



TRIP TO CUBA 13 DAYS | 12 NIGHTS

EXPLORE CLASSIC CUBA

SANTIAGO DE CUBA | CAMAGUEY | TRINIDAD | CIENFUEGOS | MATANZAS | VARADERO
LA HABANA | VIÑALES



TRIP OUTLINE

DAY 01	MIAMI – SANTIAGO DE CUBA	WELCOME TO CUBA
DAY 02	SANTIAGO DE CUBA	EXPLORE SANTIAGO DE CUBA
DAY 03	SANTIAGO DE CUBA - CAMAGUEY	EXPLORE CLASSIC CAMAGUEY
DAY 04	CAMAGUEY - TRINIDAD	EXPLORE COLONIAL TRINIDAD
DAY 05	TRINIDAD - CIENFUEGOS	EXPLORE CLASSIC CIENFUEGOS
DAY 06	CIENFUEGOS - MATANZAS	EXPLORE CLASSIC MATANZAS
DAY 07	VARADERO	FREE DAY
DAY 08	VARADERO – LA HABANA	WELCOME TO HAVANA 500
DAY 09	LA HABANA	EXPLORE OLD HAVANA
DAY 10	LA HABANA	EXPLORE CLASSIC HAVANA
DAY 11	LA HABANA - VIÑALES	DAY TRIP TO VIÑALES
DAY 12	LA HABANA	HEMINWAYS HAVANA
DAY 13	LA HABANA	ADIOS CUBA

DAY 1 **MIAMI – SANTIAGO DE CUBA | BIENVENIDOS A CUBA**
TOURS



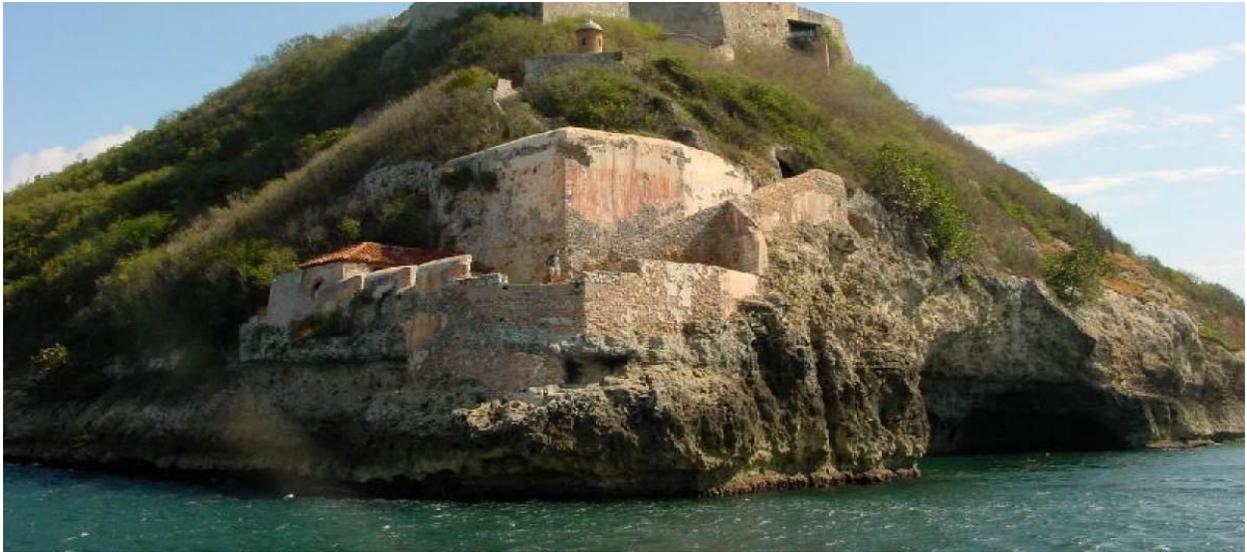
ARRIVE TO SANTIAGO DE CUBA | ANTONIO MACEO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



CITY TOUR VIA SCENIC ROUTE An introductory driving tour of Santiago de Cuba. Travel back in time as you arrive in Cuba, sit back and enjoy a city tour via your scenic route as you enter the City of Santiago.



HOTEL CHECK IN | MELIA SANTIAGO DE CUBA A few minutes from the historic center of Santiago de Cuba, this majestic, contemporary building is the only 5-star hotel in the most Caribbean city on the island. Enjoy spectacular views of the city and Sierra Maestra from spacious rooms with panoramic windows. The exclusive service on The Level floor is ideal for travelers seeking highly personalized and exclusive service, an executive ambience and maximum privacy. The select and varied dining options cater to all tastes, with à la carte or buffet restaurants, attractive bars, snack areas and the Santiago Café ballroom, with a Santiago ambience, live music, dinner and cocktail parties. Our Central Plaza is a window on Santiago culture with a shopping gallery, tourist offices and an attractive pool area and fitness center.



VISIT AND TOUR | SAN PEDRO DE LA ROCA | CASTILLO DEL MORRO It was designed in the early 1600s by Battista Antonelli (also known as Juan Battista Antonelli), a member of a Milanese family of military engineers, on behalf of the governor of the city, Pedro de la Roca de Borja, as a defense against raiding pirates, although an earlier, smaller, fortification had been built between 1590 and 1610. Antonelli design was adapted to the situation of the fortress on the steep sides of the promontory (the morro from which the fortress gets its name) reaching into the bay. It was constructed on a series of terraces; there were four main levels and three large bulwarks to house

the artillery. Supplies would be delivered by sea and then stored in the large warehouse, which was cut directly into the rock, or transported up to the top level which housed the citadel. Construction of the citadel took 62 years, starting in 1638 and finally being completed in 1700, though work on the fortification was spasmodic. Antonelli was recalled to Cuba in 1598, shortly after the massive project was started, and other examples of his work can be seen there in the twin forts of Fuerte del Cojimar and Torreón de la Chorrera (Fuerte de Santa Doratea de Luna de Chorrera). Some of the structures from the earlier fortification were later incorporated into the main structure.





DINER | EL MORRO In this important location, with a splendid view of the Caribbean Sea and in the shadow of this majestic fortress is the restaurant El Morro. This installation occupies a long building that was used as the house of the lookout of the site, because its high location was used to scrutinize the horizon looking for the presence of pirate ships. Later, when the site was restored in the 1960s, it began to function as an inn. In addition to the historical and landscape attributes mentioned, this picturesque place stands out for its excellent food, according to this editor of the best of the city. The quality of its service, the personalized and friendly treatment of its employees are other qualities that make it a favorite place for hundreds of clients, both international and national, who regularly visit there. With a service to the Spanish, where the food is served in fountains, on wooden tables, without mediation of tablecloths, to the custom of the time of corsairs and pirates, earthenware jars, stools, and clay slab floors without smoothing which reminds us of remote periods of this island, this installation is in perfect harmony with its surroundings. Its menu is a Creole combination of typical Cuban dishes, to which are added delicious recipes of international cuisine. Of the offer we can emphasize the stew or the sodad santiaguero, congrí, the roasted pig, tostones, its matchless old clothes, or the malanga donuts, very representative of the santiaguera kitchen. This restaurant has been preferred by important personalities of international art and culture, names such as Paul Mac Carney, Frank Fernandez, Omara Portuondo, Eliades Ochoa, Compay Segundo, among other personalities have given prestige to this installation. El Morro Restaurant, a place where past and present are mixed, seasoned with the best of Cuban cuisine.

DAY 2 **SANTIAGO DE CUBA** | EXPLORE CLASSIC SANTIAGO | CULTURAL CITY TOUR
TOURS (LUNCH AND DINNER CUBAN PALADAR TBA)



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | SANTIAGO COLONIAL Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998, the castle San Pedro de la Roca or Castillo del Morro, as it is known by the people of Santiago, is undoubtedly one of the most emblematic places in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Known as 'The Heroic City' for the contribution by its people to Cuban independence, Santiago de Cuba is also famous for the warmth of its people. This tour walks you through the history, culture and beauty of Santiago. Walk through the main streets and squares of the historic center of Santiago de Cuba , a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Filled with architectural

jewels spanning five hundred years, colonial Santiago enchants Cubans and visitors with one of the finest ensembles of urban edifices in the world.

When the town of Santiago de Cuba was founded on July 25, 1515, a small area of land was left empty following the regulations of the Spanish Crown on building cities in the New World. This empty lot was surrounded by rudimentary buildings that held the Town Hall, the Governor's House, the church and the homes of the city's principal Spanish families. Soon, the empty lot became Plaza de la Catedral, and since its founding in the 16th century, it was successively called Plaza de Armas, Plaza Mayor, Plaza Principal, Plaza de la Constitución, Plaza de la Reina and Plaza de Isabel II. The square received its present name, Plaza Carlos Manuel de Céspedes (although it is most commonly known as Parque Céspedes) in the early 20th century and the bronze bust of Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, the Father of the Nation, was placed in 1953. Throughout time, it has been the most important political, religious, administrative and social site in the city. One of Santiago de Cuba's most important and long-standing traditions takes place here. The Fiesta de la Bandera, or Festivity of the Flag, held on December 31, is a one-of-a-kind festivity in Cuba and the world, for that matter. The flag is raised and the way it flies in the wind is said to forebode the fate of the people of Santiago for the coming year. The face of the picturesque plaza has changed many times, whether by the hand of pirates, governors or the forces of nature, but it continues to be the major gathering spot for Santiagueros and non-Santiagueros alike, any time, night or day.

Limited by Aguilera, San Pedro, Heredia and Santo Tomás Streets, the plaza is surrounded by emblematic buildings, such as the Town Hall, the Home of Diego Velázquez, the Cathedral, the former San Carlos Club and the Casa Granda Hotel—a treasure trove of Colonial, Eclectic, Rationalist, Neoclassical and Modern architecture.

The Ayuntamiento, or Town Hall, on the northern side of the square, was originally built in 1516 and occupied by the Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés. It was partly destroyed by an earthquake and reconstructed successively. The present neoclassical building was built in the 1950s based on a design from 1783. It was from its central balcony that Fidel Castro addressed the people of Santiago on January 1, 1959. It was his first speech following Batista's flight from Cuba. The former San Carlos Club on the square's eastern side is considered the most important exponent of eclectic architecture in Santiago. Built from 1908-1912, it has been home to several institutions, becoming the Municipal Culture House and the Esteban Salas Concert Hall in the 1980s. Today, it is undergoing extensive restoration and will become home to the Decorative Arts Museum and

the Cuban Fund of Cultural Property in July 2015. On the west side of the park is the 16th-century Casa de Diego Velázquez, today the

Museo de Ambiente Histórico Colonial Cubano. Built in 1515 for Cuba's first governor, this is the oldest house still standing in Cuba and arguably the oldest in Latin America. The top floor was the living quarters while the ground floor served as a trading house and gold foundry. The Andalusian-style façade with fine, wooden lattice windows and a wonderfully carved cedar ceiling was extensively restored in the 1960s after a fire. The museum depicts the varied styles and eras of colonial life seen through furnishings and decorations from the 16th to 19th centuries. Some splendid pieces of French, British, Spanish and Cuban furniture; Spanish ceramics, carved chests and French porcelain, as well as dressers with inlaid designs are on display.

The Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción was destroyed by fire only a few years after its construction in 1524. The buildings that replaced the original church were later subjected to all types of calamities from pirate attacks to hurricanes and earthquakes. The Cathedral of Santiago de Cuba holds the record for being the building that has been reconstructed and remodeled the most in the city. The fourth building was consecrated in 1813 and was given the title of Minor Basilica and declared National Monument in 1958. The church you see today combines the surviving 19th-century features with changes made in the 1920s. Meticulously restored, the interior is a magnificent mixture of intricate ceiling frescoes, hand-carved choir stalls and an altar honoring the venerated Virgen de la Caridad. It is believed that the first colonial governor, Diego Velázquez, was buried here although his remains have never been found.

The Casa Granda Hotel is one of Santiago's most notable buildings and was described by Graham Greene, who used to stay here in the late 1950s, in his book *Our Man in Havana*. The Cuban Railroad Company commissioned the design of this lavish Eclectic building to architect Carlos Segrera and it took the Cuban construction company Amigos & Hermanos only six months to finish the hotel, which was officially inaugurated on January 10, 1914. The Casa Granda Hotel has four floors with majestic, although sober Eclectic façades. The vanes and balustrade decorations on the second and third floors are perfectly symmetrical, while the fourth floor has a larger number of ornamental elements, with windows that feature semicircular arches. The Roof Garden on the fifth floor offers a stunning view of the city. The hotel was completely refurbished between 1993 and 1995, and is today part of Santiago's cultural and historical heritage.



MORNING CITY WALKING TOUR | COLONIAL SANTIAGO DE CUBA



AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | CLASSICAL SANTIAGO DE CUBA

DAY 3 **TRAVEL TO CAMAGUEY | EXPLORE CAMAGUEY | CULTURAL CITY TOUR**
TOURS (LUNCH AND DINER CUBAN PALADAR TBA)



TRAVEL TO CAMAGUEY | VISIT AND TOUR SANTUARIO DEL COBRE Depart Santiago de Cuba, and stop at El Cobre. El Cobre is a Cuban town and consejo popular of the municipality of Santiago de Cuba, capital of the homonym province, with a population of about 7,000. Mainly known for a Basilica in honour of Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba, it was until recently the site of a large copper mine worked by slaves, free colored people, and for a while by miners from Cornwall. Our Lady of Charity of the Copper, or the Virgin of the Charity of the Copper, Charity of the Copper or simply Cachita, is one of the invocations of the Virgin Mary. She is the Patroness of Cuba, this solemn appointment was proclaimed by Pope Benedict XV in 1916. The image is a canonically crowned was proclaimed by Pope Pius XI on December 30, 1936. Later, on a trip made by John Paul II to Cuba in 1998, he crowned with great dignity the Virgin as Patroness of Cuba. The Marian image is venerated in the Basilica National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre in Santiago de Cuba. In santería Orisha is identified with Oshun. Benedict XVI grants him on March 26, 2012 the Golden Rose of Christianity, 1 on the occasion of the quadrenieth anniversary of the appearance of the image. Pope Francis in his view of Cuba in September 2015, and on the occasion of the commemoration of the one hundred years of the consecration of Cuba to the Virgin of Charity of Cobre or "Cachita", as the Cubans know, by the Pope Benedict XV, decreed the Exceptional Holy Year of Mercy.



HOTEL CHECK IN | MELIA HOTEL COLON CAMAGUEY Located next to the pedestrian promenade of the busy Republic Street, this building of fresh colonial style stands out for its beautiful gallery, stained glass windows and interior patios, in addition to the finishes in precious woods. Whether you are traveling as a couple, business or cultural, you can find here accommodation options that are ideal for you. Our functional rooms offer all the comfort of a contemporary accommodation. A buffet restaurant and two bars offer varied gastronomic services throughout the day. Treat yourself to the pleasure of sharing a delicious cocktail in our typical Camagueyan patio or in the cozy lobby, decorated with large murals of scenes and historical figures. Due to its proximity to the Convention Center and the main sites of tourist interest, this accommodation is perfect for those who visit the city due to the numerous professional and cultural events that take place every year. This attractive 3 star hotel in the city of Camagüey offers diverse accommodation opportunities in rooms distributed over two floors. Its interior gallery and patio, the exquisite taste in the decoration and its quiet environment make it a perfect option to discover the values of a very unique city. It offers breakfast, lunch and dinner service in its buffet restaurant, and has two elegant bars. Recommended for circuits, honeymoons, cultural and heritage tourism.



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY TOUR CLASIC CAMAGÜEY Camagüey was founded as Santa María del Puerto del Príncipe in 1514, by Spanish colonists led by Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar at a location now known as Nuevitas on the northern coast. It was one of the seven original settlements (villas) founded in Cuba by the Spanish. The settlement was moved inland in 1528 to the site of a Taino village named Camagüey. The village may have been named for a local chief, or perhaps for a tree endemic to the region. The new city was built with a confusing lay-out of winding alleys. There are many blind alleys and forked streets that lead to squares of different sizes. One explanation is that this was done by design, to make the city easier to defend from any raiders; by the same version, the reason that there is only one exit from the city was that should pirates ever return and succeed in entering the city, it would be possible for local inhabitants to entrap and kill them. However, locals dispute this reasoning as a myth, asserting that in truth the city developed without planning, and that winding streets developed out of everybody wanting to stay close to their local church.



MORNING & AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | COLONIAL & CLASICAL CAMAGUEY



TRAVEL TO TRINIDAD Trinidad is a town in the province of Sancti Spíritus, central Cuba. Together with the nearby Valle de los Ingenios, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1988. Trinidad was founded on December 23, 1514 by Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar under the name Villa de la Santísima Trinidad. Hernán Cortés recruited men for his expedition from Juan de Grijalva's home in Trinidads, and Sancti Spíritus, at the start of his 1518 expedition. This included Pedro de Alvarado and his five brothers. After ten days, Cortes sailed, the alcaide Francisco Verdugo failing to prevent Cortes from leaving, despite orders from Diego Velázquez. Francisco Iznaga, a Basque landowner in the southern portion of Cuba during the first 30 years of the colonization of Cuba, was elected Mayor of Bayamo in 1540. Iznaga was the originator of a powerful lineage which finally settled in Trinidad where the Torre Iznaga (Iznaga Tower) is. His descendants fought for the independence of Cuba and for annexation to the U.S., from 1820 to 1900. Trinidad is one of the best-preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time when the sugar trade was the main industry in the region.



HOTEL CHECK IN | IBEROSTAR GRAN HOTEL TRINIDAD At the Iberostar Grand Trinidad you are close to the genuine Cuban soul in a five-star hotel in the heart of Trinidad, the so-called 'city-museum of Cuba' and a Unesco World Heritage Site. Our exclusive hotel in Trinidad is actually an adults-only hotel (guests cannot be under 15 years old), one of the most impressive properties on the island, and a space where luxury, tradition, history and culture come together in perfect harmony.

Luxury hotel in Trinidad. The Iberostar Grand Trinidad opens the door to a world of maximum comfort in the centre of Trinidad. Offering premium five-star services, our luxury hotel in Cuba is a travel experience in its own right and a destination in itself for tourists coming to the island.

Colonial treasure in Cuba. Drawing inspiration from traditional colonial architecture, the Iberostar Grand Trinidad brings guests back to sixteenth-century Cuba. Fine interior design, noble materials and premium services make this hotel one of the most charming in Trinidad.

Five-star suites in Trinidad. Relaxation, comfort and history get together in the rooms and junior suites of the Iberostar Grand Trinidad. Luxury accommodation in the heart of the city, peace and quiet guaranteed. Get great amenities and services in these exclusive rooms.

Tasty Cuban food. Enjoy the most delicious Cuban dishes in the restaurant at the Grand Trinidad, and experience gourmet cooking in true Caribbean style. In this restaurant you will always be guaranteed the characteristic flavours, freshness and passion of authentic Cuban cuisine.



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | COLONIAL TRINIDAD The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Trinidad, Cuba, was built on the back of the 19th-century sugar and slave trade. At its zenith, in 1827, one of the 56 sugar mills in the region harvested the biggest cane haul in the world — just under a million kilos of white pressed crystals. This enormous, conspicuous wealth shaped the town and no expense was spared in fashioning the finest Spanish colonial mansions, plazas and churches, which still stand testament to the vainglory of this profiteering era. Your tour guide will lead a walking tour of Trinidad, an architectural jewel proclaimed. Red tiled roofs atop pastel stucco structures line the cobbled streets. This port city reflects its 16th century past and founding by Conquistadors. Eighteenth century smugglers and pirates made frequent calls here or even used this port as their base of operations in the Caribbean. The wealth and importance of Trinidad continued into the 19th century, when sugar barons reigned. Mingle with local residents and call on artists in their studio as we wind our way through the city. You will visit:



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | COLONIAL TRINIDAD

CONVENTO DE SAN FRANCISCO | At the opposite end of Calle Hernández Echerri to the Palacio Brunet stands the Church and Monastery of Saint Francis. Built in 1813 by Franciscan monks, the building became a parish church in 1848, and in 1895 was converted into a garrison for Spanish troops. The church fell into disrepair, and in 1920 much of it was demolished, leaving only the bell tower and a few nearby buildings.

PALACIO BRUNET – MUSEO ROMANTICO | To the left of the Church of the Holy Trinity stands the Brunet Palace (Palacio Brunet) which was built in 1812 by José Mariano Borrell y Padrón, head of the wealthy Borrell family. It takes its name from Count Nicolás de la Cruz Brunet y Muñoz, the husband of Borrell's daughter who inherited the house on Borrell's death. It now houses the Romantic Museum (Museo Romántico), mostly displaying objects that belonged to the Borrell family. The house has a central balustraded courtyard, and still features the original marble floor, frescoes, and neoclassical decoration. In the kitchen the original painted earthenware tiles can still be seen.

MANSION SANCHEZ IZNAGA | Museo de Arquitectura On the other side of the square from the Museum of Guamuhaya Archeology is the House of the Sánchez which houses the Museum of Colonial Architecture. This building was originally two houses in the 18th century, both owned by the sugar barons of the Sánchez Iznaga family (who owned the Manaca Iznaga estate in the nearby Valley de los Ingenios). The two houses, joined in the 19th century, show the typical grilled and shuttered windows, and feature an elegant portico with slim columns and a delicate wrought-iron balustrade, in contrast to the heavier pillars and ironwork of the Museum of Guamuhaya Archaeology on the other side of the square. Inside, the museum features items from Trinidad's architectural history (including an elaborate 19th-century shower) and details the history of building in the Colonial period.

CASA ADELMAN ORTIZ | Museo Histórico Municipal At the bottom of the square is the House of Mayor Ortiz, built in 1809 by Ortiz de Zúñiga, who later became Mayor of Trinidad. The house shows many of the typical features of Trinidadian houses, including the large entrance door with two smaller doors cut into it, the barrotes covering the large windows and a terracotta tiled roof with large wooden supports. It is less typical in that it has a projecting balcony running along two sides.

DAY 4 | TRINIDAD | COLONIAL TRINIDAD

MEALS



LUNCH | PALADAR SOL Y SON TRINIDAD This family paladar, in an old colonia building of the eighteenth century, located in a beautiful colonial setting. The famous Paladar Sol y Son offers two rooms with a cozy terrace overlooking the streets and tiled roofs of Trinidad. The casa is since many years a very popular restaurant Trinidad on walking distance of the Historic Colonial center. The paladar is distinguished by the hospitality and good service . In the restaurant you can listen and dance to live Cuban music.



DINER FAREWELL | PALADAR TRINIDAD LA NUEVA ERA Close to the known Plaza Mayor, the restaurant La Nueva Era shines as a big star due to the creativity of its decoration, size and service. In this restaurant, you can find the right atmosphere for every occasion. From a romantic dinner to an unforgettable party evening with live music presentations. This Palace from 1743 it is also a great option to enjoy a dinner with friends or family in a colonial dining room decorated with furniture and objects from the 18th and 19th century. La Nueva Era is also a good alternative to enjoy a drink watching a great view of Trinidad during a magic sunset.

TOURS



TRAVEL TO CIENFUEGOS know as the Peral of the South – la Perla del Sur - Cienfuegos is a city on Bahía de Cienfuegos, a bay on Cuba's south coast. It's known for its colonial-era buildings. On the central square, called Parque José Martí, Tomás Terry Theater has gold-leaf mosaics and ceiling frescoes. The Provincial Museum explores the city's colonial history. The Arco de Triunfo commemorates Cuban independence. Ferries cross the bay to Castillo de Jagua, an 18th-century fortress.

In 2005, UNESCO inscribed the Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos on the World Heritage List, citing Cienfuegos as the best extant example of early 19th century Spanish Enlightenment implementation in urban planning. The downtown area contains six buildings from 1819–50, 327 buildings from 1851–1900, and 1188 buildings from the 20th century. There is no other place in the Caribbean which contains such a remarkable cluster of Neoclassical structures. The area where the city lies was identified as Cacicazgo de Jagua by early Spanish conquistadors. It was originally settled by Taino indigenous people. Cacicazgo translates from the Taino language as "chiefdom". Cacicazgo de Jagua was therefore the chiefdom of Chief Jagua.

The city was later settled by French immigrants from Bordeaux and Louisiana led by Don Louis de Clouet on April 22, 1819. The settlers named the city Fernandina de Jagua in honor of King Ferdinand VII of Spain and Chief Jagua. The settlement successively became a town (villa) in 1829, renamed for José Cienfuegos, Captain General of Cuba (1816–19), and a city in 1880. Many of the streets in old town reflect French origins in their names: Bouyón, D'Clouet, Hourruitiner, Gacel, and Griffo, for instance.

Cienfuegos port, despite being one of the latest settlements established during the colonial era, soon grew to be a powerful town due to the fertile fields surrounding it and its position on the trade route between Jamaica and South American cities to the southeast and the hinterland provincial capital of Santa Clara to the northeast. Its advantageous trading location on the historically eponymous Bay of Jagua was used by the Cuban sugar oligarchy when a railroad was built between both cities between 1853 and 1860.



CHECK IN HOTEL IN CIENFUEGOS – HOTEL MELIA SAN CARLOS Unique style, modernism and comfort in the historic heart of Cienfuegos, just a few metres from the main tourist and cultural attractions. Our modern rooms provide everything you need to make the most of your stay, including different accommodation options with views of the city or beautiful inner courtyard. Enjoy the elegant atmosphere in the lobby, interior patios and exclusive Roof Garden, a lounge bar with memorable views of the bay.



AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | CLASSIC CIENFUEGOS The colonial town of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 in the Spanish territory but was initially settled by immigrants of French origin. It became a trading place for sugar cane, tobacco and coffee. Situated on the Caribbean coast of southern-central Cuba at the heart of the country's sugar cane, mango, tobacco and coffee production area, the town first developed in the neoclassical style. It later became more eclectic but retained a harmonious overall townscape. Among buildings of particular interest are the Government Palace, San Lorenzo School, the Bishopric, the Ferrer Palace, the former lyceum, and some residential houses. Cienfuegos is the first, and an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble representing the new ideas of modernity, hygiene and order in urban planning as developed in Latin America from the 19th century



VISIT AND TOUR | PLAZA MAYOR | PASEO DEL PRADO | CASTILLO DEL JAGUA The historic centre of Cienfuegos has retained its early 19th century urban fabric to a high degree. The grid plan defined the city's formal composition and spatial structure of plazas, square and wide avenues and has

been respected and extended as the city grew beyond its original 25 block design. Integrity is also evident in the retention of many 19th century buildings along with the minimal alterations to the original building stock. Moreover, later buildings have largely respected the established height and general design proportions creating an overall harmony. The historic centre of Cienfuegos continues to function as a vital urban area, the heart of the modern city. It has retained its original grid pattern an illustration of the philosophical ideas of the Spanish Enlightenment on which it was based. The continuity of its urban form is visible in its present spatial structure with the larger piazzas, smaller squares, wide streets, and streetscapes of classically-styled residences.

Authenticity of the building stock within the inscribed area has been maintained in part through the use of traditional building material and construction techniques in both the rehabilitation and renovation of original building and new development. Consistency of use is evident throughout the area, in particular through the retention of port facilities and warehouses that speak to its ongoing value as a commercial port.

As the city on the island whose founders were French, Cienfuegos has preserved a cultural link to these early settlers not only with the visible urban fabric but intangibly within an ethnic mix that also includes Spanish, African and Chinese heritage.

DAY 5 EXPLORE CLASSIC CIENFUEGOS

MEALS



LUNCH | VILLA LAGARTO PALADAR CIENFUEGOS The truly wondrous bayside setting at Lagarto (the lizard) is emulated by the food and made even more memorable by some of the fastest yet most discreet service you'll see in Cuba. With its excellent brochetas (shish kebabs), lamb and roast pork, Lagarto is at the vanguard of Cuba's emerging private dining sector .



DINER | PALADAR CIENFUEGOS One of the most elegant restaurants in the city of Cienfuegos. The place occupies the patio and garden areas of the owner's family home, which was transformed in order to afford excellent positions to lay out the dining tables. The restaurant's dining areas are partly al fresco, seeing as they are not enclosed by walls impeding the incoming fresh marine air, but are endowed with a roof to provide shelter from the sun. The restaurant leans mostly toward culinary specialties fresh from the sea, and includes other specialties derived from more traditional creole cooking.

TOURS AND MEALS



TRAVEL TO MATANZAS After breakfast, check out of Casa Particular in Havana and depart east for the city of Matanzas also known as "The Athens of Cuba" for its cultural and literary development. Matanzas is the capital of the Cuban province of Matanzas. Known for its poets, culture, and Afro-Cuban folklore, it is located on the northern shore of the island of Cuba, on the Bay of Matanzas (Spanish Bahía de Matanzas), 90 kilometers (56 mi) east of the capital Havana and 32 kilometers (20 mi) west of the resort town of Varadero. Matanzas is called the City of Bridges, for the seventeen bridges that cross the three rivers that traverse the city (Rio Yumuri, San Juan, and Canimar). For this reason, it was referred to as the "Venice of Cuba." It was also called "La Atenas de Cuba" ("The Athens of Cuba") for its poets. Matanzas is known as the birthplace of the music and dance traditions danzón and rumba.

Before crossing the peninsula to Varadero, enjoy an early view of the emblematic bay of Matanzas. This bay was Cuba's major colonial-era port, exporting coffee, tobacco and sugar, and it also served as a slave trading port. The bay is the deepest in Cuba and during one battle in 1628 more than twenty Spanish galleons were sunk here by a Dutch admiral.



VISIT AND TOUR | CLASSICAL MATANZAS TOWN CENTER Walk through the historic center of the city including the squares of the Cathedral and La Vigia, around which is home to several buildings of architectural and historical value; Teatro Sauto, the Fire Department, the former Customs and the Palacio de Junco, Provincial History Museum, Iron Bridge Calixto.



VISIT AND TOUR | TEATRO SAUTO Private Tour by the City Historian. The Sauto Theater was designed by Italian architect Daniele Dell'Aglio and opened in 1863 in Matanzas, Cuba, and has since then been a proud symbol of the city. The U-shaped 775-seat theatre is almost entirely covered with wood-paneling. It has three balconies, and its floor can be raised to convert the auditorium into a ballroom. The original theater curtain is a painting of the Puente de la Concordia over the Yumurí River. The lobby is graced by Carrara marble statues of Greek goddesses and the main hall ceiling bears paintings of the muses. When it opened in 1863, it was named Teatro Esteban, after the Civil Governor in Cuba at the time. But soon it adopted the last name of Ambrosio de la Concepción Sauto, a patron of the arts who contributed much to its construction and splendor. Due to the proximity of Matanzas to Havana, the cultural awareness of its people, and the solvency of its rich landowners, the Sauto Theater was visited regularly by the great performers who appeared in Havana. The Sauto attracted world famous performers such as French actress Sarah Bernhardt (in Camille in 1887), Russian dancer Anna Pavlova in 1945, Cuban composer José White Lafitte, Italian opera singer Enrico Caruso, and Spanish guitarist Andrés Segovia.



VISIT AND TOUR | MANSION SAN CARLOS - MILANES 18 You will step back in time – the house is originally from the 19 century, built in 1833, it was later refurbish in 1923 and now since 2013 it has been under a historical restoration almost completed – ready to open as a museum and Bed and Breakfast in the City of Matanzas. Enjoy this property, proud example of the great eclectic architecture of my native city.



LUNCH PALADAR CHIQUIRIN Enjoy lunch at the local paladar El Chiquirin. Enjoy a traditional “almuerzo Matancero” greeted with mojitos and a roast pig, a delicious lunch with vegetable soup, pork, rice and beans, veggies and a sweet potato and coconut dessert all accompany by live music.



VISIT AND TOUR | ERMITA DE MONSERRATE Before crossing the bay of Matanzas tour the grounds of Ermita de Monserrate. This beautiful example of colonial architecture sits on one of the highest points in all of Matanzas offering beautiful vistas of both the City of Matanzas and the Yumuri Valley. Montserrat, whose highest elevation is the peak of San Jeronimo, 1 224m above sea level, is the symbol of all religions who worship the Virgin. For its part, in Cuba there was a Natural Charity Society in Catalonia since 1840, the members of its subsidiary in Matanzas decided to build the chapel at how much the landscape reminded him of Montserrat in their land.

The place was quiet, a silence broken only by the lowing of a cow and graze near the soothing sound of water which had a windmill to raise the liquid from a depth of 130 meters. The opening of the shrine took place in the winter of 1875.

After completion of the temple, the landscape became more loaded, but still it did not lose the quiet of the place and the natural beauty that evokes disturbing so much peace. Although this tranquility was broken saw few times a year by magnificent festivities sponsored by the "Colla of San Mus", the "Colla Catalana and the" Spanish Casino, which sometimes came to collect almost 10 thousand people.



TRAVEL TO VARADERO Varadero is Cuba's most acclaimed beach and the main sun-and-beach tourism destination. The scenery, vegetation, warm weather, crystal-clear waters, fine white sands position Varadero as an unforgettable and unrepeatable destination. This paradisiac spot of Cuban geography merges natural attractions and the comfort of modern life. It features many of the greatest hotels cabarets, restaurants, sea activities, golf courses of the island. A group of options to satisfy the most demanding tourist. The Varadero peninsula is located to the north of Matanzas, and is one of the most important ecosystems of Cuba and the largest beaches on insular Caribbean. Its natural scenery is exuberant and represents the habitat of exceptional wildlife characterize by high levels of endemism. Varadero sits 140 km to the east of Havana city and 30 km away from Matanzas. The sun sheds light over its beaches for twelve hours and the average temperature is 25 °C.



HOTEL CHECK IN | MELIA LAS AMERICAS HOTEL – ALL INCLUSIVE HOTEL This hotel is the right choice for those in search of paradise. A luxury resort on the beachfront of Varadero, perfect for couples who know how to choose the best. Welcome to the place where you play the lead in thousands of dream adventures! Unwind in made-to-measure rooms and suites. Family Rooms, Adults Only rooms, rooms with sea views, and many more. All are full of features and offer spacious, bright, well-equipped spaces. Choose an all-inclusive holiday in Varadero and take full advantage of the best gastronomy, premium brand drinks and activities to please everyone. In the varied bars

and restaurants, you'll discover the most traditional flavors of Cuba, along with international specialties, original cocktails and complete breakfasts. Meanwhile, let the spirit of Cuba seduce you, move to the rhythm of the Atlantic and treat yourself to unequalled moments of relaxation. Visit the next door the Mansion Xanadu area on the beach, take a dive into the undersea world of the Varadero coast, or simply sunbathe by the pool with a good book and to release energy, nothing beats our sports club with guided classes for all ages and all in a nautical setting from which you can conquer the Atlantic Ocean.





VISIT AND TOUR CASA DUPONT – MANSION XANADU The "Xanadú Mansion" Golf Course Club House, located on the San Bernardino crags, was designed by architects Covarrocas and Govantes in July 1927. The owner of this exclusive estate was French American millionaire Irene Dupont de Nemours, born on 21 December 1876, who eventually had 8 children, 35 grandchildren and 5 great-grand children. Irene was the Dupont of that generation who took the greatest interest in developing the company founded by his great grandfather Eleuthere Dupont in Delaware in 1802. During Irene's lifetime, the company became the largest diversified chemical products empire in the world, employing in 1957 90 000 workers in 74 plants worldwide. Before taking over the company chairmanship, Irene had several jobs in construction, finances and development. In 1927, at the age of 49, he retired from the chemical empire chairmanship and started to look around for a quiet place to spend his retirement. Like many Americans, he found it in Cuba. That very same year he purchased 180 hectares of land on the Hicacos Peninsula for 90

000 pesos. The property included 8 km of virgin beaches, but he chose the rocky hills of the San Bernardino crags to build his dream house. The four story mansion, with 11 bedrooms and adjoining baths, three large terraces, seven balconies and a private dock, was named "Xanadu", after the exotic Palace built by the legendary Chinese warrior and conqueror Kublas Khan, as described by the English poet Samuel Taylor.

In 1932 Dupont installed the largest privately-owned organ in all of Latin America, worth 11 000 dollars. The machinery was installed in the basement and the organ worked automatically and manually. Two shafts carried the music to the mirador and the lobby, without inconveniencing the guests in their rooms. The furniture, including the organ, paintings and piano, were supplied by Theodore Baily & Co. and Meras & Rico. Precious woods 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.

The actual construction was entrusted to the Frederick Sneard Corporation at a cost of 1 300 000 dollars and finished on 30 December 1930. Dupont would stay at Xanadu for a few months each year from early January, sometimes inviting important company executives. The Dupont estate grew to some 1328 acres, covering parts of what today is the municipality of Cardenas. The land had been bought at the ridiculous price of four cents per square meter, but the estate's value increased years later when the road, power plant and aqueduct were built. The gardens were planted with coconut trees. On the Eastern slopes they planted flowers and a vegetable garden, together with banana, avocado and papaya trees. Parrots and cockatoos were imported to make the place more tropically enchanting.

The golf course was always owned by Peñas de Hicacos S.A. and its total cost, excluding soil refills and maintenance, was over US\$ 41 000. Originally, there was the idea of forming a golf club with exclusive membership, but this was never done. Playing the 9 holes cost \$1.00, of which \$0.50 was for the caddy, and the rest was for a public school. In March 1957 Dupont visited Xanadu for the last time. On 12 December 1963, Xanadu opened as "Las Americas" Restaurant, with Russian astronaut Valentina Tereshkova as guest of honor. That same day, at the age of 85, Irene Dupont passed away in the US.

DAY 7 **VARADERO | EXPLORE ITS OCEAN**
FREE DAY

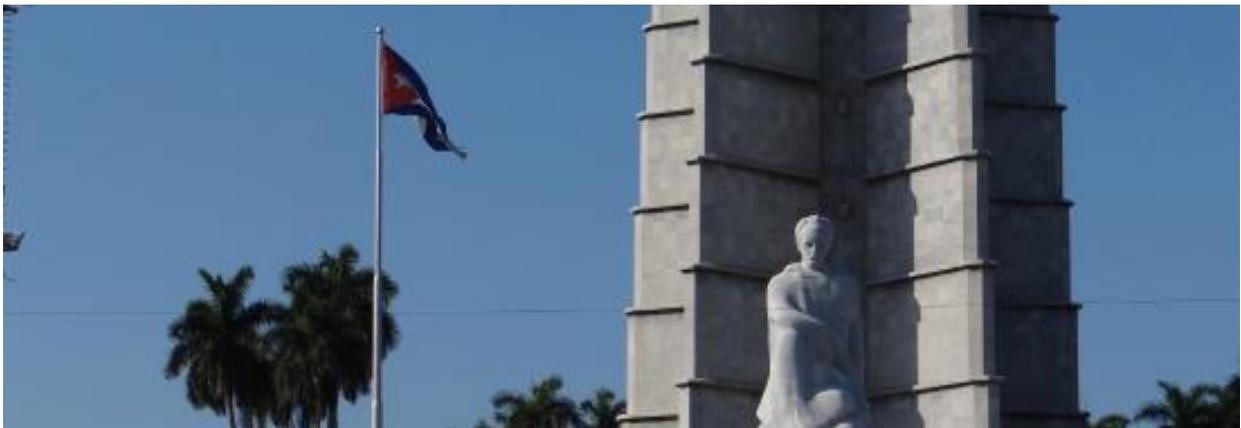


CATAMARAN DINNER CRUISE DINNER NOCHE CARIBEÑA – CARIBBEAN NIGHT Enjoy an evening of dance, music and dinner on the beach of Cayo Blanco. Sailing on catamaran to the virgin island of Cayo Blanco, arriving at sunset. Welcome cocktail. Caribbean dance show. Delicious seafood dinner with paella and kebabs. Afro-Cuban dances show. Dance on the beach.

TOURS



TRAVEL TO LA HABANA | REFRESHMENTS STOP PUENTE DE BACUNAYAGUA One of the seven wonders of Cuban civil engineering of the twentieth century. Interact with the staff at the Mirador and have a better understanding of the life and work environment in this area of Cuba. The Bridge of Bacunayagua, inaugurated in September 1959, crosses the canyon, and at 110 meters above the valley floor is the highest bridge in Cuba. Cubans consider it one of the seven wonders of Cuban civil engineering. A restaurant with an observation deck is built on the Havana side, while the coastal cove on the Matanzas side includes a campground. Enjoy the best Cuban Piña Colada.



CITY TOUR VIA SCENIC ROUTE An introductory driving tour of Havana (Vedado and Old Havana) in your way to lunch in el Vedado district of Modern Havana. Travel back in time as you arrive in Cuba, sit back and enjoy a city tour via your scenic route as you enter the City of Havana. Drive along the water front The Malecon; the Metropolitan balcony that borders the coast for about 12 kilometers, from the entrance of Havana Bay (La Punta Castle) to the fortress of La Chorrera, near the mouth of the river Almendares.



HOTEL CHECK IN | IBEROSTAR PARQUE CENTRAL HABANA VIEJA The elegant 5-star IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel is located in central Havana, Cuba. Known for its Spanish colonial-style architecture, which pulls in the rich culture of the streets, our top hotel is regarded as the best hotel in Havana. The IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel is an excellent starting point for tourists wanting to dive into Cuba's history and explore the most authentic streets and corners in Havana. Whether you are staying with us as a family holiday or a couple's getaway, our top hotel in the Havana is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience.

In the center of Havana, the IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel is nestled in the heart of Havana. Thanks to its coveted location, the hotel is within close proximity to the Capitol's featured tourist sites, lined with music and the best attractions and popular destinations such as Bar Floridita and La Bodeguita del Medio. Unmatched Views. Guests can admire unbelievable city views from the charming French windows and doors of the hotel.

Our hotel allows for unrivalled vistas of Havana's distinct glass buildings including the Capitol Building, the Great Theatre of Havana, and the Fine Arts Museum. Guests can also enjoy the most spectacular views from the IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel's pristine rooftop swimming pool. Luxury and Comfort. Every comfort and luxury that you could hope for in a hotel is offered at the IBEROSTAR Parque Central. All rooms are fully furnished and provide a wide array of facilities. Accommodation choices range from our Double Rooms to the majestic Presidential Suite.



FORTALEZA DE SAN CARLOS DE LA CABAÑA The FORTALEZA DE SAN CARLOS DE LA CABAÑA, colloquially known as La Cabaña, an 18th-century fortress complex, the third-largest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot hilltop, along with Morro Castle. Up to the mid XX century it was home to one of the most notorious prisons. Today declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, the complex is now part of a historical park, along with the EL MORRO fortress, and houses several museums open to the public. As you walk thru the fortress in your way to the top of the where the ceremony takes place every night, you will have the opportunity to mingle and shop from local Cuban artist that every night set up their art booths in the old cobble streets of the fort. At 9 PM every evening, a cannon is fired and the so-called "EL CAÑONAZO DE LAS 9", a custom kept from colonial times signaling the closure of the gates in the city wall takes place. Foreign travelers and locals to the city have the unique opportunity to witness a tradition that began in the eighteenth century. You will also have a unique chance to mingle with hundreds of Cubans who are drawn to the ceremony each night. The saying goes among the Cuban people that if you are a real Cuban, you must have attended the shooting of the cannon at least once in your lifetime.



CEREMONIA DEL CAÑONAZO After dinner, around 8 PM, we will walk towards the AVENIDA DEL PUERTO where our bus will pick you up to travel across the Havana bay via the TÚNEL DE LA HABANA or the TÚNEL DE LA BAHÍA, which links the historic forts on the eastern bank with the opulent Spanish Colonial architecture of the Old City, With a fascinating history, bringing locals and foreigners alike to the great city of Havana for over fifty years, before the tunnel, people had to travel approximately 25 kilometers around Guanabacoa to cross the harbor whereas now it only takes a driver 45 seconds traveling at a speed of 60 kph to reach the other side. The 733 meter-long tunnel was built between 1957-1958 by the French company *French Societé des Grand Travaux de Marseille* and the excavation work was conducted by the Cuban company *PERFORADORA PANAMERICANA* owned and operated by Cuban engineers Gerardo and Fernando Pérez Puelles.

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DAY 8 **WELCOME TO LA HABANA 500**
MEALS



LUNCH | HABANA 61 | Specialized in international and Cuban food. Cocktail and ideal environment to share with friends. We are a team of highly qualified professionals who provide excellent food in the style of White Chef. Enjoy tasty dishes and good cocktails in an environment of modern, contrasting design, just light and sound, located in Old Havana.



DINNER | LA MONEDA CUBANA PALADAR Located at the entrance of the Plaza of the Havana Cathedral, la Moneda Cubana had its beginnings in 1924 where they sold food and liquor among other items. Today, this restaurant-paladar welcomes its customers with the Cuban house warm and its most exquisite Cuban flavors while they enjoy the beauty of the colonial Old Havana and the wonderful views that can be seen from la Moneda Cubana.



WELCOME CUBAN DRINKS | EL FLORIDITA This legendary Havana bar, one of many regularly frequented by papa Hemmingway, is classy and smart, presided over by waiters in natty red jackets. Proud of its reputation as the The Cradle of the Daiquiri, there is really only one drink to order here it would be remiss not to. The décor is plush and upscale and the room is dominated by the long central bar though there's further seating in the back. The mood is mature and sophisticated. Its appeal resides mainly in its literary heritage but if you want to cool off on a hot afternoon or prop up the bar in honor of the man himself, it's worth a visit. Serves a mean platter of sautéed shrimp as well, though it has to be said that the food is pretty steeply priced for what you get.



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | LA HABANA COLONIAL Walk through the main streets and squares of the historic center of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Filled with architectural jewels spanning five hundred years, La Habana Vieja enchants Cubans and visitors with one of the finest ensembles of urban edifices in the world. At a conservative estimate, Old Havana accumulates over 1000 buildings of historical significance, with myriad examples of architecture ranging from 16th-century Spanish Colonial to 17th Century Cuban Baroque to 19th Century Neoclassical to 20th Century Eclectic Modern, including Art Nouveau and Art Deco. In the morning visit LA ALAMEDA DE PAULA, LA PLAZA DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASSISI, LA PLAZA DEL CRISTO and LA PLAZA VIEJA, in the afternoon visit LA PALZA DE ARMAS and LA PLAZA DE LA CATEDRAL, all which are of the greatest colonial architectural heritage of Havana.



Con números se representan en el mapa los siguientes elementos:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Bar Monserrate | 9. Hotel Ambos Mundos | 17. Museo de Arte Religioso |
| 2. Hotel Los Frailes | 10. Café París | 18. Basílica Menor de San Francisco de Asís |
| 3. Café del Oriente | 11. Instituto Cubano del Libro | 19. Hostal Valencia y Hostal El Comendador |
| 4. Hotel Conde de Villanueva | 12. Restaurante La Bodega del Medio | 20. Restaurante La Taberna del Galeón |
| 5. El Mercurio | 13. Monumento José de la Luz y Caballero | 21. Plaza de Armas |
| 6. Maqueta del Centro Histórico | 14. Restaurante El Patio | 22. Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular |
| 7. La Torre de Marfil | 15. Lonja del Comercio | |
| 8. Hotel Florida | 16. Plaza de San Francisco de Asís | |



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | LA HABANA VIEJA



LUNCH | CAFÉ DEL ORIENTE A Gourmet Restaurant that prides itself on being one of the most luxurious spots in Havana. It has two rooms, the bar cafe, on the ground floor, with a fantastic bar, around which there are stools, tables and Pullman benches; and the five forks restaurant, on the upper floor, which stands out majestically for its soft tones and elegant furniture, combined with curtains and tapestry, under a great colorful stained glass skylight, a work by Cuban visual artist Rosa María de la Terga. Elegance and a fine service are the main hallmarks of this house devoted to culinary arts, which provides discerning gourmets with over sixty dishes of original recipes from Europe, the Middle East and Cuba. The restaurant was opened on December 17, 1997 by the then Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza and the City Historian, Eusebio Leal Spengler.



DINER | LA GUARIDA PALADAR LA GUARIDA the famous Havana paladar is situated at CALLE CONCORDIA 418 in CENTRO HABANA. The entrance through an old gateway in a crumbling mansion lead to a monumental stairway. The restaurant is located at the third floor. This 5 Star Paladar was visited by the royal highness Queen Sofia of Spain and lots of movie stars and Hollywood celebrities. Scenes of the Oscar nominated Cuban Movie 'FRESA Y CHOCOLATE' were filmed at this location. The interior is decorated with pictures of the many celebrities that visited the LA GUARIDA restaurant. The quality of the dishes is among the best Cuban food you can experience in Havana. On the top floor of a spectacularly dilapidated Havana tenement, La Guarida's lofty reputation rests on its movie-location setting of FRESA Y CHOCOLATE. Anyone who has been to LA GUARIDA will find it difficult to disagree that the owners have managed to create their own magical place. It oodles a cozy atmosphere with soft lights, fine table linen, German silver cutlery, candles, Cuban music and good jazz. The effect is magnified by the entrance from a run-down Central Havana Street. The building, originally known as LA MANSIÓN CAMAGÜEY, shows its former grandeur from the magnificent wooden entrance door through the marble staircase up the two flights of stairs to the restaurant itself.



AFTER DINNER | LA GUARIDA PALADAR LA GUARIDA ROOF TOP BAR



MORNING AND AFTERNOON CITY WALKING TOUR | LA HABANA CLASICA



VISIT AND TOUR | CAPITOLIO NACIONAL | El Capitolio, or National Capitol Building in Havana, Cuba, was the organization of government in Cuba until after the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and is now once again the seat of the government. "El Capitolio" has a size of 681 by 300 ft. Its design is compared to that of the United States Capitol, but is not a replica, its copula is higher than the

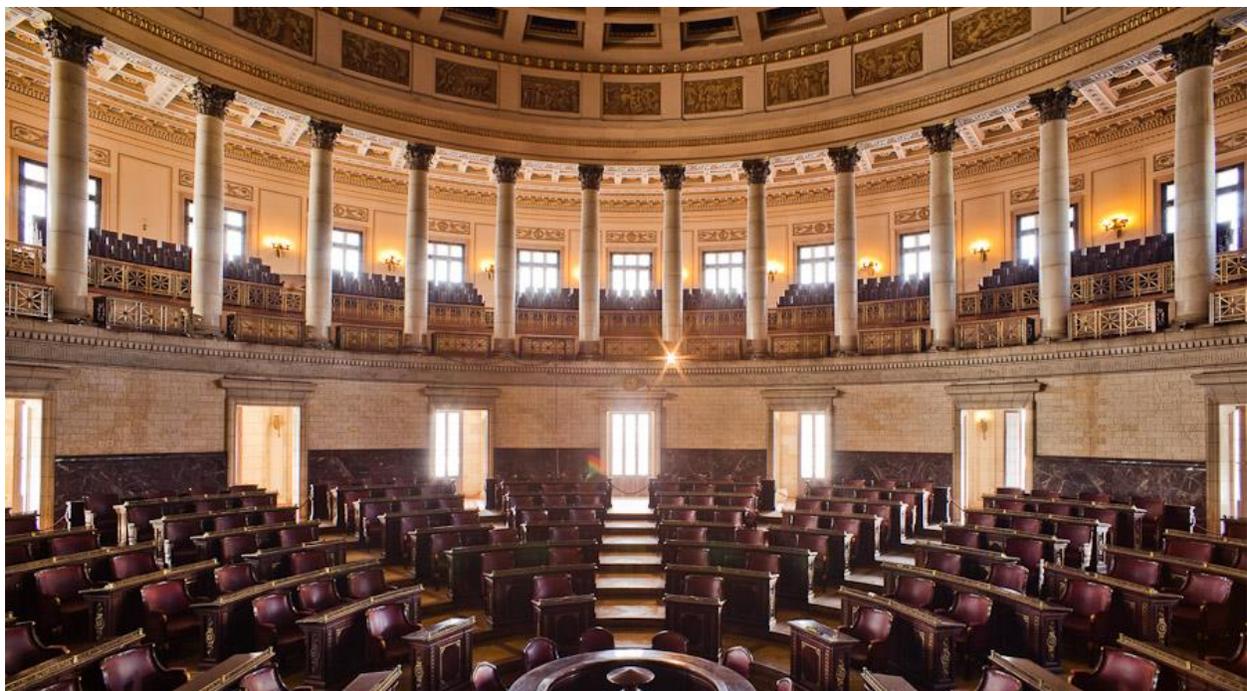
one in of the USA and is profiled after the dome of Saint Paul Cathedral in London. Completed in 1929 it houses the world's second largest indoor statue. The project began on April 1926, during the Gerardo Machado administration. Construction was overseen by the U.S. firm of Purdy and Henderson. Prior to the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Cuban Congress was housed in the building. When the Congress was abolished and disbanded following the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the building lost its purpose as the House of the People. Later it ended up as the headquarters of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment.

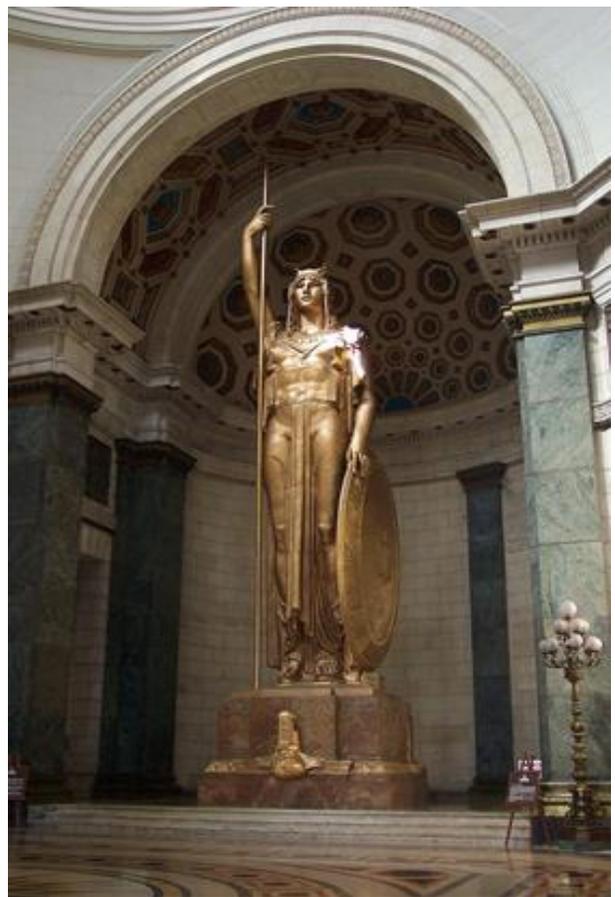
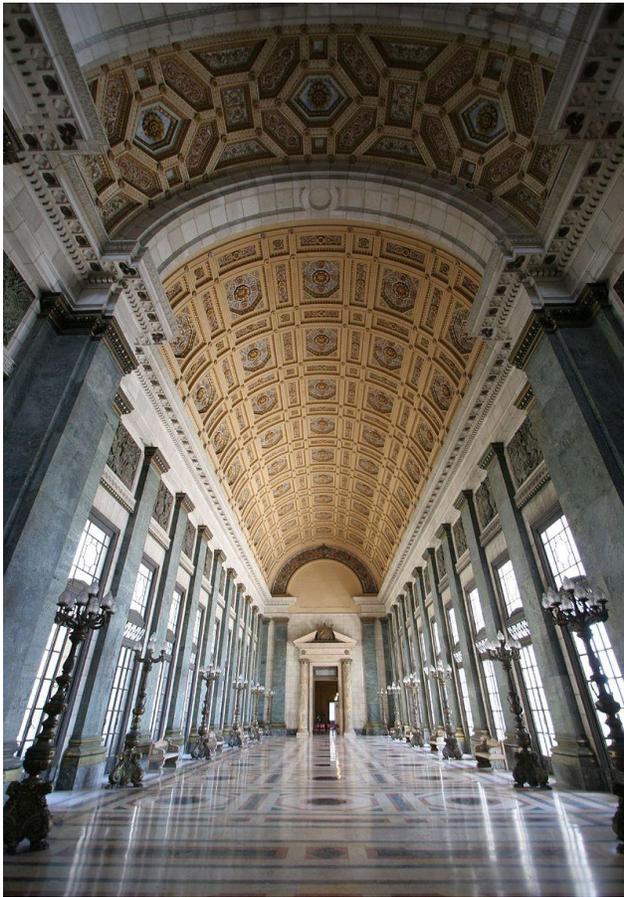
According to its designer, Eugenio Rayneri Piedra, who had studied architecture in the United States, the inspiration for the cupola came from the Panthéon in Paris and Saint Pauls Cathedral in London. The cupola, which is stone clad around a steel frame which was constructed in the United States and imported to Cuba. At almost 92 m (302 ft) high, the dome was the highest point in the city of Havana until the 1950s (this honour now belongs to the José Martí Memorial). It was the third highest cupola in the world at the time of its construction.

Around the building are gardens laid out by French landscape architect and designer Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier at the time of the original construction. Based on the designs of some of the beautiful simple European gardens they consist of areas of lawn bordered by paths and highlighted by palms. Four groups of Royal Palms accent the design. The 55 steps leading to the main entrance, known as La Escalinata are flanked on either side by 6.5 m (21 ft) statues by the Italian artist Angelo Zanelli. To the left is Work (El Trabajo) and to the right The Tutelary Virtue (La Virtud Tutelar). The steps lead up to the central portico, which is 36 m (118 ft) wide and more than 16 m (52 1/2 ft) tall. There are 12 granite Roman style columns arranged in two rows and each over 14 m (46 ft) tall. Beyond the portico, three large bronze doors with bas-reliefs by Zanelli allow access to the main hall.

To either side of the main hall is the Salón de Pasos Perdidos (Hall of Lost Steps), named for its acoustic properties. The inside of the main hall under the cupola is dominated by the huge Statue of the Republic (La Estatua de la República). The statue, also by Zanelli, was cast in bronze in Rome in three pieces and assembled inside the building after its arrival in Cuba. It is covered with 22 carat (92%) gold leaf and weighs 49 tons. At 15 m (49 1/4 ft) tall, it was the second highest statue under cover in the world at the time, with only the Great Buddha of Nara being taller. The statue stands on a plinth 2.5 m (8 1/4 ft) high bringing the total height to 17.54 m (57 1/2 ft). A Creole Cuban, Lily Valty served as the model for the body for Zanelli, and the inspiration for the statue came from Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom.

Embedded in the floor in the center of the main hall is a replica 25 carat (5 g) diamond, which marks Kilometre Zero for Cuba. The original diamond, belonged to Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and have been sold to the Cuban state by a Turkish merchant, was stolen on 25 March 1946 and mysteriously returned to the President, Ramón Grau San Martín, on 2 June 1946. To either side of the main hall is the Salón de Pasos Perdidos (Hall of Lost Steps), named for its acoustic properties. These halls, with inlaid marble floors and gilded lamps, lead to the two semicircular chambers that formerly housed the Parliament and Chamber of Deputies. The Parliament chamber to the right of building is backed on to by the President's office which has a door opening directly onto the dais. A range of different lamps are seen throughout the building. These were all designed specifically for the building by Cuban designers and the majority of them manufactured in France. In the Centre of the building are two patios which provide light and ventilation for the offices of first (ground), third and fourth floors. The north patio features another statue The Rebellious Angel (El Ángel Rebelde) which was donated to the building after the inauguration. There is a small fifth floor, and a sixth floor which gives access only to part of the cupola.







VISIT AND TOUR | THE FORMER PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

Across the street from the LOMA DEL

ANGEL as you exit the Old Havana city grid one encounters LA AVENIDA DE LAS MISIONES. Finished construction in 1910's, as the arrival promenade to the new presidential palace at the time, originally was the grounds where once stood the old city walls - Missions Avenue formerly Monserrate Street. Today you will see the remains of old city wall at the steps of the former Presidential Palace port cache. In 1863 the Old city walls were been demolished and the city was spilling west into what is known today as Centro Habana. The Cuban Presidential Palace was built

between 1909 and 1920 to be the seat of the provincial government in Havana, but President Mario García Menocal chose to host the Executive Power. In 1974 it became a Museum and in 2010 was declared a National Monument.

In 1909, General Ernesto Asbert, then governor of Havana, decided to build a new headquarters which accommodated the Provincial Government. The project was designed by the architects Rodolfo Maruri (Cuban) and Paul Belau (Belgian), while the construction phase was assumed by the General Contracting Company from the USA. The interior decoration was the responsibility of Tiffany Studios directly from Paris, France. The building, designed as a great example of Eclecticism, consumed for its completion a budget that exceeded more than half million pesos. All floors and stairs were coated with Carrara marble. In 1917 the history of the property had an important twist that marked its subsequent fate. Later that year, the First Lady of the Republic, Mariana Seva visited the construction site and was captivated by the magnificence of the building and its privileged location.

Mario García Menocal, her husband and president, put his hand to the legal arguments necessary and dispossessed the Provincial Government of the palace property. In early 1918 everything was arranged for the building to become Presidential Palace of the Republic of Cuba. On January 31, 1920 the Executive Mansion was officially opened, although the work, in all its details, was not completed until the day March 12, 1920. From January 1, 1959 until 1965, the Presidential Palace was the seat for the Council of Ministers. On January 4, 1974, the former Presidential Palace became the permanent seat of the Museum of the Revolution and was declared a National Monument with Resolution No. 01 on March 13, 2010.



VISIT THE FORMER CENTRO GALLEGO | TEATRO NACIONAL Make your way towards the *PARQUE CENTRAL* but first as you exit the *MUSEO NACIONAL DE ARTE*, don't skip taking a peek inside the Former *BACARDI OFFICE TOWER*, an extraordinary example of Art Deco architecture. The building was designed by architects Rafael Fernández Ruenes, Esteban Rodríguez Castell and José Menéndez, for the Bacardi rum company. The art deco landmark was completed in 1930 and

was at the time the largest building in the city. After the Cuban revolution and the confiscation of Bacardi by the revolutionary government, the building continued to be used for offices. At the end of the 1990's, it was renovated by the city historian's office. In the heart of Havana, on the *PASEO DEL PRADO*, opposite Central Park and located between the Capitol and the historic *HOTEL INGLATERRA* (now operated by Starwood Hotels, an unprecedented accomplishment after the new USA-CUBA relations since December 17, 2014), stands the imposing Galician Center of Havana and National Theater. An architectural gem of Havana that re open its doors this January after a multimillion restoration by the city historian's office.

Inaugurated on April 15, 1838 as the most important theater in the capital and one of the largest in the continent, *EL TEATRO TACON* was replaced in 1914 by the Galician Center that was built on the entire city block. The architectural work salvaged the original theater stage and seating from the Tacon Theater, and adjusted the remainder of the complex with a new façade. The architectural work was of the Belgian architect Paul Belevu (same architect of the Presidential Palace) and built in neo-baroque style. In its main façade, it houses four marble sculptures representing allegories of charity, education, music and theater, work of Giuseppe Moretti. The items were placed in a balanced way, balconies, windows, cornices, the proportion of its towers and trim unit achieve an elegant rhythm. In 1913 work was completed on the Social Palace and in 1915 the theater was completed. Today the building houses its original splendor and frames the *GRAN CAPITOLIO NACIONAL DE CUBA* also currently undergoing a major multimillion restoration by the Office of the Historian of Havana.





VISIT THE NECROPOLIS DE LA HABANA The Colon Cemetery, or more fully in the Spanish language Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón, was founded in 1876 in the Vedado neighbourhood of Havana, Cuba on top of Espada Cemetery. Named for Christopher Columbus, the 140 acre (57 ha) cemetery is noted for its many elaborately sculpted memorials. It is estimated that today the cemetery has more than 500 major mausoleums, many built by Victor Citarella, chapels, and family vaults. Colon Cemetery is one of the great historical cemeteries of the world, and is generally held to be the most important in Latin America in historical and architectural terms, second only to La Recoleta in Buenos Aires. Prior to the opening of the Colon Cemetery, Havana's dead were laid to rest in the crypts of local church catacombs and then, beginning in 1806, at Havana's newly opened Espada Cemetery. When locals realized there would be a need for a larger space for their community's dead (due to an 1868 cholera outbreak), planning then began for the Colon Cemetery.

It was built by the Galician architect Calixto Arellano de Loira y Cardoso, a graduate of Madrid's Royal Academy of Arts of San Fernando, and who became Colón's first occupant when he died before his work was completed. Yet for all its elegance and grandeur Colon Cemetery conceals as much as it displays. Empty tombs and desecrated family chapels disfigure the stately march of Cuban family memorials even in the most prominent of the avenues, and away from the central cross-streets, ruin. Many of these are the tombs of exiled families, whose problems with caring for their dead have been complicated by residence in new countries. The first impact of Colon

Cemetery is a seemingly endless succession of tombs blinding white in the midday heat, few shade trees and nowhere to sit. In front of the main entrance, at the axes of the principal avenues Avenida Cristobal Colón, Obispo Espada and Obispo Fray Jacinto, stands the Central Chapel apparently modelled on Il Duomo in Florence. On every side rectangular streets lead geometrically to the cemetery's 56 hectares, designed by Loira to define the rank and social status of the dead with distinct areas, almost city suburbs: priests, soldiers, brotherhoods, the wealthy, the poor, infants, victims of epidemics, pagans and the condemned. The best preserved and grandest tombs stand on or near these central avenues and their axes.



VISIT AND TOUR THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF HAVANA_The University of Havana located in the Vedado district of Havana, was Founded on January 5, 1728. The university is the oldest in Cuba, and one of the first to be founded in the Americas. Originally a religious institution, today the University of Havana has 15 colleges at its Havana campus.

“Jean Claude Forestier referred to his plans as the Great Urban Works of Havana. His plans essentially transformed the whole city of Havana and remodeling with a new structure never seen before. Such a plan had to be great. Basically, Forestier saw the city in terms of a large garden. Far from being just a system of radial avenues, the aim of his proposal was to take control of the landscape. To him, the architectural plan of the city was inseparable from the urban park plan. Forestier went ahead suing a similar approach to design the university campus”



TRAVEL TO VIÑALES Depart to *EL VALLE DE VIÑALES*, in the province of *PINAR DEL RIO* known as “The land of the best snuff in the world.” In this one-day trip to the valley you will enjoy and experience the life of a Cuban peasant as it was colonial times. The *VALLE DE VIÑALES* is encircled by mountains and its landscape is interspersed with dramatic rocky outcrops. Traditional techniques are still in use for agricultural production, particularly of tobacco. The quality of this cultural landscape is enhanced by the vernacular architecture of its farms and villages, where a rich multi-ethnic society survives, illustrating the cultural development of the islands of the Caribbean, and of Cuba. Viñales Valley is a “living landscape” with a high degree of authenticity in terms of location and setting, forms and designs, materials and substances, uses and functions, traditions and techniques, and spirit and feeling. It has been able to preserve its specific character, while adapting to modern conditions of life and receiving flows of visitors. The property's attributes thus express its Outstanding Universal Value truthfully and credibly.



VISIT | LA TERRAZA (MIRADOR NEXT TO HOTEL LOS JASMINEZ) A beautiful building, in complete harmony with the Viñales Valley landscape, of which it gives a peculiarly panoramic view. Set like a belvedere at the edge of Viñales Valley, is an exquisite architectural masterpiece that was designed to ensure that guest fully enjoy this unparalleled natural landscape from this terrace. From this look-out terrace (mirador) enjoy the fascinating landscape of VIÑALES which consists of fertile valleys dotted with palm trees and peculiar mogote hills (rounded limestone outcrops). The many paths meandering through the surrounding countryside are punctuated by the rich plant and animal life. There are numerous caves and green plantations, where tobacco growing has remained unchanged for several centuries. The valley has an area of 51 sq mi and is located in the SIERRA DE LOS ÓRGANOS, just north of VIÑALES in the PINAR DEL RÍO Province. Tobacco and other crops are cultivated on the bottom of the valley, mostly by traditional agriculture techniques. Many caves dot the surrounding hillfaces CUEVA DEL INDIO or CUEVA DE JOSÉ MIGUEL. The conspicuous cliffs rising like islands from the bottom of the valley are called mogotes. Many endemic plants and animals are specific to this valley. The VALLE DE VIÑALES is a wonderful tourist destination. It is one of the lushest parts of Cuba.



HORSEBACK RIDE DOWN TO THE VALLEY Step in time of the early colonial period and ride horses down a majestic trail into the grand *VALLE DE VIÑALES*. In your journey stop at a peasant's private cigar plantation, meet him – this young local peasant will offer you cigars rolled by his old father and uncle – a family tradition not lost under his generation. He will communicate in perfect English and welcome you to his own private world. If you decide not to horseback ride down to the Valley, meet those who did at the peasant's house. Other will go down to the Valley via motor coach.



LUNCH | FINCA ECOLOGICA EL PARAISO With constructed wooden decks overhanging a panorama of tobacco fields, drying houses and craggy mogotes, this aptly named restaurant has food that stands up to its sensational views. The unwritten menu gives a three-way choice between chicken, pork, and fish, all prepared country-style with copious trimmings.



DINER | EL COCINERO Clear all stereotype, bet Cook to redefine the dining experience in Cuba with a deliberate kitchen and occasion. In the menu select international recipes from distinctive ingredients of the island are adapted. An imposing fireplace distinguishes the premises located on the banks of the Almendares River, between the districts of Vedado and Miramar. Designed as part of the system of boilers of the offices of the tram in Havana at the end of the 19th century, the fireplace keeps the identity of the famous brand of peanut oil that took place in 1930.

Restaurant opts for contemporary, minimalist decor that harmonizes with the original architecture, and at the same time enhances it. The result is an exclusive space, decorated with soft lighting and music accomplices of the moment.



OR DINER AT RESTAURANTE TIERRA (INSIDE FABRICA DE ARTE) | New Gastronomic Project that stands out for its culinary innovation. Its insertion inside the Cultural Center Factory of Art make it a different option for the enjoyment in the city.

ENTERTAINMENT | FABRICA DE ARTE Located between the central streets 11 and 26, the Cuban Art Factory (F.A.C) is one of the most active and avant-garde nocturnal proposals of Havana and the engine of cultural life in El Vedado. It is one of the most unique and interesting places that can be visited today in Havana, from Thursday to Sunday, from eight in the afternoon to four in the morning. Although this project has the support of the Institute of Music and the Ministry of Culture, it is independent and is led by the Cuban musician X Alfonso, who has converted the ships of this abandoned factory during the Special Period into a large cultural space where They hold art exhibitions, fashion shows, photography shows, theater and dance shows, film screenings and concerts of different types of music. In the three years of activity it has become a reference point for the dynamization of the artistic life of El Vedado, both for the neighbors and for the artists who take part in the activities that take place. Its headquarters is on the banks of the Almendares River and the Puente de Hierro, in the former Electricity Company of Havana (1905-1913), which in the 1930s became the legendary "El Cocinero" Oil Factory and with the triumph of the Revolution in 1959 happened to be warehouse of the Fishing Industry.



VISIT AND TOUR | FABRICA DE TABACO IN OLD HAVANA It's hard to believe that the famous tobacco exporter Mark A. Pollack built this splendid structure located behind the Briones Montoto factory just to store his excellent tobacco. Fully renovated in recent years, the gorgeous building is housing a Partagás worksite while its walls shine a gleaming white.

Touring a Cuban cigar factory is a journey back in time. You walk through the wide doorway with the tropical heat following you inside, and step onto a cracked marble floor, wondering just how many shoes have walked this weathered path before you. The clamor of workers going about their business reaches your ears and grows in volume with every step: *"A shout in rapid-fire Cuban Spanish, a call to an amigo, a friendly laugh, the hearty baritone of a golden-throated lector reading the daily news"*.

Havana is the birthplace of premium cigars, and the city is dotted with cigar factories of all shapes and sizes. Cuban cigarmakers, unlike their counterparts in most of the non-Cuban cigar world, make the entire cigar themselves. The rolling gallery has style, with large windows that open in the middle and a grand stage at the front of the room, where a lector sits, carefully reading the news aloud to the cigarmakers as they work.



VISIT AND TOUR | "FINCA VIGIA" HEMINGWAY'S CUBA RETREAT Ten miles east of Havana is Hemingway's Cuba house - *FINCA VIGIA*, meaning "lookout house". *FINCA VIGIA* is located in the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula. The Cuban people have always respected famous writer's choice to live in a modest town, amongst the people he fished with. Hemingway lived in the house from mid-1939 to 1960, renting it at first, and then buying it in December 1940 after he married his third spouse Martha Gellhorn.

Built in 1886 by a Spanish Architect Miguel Pascual y Baguer, *FINCA VIGIA* was purchased by Hemingway in 1940 for a cost of \$12,500. The property was located for Hemingway by Gellhorn, who had come to Cuba to be with Hemingway but decided she did not want to live in the small room he rented at the Hotel Ambos Mundos. The *FINCA VIGIA* at the time consisted of 15 acres with a farmhouse. Your guide will provide you with a summary of the property and show you everything from his lighthouse where he often wrote, to his beautiful wooden yacht. There, Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. *A Movable Feast* was written there as well. After the Cuban revolution of early 1959, Hemingway was on good terms with the Cuban government, and even officially presented a trophy in Havana in the summer of 1960 to Castro, for winning a sport fishing contest named for Hemingway. Nevertheless, as depression and illness overtook him, Hemingway left Cuba in mid-1960, and the Cuban home that he had lived in for over twenty years. In the fall of 1960 the Cuban government expropriated a great deal of foreign property, and the U.S. government broke off relations with Cuba in October 1960 and imposed a partial financial embargo. After the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 and Cuba's announcement that it was a Communist state in May,

relations between Cuba and the U.S. deteriorated further. Hemingway was being treated for severe depression in the U.S. through the first half of 1961, and the Hemingway's could not return to Cuba. Hemingway committed suicide in Idaho on July 2, 1961. The official Cuban government account is that after Hemingway's death, Mary Hemingway deeded the home, complete with furnishings and library, to the Cuban people, which made it into a museum devoted to the author. Mary Hemingway, however, stated that after Hemingway's suicide, the Cuban government contacted her in Idaho and announced that it intended to expropriate the house, along with all real property in Cuba. Mary Hemingway negotiated with the Castro government for certain easily movable personal property, plus manuscripts deposited in a vault in Havana. Most of their personal property, with no way to move it out of the country at the time, had to be abandoned. After years of neglect, restoration and preservation work has begun. *FINCA VIGÍA* has made both the World Monuments Fund list of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places.



VISIT AND TOUR MUSEO DEL RON A visit to the Havana Club Museum of Rum isn't merely a journey back to the origins of Cuba's most famous beverage. From freshly cut stalks of sugar cane to a

reconstitution of a distillery and ageing cellars, the museum offers a real-time experience of the rum-making process, as well as a taste of true Cuban culture.

Situated in the historic district of Habana Vieja ("old Havana"), the museum is housed in a renovated 18th-century "solar" (colonial townhouse). Downstairs is a shady patio, with its broad stone columns and ferns, yuccas and potted palms. A bell signals the start of the museum tour, and you follow the guide up a flight of stone steps. The first landing presents a view of the cooper shop, demonstrating the craftsmanship required to build and prepare the oak casks inside which the fine rums will age. An upstairs gallery features an authentic mule-driven cane mill used in the earliest "ingenios" (sugar refineries). A historically accurate model of a steam locomotive reminds us that Cuba was the first country in Latin America to use a railway for the transport of sugar cane. The next door leads to a much larger model, the achievement of a master Cuban craftsman. This masterpiece captures the essence of the great sugar refineries and rum distilleries, whose immense chimneys rise as landmarks over the Cuban countryside.

The wealth of detail stuns the eye: wagons transporting the cane from the fields, smoke rising from chimneys, cane cutters chatting on the porch....

Another staircase leads to the fermentation and distilling rooms, where you'll see wooden fermentation casks, gleaming copper distillation columns, and pipes that transport the "aguardient" into various tanks. In the languid warmth of the ageing cellars, oak barrels take their place in shaded alcoves like statues in a cathedral. This is where the various rums mellow patiently, awaiting the intervention of the Maestro Ronero. The visit continues down a spiral staircase into the museum's tasting room, with its immense wooden bar reminiscent of the drinking establishments that made Havana famous in the 1930s. In the Havana Club Boutique you can choose from the finest Havana Club rums. The boutique also offers a selection of Havana Club bars articles, Cuban cigars and souvenirs.



LUNCH | SLOPPY JOES Sloppy Joe's Bar is a historic bar located in Havana, Cuba. The bar reopened in 2013 after being closed for 48 years. The advent of Prohibition in the United States spurred its original owner, Jose Abeal Otero, to change the emphasis from food service to liquor service when American tourists would visit Havana for the nightlife, the gambling and the alcohol they could not obtain back home. Sloppy Joe's welcomed tourists for over four decades, and offered over 80 cocktails in addition to the bar's own brand of 12-year-old rum. During the 1940s and 1950s it was a magnet for American celebrities as well as tourists wanting to mingle with them. It has been described by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the most famous bars in the world" with "almost the status of a shrine." The Cuban Revolution of 1959 saw the bar's business nosedive, as some 90% of Sloppy Joe's clientele was American. A fire in the 60s closed the establishment for good. The building in which the bar was housed remained intact, resembling a ghost town with its single-piece mahogany bar and photos of celebrities. The slow-paced, extensive restoration, undertaken by The Office of the Historian of Havana, began in 2007. It is located on the corner of Calle Animas and Zulueta in Havana Vieja (Old Havana). The building is located behind (on the same block as) the Plaza Hotel.

The bar, in its heyday, can be seen in the movie *Our Man in Havana* starring Alec Guinness as it is the bar in which the character (Jim Wormold) is attempted to be recruited into the secret service. It supposedly inspired the deli sandwich sold in northern New Jersey for over half a century by the same name, sloppy joe. Renovation work on Sloppy Joe's was completed in early 2013, and its doors opened to the public on April 12th of that year. The facade closely resembles the images from the 1950s, even down to the sign on the corner, above the arches.



OLD AUTOMOBILE TOUR | ANTIQUE AMERICAN CARS Travel back in time as the rest of the night your own personal transportation will be in a 1950's antique American automobile. Enjoy an amazing panoramic views of the city from your classic cars. Engage in a trip along the Malecon as you tour Havana in your way to Tropicana Night Club.



SUNSET STOP AT HOTEL NACIONAL DE CUBA FOR COCKTAILS In the way to Tropicana stop at the legendary HOTEL NACIONAL DE CUBA for a Cuban Cocktail. The decision to build a luxury hotel was taken in the late 1920s. The American firms McKim, Mead & White and Purdy & Henderson Co., tasked with the planning and construction, completed the palatial edifice in 14 months. The hotel exhibits an eclectic architectural style, reflecting Art Deco, Arabic references, features of Hispano-Moorish architecture, and both neo-classical and neo-colonial elements. There are even details from the centuries-old Californian style. The resulting unique example of so many schools of architecture is the most unusual and interesting hotel in the Caribbean region. The HOTEL NACIONAL DE CUBA was opened on the night of 30 December 1930. The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is a historic luxury hotel located on the MALECÓN in the middle of VEDADO, Havana, Cuba. It stands on TAGANANA hill a few meters from the sea, and offers a view of Havana Harbor, the seawall and the city. It opened in 1930, when Cuba was a prime travel destination for Americans. In its 80 plus years of existence, the hotel has had many important guests. The hotel was built on the site of the SANTA CLARA BATTERY, which dates back to 1797. Part of the battery has been preserved in the hotel's gardens, including two large coastal guns dating from the late 19th Century.



DINER AND ENTERTAINMENT SHOW | 1950's HAVANA CUBAN SHOW | TROPICANA NIGHT CLUB

Arrive at the Cabaret in style, travel back in time as you ride into the gardens of Tropicana. Enjoy drinks and a cabaret show while stepping into the forbidden Havana of the 1950's. Visit Los Arcos de Cristal, the legendary master piece of modern Cuban architecture completed in 1953. *TROPICANA* the world-known cabaret was originally launched in 1939 at Villa Mina, a six-acre suburban estate with lush tropical gardens in Havana's *MARIANAO* neighborhood.



CHECK OUT | HOTEL IN LA HABANA

AIRPORT TRANSFER | HOTEL TO JOSE MARTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

AIRPORT CHECK IN | JOSE MARTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPART | LA HABANA - USA