Travelworld

SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

Cultural Cuba Experience

Operated under the Support for the Cuban People travel license

Departure Date: April 18, 2024

Mayflower CRUISES & TOURS

A DIVISION OF THE SCENIC GROUP

Cultural Cuba Experience

Ride in a restored antique car

Visit Morro Castle in Havanna

DAY 1 USA / Havana, Cuba: Depart the USA on your flight to Havana, Cuba. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by a local representative of Mayflower, assisted with arrival procedures, then transferred to the hotel. Your Tour Guide will be available at the hotel for any information you may need as you settle in for your visit to Havana.

DAY 2 Old Havana: The day is spent getting a taste of local life in Havana. During a walking tour, discover the four main squares of the city: San Francisco, Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, and Cathedral Square, each well-known for historic importance, architectural beauty and / or social atmospheres. Your local guide will provide details of their significance to the city, and you'll have the chance to meet the local people when stopping at the various sites. While visiting the San José Craft Market, mix and mingle with the artisans and vendors, learn about their art and shop for indigenous handicrafts. A truly local experience awaits as you witness the process of making an authentic cigar with local entrepreneurs. Visit a private cigar shop to see how this ancient art is kept alive and is a major contributor to the local economy. Lunch is included at a paladar during today's excursion. This evening, you're in for a special treat as vintage American cars meet you at the hotel. Travel in style in these restored antique cars while enjoying a panoramic drive along the Malecón (coastal road and seawall), see the 18th-century University (oldest in the Caribbean), the Paseo del Prado and the Capitol building. Chat with the driver and find out how they manage to keep their cars running without replacement parts available to them! Arrive at the paladar for dinner where you can relax as you enjoy the warm hospitality provided by the staff and get to know them a bit as you dine. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 3 Havana / Cójimar: A visit to the Fine Arts Museum in Havana begins the day. See some of its exhibits and meet with the staff to learn about Cuban art projects and their importance to society. Depart for the village of San Francisco de Paula on an excursion to the Hemingway Museum. Learn about his life, work, love of Cuba and contributions to the country as you explore the grounds of his house, Finca Vigia. Continue to Cójimar where lunch is provided at a local paladar in the town that inspired him to write his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*. Returning to Havana, a guided visit to the Hotel Nacional awaits. Stroll through this famous hotel where so many of Hollywood's elite actors and actresses previously visited. Viewing the 'wall of fame' in the hotel's bar will surely bring back memories of Hollywood's golden age. This evening, dinner is included at a paladar. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 4 Havana: More sites in this historic city are seen today, starting with Morro Castle, a spectacular, strategically built monument with an amazing history. Your local guide will teach you about the architecture, design, and its importance in protecting the city from pirates. Magnificent views of the city and harbor also await. Visit a neighborhood community project that focuses on teaching skills to the younger generation – anything from dance to sports to music. Learn how these activities play such an important role in changing the lives of the children. After lunch at a paladar, attend an interactive and cultural exchange with dancers when visiting a dance studio. Talk with the teacher and students, see how the Cuban Salsa is done, and learn how to do this dance yourself! This evening, dinner is held at a local paladar for your immersion into local culture, dining on local cuisine and mingling with the staff. **Meals: B, L, D**

Witness the art of traditional pottery-making

DAY 5 Havana / Trinidad: It's time to depart Havana and journey by coach to the colonial city of Trinidad. En route, visit the town of Cienfuegos. A walking tour around the center of the town showcases its historic and architectural sites as well as affording the opportunity to interact with residents and vendors who are happy to share their stories of a quiet lifestyle. While visiting the Tomás Terry Theatre, declared a national monument, see its ornate interior with Carrara marble, hand-carved wooden flooring, gold-leaf mosaics, and ceiling frescos. After lunch at a paladar, continue to Trinidad for dinner at the hotel and the final two nights of the program. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 6 Trinidad: The final day in Cuba begins with a guided walking tour to explore Trinidad. Stroll along the cobblestone streets of the well-preserved historic center and witness the grand buildings in the Plaza Mayor, the main square of the city. Stop in and visit the locals in their shops, and see the bell tower of the Convento de San Francisco, which overlooks the square. Sip on a local drink at La Canchánchara Bar while listening to and learning about Cuban music and traditional rhythms. At the ceramic studio of Chichi Santander, you will be taught about the art of pottery-making and the traditional methods used to create their ceramic pieces of art. Return to the hotel for an included lunch and some free time. Your Tour Guide will be available to offer suggestions on independent afternoon activities, like visiting the nearby village to meet the local fishermen and hear their 'tall tales'! This evening, the farewell dinner is held in one of the city's most popular paladars.
Meals: B, L, D

Tour Highlights

- 16 Meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises and Tours
- Travel aboard a deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach
- Five-star, air-conditioned lodging
- Interaction with locals throughout the journey
- Immersion into the culture and history of Cuba and its people
- Many meals at Cuban paladars – privately operated restaurants by proud business owners
- Speak with local artisans as they create their art work
- Visit a dance studio and learn the Cuban Salsa
- Ride in a vintage car
- Discover another way of life in a country only 90 miles from the U.S.A.

DAY 7 Trinidad / Santa Clara / USA : Bid 'adiós' to Cuba as you depart for the airport in Santa Clara for your flight home. Memories of a unique journey to Cuba and the warm hospitality of its people will be cherished for years to come. **Meal: B**

Itinerary is subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Days 1 through 4 – Grand Aston, Havana, Cuba
Days 5 and 6 – Melia Peninsula, Trinidad, Cuba

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Spend two nights in the colonial village of Trinidad

Tour Departure	Per Person Twin	Single Room add
April 18, 2024	$2,799	$699

Please add $85 per person for visa fee

Call for air rates and schedules from your city to Havana, returning from Santa Clara, Cuba.

Visa is required for this program.

Air itineraries may not be available until documents are received. Air seats are assigned by the airline for the entire group. Seat changes can only be attempted upon receipt of tickets and documents at which time availability may be limited. If specific seat assignments are vital to your reservation, we recommend individual air reservations rather than booking air with the group.

NOTE: Mandatory health insurance for Cuba is included in the cost of the airline ticket when issued by a U.S. carrier. Mayflower does not offer any additional type of insurance for this program. Additional coverage can be secured independently through other travel insurance companies providing coverage for Cuba.

Cancellation Charges

• 91 days or more	Deposit Amount
• 90 days or less	100% of tour cost
• Early departure from tour	100% of tour cost
• No refund on unused portions of the tour	

Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL

1 2 **3** 4 5

EASY ENERGETIC

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Revised: 7-6-2023