churches.
- Spend the day relaxing on the beautiful Caribbean beaches at nearby Playa Ancon, enjoy snorkelling, scuba or day cruises along the coast.
- Visit the Sugar Mill Valley, the historical heart of Cuba’s sugar industry and slave trade.

BRISAS TRINIDAD DEL MAR

★★★



A short distance by road from Trinidad’s historic centre, this is a low rise property built in a unique style to reflect the town’s colonial past. Set directly on the stunningly beautiful Ancon peninsula, on an unspoilt stretch of beautiful white sand with very little development. Brisas Trinidad del Mar, is the perfect place to relax after experiencing the many delights of the area.

GRAND HOTEL TRINIDAD

★★★



A brand new luxury boutique hotel set in the heart of Trinidad town. The ideal location for exploring the cobble streets and architecture of Trinidad and a short drive from the beaches of Playa Ancon. The hotel offers an a la carte restaurant, lobby bar, Cuban cigar room, internet cafe, games room, souvenir shop and currency exchange. All 40 rooms have air conditioning, full bathroom, satellite TV, telephone, mini fridge, safe (extra charge) and balcony or terrace.

HOTEL LA RONDA

★★



Hotel La Ronda is located in the very heart of colonial Trinidad. The hotel offers modest accommodation within walking distance to major attractions of the city. Sixteen air-conditioned rooms with private baths, satellite tv, telephone and safe deposit box. A specialized restaurant in Cuban and international cuisine, currency exchange, bar, postal and medical services, and laundry.



Vinales Valley/Pinar Del Rio

Easily accessible to the west of Havana, Pinar del Rio, and especially the famous Vinales Valley, possess some of Cuba's most dramatic natural landscapes in the world's best tobacco growing region. The area is characterized by rolling tropical countryside, small fertile valleys, dramatic limestone flat topped mountains called mogotes, UNESCO preserved nature reserves, untouched beaches and mangroves with a number of small uninhabited islands blessed by beautiful beaches. Pinar del Rio is a must for visitors to Cuba and there are a number of fascinating places to visit.

LOS JAZMINES

★★★



Featuring one of the best views in the world, Los Jazmines overlooks Vinales Valley and is ideally placed for exploring this region. Facilities include 62 colonial style rooms with air-conditioning, bathroom, satellite TV, telephone and balcony / Terrace. The hotel offers a large swimming pool, 2 bars and gift shop.

CAYO LEVISA

★★★



The only accommodation on the island, this simple hotel consists of rustic-style cabins with own porch set directly on the unspoilt beaches of this natural paradise. Dense woodland backs on to the hotel, giving a wonderful feel of isolation and privacy. There are 23 diving points on the island shelf and numerous coral formations, making it an ideal destination for diving enthusiasts looking to 'get away from it all'. The 40 rooms are simple but well furnished, including air conditioning, bathroom, radio and satellite TV.

LA ERMITA

★★★



Low rise cabana style accommodation in beautiful landscaped gardens perches over the valley, affording wonderful views as you sit by the pool relaxing under the palms! This quiet, pleasant hotel is situated very close to Vinales village offering plenty of opportunity for exploring the area. The hotel offers 62 air conditioned rooms with bathroom, telephone, radio, satellite TV and balcony/ terrace.



 **Sol Melia CUBA**
Makes Sense



Santiago de Cuba

Santiago de Cuba is Havana's rival in literature, music and politics, and is regarded as the 'cradle of the revolution' because of the pivotal role it played in overthrowing the Batista regime. It's the second biggest city in Cuba and unlike other Cuban towns, has a noticeable Caribbean flavor due to the influence of the French planters and Haitians who settled there in the last century.

HOTEL CASA GRANDA

★★★



Situated overlooking Parque Cespedes in the very heart of the city, the hotel is of colonial style and oozes character. Facilities include 2 restaurants, snack bar, terrace café, boutique and all 61 rooms are air-conditioned with bathroom, radio and satellite TV.



Camaguey

On the eastern fringe of central Cuba, Camaguey is a very popular city for a short stop over while traveling across the island. A typical Cuban city, it boasts a very picturesque colonial centre.



GRAN HOTEL CAMAGUEY

★★★



Housed in an old 18th century residence, this hotel is ideally placed in the pedestrianised historic centre. Its rooms open onto galleries around a charming central patio and the top floor dining room has excellent views over the city of Camaguey, one of the oldest in Cuba. All 72 rooms offer air conditioning, private bathroom, satellite TV, radio and telephone.

Cuban Cocktails



Mojito

IN A GLASS POUR 1/2 TEASPOON OF SUGAR AND SQUEEZE JUICE FROM 1/2 GREEN LIME. MIX WITH A LITTLE BIT OF SODA. ADD MINT LEAVES THEN PLACE THE STEM WITHOUT THE LEAVES GETTING DAMAGED. ADD SOME RON BLANCO (HAVANA CLUB), 2 OR 3 ICE CUBES AND COMPLETE THE GLASS WITH SODA WATER. DECORATE WITH MINT.

Cuba Libre

IN A LARGE GLASS POUR SOME RON BLANCO (WHITE RUM) HAVANA CLUB, SOME ICE AND COKE AND THE JUICE OF A GREEN LIME. DECORATE WITH SOME LIME.

Cuban Rum

Arguably the best rum in the world is produced with the demineralised waters and the molasses of the sugar cane of certain regions of Cuba. Although there are several rum factories, the one in Santiago de Cuba is the most outstanding.

There is commonly 3, 5 and 7 years vintage rums produced in the island although Grand Reserve of 15 and 25 years can be found in some shops. The brands Cubans prefer are, Havana Club, Paticruzado, Matusalem, Caney, Santiago, and the recently produced Mulata and Caribbean Club.

There is a rum distillery in Pinar del Rio that produces a famous rum branded Guayabita del Pinar, it is produced from the alcohols obtained from a small guava fruit that is only harvested in the Pinar del Rio mountains. All the bottles have one of these guavas inside. There are two versions of Guayabita del Pinar, one is dry just like rum and the other is sweet, like a liquor.



Varadero

Varadero has been attracting visitors since the turn of the century, primarily to enjoy over 20 kilometres of beautiful white sandy beaches, shaded by picturesque palms and lapped by clear warm waters. Many argue that Varadero Beach is the best in the Caribbean, and with our carefully selected hotels, Varadero is an excellent beach destination that can cater for both the most relaxed and the most energetic visitor.

Paradise
RESORTS

PARADISUS VARADERO

★★★★★



The Ultra All-Inclusive Paradisus Varadero Hotel (429 rooms) is located in an enchanting setting overlooking the sea, in the finest area of Varadero beach. Harmoniously integrated to its surrounding in beautiful Punta Frances beach, with rooms overlooking either the blue-green ocean, bay or tropical gardens. The property also has an elegant Garden Villa for those who prefer exclusivity and privacy.

MELIA LAS AMERICAS

★★★



Regarded as one of the most luxurious properties in Varadero, the Melia Las Americas is one of Sol Melia's flagship hotels. Offering a wide choice of facilities in elegant and peaceful surroundings and situated directly on Varadero beach, the hotel is a perfect choice for the more discerning guest.

SANDALS ROYAL HICACOS

★★★★★



Sandals, world famous for bringing luxury to the Caribbean, is now creating the ultimate all-inclusive in Cuba. Set on one of the most breath taking Varadero Beaches, Sandals Royal Hicacos will be the last word in elegance. Here you'll find sumptuous suites, 4 gourmet restaurants and countless relaxing bars. If you are a lover of sports you can enjoy everything from scuba diving to tennis. If you just love to relax you can slip into a crystal clear pool, visit the exotic spa (the first in a Cuban resort) or simply bask on the white sand, soaking up the Cuban sun.

CORALIA CLUB PLAYA DE ORO VARADERO

★★★



Situated directly on Varadero beach, this uniquely designed hotel offers fabulous four star value with a range of fully inclusive features and is only minutes from the dolphinarium and local 18 hole golf course.



TRYP PENINSULAR VARADERO

★★★★



Situated in Punta de Hicacos Natural Park next to the beautiful Mangon lagoon, this luxury property situated in a peaceful position close to the end of the peninsula blends harmoniously into its lush surroundings, boasting the very highest standards and a wide range of all inclusive facilities.



BEACHES VARADERO

★★★



Beaches brings its unique vacation excellence to one of the Caribbean's most famous beaches: Varadero, Cuba. Set in approximately 20 exotic acres, this all-suite resort is truly a paradise for adults 16 years and older. Included in a Beaches Varadero vacation are: all meals, unlimited premium brand and local drinks, anytime snacks, hotel service charges and a wide range of land and water sports, including scuba diving.

The Keys

Open your eyes. Experience the tropical paradise of the Keys of Cuba, hear the sounds of Havana and Santiago, caress the spectacular beaches of Varadero, smell the fragrant scents of Holguin.

 **Meliá Hotels**



Cayo Largo del Sur

Cayo Largo del Sur, jewel of the Canarreos archipelago, a long narrow island of 37.5 kilometers. It is a uniquely attractive island, considered to be one of the best areas for diving and other marine activities, with 24 km of unspoiled beaches surrounded by beautiful coral reefs just below the surface which are the habitat of gorgonia, fish and a range of flora. Cayo Largo del Sur also offer excellent yachting opportunities.

Cayo Coco

Cayo Coco is one of the keys off the northern coast of Cuba (known as the Jardines del Rey archipelago) with pristine beaches kissed by clear blue waters and bordered by a lush tropical landscape. A virtual paradise in the Caribbean, ideal for honeymoons and family holidays.

Holguin Beaches

The quiet, unspoilt beaches of Guardalavaca are situated in the eastern part of Cuba, in Holguin Province. This area was described by Christopher Columbus, when he discovered the island in 1492, as the most beautiful land that human eyes had ever seen. This region offers an idyllic location for a relaxing beach holiday with plenty of opportunities for exploring the diverse sights of eastern Cuba.

HOTEL CLUB LINDAMAR

★★★



Located in one of Cuba's most beautiful resorts on Cayo Largo, Hotel Lindamar will allow you to fully relax while enjoying the luxury of its all inclusive services. There is also a great selection of watersports to enjoy on the waterfront or simply lie back and relax in the sun.



SOL CLUB CAYO LARGO

★★★★



Cayo Largo is one of the keys of pristine beauty that abound in the Canarreos archipelago off the southern coast of Cuba. This hotel is ideal for an unforgettable holiday on the largest island of the Antilles.



TRYP CAYO COCO

★★★★



The all Inclusive 4 star Tryp Cayo Coco hotel (508 rooms) is situated in one of the pristine keys off the northern coast of Cuba. Located between a natural lagoon and a marvelous strip of beach, the hotel has excellent service, a varied day and night entertainment program, diving and fishing facilities. Especially recommended for families.

PARADISUS RIO DE ORO

★★★★



The luxurious Paradisus Río de Oro hotel is situated in a privileged and exotic natural setting facing one of the most beautiful coral reefs in the world. This beautiful four-star ultra all-inclusive hotel houses 300 rooms and is situated in Bahía de Naranjo Natural Park in the northeastern area of Holguín province, 56 Km from its capital city, 72 Km from the international airport and very close to four of the most beautiful Cuban beaches.



Explore and Discover Cuba

Group Departures

Caribbean Destinations is pleased to offer carefully prepared guided tours of the most fascinating sights in Cuba.

Cuba's Western Highlights

6 NIGHTS AND 7 DAYS

"Cuba's Western Highlights" tour visits Cuba's unique historic capital Havana, the colonial cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad and the picturesque tobacco-growing region of Vinales Valley. The Cuba's Western Highlights is a small group tour with set departure dates throughout the year.

Day 1: Havana

Welcome at Jose Marti Airport where you will be transferred to Old Havana for overnight accommodation at the colonial style Sevilla Hotel within Old Havana.

Day 2: Havana

After breakfast we will depart for a detailed guided sightseeing tour of Havana. A unique experience, the tour will visit all the major sights of the city including the historic Plaza de Armas and Cathedral Square. Visits will also be made to a cigar factory and to the Museum of the Revolution before continuing to the impressive Revolution Square overlooked by the mural of Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

After driving along the "Malecon", Havana's seafront promenade, lunch will be at the Divina Pastora restaurant, providing excellent views over the city.

The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure. In the evening dinner will be at El Aljibe restaurant specialising in traditional Cuban cuisine. After dinner there will be an option to visit the world famous Tropicana Cabaret, set under the stars, the show depicts the history of Cuban dance and music involving over 100 dancers, making the evening an amazing spectacle.

Day 3: Cienfuegos

An early morning departure will take us firstly to Finca Vigia the former Cuban home of Ernest Hemingway, the contents of which remain untouched since he left the home for the last time. The day will continue with a visit to the nature reserve of Zapata where we will take a boat ride through the Mangroves to Guama a replica Taino Indian village standing in the middle of Treasure Lake. Lunch will be at La Boca restaurant before continuing to Cienfuegos. After arriving into the city we will settle in at the colonial style Union hotel and enjoy dinner.



Day 4: Trinidad

After breakfast, depart for the city of Trinidad, a UNESCO heritage site. Tour will include visits to The Romantic Museum, which depicts the lifestyle and architectural design of Trinidad's colonial past. Lunch in a local restaurant and there will be time to explore the city on our own before returning to the Union Hotel. Dinner this evening will be at the elegant Palacio Del Valle restaurant overlooking the bay.

Day 5: Santa Clara – Pinar del Rio

This morning, we will leave Cienfuegos for the Pinar Del Rio province, Cuba's main tobacco growing region. En route we will stop at Santa Clara city, the final resting place of Ernesto "Che" Guevara. There will also be a short orientation tour of the city followed by lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to the Pinar Del Rio Province. Early evening arrival at the Moka hotel, where dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

Day 6: Vinales Valley

Today we will depart for the famous Vinales Valley stopping en route at Pinar Del Rio City where we visit a local cigar and rum factory, continuing to Vinales Valley where we will drive through the valley, with stops for absorbing the beauty of the area. Lunch in the Ranchon San Vicente countryside restaurant. In the late afternoon, we will return to the Moka Hotel, and dinner will be in the house of a local farmer, an excellent end to the day.

Day 7: Havana

After breakfast, transfer back to Havana for flight home.



Tropicana *Un Paraíso Bajo Las Estrellas*

Private and Escorted Itineraries

Rum, Rhythm & Revolution

7 NIGHTS AND 8 DAYS

Our 'Rum, Rhythm and Revolution' tour explores Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Varadero. This unique 7 night, 8 day itinerary designed by Caribbean Destinations covers everything from cigar making, salsa at the Benny More Night Centre and a visit to Sugarmill Valley. This is a private tour with a guide and driver.

Prices from \$1920 per person twin share.

Day 1: Havana

Arrival to Havana's "José Martí" International Airport. Transfer by air-conditioned coach to the selected hotel in Havana's old historical area. Accommodation. Dinner. Leisure time.

Day 2: Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. Walking tour through the main streets and squares of the historical centre (Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de la Catedral). Visit to the workshop-houses of the famous painters Nelson Dominguez, Zaida del Rio, Fabelo, Pedro Pablo, Ernesto Rancáño and Carmen Montilla. Tour on horse carriage in the Historical Centre (Havana's port, fragments of the former city wall, Central Train Station, José Martí's birthplace, National Capitol building and Presidential Palace). Visit to El Gran Teatro de la Habana (Havana's Grand Theatre). Lunch at El Patio. Return to the hotel. Leisure time for the rest of the afternoon. Dinner. Departure to San Carlos de La Cabaña Fortress to visit the weapons museum as well as Ernesto Che Guevara's Commander's Office. Enjoy the legendary Cannon Firing Ceremony at 9:00pm. Return to the hotel. Leisure time.

Day 3: Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit La Fábrica de Tabacos (Cigar Factory), El Museo del Tabaco (Cigar Museum) and to El Hostal del Fumador (Smoker House or Habano Hotel) meeting with the cigar roller and tasting a Cuban cigar. Lunch at Meson de la Flota. Visit to Havana Club Foundation and its Rum Museum. Tasting of a Havana Club rum drink. Cocktail-making lessons where the barman will show you how to prepare your own Cuban cocktail. Tour along the most famous bars in town and tasting of the house's cocktail in one of them. Return to the hotel. Dinner. Leisure time.



Day 4: Vinales Valley

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Pinar del Rio City. Tour through the city with visits to the local cigar factory and rum factory (Guayabita del Pinar). Departure to Viñales Valley (UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Landscape). Drive through the valley with stops at Los Jazmines Hotel View-Point to absorb the beauty of the area and El Indio limestone cave system to take a subterranean boat ride through the river that flows through this system. Lunch in a countryside restaurant. Return to the hotel in Havana. Dinner. Leisure time.

Day 5: Cienfuegos

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Cienfuegos City, also known as "La Perla del Sur" (Pearl of the South) and the only city founded in 1819 by French settlers. Visit the main square Jose Martí (National Monument) and the most interesting places and buildings in the city (Teatro Tomas Terry, The Cathedral, Palacio de Valle). Lunch at Club Cienfuegos Yacht Club.

Accommodation at "La Unión" boutique hotel. Dinner. Visit to the Night Centre Benny More with welcome cocktail and live Cuban music performed by a local band.

Day 6: Trinidad

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Villa de La Santísima Trinidad founded by Don Diego Velázquez in 1514 and declared cultural world heritage by UNESCO. Tour around the historical centre of the city: Museo Romántico (Romantic Museum), La Canchánchara (name due to the unique drink they make), Museo Palacio de Cantero (Cantero Palace Museum), Casa del Alfarero (Pottery House). Lunch in Don Antonio Restaurant. Visit to El Mirador del Valle de los Ingenios (Sugar Mills Valley View-Point) and Torre de Iznaga (Iznaga Tower). Return to the hotel in Cienfuegos. Dinner. Leisure time.

Day 7: Varadero – Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Varadero. Panoramic tour through Península de Hicacos. Lunch at Esquina Cuba Restaurant.

Option 1:

Extend your stay on beautiful Varadero Beach at one of our preferred hotels. (Details page 12.)

Option 2:

Transfer to your selected accommodation in Old Havana.

Day 8: Havana

Or last day in Havana. Breakfast at the hotel. Leisure time. Transfer Out: Hotel-"José Martí" Havana's International Airport.



Private and Escorted Itineraries

Tropicana 6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

Our 'Tropicana Tour' explores Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus, Santa Clara and Remedios with the option of extension in Varadero.

Discover the highlights of Cuba on our Tropicana itinerary.

From \$1980 per person

Day 1: Havana

Welcome at Havana International Airport and transfer to a hotel in the Historical Centre (Telégrafo, Florida, Armadores de Santander, San Miguel, O'Farril or Raquel). Check in and dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. Walking tour in the four main squares of the Historical Center: Plaza de Armas, San Francisco de Asís, Plaza Vieja and de la Catedral. Visit to the City Museum. Lunch at Café Taberna Restaurant. Visit to the Havana Club Foundation and Rum Museum, which includes some rum tasting. Horse-drawn carriage ride through the historical centre. Return to the hotel. Transfer to El Aljibe Restaurant. Transfer to Tropicana Cabaret for Show and drinks. Return to the hotel.

Day 3: Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. Tour of the modern part of the city including: the Seafront, Miramar Neighbourhood, Club Havana, the Revolution Square, the University of Havana, Hamel's Alley, Central Park and the Capitol Building. Lunch at A Prado y Neptuno Restaurant. Return to the hotel. Departure for La Cabaña Fort to attend the legendary Firing of the Cannon Ceremony and

to visit the Weapons and Forts Museums as well as the Che Guevara Commanding Headquarters. Dinner at La Mina Restaurant. Return to the hotel.

Day 4: Cienfuegos

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Cienfuegos with a short stop at Fiesta Campesina. Arrival at Cienfuegos, visit to Valle's Palace (including welcome cocktail). Lunch at Cienfuegos Yacht Club. Check in at the hotel (Jagua or La Union Hotel, availability permitting). City tour: Martí Park, the Cathedral, the City Hall, Tomás Terry Theatre, Prado Promenade, Seafront and visit to Jagua Fort. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5: Trinidad

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to Cienfuegos Botanical Garden before departing to Trinidad. Enjoy a walking tour of Trinidad including Plaza Real del Jigue, Las tres Cruces Neighbourhood, Carrillo Park and the Main Square. Lunch at Don Antonio Restaurant.

Visit to Cantero Palace. Visit to a typical pottery workshop. Check in at Brisas Trinidad del Mar hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Visit to María Dolores Farm for a typical country party.

Day 6: Sancti Spiritus – Remedios – Santa Clara

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for the Valley of the sugar Mills to visit the San Luis viewpoint and the Manaca-Iznaga State. Departure for Sancti Spiritus. Enjoy a city tour of Sancti Spiritus including Main Theter, Serafín Sánchez Park, Holly Ghost Main Parish, Santa Helena Farm and Yayabo River Bridge. Lunch at El Mesón de la Plaza. Departure for Remedios. City tour: visit to the Historical Center, visit to San Juan de los Remedios Parish, visit to the Remedios Parrandas Museum. Departure for Santa Clara. Check in at Los Caneyes Hotel. Dinner at hotel.

Day 7: Santa Clara – Varadero – Havana

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour: Che Guevara's Mausoleum, Monument to the armour-plated train defeated by Che Guevara, boulevard, Leoncio Vidal Park. Check out from the hotel. Lunch at the hotel.

Option 1: Departure for Havana.

Option 2: Extend your stay on Varadero Beach.



Classic Cuba

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Includes transfer to Old Havana, three nights accommodation at Palacio Raquel with breakfast included. Private car transfer to Cienfuegos, one nights accommodation at Boutique la Union hotel with breakfast included. Private car transfer to Trinidad, two nights accommodation at Brisas Trinidad del Mar hotel with all meals and drinks included. Private car transfer back to Havana, one nights accommodation at the Nacional hotel with dinner at the Comedor de Aguiar Restaurant and entrance to the Cabaret Parisien show. Breakfast. Departure transfer.

From \$1470 per person.

Salsa Cuba

7 DAYS

"Salsa Cuba" The Rhythm of Cuba. Learn from professional Cuban dance instructors from Havana Dance Academy. Learn Salsa, Merengue, Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Rumba and Son. Every student will dance with his/her own Cuban dance partner. On completion of the course, you will receive a Certificate. Our "Salsa Cuba" course begins every Monday and last for seven days.

Call us for a complete itinerary.

The Colonial Cities of Mexico and Cuba

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS

Our unique tour of Mexico and Cuba explores the colonial towns of these fascinating destinations. The tour begins in Mexico City and travels to Oaxaca, Merida. Explore Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Kabah and more. In Cuba, explore Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Varadero.

Call us for a complete itinerary.

From \$3400 per person.



Getting around Cuba

Cuba, being the largest island in the Caribbean, can prove difficult traveling between provinces due to the vast area of the island. The distance between Pinar del Rio and Santiago de Cuba is roughly a similar distance apart as Melbourne to Sydney. Due to the shortage of fuel in Cuba, transfers between provinces can be quite expensive, similar to taxi fares within any major capital city.

Car hire in Cuba does give the most freedom, yet signage is limited and traveling long distance can become quite an adventure. If planning to travel long distance in Cuba we recommend a good quality car such as an Audi or mid size vehicle.

The alternative to car hire is the main tourist bus and travels daily from Havana to Vinales Valley, Varadero, Trinidad, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba, with connections now offered between Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba. For a complete time table of services throughout Cuba please call us.



ANTIQUE CAR HIRE

Caribbean Destinations introduces the ultimate means of transport Cuba has to offer: Ever dreamt of cruising the streets of Havana in a classic Chevy or Buick? We can make that possible with our unique antique car rental in Havana. Call us for details.



CAMPERVANS

We are delighted to introduce to you this new product and we are sure that you will agree: campers are ideally suited for Cuba! The island has roads that stretch over 1000 km from East to West, all of which can be explored at your very own pace. Take your own hotel with you as you travel from one stopover to the other: Across the island there are more than a dozen locations where you can park your camper and hook up to electricity and fresh water reserves. All campers come equipped with mobile phones so you can always get in touch with our team on the ground.

Included: Free kms, mobile phone, air conditioned, gas kitchen, refrigerator, radio, hot water, bed linen, crockery, camping-grounds.

Not Included: Petrol, Phone calls



CAR HIRE

By far the best way to fully explore the islands is by pre-booking your own hire car and enjoying the freedom of Cuba's roads.

With a car you can explore the many small towns and villages, seek out a secluded beach or simply drive to a nearby restaurant, after a long day of relaxing in the Caribbean sun. Rex is Cuba's largest car hire company, and they offer an extensive fleet of vehicles. For tailor made clients, hiring a car greatly enhances your flexibility to visit the most interesting parts of Cuba and our car hire allows you to the largest choice of pick-up and drop off points throughout Cuba.

Flexi Fly and Drive

Our new Flexi Fly and drive program is unique to Caribbean Destinations and is excellent for the independent traveler keen to explore Cuba with none of the restrictions. Flexi Fly and drive as the name suggests provides maximum flexibility to travellers

keen to design their own itinerary once in Cuba.

Flexi Fly and Drive includes car rental and accommodation at any 46 hotels and resorts spread throughout Cuba. The program is based on a minimum of 7 nights. Prices start

from \$720.00 Per person which includes seven night car rental with unlimited kilometers and accommodation based on two adults and one child under twelve years. For further details contact your local travel agent or us directly at Caribbean .



Yachting and Scuba Diving



SCUBA DIVING

The reefs and walls of the Cuban maritime platform offer to the beginner as well as to the advanced diver, as much if not more than any diving area in the world. Cuba offers 31 diving centres at 18 different zones with 100's of diving sites, and new areas are being developed everyday. Cuban diving waters are pristine, with very little pollution or coral destruction, perfectly preserved, and providing an underwater paradise of more than 50 species of corals and 200 species of sponges. With average normal visibility of 30 to 40 meters, divers will find an abundance of hard corals such as brain, pillar, staghorn and elkhorn, and among the soft corals, spectacular gorgonians, sea fans and plume worms.

One of the best places to combine diving with a beach/sightseeing holiday is Playa Ancon near Trinidad. Playa Maria La Gorda in the far west, beyond Vinales is also an excellent area for diving. Maria La Gorda is around five hours from Havana, more than two hours from Vinales and Pinar del Rio.

Caribbean Destinations are the experts when it comes to diving in Cuba. Specialising in group and independent travel all over Cuba. We also offer the Live Abroad program in Cuba for dive group specialists.

Mia Lia Live Abroad

YACHTING

One of the Caribbean's most enchanting sailing areas, Cuba, has it all – natural marvels, gorgeous weather and historical charm. The first known sailor to drop anchor off this green-and-blue isle was Christopher Columbus, who in 1492 declared it "the most beautiful land human eyes have seen". Ernest Hemingway spent three decades tooting around the Cuban keys in his fishing boat, the Pilar, then immortalized them in his novels, *The Old Man and the Sea* and *Islands in the Stream*. And Fidel Castro sailed the Cuban seas in his cabin cruiser, the Granma.

There are four main island groups to explore along the southern shore of Cuba. Sailing from Cienfuegos Marina base can incorporate the following itinerary.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1 Cienfuegos
- Day 2 Cayos de Dios
- Day 3 Cayo Guano del Este
- Day 4 Cayo Largo
- Day 5 Cayo Rosario
- Day 6 Cayo Campus
- Day 7 Isla de la Juventud
- Day 8 Cayo Largo
- Day 9 Trinidad
- Day 10 Cienfuegos

Dive Sites



Honeymoons and Weddings



Whether you're planning a dream honeymoon or just a romantic rendezvous, you simply can't go wrong in the Caribbean. As experienced travellers know, the islands of the Caribbean are incredibly diverse, and in many cases, very different one-from-another.

With that said, once you've made the decision to have a tropical honeymoon in the Caribbean, the next decision is which island.

Why Cuba? Well, the truth is this. A Cuban honeymoon offers a completely different experience than virtually any other island in the Caribbean. Sure, Cuba offers plenty of the main things the other islands offer: serenity, privacy, incredible beauty, white-sand beaches and warm clear water, all of this is at a premium anywhere you go in the Caribbean (although even more so in Cuba, as much of the island is nearly void of development). But beyond the dreamy images you see in the travel brochures, Cuba offers you more. Culture, diversity, music, dance, history, architecture, museums, live music, eclectic cuisine, world-famous cabaret, rain forests, ecotourism, diving, cosmopolitan cities, undeveloped islands, and on top of all this? Idyllic, awe-inspiring, and romantic backdrops for your getaway.

You truly can't go wrong with any of the islands. But, if you want the option to experience more, to see more, and to do more, Cuba is the best choice.



Christopher and Joanne.
Trinidad December 2004

Honeymoon Collection

MANSION XANADU – VARADERO ★★★

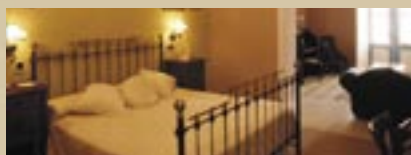


Mansion Xanadu was built in the 1920's by U.S. millionaire Irene Du Pont, complete with a nine-hole course for his private enjoyment, overlooking one of the most beautiful beaches of the world. Named 'Xanadu', after the exotic palace built by the legendary Chinese warrior and conqueror Kublas Khan, it features precious woods that were brought especially from Santiago de Cuba for the ceilings, stair rails and columns, while the floors and bathrooms were done in Cuban, Italian and Spanish marble.

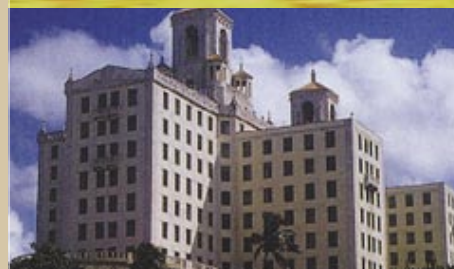
SANTA ISABEL HOTEL ★★★★★



Enjoying the most privileged position in Havana's Plaza del Armes Colonial square in the very heart of Old Havana, the Santa Isabel was originally the palace of the Count of Santovenia and became Havana's most elegant hotel in 1867. The 17 luxury rooms enjoy air-conditioning, private bathroom, satellite TV, telephone, safe box, minibar option, balcony terrace and room service. Ten suites are also available. Restaurant, café, 2 bars and boutiques.



NACIONAL HOTEL DE CUBA – HAVANA ★★★★★



There's nothing quite like watching the Caribbean Sea wash across the Malecon at dusk from your room at the Hotel Nacional. Inaugurated on December 30, 1930, the Nacional is one of the most classical and emblematic hotels in Havana. Its luxury, elegance, distinction and first-class services remain intact after six decades of undisputed leadership in the Cuban hotel industry.





Jamaica

Although much more compact than Cuba at just 146 miles long and up to 51 miles wide, Jamaica still has a fascinating diversity of flora and fauna with six mountain ranges, 120 rivers and 150 miles of stunning beaches. The largest of the English speaking Caribbean Islands, Jamaica provides a huge variety of attractions for every type of holiday maker. It is of course, famous for its white sands, water sports and laid back atmosphere, but offers so much more.

JAMAICA TOURS

Blue Mountain Tour & Bob Marley Museum

TUESDAY & FRIDAY – \$130 PER PERSON.

Tour the scenic interior, the majestic Blue Mountains and the capital city of Kingston. Visit the home of a small coffee farmer and taste his freshly brewed coffee and get the chance to buy at great prices! Enjoy a breathtaking view of the capital city from Newcastle before descending into Kingston, where we visit the grounds of Devon House for sightseeing and shopping (Lunch can be obtained here at your own expense). A visit to Bob Marley Museum can be given instead – entrance fee not included. Included in the trip is rum punch, homemade Jamaican limeade, local fruits and a fantastic tour guide!



Discover Jamaica

**2 DAY TOUR – SUN-MON. TUES-WED.
\$499 PER PERSON – FROM NEGRIL.**

Day 1: Drive from Negril to Montego Bay for Breakfast, then transfer to the Airport for a flight to Kingston over the Cockpit Country, followed by a visit to Devon House for sightseeing and lunch. On our way out of Kingston we visit the beautiful Castleton Gardens then on to Buff Bay for a drink and a snack. We finish the day in Port Antonio with a lovely dinner at the famous Blue Lagoon then on to the hotel for a good nights sleep.

Day 2: We leave Port Antonio and head for Ocho Rios with a stop on route at Sun Valley Plantation. In Ocho Rios we have time for shopping and lunch before going to the island premier attraction the Dunn's River Falls. A drive down the coast with a stop at Columbus Park completes this exciting tour.

COUPLES RESORTS – OCHO RIOS & NEGRIL ★★★★★



Couples Resorts proudly own and operate three luxury all-inclusive resorts on the beautiful island of Jamaica. The properties include the first-ever couples-only, all-inclusive resort, Couples Ocho Rios, along with Couples Swept Away and Couples Negril. Each Couples property is an unsurpassed model of the all-inclusive concept. Bold design elements and local inspiration create a laid-back natural setting infused with authentic Caribbean spirit. For over 27 years, Couples has delighted guests with outstanding service, exceptional dining and unparalleled value-added experiences.

SUNSET JAMAICA GRANDE – OCHO RIOS ★★★



This newly renovated, action-packed resort provides guests with a wide array of land and watersports, plus theme parties and nightly entertainment. Jamaica Grande Resort occupies a prime beachfront location, yet is just a short walk from the exciting duty-free shopping and colorful straw market in Ocho Rios. This all inclusive, active, upbeat resort offers unlimited options for singles, couples, families and large groups. Partial ocean-view rooms located in the North and South Towers have two double beds or one king-size bed, full bathroom, in-room safe and private balcony.

GOLDENEYE ★★★★★



Goldeneye is a 15-acre seaside hideaway where you can put a little distance between yourself and the rest of the world. The lifestyle is pure Jamaican in rhythm and tempo. They offer you a window to local culture and a different way of living. Goldeneye is also historic. This is where Ian Fleming crafted all his James Bond novels. What Fleming loved most about Goldeneye was the out of doors, the nature, the sounds and colors, the peace and drama of living by the sea. He delighted in "the blazing sunshine, natural beauty and the most healthy life I could live."

COUNTRY NEGRIL ★★★



Rekindle your body and spirit with us at Country Country Beach Cottages; member of small elegant hotels of the world. Bask in the "irie" atmosphere of the Caribbean country beach cottages located directly on Negril's world famous seven-mile white sand beach. The cottages epitomize the best of old Jamaican country charm yet are fully equipped with all the amenities expected of today. The over-sized Guest rooms are equipped with king bed or two twin beds, private verandahs and air conditioning.



When you think of Mexico, several things probably come to mind.... brightly coloured tapestries, the lively atmosphere of a fiesta and the soulful strains of a mariachi band. But did you know, Mexico is also home to cosmopolitan cities, ancient ruins and some of the best beaches in the Americas. Mexico is the perfect holiday combination to Cuba.

LA CASA VIEJA – MEXICO CITY

★★★★★



Casa Vieja is a luxury all-suite Boutique Hotel situated in the exclusive area of Mexico City's Polanco District. Once a private residence, Casa Vieja was created with a luxury lifestyle in mind and is now considered the most unique boutique property in Mexico City. The hotel features 10 individual suites offering full amenities and superb personal service. In room facilities include Jacuzzi, colour cable television, CD sound system, kitchenette, daily maid service, high-speed Internet access and evening turndown service. Free parking is offered and continental breakfast is included in daily room rates.

CALINDA GENEVE ZONA ROSA – MEXICO CITY

★★★



Quality Calinda Geneve & Spa is known for its comfort, convenience, and top-notch location just steps from the Zona Rosa restaurants and shops. Although business services are available, the hotel is especially popular with Zona Rosa shoppers and sightseers. 270 air conditioned rooms decorated in classic style, TV satellite, fully stocked service bar, hair-dryers, coffee-makers, irons and telephone.

TOURS FROM MEXICO CITY

PYRAMIDS AND SHRINE OF GUADALUPE

Half day tour to Teotihuacan. Visit the pyramids of the sun and moon, the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. A stop at the holiest place of catholic worship, The Shrine of Guadalupe. From \$60 per person.



XOCHIMILCO AND UNIVERSITY CITY

Take a boat ride through the canals on a "trajinera" surrounded by a floating world of mariachi and marimba music. Visit to University city built on a petrified sea of lava. From \$55 per person.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FRIDA KAHLO & DIEGO RIVERA



Day trip to the colonial district of Coyoacan, the oldest area of Mexico

City and the home of Frida Kahlo. Visit to Frida Kahlo's home, the Diego Rivera Studio Museum and enjoy the charming area of San Angel and the typical Mexican markets in the area. Tour departs daily however the market is only open on Saturdays. Private tour from \$200 per person.

SHANGRI LA CARIBE PLAYA DEL CARMEN

★★★



This resort is a secluded hotel in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, with thatched roof palapas and marvelous hotel rooms with their own private terraces. The hotel is located on the Caribbean Sea and has 250 meters of white sand beach on the outskirts of Playa del Carmen. The Playa del Carmen beach resort has held on to its natural legacy of sea and jungle, and offers a vast array of treasures to its guests and it is this and much more. Visit Playa del Carmen and discover what makes Shangri-La Caribe Hotel a unique lodging experience in the southwest of Mexico, in the heart of the Riviera Maya.

GRAN COSTA REAL HOTEL – CANCUN

★★★



Costa Real Hotel and Suites is a deluxe 4 star hotel with all-inclusive and room only plans available. This hotel has a beautiful structure with a Mediterranean style and has an excellent location on the sheltered side of the Caribbean Bay. Offers many wonderful options such as a children's program, gym, spectacular swimming pool with lounges, lobby bar with TV, two restaurants, beach bar, mini grocery mart, handicap facilities and entertainment. Costa Real Hotel & Suites is distinguished for its excellent service and quality.

TOURS FROM CANCUN & PLAYA DEL CARMEN

CHICHEN ITZA

The majestic city of Chichen-Itza. Capital of the ancient Maya, a civilization archaeologists considered one of the most advanced in the Americas. From \$100 pp.

TULUM & XEL-HA ECOLOGICAL PARK

Discover one of the most beautiful Mayan cities and the only one overlooking the Caribbean sea, then visit the largest natural aquarium in the world Perched on a cliff overlooking the turquoise Caribbean sea, Tulum is thought to have been a major Mayan port. From \$125 per person.



Culture

Cuban Music

Cuban music is a myriad of styles and genres, with a long history. While influences from Africa and Spain were predominant, Cuban music has also been shaped by the music of Europe, Latin-America, American pop music and jazz. The Buena Vista Social Club is the name the album released a couple of years ago by Ry Cooder and many forgotten Cuban musicians. The documentary by Wim Wenders (The End of Violence) is a montage of scenes from the past and the present. The album went on to win a Grammy, and is still on the best-selling list for world music.



Groups and Special Interest

Cuba is an excellent destination for group travel and Caribbean Destinations can provide the most competitive prices for groups.

Caribbean Destinations promote an ever-increasing range of special interest holidays, including fully escorted cycling tours, salsa dancing tours, an array of study tours looking at politics, culture, health care, education and an ever-increasing number of sports groups including football and rugby teams.

Special interest travel to Cuba is an excellent opportunity to live and learn with the locals of Cuba. We can arrange Spanish language lessons, dancing lessons including salsa, Afro Cuban dance and classic ballet. Our academic program includes visits to schools and universities; we can also arrange volunteer programs for the adventurous traveller able to contribute to the Cuban community with a unique skill.

Other programs include bird watching, horse riding, fishing, sailing and scuba diving.

All these programs can be pre-arranged prior to your arrival into Cuba individually or part of a group. Let us know what your interest area is, and we would be happy to discuss the potential of arranging a group visit to Cuba.

Spanish Language lessons, Latin Dance lessons & Percussion courses

Cuba must be the perfect country to learn dance, Spanish or percussion. We are thrilled to offer our unique program designed to immerse yourself in Cuban culture through one of our courses in Havana.

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Our Spanish language courses range from a one week program including 10 lessons throughout the week, accommodation with cooking facilities with breakfast included and the use of a regular shuttle service to and from the school. Intensive courses are available with up to 30 lessons per week, private tuition is also available. Courses start from \$695 per person based on twin share, \$920 on a single basis.

LATIN DANCE AND PERCUSSION

Our Latin dance and percussion courses range from 1 to 4 weeks with two lessons daily. Let some of the best dancers and musicians in Cuba take you on a journey into the passionate world of Cuban music and dance. Courses start from \$740 per person twin share, \$960 on a single basis. Includes accommodation with cooking facilities with breakfast included and the use of a regular shuttle service to and from the school.

COURSE ONLY

We also offer course only: 10 Spanish lesson throughout a week from \$180. Two hours daily throughout the week of either Latin Dance or percussion from \$270.





Getting to Cuba

Cuba is located 90 miles from the coast of Key West Florida, USA. It is however not possible to fly directly to Cuba from the United States due to the trade embargo placed on Cuba by the United States government. The direct flights that do operate from Miami and Los Angeles are restricted for Government officials and study groups. These flights are not available for tourists.

As from mid 2003 the United States Government has tightened the embargo and it is now not possible to use any round world airfare to enter Cuba. A round world fare can be used via Cancun and a separate ticket must be purchased from Cancun.

The most direct route to Cuba from Australia is via Mexico, however it is possible to enter Cuba from Jamaica, The Bahamas, Grand Cayman and The Dominican Republic.

SUGGESTED FLIGHT ITINERARIES FROM AUSTRALIA

Australia – Los Angeles – Cancun – Havana – Cancun – Los Angeles – Australia
Australia – Los Angeles – Mexico City – Havana – Mexico City – Los Angeles – Australia
Australia – Los Angeles – Montego Bay – Havana – Montego Bay – Los Angeles – Australia
Australia – Narita – Mexico City – Havana – Mexico City – Narita – Australia
Australia – Los Angeles – Miami – (Bahamas or The Dominican Republic) – Havana – Mexico – Los Angeles – Australia
Australia – Santiago (Chile) – Havana – Santiago (Chile) – Australia

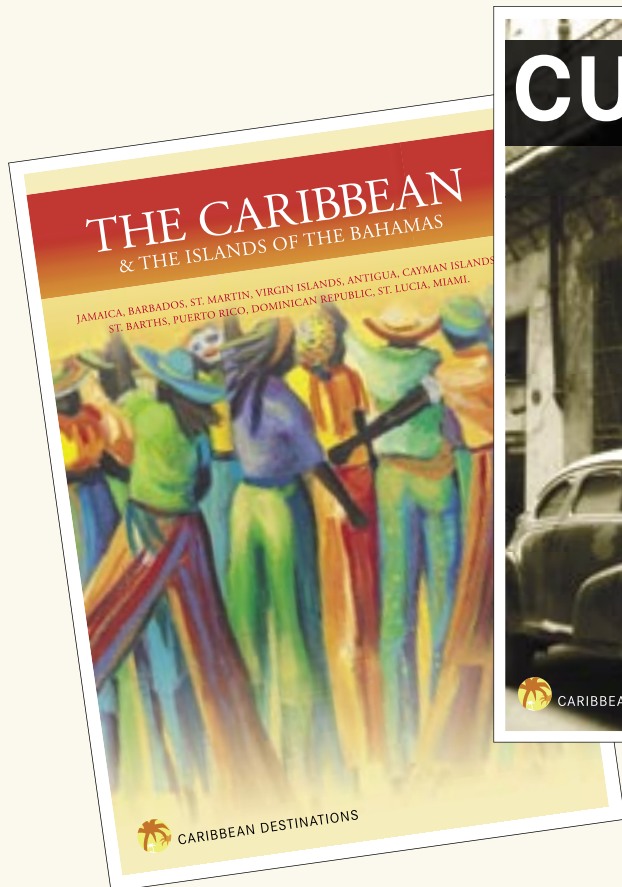
Airfares to Cuba change constantly, call us for the latest airfare deals.



CARIBBEAN
DESTINATIONS



Caribbean Destinations would like to thank the following contributors that have made this brochure possible; Hotels Habagunex, Sol Melia Hotels, Gran Caribe Hotels, Cubanacan Hotels, Beaches and Sandals Resorts.





CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

M.D DESTINATIONS PTY LTD TRADING AS CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS

Accommodation

Many of the hotels that we offer are managed by large international hotel chains and have excellent facilities. Even in the quite simple properties there are air-conditioned bedrooms with private facilities and the rooms are generally clean and comfortable. In Cuba and the Caribbean in general both water and electricity can be cut off for periods of time. Service in the hotels can sometimes be slow, but people in Cuba try to be as helpful as possible. Most double rooms have twin beds, however we can request a matrimonial bed but this cannot be guaranteed. Where you have booked a triple room or where children are sharing a room with adults, floor and drawer space can be very cramped. Single rooms are limited in number and in many cases may be inferior in standard and position to other rooms in the hotel. Any charges for infants' cot hire and food must be paid direct to the hotel.

Hotel star ratings are allocated by the Cuban Tourist Authorities and can be different from North American or European expectations. Hotels can and do withdraw facilities at certain times as a result of bad weather or the need for maintenance, refurbishments etc. Building works and noise are almost unavoidable in certain developing resorts, and unfortunately we do not receive advance notice of when they will begin and finish.

Hotels may charge for the entrance into any evening events, discotheques, or for the use of facilities such as tennis courts, mini golf, table tennis, fitness centers, saunas etc. Likewise the use of deckchairs, umbrellas, sun beds and beach equipment often are to be paid for. Swimming pools have to be emptied now and again for cleaning and maintenance along with the occasional water cuts. All bookings will be confirmed with our suppliers, however, on occasions a hotel may subsequently overbook. When this occurs, through no fault of our own, the hotel will make alternative arrangements. No compensation is payable from any hotel as per the contracted agreement.

Cancellations

In the event of cancellation, please immediately notify Caribbean Destinations in Australia.

All contact details are printed on every service voucher.

Cancellations penalties are listed below:

45 days or more prior to departure	\$200 per person
Between 31 and 44 days prior to departure	50% of tour cost
Less than 30 days prior to departure	No Refund of tour cost
Programmes and Circuits:	25 % of the total price
Live-aboard:	Refer to the individual boat term and conditions.

Documentation

It is the traveler's responsibility to obtain, at his/her own expense, all documentation required by the relevant authorities. Customs, airlines and immigration officials may deny a traveler entry or exit of their country for any circumstances. M.D Destinations Pty Ltd cannot be held responsible and will not refund any monies. It is also the responsibility of traveler's to obtain the relevant information for traveling including but not limited to schedules, airlines and hotels.

Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for all overseas travel. See www.smarttraveller.gov.au for up to date travel information. We recommend that you consider purchasing a travel insurance policy for your holiday. We are an authorised representative of Cover-More Travel Insurance. The Cover-More policy offers cover for such things as: overseas medical and dental expenses, loss of deposit through cancellation, loss or theft of luggage and personal items and loss or theft of travel documents. Caribbean Destinations can assist you with the purchase of travel insurance or alternatively you can purchase a policy at anytime via our website*.

Flights / Flight Time and Airport Check In

All flight times are subject to change without prior notice. We recommend that all travelers re-confirm the flight times 24 hours prior to departure. M.D Destinations Pty Ltd will not be responsible for missed flights and/or connections or any expenses incurred as a result of a schedule change. We recommend travelers check in at the airport 2.5 hours prior to flight time. Airlines check-in counters will close 50 minutes prior to departure and failure to check-in during the allotted time will result in failure to travel. We will not be responsible for missed flights. Aircraft seating is on a first come first served basis.

Baggage

M.D Destinations Pty Ltd shall not be responsible for any lost or stolen baggage.

Hotel Service

The quality of the hotels has been rated in accordance with the normal standard of the destination and could be different from the standard of other countries. Service may be interrupted at any time for renovations, maintenance, or construction. M.D Destinations Pty Ltd is an intermediary and cannot be held responsible for quality or interruptions of services.

Overbooking

In the event, that a hotel refuses to honour your reservation, it is that hotels responsibility to relocate the passengers to another hotel of the same category or higher without compensation of any kind. We cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience resulting from this change.

Hotel Check in and Check out

All hotels have assigned check in and out times (mostly 12:00). It is possible that your hotel room will not be ready when you arrive. The hotel may require you to vacate the room earlier than your scheduled departure. Clients interested must negotiate and pay the hotel directly for late check-out arrangements.

Unused Tour Services and Activities

M.D Destinations Pty Ltd is not responsible for any unused portions of your trip or tour services and cannot refund any monies. Failure to redeem the tour components as per the pre-arranged times may result in the loss of that tour component and no monies will be refunded. We cannot be held responsible for any activities or optional tours sold locally as these services are not operated by our local representative.

Traveller's Responsibilities

The traveler agrees to adhere to the rules and laws of the country he/she is visiting. Should the traveler conduct him/herself in a manner threatening to the supplier and/or other passenger(s), the supplier has the right to refuse service or expel him/her from the hotel. In the event, the traveler is responsible for all costs and no refund will be issued for any unused portions.

Force Majeure

M.D Destinations Pty Ltd cannot be held liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, to the traveller and/or travelling companions or group members resulting from events beyond our supplier's control including but not limited to acts of God, strikes, lockouts or other labour disputes or descriptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods, or acts or restraints imposed by government authorities.

Rep Service and Problem Handling

If you have any queries or concerns (for package travellers to Cuba), please raise them with your our local representative and hotel management. Please do not leave your complaint until your return home. Upon your return, please send a letter via your travel agent outlining the details of your concerns to.

Disclaimer

All maps, photos and descriptions have been prepared on the basis of information received from various service providers at the time of printing. They are not necessarily to scale and some information could have changed. We reserve the right to substitute hotels of an equivalent or better standard due to availability.

Responsibility

M.D Destinations Pty Ltd A.B.N # 83 084 763 404 trades as Caribbean Destinations, and its agents act only as agents for the persons or companies providing or offering the means of travel, transport, accommodation and all other services and all receipts, tickets, vouchers and coupons are issued subject to the terms and conditions under which such transportation and other services are offered. All possible care has been taken to ensure that suppliers maintain a high standard. However, as we do not control any of the service providers, we cannot be responsible for problems arising from your booking, howsoever caused, unless it is the direct result of negligence on our part or on the part of our employees. In particular, Caribbean Destinations accepts no responsibility or liability for matters outside our control including injury, damage or loss arising from accidents, delays or irregularities, wars, riots and civil strife, terrorist activity, natural disasters, weather conditions, industrial disputes, government actions, airline schedule changes, etc.